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THE

London Philatelist:

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OF THE

PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

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M. P. CASTLE,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

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THE

London Philatelist:

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The Slaughter of the Innocents.

THAT the innocent suffer with and for the guilty is one of the crosses that we poor mortals must bear, nor is Philately exempt therefrom. In the interests of everyone who collects stamps we feel constrained to call marked attention to the ruthless way in which innocent, good stamps are slaughtered, amidst their less worthy associates, at the auctions. It is to the initiative of a member of the London Philatelic Society that the revival of auctions in this country is due, and the subsequent development thereof has secured the cordial support and approval of the leading collectors, and of those who edit their journals. It is therefore with the best wishes for their continued and increasing success that we venture *once more* to call the attention of the auctioneers to defects in their auction arrangements that call for urgent and prompt removal, in the interests alike of their clients and themselves.

In all classes of goods other than prime necessities there are naturally ordinary, so to say, "bread-and-butter" sales which, while containing nothing startling, have a mean realisable value, that requires no especial advertisement to ensure its being bought by the trade, or the casual purchaser, at a fair price, considering the quick and ready method of transmuting its value into gold. In the case of such cognate collectors' articles as books, engravings, and *bric-à-brac* generally this is readily apparent. Week in and week out there are sales at which large quantities of medium or "fair" articles in these lines are disposed of, but when anything notable, such as a "really choice assemblage," is dispersed—frequently through their owner's death—means are taken by the auctioneers to secure the attendance of leading buyers and connoisseurs. Stamps should be treated in exactly similar ways. There

are always quantities of average "goods" on the market that require no fanfare of trumpets for their disposal, but when, as in recent cases, owing to the death of collectors, large and valuable collections have been sold, the catalogues of which have appeared but three or four days prior to the sale, nothing less than a disastrous result could be anticipated. We have frequently, in past years, urged the leading firms in their own interests to have the catalogues more accurate in their descriptions, and in cases of important sales to distribute them not less than one month before the sale. This is done in the United States, and assuredly can be in this country. To submit valuable stamps to the few buyers that may be present at an auction of which but a few days' notice has been given is a suicidal policy. The aim and duty of auctioneers should be to elicit support from all quarters alike, at home and abroad, and in so doing they will be working alike for their own interests and those of their clients.

The 1876 Issue of Spain.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on the 11th November, 1898,

By M. P. CASTLE.



HE kingdom of Spain has been very prominently before the world since our meetings of last season, and it may therefore seem an appropriate occasion for devoting an evening to the consideration of the stamps of this historic but unfortunate power. It has been generally conceded that the stamps of a country frequently present an accurate reflex of its contemporaneous history, and it is evident that, owing to the gallantry of our American cousins, there will shortly be remarkable Philatelic changes depicted upon the erstwhile colonies of Spain. It is, however, a source of gratification to all broad-minded persons that these changes, as personified by alterations to the stamp issues, are not likely to affect the mother country, and that the only probable alteration will be an adolescent portrait of Alphonso XIII. In few instances has the exposition of the changes of government been more clearly shown than in the case of Spain. The heavy features of Queen Isabella II., their subsequent and childish disfigurement ("HABILITADO POR LA NACION") by the Provisional Government, the presentment of the ill-starred Amadeus of Savoy, the various issues symbolic of the republic, with the partial and spasmodic issues of Don Carlos — the aspiring head of the younger Bourbons — succeeded by the portrait of King Alphonso XII., and last of all by those of his posthumous son, present in striking array the governmental vicissitudes of the Spaniards for the past half century.

A somewhat fallacious opinion is often held in Philatelic circles that the nterest and rarities in the Spanish stamps are limited to the first issues— 1850 to 1854 inclusive. This is, however, not so. The issues of 1855-57

will be found to embrace many scarce colours, including the error 2 reales, blue; those of 1865, besides the 12 c. inverted frames, contain many interesting and (unused) scarce stamps. In 1867 the 25 mils., with frame inverted, and the 10 c., *tête-bêche*, will be held rare enough to please even the most difficult Philatelist, and the succeeding issue, down to those of 1876, and subsequent thereto, will be found to embrace a wide variety of shades and printings that appeal readily to the true instinct of a collector. It is also pleasing to note that, with the exception of the "HABILITADO," which overprint practically only denotes that the then Government would allow their continued use, and is hence of but slender Philatelic interest, Spain is entirely innocent of a surcharged stamp. It is therefore, in my opinion, an excellent and sound country to "take up," and my object in making these few general remarks is to accentuate the statement that there are many issues of the Spanish stamps that will repay for conscientious study, beyond and beside those I am especially referring to on the present occasion.

These stamps, whose design consists of the three-quarter-full face of Alphonso XII., were issued on the 1st June, 1876, and withdrawn from circulation on the 1st July, 1878. They are printed on white wove paper, varying in substance, watermarked with an upright tower (being a portion of the Arms of Aragon), and are machine-perforated 14. M. Moens, in his monumental work on the Spanish stamps, makes the following statement, which I may corroborate from inquiries that I have made in this country: "A syndicate or company was formed in Madrid early in 1876, who had acquired from the Spanish Government the right of sale of stamps generally, in consideration of an annual subsidy. This company, fearing (with good reason!) that the native productions were liable to be imitated, resolved to have the stamps specially engraved and printed in London."

This work was entrusted to Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Limited, of Farringdon Road, London, who may be congratulated upon the design adopted, as showing that these—the only Spanish stamps printed in London—compare very favourably with any of those printed in Spain.

The information regarding this issue contained in the catalogues of Stanley Gibbons, Scott Stamp Co., and Senf Brothers is limited to the mention of two types of the 1 peseta, with a footnote in the last-named that some values are found on thinner paper. In M. Moens' work, *Les Timbres-Poste d'Espagne*, 1891, he correctly says that all the values, except the 20 and 40 c., exist on a thinner and less surfaced paper, with the shades varying and the engraving worn. He also says that the second variety of the 1 peseta with thinner figures and thicker letters (in *peseta*) is doubtless the result of a retouch. In the excellent work on the stamps of Spain written by Herr R. Friedrich in 1894, the two varieties of paper are given, and it is stated that the plates have been "worked up," recognizable especially in the inscriptions. This constitutes the whole of the information to date as regards these stamps (as far as I am aware), and it remains to be seen whether our knowledge of them can be held to be advanced by the observations that I have to make.

In mounting my Spanish stamps (a year or two since) I was struck by

the remarkable variations in the figures "1" and the labels that contain them on the 1 peseta, and made the note that further examination was required before final arrangement of the specimens. I have recently procured other stamps of this issue, and have found that there were several points inviting consideration. I may here say that, as is well known, these stamps have always been fairly plentiful in unused condition, owing to a remainder having been sold about 1880 (probably by the company forenamed, after supersession of the issue). They seem, however, to have become absorbed, and I have vainly applied in many quarters for unsevered blocks, etc.

The result of considerable study of these stamps has led me to the following conclusions:—

(1) That there were two separate plates for most of the values.

(2) That the 5 c. of both plates, the 10 and 25 cents. of Plate II., were slightly, and the 1 peseta of Plate II. materially, retouched.

(3) That Plate I. is principally found on the thicker surfaced paper, and Plate II. mainly on that of thinner substance.

Taking the last point first, as being of minor consequence, I may say that its interest to the specialist principally lies in helping to denote the order of the two plates, as, except in the case of the 5 and 10 c., which are found on both, all the fresh plates come on the thinner paper of later issue. The paper, however, will be found by the specialist to differ materially. The thin quality, besides its absence of surface or glaze, shows the granulation clearly on the reverse side, and being thus more porous produces a better and sharper impression. A notable instance of this is to be seen in the case of the 10 pesetas. I have drawn up a synopsis showing what values are found on each of these papers, and need, therefore, say no more on this point.

The design of these stamps is too well known to require description; but in order to illustrate my points I must briefly draw attention to one or two prominent features thereof. The portrait of the King is contained in an oval medallion, surrounded by an ornate fancy frame, square in shape, but with projecting ornaments on all four sides. The word "COMUNICACIONES" occurs above the oval on a white band, with a shortened triangular projection at either end. Beneath is "Cs PESETA," or "PESETAS," on a similar band, which is, however, somewhat shortened by two framed blocks of solid colour containing the numeral of value. These two white labels and the medallion are fitted in by a solid background of colour, and it is in this feature that the principal differences will be found constituted. If this background is carefully examined in any value, except the 10 pesetas, the following constant markings will be found, although more plainly visible in some colours and printings than in others.

PLATE I.*

(*a*) The shortened triangle to left of upper inscription has a thick stroke beneath.

(*b*) The background in the left upper corner shows a number of diagonal lines.

* The stamps themselves will show the difference far more plainly than the illustrations.—ED.

(*c*) The background in the lower right angle shows coarse crude lines, notably one in the right-hand border, which it irregularly divides.

(*d*) The numerals are small and irregular, notably in the top-stroke of the figures, while the "E" and "T" of "PESETA" or "PESETAS" are distinctly apart. The appearance generally will be found inferior, in comparison with the recent plate, and there are other minor points; but I think it will be simpler if I keep within these lines. I should add that all values, except the 10 pesetas, were printed from this plate.

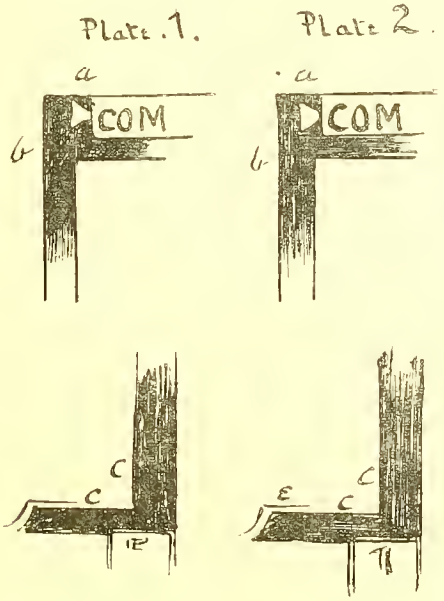


PLATE II.

The 10 pesetas was printed only from this plate, but the 20 and 40 cents. and the 4 pesetas are found only in Plate I. Taking the different sections of the design in the same order as that followed in Plate I., the following variations will be noted:—

(*a*) The shortened triangle to left of "COMUNICACIONES" has no thick line beneath it.

(*b*) In the background in left upper angle the diagonal strokes are absent.

(*c*) The background in the lower right angle is not marked by the thick lines and blotchy appearance, but is composed of fine evenly-drawn, parallel lines, practically contiguous.

(*d*) The numerals are somewhat bolder and are better drawn, the top stroke of the figures "5" being noticeably larger, and the "E" and "T" of "PESETA" almost touch each other.

(*e*) To the right of the bottom scroll, and immediately above the "A" of "PESETA," will be found three or four diagonal strokes, apparently added after the fine lines composing the background. An exception to this occurs in

the 10 c., which has in lieu of these three or four horizontal strokes on *each* side of the scroll. The general appearance of Plate II., notably on the thin paper, is sharper, brighter, and of superior finish, so much so that I was at first inclined to think they were London printings as distinguished from Spanish.

The Retouched Plates.

The only value on which I have found evidences of retouch as regards Plate I. is the 5 c. I may say here that by the expression "retouch" I mean some variation that is not common to all the stamps on the sheet, irrespective of the time at which such alteration was effected—a question that I will touch later on.

The only deviation from the normal stamp as regards those on the thicker surfaced paper consists in the apparent addition of a horizontal line below the left-hand numeral on the 5 cents., which in some cases transects the lower portion of the figure. In a block of thirty-six stamps now shown, consisting of nine rows of four, Nos. 3, 5, 8, 12, 16, 20, 21, 23, 24, 30, and 31 show this peculiarity, and in another block of three rows of four the like as to Nos. 3, 7, 9, and 12.

Two of these 5 c. values on the thinner paper are also shown, the diagnosis of which has caused me much Philatelic perturbation of mind. They are both clearly from Plate I., but have the numerals of Plate II. in the angles, *i.e.*, bolder and with a larger top to the "5." One specimen (marked *a*) has, in addition, the following characteristics. Following the outer edge of the shortened triangle to the left, already alluded to, will be seen a distinct vertical line, extending to the inner angle of the fancy frame to left of the head, and diverging somewhat from a similar line that has been added at the extreme left edge of the background. The left side of the label with "COMUNICACIONES" has also another distinct vertical line and a horizontal line just below. The outer line of colour surrounding the stamp seems also to have been tampered with. The impression of both stamps is paler and clearer, showing clean, distinct lettering, and appears in any case to emanate from another printing. The 1 peseta presents also some variations that I think are not strictly retouches, but that I will merely allude to here. The letters of the word "PESETA" are distinctly larger than on any other value, are indifferently drawn, and the horizontal lines of the label containing this word bulge outwards in the centre, so as in some cases to impinge on and alter the appearance of the ornament immediately above it.

As regards Plate II. there is only one retouch of importance, but I will first mention the others without for the moment staying to ask how or when they were made.

The 10 c. The variations here consist of added and thicker vertical lines superimposed on the fine-lined background. These additional strokes will be found in the upper right and left angles, and vary materially in their composition.

The 25 c. The additions here are similar to the last, but seem less

frequent, and there are occasionally horizontal strokes of a like nature to be found below the upper label.

The most important retouch of all is the 1 peseta, the examination of which first led me to extend my study to the other values. As is well known, the salient points of difference between the stamp and its predecessor is the numeral. In Plate II. this is much thinner and better formed. I have, however, found that it varies both in thickness and in the shape of its foot, while the label of colour on which it stands is occasionally imperfectly filled in by the vertical lines of which it is generally composed. The word "PESETA" is notably thicker, and the label on which it is inscribed is regularly drawn.



The principal feature of departure from any other value will be found on the background of colour that, as I have before said, is in Plate II. constituted by finely drawn lines, practically contiguous. It will be seen that other thick and irregular strokes have been engraved in this background. The most prominent variations of these retouches will be found in the upper portion of the stamp, to the right, left, and just below the label bearing "COMUNICACIONES." These will be found sometimes diagonal, leaning to left and to right, sometimes extending nearly half down the stamp, sometimes horizontally in parallel lines, and occasionally so grouped as to make almost a solid block of colour. These strokes are only occasionally to be met with in the lower portion of the stamp, but the labels containing the figure of value have been evidently touched, in various ways, as will be seen on close examination. I mean in addition to the re-engraving (from the matrix with value) previously mentioned in this 1 peseta.

Having arrived at this point in my investigations, I had naturally formed certain theories as to the *raison d'être* of these numerous varieties, which I was anxious to test by the light of practical experience. I placed myself,

therefore, in communication with Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Limited—the engravers of this issue—stating that I had discovered that certain retouches had been executed, and seeking information. In a courteous reply hereto from the engravers they expressed their readiness to give me all available information, but stated that they were unable to see how a retouch could have been executed, as the plates were and had always been in their strong room under seal of the Spanish Government. I subsequently had an interview with Mr. C. T. Wallis, the managing director, and also the secretary of the firm, at their offices, and I must here testify my cordial appreciation of the courtesy exhibited to me by those gentlemen in devoting considerable time to the explanation of the processes of printing and engraving of these stamps, and in granting me inspection of their specimen or record books of these various stamps and bank-notes that have been executed by them. I noted among many others specimen sheets of Falkland Islands of every printing and value, Transvaal with the Queen's head, British East and South Africa, Bolivia, Chili, and Formosa—the latter being the well-known green and rose "stamps" bearing the numeral "20," with no indication of what the "20" represented, and with whose actual purport Messrs. Bradbury & Co. seem scarcely more acquainted than are Philatelists! The specimens of engraving, notably on many of the bank-notes, executed by this firm are superb, and it is to be hoped that many future issues of stamps will also bear the evidence of the splendid work executed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.

The stamps under consideration were all represented by entire sheets, some being imperforate, in the record book of the firm, all being from Plate I. The only specimens of Plate II.—technically termed reprints, *i.e.*, fresh printings—were blocks of the 10 and 25 cents. I carefully examined the sheet of 5 c., but failed to find any evidence of a retouch. The sheet consists of twelve rows of twenty stamps and one row of ten above, the spaces left blank by the absence of the ten stamps, being occupied by the inscriptions, in large fancy lettering, "SELLOS DE COMUNICACIONES" to the left, and the respective value in full to the right.

There was only one printing of the 20 and 40 c. (as evidenced by the stamps themselves); of the 10 pesetas there were three printings (two only of which I have so far diagnosed), and of all the remaining values four printings, extending from* August, 1876, to April, 1898. These were the only impressions taken from the plates, none having been made in Spain.

I pointed out to the firm the characteristics of the two plates, and on referring, it was found that two plates are known to exist of the 5, 10, 50 c., and 4 pesetas, "and possibly others," but only one of the 10 pesetas, as I fully expected. The design was first engraved on steel in the usual manner, but this matrix bore no indication of value below. From this matrix were made further matrices, one for each denomination, bearing their respective values. These several matrices were then reproduced, or transferred on to a roller or cylinder of soft metal, to the number of 250, which was, as usual, subsequently hardened and put to press, and producing in due course the specimens of Plate I. The same process would be gone through

* The order was completed in August, but partial deliveries were made before that time.

in preparing Plate II., but it seems evident that in preparing the matrices with value expressed the background was recut, and where occasion demanded the figures of value were modified in shape.

The broad differences between the two plates, which are common to all the stamps on each respective plate, seem, therefore, to be readily accounted for in the preparation of the new plates.

The maker of the steel plates, technically known as the transferrer, has, it is thought, been dead for many years, and no record of his labours exists, but Mr. Wallis explained that no retouch of the reduplicated dies on the cylinder would be possible *after it was hardened.** It is usual, however, after the impressions have all been transferred on to the cylinder, to make a trial impression *before hardening*, and it was at this period that the retouches would probably have been effected. Mr. Wallis suggested that the transferrer, finding that the original matrices had suffered somewhat during the preparation of the early impressions, proceeded to strengthen the deep parts of the reduplicated dies by the addition of certain lines and strokes after inspection of the trial printings from the soft metal plates, *i.e.*, before hardening.

I rather incline to the belief that the transferrer, who would doubtless have been a skilled and capable engraver, seeing that the impressions made from the original matrix left much to be desired (notably as regards certain colours) in relation to the background, first proceeded, as already related, to recut this portion, but was not even then satisfied with the result, therefore doctored up each cylinder, as in his judgment seemed requisite, before hardening and putting to press.

I have mentioned the three or four slight diagonal strokes that occur to right (and also to left in the 10 c.) of the scroll at the base of the portrait on all values of the second plate. It will be found on close examination that these all vary from each other. This clearly indicates that in every case the transferrer was not satisfied with the first imprint from the second plate, which merely relined the background, and from minute improvements proceeded to the other more marked alterations. The additions to the 1 peseta, Plate II., are so palpable, and evidently so deeply cut into the metal, that I feel some doubt in fitting them into the theory. If, however, but two plates were made, and no repairs could be executed on the hardened plates, there seems no alternative suggestion.

I cannot at present account for the slight retouches of the 5 c. of Plate I. As stated, these two specimens are undoubtedly from Plate I. and are on the thin paper of the later printings; but the sheet of the 5 c., Plate I., in Messrs. Bradbury's record book, shows no retouch.

I have been unable, after an extended search through stocks and collections, to find any more of these varieties, and therefore hardly think they

* In order to feel fully assured on this point, since the above was written I addressed a letter to the printers asking if it were not possible that slight repairs might have been executed on the cylinder after hardening (which would not be so hard as the matrix), in reply to which Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. kindly write:—

"We are in receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and regret that we omitted to answer your question on the point you mention. The reply is that it is quite impossible to retouch a hardened steel plate, the surface of which is so hard that no tool will cut it."

can be attributed to a third plate (that might have escaped Mr. Wallis' memory for the moment). I have not been able to see an entire sheet of Plate II. of the 5 c., and it may be that the transferrer commenced making up his fresh plate from the previous matrix with value, and then, finding it unsatisfactory, proceeded to recut a fresh matrix with value, and finished the reduplications therewith. This is but a surmise, and requires the evidence of entire sheets to be verified.

These stamps are only of lowly degree, having been within the reach of every collector; but I trust that I have shown there is a Philatelic interest to be derived even from issues with which long familiarity has almost bred contempt.

SYNOPSIS.

Plate I.

Thick Paper.	*Thin Paper.*
5 cents, chestnut-brown.	5 cent., yellow-brown (retouch).
5 ,, yellow-brown.	
5 ,, chestnut-brown (retouch).	
10 ,, dull blue.	
10 ,, deep blue.	
20 ,, bronze-green.	
25 ,, reddish brown.	25 ,, brown.
25 ,, brown.	
40 ,, black-brown.	
50 ,, dark blue-green.	50 ,, green.
50 ,, green.	50 ,, yellowish green.
1 peseta, dark blue, dull blue.	1 peseta, dark blue, dull blue.
	1 ,, dark blue, bright blue.
4 pesetas, dark puce.	4 pesetas, pale puce.

Plate II.

5 cents., yellow-brown.	5 cents., yellow-brown.
10 ,, deep blue.	10 ,, deep blue (retouch).
25 ,, brown.	50 ,, green, varying (retouch).
	1 peseta, dark blue.
10 pesetas, vermilion.	10 pesetas, vermilion.

Philatelic Notes.

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

BELGIAN REPRINTS.

IT appears that there are several varieties of the reprints of this country that have lately been mentioned in various journals. The *Timbre-Poste* now gives the following extended list:—

Type 1849 .	10, 20 centimes.	Type 1865 .	10, 20, 30, 40 cents, 1 franc.
„ 1851 .	1, 10 „	„ 1866 .	1, 2, 5 cents.

Our contemporary appropriately asks its Minister of Posts by what right he allows stamps to be reprinted that (1865 and 1866) are still available for postage, in order to distribute them among his friends. M. Vanden Peerenboom has already covered himself with ridicule by his absurd *ne livrer pas la Dimanche* labels, and he will assuredly still further earn the contempt of the Philatelists of his own and other countries if he attempts, by needless reprints, to destroy the confidence in and appreciation of one of the handsomest series of the issues of any country. It may indeed be safely held that for colouring, execution, and character, the issues of Belgium from 1849 to 1865 have no superior in the realms of Philately. It is almost a pity that two of the rarest varieties should lately have been unearthed in entire sheets, but from an altruistic point of view it is for the best. The advent of possibly dangerous and numerous reprints would be a far more serious deterrent to the rapidly-increasing votaries of the "Belgian school."

GREAT BRITAIN: ONE PENNY, 1841, DISCOVERY.

ERRORS are few and far between in the British stamps, but Mr. A. H. Stamford, of Warrington, who is a most earnest and assiduous student of things Philatelic, has discovered a variety that will cause many eyes to ache in examining the enormous quantities of this stamp that still exist, *i.e.*, the 1d., red-brown, issued in 1841, which was not perforated officially until 1854. In the specimen in question the Small Crown watermark is repeated, the second one being inverted; both are found in the upper half of the stamp, that inverted showing the more distinctly, and being directly below the normal one. The watermark in this issue is generally found placed in the centre of the stamp and upright. The specimen is of a full red-brown colour in a rather sharp impression on medium blue paper, and is faintly postmarked with the obliteration of parallel bars and numeral. Mr. Stamford writes us that "I cannot say precisely when I found this stamp, but it is probably about three years since. I should no doubt have removed the stamp myself from an old letter-sheet, and I think it is most probable that it was found during a search amongst old bundles of letters at Bradford. During the same or another search about the same time I found two genuine Archer perforations, on original covers of course, not roulettes."

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS ON FRENCH STAMPS.

THESE stamps that are so much the mode to-day are now frequently the subject of papers, and the manufacture of varieties is eagerly carried on. At the meeting of Philatelists in Magdeburg last summer Herr L. Brummer, of Munich, read a paper on "Varieties of the French Empire Stamps," in which, beyond the due classification of shades, a number of varieties are introduced that certainly require verification. Paper "yellowish" or "greyish" may well supervene in stamps nearly half a century old, unless *carefully* shielded from light. The lined appearance of the solid circle of colour surrounding the Emperor's head that is occasionally seen is as familiar as it is unimportant, but Herr Brummer drags the vertical and horizontal in a large number of instances as "rare," "very rare," etc.! "Inscriptions and figures of value thin," "pearl beneath the circle absent," "background mottled," etc., are all the result of defects in the process of printing, and although they may well be noted in a collection, are assuredly not varieties dignified enough for cataloguing.

M. Marconnet, the author of the recent excellent work on *The Stamps of France*, has been elaborating his theme somewhat in a recent article in the *Echo de la Timbrologie* with regard to the 80 c. Empire unperforated. As is well known, there are two absolutely different colours of this stamp—the first, issued in 1854, in carmine, so like the 1 franc that one has often been mistaken for the other; and the second, in 1860, of a pale, clear rose colour. M. Marconnet, doubtless in the examination of numerous specimens, and with great knowledge of his subject, has prepared a list of no less than thirty-three varieties of shade and paper of this stamp, in which every change is rung on carmine and rose and kindred hues. We quite agree with M. Marconnet in his division of the latter stamp into rose-tinted and azure paper—both very faint, but still distinct. But we are curious to know if all the shades named have been taken from unused stamps. From the writer's collection they are thus classified, there being intermediary shades or depths of printing to be seen in each, and, with two exceptions, all being unused.

1854, carmine, deep carmine.
(?) 1857, pale carmine, pale rose-carmine.
(?) 1858, carmine-vermilion.
1860, rose, pale to full, on faintly rose-tinted paper.
„ „ „ on faintly bluish paper.

In both cases the colours are sometimes duller, but this may be attributed to other causes, and the paper varies in thickness to a fair extent, although we are sceptical as to the *pelure* of M. Marconnet. Some of these shades, unused, are very rare—the carmine-vermilion especially so—and a complete collection of these 80 centimes, of an up-to-date standard as to condition and *quantity*, must be possessed by few collectors. We almost shudder to think what will be the result when M. Marconnet thus analyses the 10 c. or the 20 c. of this issue!

During the past year there have appeared certain blocks of four of the

first Republic in mint unused state that were a "bolt out of the blue." The 10 c., 20 c., and 40 c. presented no deviation from the normal in appearance, but the 25 c., although the shade was the usual dark blue one (that in *pale* blue being exceedingly rare), had a different gum from any that we have seen. The 15 c. was practically the same depth of tone as the darker of the reprints, though the paper had not its bluish tinge, and the 1 franc was of a bright cherry colour (*cerise*), the background being mottled, thus differing from any other impression of this issue that we have seen. Both these stamps were gummed, like the 25 c., with a thick whitish mucilage fairly crackly, the cracks being somewhat large and bold in their formation. We are informed on excellent authority that these stamps emanated from a deceased diplomatist in the Netherlands, and that their remarkable freshness was accounted for from the fact that they had lain all these years undisturbed in his portfolios. They have been generally accepted in France, where they are keen Philatelists and exceedingly acute judges of their own stamps, and it is with great reluctance that we confess we are unable to overcome our doubts as to the originality of the 15 c. and the 1 franc, or the orthodoxy of the gum on the 25 c. Some of the latter stamps are of precisely the same colour, and exhibit exactly the same yellow stains, as those found on the ungummed portions of sheets that were sold a year or two since on the death of M. Hulot, the printer, and we fail to see how this fact is compatible with the "portfolio freshness." The colours of the impression of the 15 c. and 1 franc, as we have said, are suggestively near those of the reprints, nor have we, after extended search, been enabled to find either stamp used in any way approximating in shade. We regret to seem to differ from those who are well calculated to be good judges in the matter, and shall be only too pleased if we can be shown the error of our ways. It should be stated that we are by no means alone in holding these views, but from the fact that there are among our readers several holders of these blocks we think that a further elucidation of the question is certainly desirable.

Mr. W. Grunewald recently read an interesting paper before the Manchester Philatelic Society, in which he treats of the lithograph stamps of 1870 known as the Bordeaux issue. The three accepted types are given, and two others in which the differences consist in the letters and labels of inscription. Mr. Grunewald alleges that in "Types 4 and 5" the letters of "REPUB. FRANC.," etc., are thicker and squarer and fill up the label. We cannot, however, agree to this, after a repeated examination of this issue, and consider that the only differences which *seem* apparent, notably in the numerals, are due to the more or less inking of the lithographic stone. Mr. Grunewald gives the three varieties of Type 3, showing the base of the neck closer to the pearled circle, and stating that the variety with the neck furthest away occurs 140 times in the sheet to 80 each of the other two. Mr. Grunewald's definition of these very slight differences is hardly exact enough. The best test of the difference between varieties 1 and 2 is that the crown of the head is distinctly and measurably ($\frac{1}{4}$ mm.) more away from the pearled circle. The third variety, if it really is such, seems to have the base of the neck varying from $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. to practical contact with the

pearled circle, and looking to the free play of ink upon a *stone*, it seems questionable how far this really is a variety. With regard to the rarer Type 1, there are at least four or five distinct shades or printings, and the impressions frequently show considerable wear. The pale blue unused is a rare stamp. We agree with Mr. Grunewald that there are no other types in the remaining values, those described being but variations of the printing, notably in the case of the 2 cents.

In our last number, under "New Issues," we chronicled the unexpected apparition of the 10 c., black, of the current issue, in sheets, portions of which were composed of impressions from the old die of the 10 c., green, of 1876, with "N" of "INV." beneath the "B" of "REPUBLIQUE." In answer to a letter of inquiry from M. Maury, the engraver of the die, M. Mouchon, has sent an interesting letter, which is published in the *Collect. de T.-Postes*, from which we glean the following (the translation being that of Mr. Westoby in the *Monthly Circular*):—

"As far as I recollect, after twenty-two years, the following are the reasons for the small differences which you have noticed in the French stamps.

"As you have already fully explained in your journal, the die for the French stamps broke in the tempering. My instructions were that the block of steel was to be rectangular, as also the hole reserved for the values. This hole I wished to be filled in with soft iron for the delicate operation of tempering, but, in spite of my advice, it was filled up with fire-clay.

"Under the influence of the great heat, the steel expanded, while the fire-clay contracted, by which fissures were produced, allowing the water to penetrate between the steel and the fire-clay; the steam formed in these interstices not being able to escape, burst the die.

"After the splitting, which passed diagonally through two angles of the cartouche, I found a difference in level between the two parts, which, however, were not separated down to the base of the steel block. I had a solid ring made to imprison the block, and took an impression from it in the workshops of the Mint. This matrix on a round die was used in its turn to produce a die in relief absolutely like the first one after the accident, that is to say, with two different levels. I filed down all that part which was too high on this steel block, and recommenced the engraving of the lower part of the figure of Peace and the words 'REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE,' taking all possible care to make it a reproduction of the original type. As regards the signatures of myself and M. Sage, I attached no importance to them.

"As this little difference in the position of the names of myself and M. Sage has so much interested collectors, they may also notice that if the letters of our names are not identical, no more are the numerals of value. I looked only to making the figures of the design absolutely alike, but did not so much regard such small details, never thinking that they would employ at the same time *clichés* made from the original type and those from the new one. In my opinion, the *clichés* made from the first type are much superior to the others."

Occasional Notes.

MESSRS. HASTINGS WRIGHT AND A. B. CREEKE'S WORK ON THE BRITISH STAMPS.

WE are very pleased to be enabled to announce that this long-expected and important work is now in the press, and that its publication may be shortly expected. Special terms will be given to members of the London Philatelic Society, full particulars as to which will be announced by circular. We hear that there will be an unprecedented demand for this standard work of reference on our own country's stamps, and would counsel members to make early application for copies.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE "TAPLING COLLECTION."

MR. E. D. BACON sends us the following welcome additions hereto:—

CANADA.—An unused specimen of the 2 c. stamp for Imperial Penny Postage.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Die proof of the 8 c., of 1893, in carmine-brown on India paper.—Mr. L. Gibb.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A postmarked specimen of the newly discovered forgery of the 1 sh., green, Plate 5.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Two unused specimens of the 6d. and five of the 1 sh. Universal Private Telegraph Co.'s stamps with control numbers in various colours.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

A 1d. Mulready Wrapper, No. A 17, postmarked May 6th, 1840 (the first day of issue), addressed in the handwriting of the late Sir Anthony Panizzi, K.C.B., with a note "First come May 6th, 1840."—Mr. H. J. Duveen.

Eighty-five varieties of Registration Envelopes.—Mr. O. Firth.

An unused specimen of the original issue of the ¼d., blue, London Circular Delivery Co.'s stamp, perf. 12, still attached to the advertisement page of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, on which it was posted for presentation, in November, 1866, to the subscribers to that journal. Also eight proof sheets (some entire and some part sheets) of a reprint of the Delivery Companies stamps made by Messrs. Groom, Wilkinson & Co., in 1892 or 1893, on white wove paper, values ¼d., green, ½d., blue, ¾d., pale bistre-brown, 1d., green, 3d., yellow, 6d., carmine-rose; and National Delivery Co., without value, green, and vermilion. Also specimen of dealers' sale-sheet of the Delivery Companies stamps. Also entire sheets of 4d., black, and 9d., black, stamps on stout white wove paper, printed by some other firm than Messrs. Groom, Wilkinson & Co.—Mr. C. Davies Sherborn.

HANOVER.—Entire sheets of the following reprints of the issue with head of George V.: 3 gr., yellow, 3 gr., brown, both imperf., and sheet of the latter rouletted *en arc*.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

INDIA.—Block of four unused specimens of the "¼" on ½d., green, stamp. —Mr. G. E. Cutting.

MEXICO.—An entire sheet of 100 stamps, and part sheet of 12 stamps, of the 1 real, red, end of 1863 issue; the former without and the latter with the marginal inscription "Compañia Americana de Bilhetes de Banco Nueva York." Also twenty-two specimens of the Eagle series and three of the lithographed Maximilian set with surcharged numbers not previously in the collection.—Mr. S. Chapman.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Thirty unused specimens of the stamps of this colony issued from 1890 to August, 1898.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

SHANGHAI.—An unused specimen of the 2 c. Commemorative issue of December, 1893.—Miss Cassels.

TRINIDAD.—An unused specimen of the 2d. Commemorative issue of 1898.—Miss Cassels.

UNITED STATES.—Two current 2 c., carmine-rose, and one 1 c., bright green, on wrapper, postmarked Manila, November 7th, 1898.—Mr. Justen.

THE NEW ISSUES OF EUROPE, 1892-98.

TAKING the recently-appeared supplement to M. J. B. Moens' Catalogue as a basis, the following results may be arrived at as to the relative quantity of new issues. The supplement is not absolutely inclusive of all that has appeared, and some of the smaller and minor varieties are not included. The number, therefore, might be slightly increased in certain cases, but for all practical purposes the results annexed are sound, and we think will be found to afford fair ground for reflection as to the public, as apart from the Philatelic, requirements of the world!

SIX YEARS' NEW ISSUES.

Austria	11	British Levant	1
Hungary	17	Austrian „	5
Bavaria	1	French „	1
Belgium	25	Roumanian Levant (?)	6
Bosnia	2	Luxemburg	28
Bulgaria	24	Norway	12
Cyprus	10	Holland	30
Denmark	9	Portugal	74
Spain	4	San Marino	25
Finland	5	Servia	16
France	8	Thessaly	5
Great Britain	4	Turkey	11
Iceland	3	Wurtemberg	1
Italy	9		

Total varieties	347
Russian Locals issued during the same period	497
	844

It will be seen that the Russian Rural Posts require (?) 25 per cent. more new issues than all the rest of Europe, and that the next most prolific country is impecunious Portugal, with seventy-four varieties, or about 30

per cent. more than the six Great Powers united (counting only Imperial Posts). San Marino and Luxemburg are, for their size, the next worst sinners, and have also issued as many stamps as the six Great Powers. Outside the Rural Posts, however, the record is not at all calculated to awaken uneasy dreams of the S.S.S.S. in the minds of collectors of European stamps.

IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE.

WITH the arrival of the Right Hon. Cecil John Rhodes in London this month it is to be hoped that the Cape will be found included in the new scheme of which it has been a strenuous advocate. We read that the difficulties in the case are purely of a financial nature, and a colony that is ready to donate battleships can surely find the means to defray the slight loss incurred by the adoption of Imperial Penny Postage. The Australian Colonies are likely for the same financial causes to remain for the present outside; but the exclusion of Malta, Mauritius, and Jamaica seems unaccountable. The companies who "run" British North Borneo and Labuan will probably soon follow suit, doubtless with a fresh set of stamps to further ease collectors' pockets and increase their otherwise scanty postal revenues.

The list of New Year's honours strangely does not include that of Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., to whose untiring advocacy Imperial Penny Postage is practically due. It may be like Columbus' egg in the view of officialdom, but reforms are generally due to the pertinacious outsider, and not to the permanent Civil servant. There have been many comments in the daily papers on the omission of Mr. Heaton's name, and a feeling of surprise that will be generally echoed in Philatelic circles. For the credit of the honour list we can only hope that an acknowledgment has at least been proffered to Mr. Henniker Heaton!

MR. LEWIN HILL, C.B.

THE last link connecting the great name of Sir Rowland Hill with the Post Office has been severed by the retirement of his nephew, Mr. Lewin Hill, which event took place on the 13th of this month, under the rule enforced throughout the Civil Service on the attainment of the age of sixty-five. Mr. Lewin Hill, C.B., is the last survivor of four members of the Hill family who were once employed in the Post Office together—namely, Sir Rowland Hill; his brother, Mr. Frederick Hill; his only son, Mr. Pearson Hill, whose recent death was announced in last month's *London Philatelist*, and is further referred to in this number, and it is safe to say that, for the last ten or fifteen years at all events, there have been no questions of policy or principle on which he has not been consulted. His knowledge, not only of the *personnel* of the department, but of all matters connected with the history and local conditions of postal labour of all classes throughout the country, will be greatly missed. On the occasion of his leave-taking his colleagues presented him with a silver tea and coffee service, and several other useful articles, including a bookcase and writing-table.

EXHIBITION OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA.

THE fourth public exhibition of stamps held in Calcutta is now arranged, says the Calcutta *Statesman* of December 25th, in the southern portion of the Art Gallery annexe of the Imperial Museum, Chowringhee, and fully equals, if it does not indeed surpass, any of its predecessors in interest and variety. For the first time in an Indian exhibition, fiscal stamps are now on view, and the telegraphs and Ceylon of India are also fairly represented. The exhibitors are all members of the Society, two of them—Major Evans, the distinguished editor of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, and Mr. Dorning Beckton, President of the Manchester Society—sending magnificent contributions of Bhopals, Jhinds, and Japans from England. In spite of these brilliant exceptions, however, it is much to be feared that the unreasonably persisted-in regulations of the Indian customs authorities have again somewhat restricted the scope of the exhibition as regards foreign exhibits. Silver and bronze medals (bearing the well-known design of the lion and palm-tree) are at the disposal of expert judges in fifteen classes as follows, Nos. 12 to 15 being special exhibits :—

Class I.—Afghanistan and Cashmere. Class II.—Any two from the following group of native states: Hyderabad, Travancore, Jhind (native issues only), Soruth, Bhopal. Class III.—Not more than two from the following group of British Indian stamps surcharged: Jhind, Nabha, Patiala. Class IV.—Great Britain. Class V.—Not more than two from the following colonies: Heligoland, Malta, Hong Kong, Straits Settlements (excluding native states). Class VI.—Not more than two from the following: Cape of Good Hope, Natal, British Bechuanaland. Class VII.—Not more than two from the following: Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland. Class VIII.—One from each of the following sub-classes, A and B: (A) Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad, Turks Islands; (B) Montserrat, St. Christopher, Tobago, Virgin Islands. Class IX.—Not more than two from the following: New South Wales, Tasmania, Fiji, South Australia. Class X.—Not more than two from the following: Switzerland, Austria, Hungary. Class XI.—One from the following: Japan, Philippine Islands. Class XII.—The United States of America.

The exhibitors were as follows :—

Class I.—Captain F. H. Hancock, Afghanistan; D. P. Masson, Cashmere. Class II.—Major E. B. Evans, Bhopal and Jhind. Class III.—T. E. Madden, Jhind and Patiala; C. Stewart-Wilson, Jhind and Patiala. Class IV.—T. E. Madden, Great Britain. Class V.—C. Stewart-Wilson, Hong Kong and Straits Settlements. Class VI.—C. F. Larmour, Cape of Good Hope; Goodwin Norman, Cape of Good Hope. Class VII.—C. F. Larmour, Canada and Newfoundland; Goodwin Norman, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Class VIII.—C. F. Larmour, Trinidad and Virgin Islands; Goodwin Norman, Turks Islands and Virgin Islands; C. Stewart-Wilson, Grenada and Montserrat. Class IX.—C. F. Larmour, New South Wales and South Australia. Class X.—Goodwin Norman, Switzerland; F. N. Schiller, Switzerland. Class XI.—W. Dorning Beckton, Japan; Goodwin Norman, Philippines. Class XII.—W. Corfield, United States of America; T. E. Madden, United States of America.

Special Classes—(1) C. F. Larmour and C. Stewart-Wilson. (2) W. Corfield. (3) W. Corfield and C. Stewart-Wilson.

Recent Issues—W. Corfield.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

MR. GIBSON, the Hon. Secretary, sends us word that during the past month Special Medals have been accepted by the Committee as follows: *Messrs. Bright & Son.*—One silver medal for the best exhibit of Holland in Class II. *Messrs. Winch Bros.*—One bronze medal for the best and most accurate colour chart, consisting of genuine Government postal issues with colours named—Seebecks, reprints, locals, and forgeries being excluded.

THE LATE MR. PEARSON HILL.

IN our notice last month of the lamented death of Sir Rowland Hill's son we referred but briefly to his connection with Philately. Those who were visitors at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1890 will well remember Mr. Hill's collection, which was exhibited in Class II., Division I. (that of general collections with unlimited number of specimens), and gained the silver medal of its class. That it included good stamps, many of them being in mint condition, will be gleaned from the catalogue, which stated:—

"An old collection of postage stamps, essays, etc., about 4900 in number, all unused, including fine pages of India, New South Wales, Victoria, South and Western Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, the 'fillet' Mauritius, one penny wood block 'error' of the Cape of Good Hope, New Brunswick, 'Connell' 5 c., good Trinidad, fine sets of the first issues of Spain and Philippine Islands, Naples (arms and cross), St. Helena 6d. red without surcharge, United States, set of Periodicals and State Department complete, 20 c. 1862 United States of Colombia, the red and orange first issue of Buenos Ayres, and many other good stamps, including some interesting essays and proofs of Great Britain."

Mr. Hill's exhibits were not confined to stamps, but in other classes, and included many highly interesting objects, such as, among many others:—

"The earliest records of the correspondence between the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry and Sir Rowland Hill relative to the collection of postage by means of adhesive stamps; printed letters in connection with James Chalmers' controversy and claim to priority; various original portions of Sir Rowland Hill's journal, autograph letters relating to postal reform, etc.; proof-sheet from the first plate of 240 penny stamps; various essays and the gold and silver caskets presented to Sir Rowland Hill containing the honorary freedom of the City of London and the Fishmongers' Company; also a portion of the red penny postage stamps printed upon Dickinson's paper, never gummed, but showing that the 'blued' nature of the paper is due to the chemical action of the ink."

Many of the leading collectors in bygone years had the advantage of personal acquaintance with Mr. Hill, and can testify to his genial and kindly disposition, and the writer is glad to think that he was permitted to be of the number. One who knew Mr. Pearson Hill for many years writes thus of him:—

"He was a very quiet, busy man, absorbed in his work. He chiefly roused at anything of the family name being involved, especially his father, Sir Rowland, and it will be remembered how actively Pearson Hill appeared in the great Chalmers question in the *Philatelic Record*, 1879, and after. I think he got a little more

in touch with officialism than Sir Rowland ever did. Although he did not initiate any striking reforms when at the Post Office, he was a very active and useful secretary, and in the details of the service suggested and carried out many improvements, such as a machine for facilitating the stamping of letters with the cancelling and dated marks (the two being done at one operation), which was exhibited among the Post Office exhibits at the Paris International Exhibition of 1867, and from its ingenious construction attracted considerable attention. As a collector he was not very keen, nor did he keep up to date. His collection, which was exhibited at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1890, at Baker Street, was a very fine one of the old type; no Jubilee rubbish, nothing obnoxious to the S.S.S.S. in it. I need not add, he was, like all the family, kindly to all and amiable to a degree in private life."

COLOUR CHARTS AND ENTIRE ENVELOPES.

WE have received a letter from one of our readers, who wishes us, among numerous other windmills to be tilted at, to advocate (1) the publication of a list of colours, and (2) the collection of entires. As regards the former, both in America and here, excellent tinted samples, properly graded, of all the primary and most of the subsidiary colours have been prepared—but *cui bono?* They are beautiful, but not practical, as no collector would work always by them, unless he had much leisure; and in our view there has been no demonstration of their general utility.

As regards the collection of entires, we have much sympathy with our correspondent's view. We have urged again and again that collections of envelopes and post cards are of the greatest interest and merit, but their day is not yet. There are assuredly many collectors of both, but we fear it may be long before they become the rage in this country. Their bulk is the greatest argument against them—as in physical life increased size or weight means diminished activity!

The German and Russian envelopes are magnificent sets, and those of the British colonies are simple and handsome. But—and the preposition is important—registration envelopes have killed the latter. Who wants to collect canvas-lined bags as large as small pillows? And as regards the former the marvellous disclosures of the Fouré forgeries has (needlessly) frightened off a huge number of collectors thereof. As to the general collection of envelopes, let anyone read the list of U.S. envelopes as now being published in the *A. J. P.*, and it will give him pause. We deplore with our correspondent the fact that entires are not the vogue, but until some sound methods of mounting them and transmitting them through the post be discovered, we fear that their collection will languish.

Reviews.

MESSRS. BRIGHT & SON'S CATALOGUE.*



THE new edition of this now well-known Catalogue has followed close on the heels of its rival, and as competition is beneficial it will be heartily welcomed. The enterprise of Messrs. Bright in producing so extensive and elaborate a price list is highly to be commended; nor are they content to rest on their laurels, as the present edition is superior in many ways to its predecessors. The increase in bulk is not material, although all the numerous recent issues are included, while the printing, which we understand is the publishers' own work, is so clear and legible as to leave nothing to be desired. With regard to the illustrations, we cannot say so much as this, and in fact in the preface this is acknowledged. The expense of furnishing new *clichés* is, however, enough to deter anyone, and only the gradual disappearance of the older and indistinct dies can be reasonably anticipated. The new illustrations, however, are excellent, noticeable especially in the list of Great Britain, which we are now happily privileged to enjoy. Many of the countries have been improved and re-written, such as Luxemburg, Austria, France (why are the *têtes-bêche* omitted?), Holland (with types, etc.), and Portugal, and their colonies, Belgium, Austro-Hungary, Brazil, and some of the Scandinavian countries. Many of the British colonies also show highly commendable lists, such as Straits Settlements — with the surcharges illustrated — South Australia, Transvaal, etc., etc. In the excellent Belgian list the *first* perforated set should be the 12½, next the compound of this with 13½, and lastly the 14½. In Wurtemberg, Issue I., the rare 3 kr. is given erroneously as buff, *i.e.*, same colour as the 1 kr. It should be orange. Such mistakes, inevitable to so large an undertaking, are, however, few and far between, and we can unhesitatingly recommend this Catalogue to all our readers as a substantial and highly useful contribution to current Philatelic literature.

As regards the pricing, we have on previous occasions stated our views, which are practically endorsed by the statement in the "General Instructions" that "most of the stamps priced are in stock"; and no one can gainsay the right of a vendor to price his own wares. In many cases prices of great rarities are omitted, such as Hawaiians and Moldavians; but in the case of British Guiana all are quoted, a feature on which we take leave to congratulate the publishers.

* BRIGHT & SON'S *A B C Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps.* The Arcade, Bournemouth. Third Edition.

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. — We have now received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a specimen of the current Great Britain stamp with surcharge "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE" in two lines.

CANADA.—From the same source we are in possession of the Christmas, 1898, stamp with the colour of the sea changed from blue to green.

Adhesive. 2 c., black, red, green, and grey.

CEYLON.—This colony has adopted the Penny Postage scheme, the corresponding currency being six cents. Despite the assurance given that no provisional stamp would be made pending the arrival of a permanent six cent value from Europe, the 15 c., olive-green, stamp has been surcharged "SIX CENTS" in black. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. confirm this statement by forwarding for our inspection a specimen of the new provisional.

Adhesive. Six cents on 15 c., olive-green.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received a stamp of a somewhat doubtful character, forwarded to them by a New Zealand correspondent. The stamp is said to be used to prepay postage on letters from the island to Auckland by private ships. The value is one shilling, the design, type-set, containing a central device with a pigeon bearing in its mouth a letter; above this "GREAT BARRIER ISLAND," below "SPECIAL POST"; at either side "ONE SHILLING." We withhold chronicle for the present, being promised further news.

INDIA.—*Jhind.*—*Le T.-P.* states that the one rupee stamp has been surcharged "SERVICE" in black.

Service Stamp. 1 r., carmine and green.

QUEENSLAND.—We have received a new type of the halfpenny stamp, with figures of value in all corners. The profile of the Queen, instead of being in an oval, with "½d." at either side, is now within a circle, on white ground, "QUEENSLAND," "HALFPENNY," on either side. Wmk. Crown and Q. *Adhesive.* ½d., green.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIAN LEVANT. — The *A. J. of Ph.* states that the current issue is now appearing with a small perforation, gauging 13 (instead of 10½). Only two values have at present been seen.

Adhesives. 20 para on 5 kr., rose; perf. 13.
1 pias. on 10 kr., blue ,,

BELGIUM.—The 50 c., grey, stamp which we chronicled recently has undergone a further change to black.

Adhesive. 50 c., black.

CRETE.—The following is from the *M. J.*:—

"Just as we are going to press we have received some curious stamps, which purport to have been issued for this island, and which a correspondent sends us as 'the latest instance of the rapid organizing power of British officers abroad.' We only trust that Philately will not be too rapidly organized in aid of the finances of Crete; but as one issue is already obsolete, a second is at the point of becoming so, and a third is promised to celebrate the arrival of Prince George, we fear the worst. The first type

consists of inscriptions in four lines in Greek, which have been translated for us as '*Temporary—Post—Off.—of Eracleon—paras 20*,' the lettering being in white on a more or less solid ground of colour, and the stamps imperforate. The second is more pretentious, having the value in two lines in the centre, surrounded by a circular band, bearing the first three lines of the inscription of the first issue, the whole being enclosed in a square frame of Greek pattern, with fancy ornaments in the spandrels. This is on bluish-white paper; perf. 11½."

The word "*Eracleon*" of the inscription may presumably refer to *Euroclydon*, having reference to the *wind* which it is desired to raise.—[ED.]

Adhesives. 20 paras, mauve; *imperf.*
10 ,, blue; *perf.* 11½.
20 ,, green ,,

FRANCE.—It is stated that 1900 will be the year for the issue of a new series of postage stamps.

HOLLAND.—Some further correspondence is to hand from our Ipswich friends relative to the 1 gulden stamp. It has now been definitely decided to discontinue it, and a new type will be put on sale this month. The number printed is stated to have been 30,000. None are said to be on sale at the post offices.

PORTUGAL.—The 15 and 25 reis stamps have been issued in green and rose respectively in order to conform to the Postal Union requirements. (See note in Other Countries.)

Adhesives. 15 reis, green and black.
25 ,, rose ,,

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—In addition to the 200 on 100 r., violet, newspaper stamp, surcharged for postal use, which we chronicled last month, the *P. J. of G. B.* gives the following stamps as either having been or about to be surcharged in a similar manner :—

Adhesives. 100, in violet, on 50 reis, orange
300 ,, 200 ,, grey-black.
1000 green 500 ,, orange.
1000 ,, 700 ,, ,,
2000 ,, 1000 ,, ,,

The *M. J.* adds to this list—

300, in violet, on 200 reis, orange.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—*Die Post* describes a new type of adhesive with the conventional "ARMS" within a circle, "CORREOS" at top, "REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" and value at base.

Adhesive. 1 c., red on *yellow*.

GUATEMALA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* states that the revenue stamps of 1, 5, and 10 pesos have been requisitioned for surcharging, to be used as postage stamps—"6 c., 1898," in black.

Adhesives. 6 c. on 1 peso, purple.
,, 5 ,, grey-lilac.
,, 10 ,, green.

MEXICO.—Additions to the *unwatermarked* stamps given in our November issue have been made as follows :—

Adhesives. 4 c., orange; *no wmk.*
10 c., rose-lilac ,,
12 c., olive ,,
15 c., blue-green ,,
20 c., brown-lilac ,,
50 c., violet ,,
1 p., brown ,,
10 p., deep blue ,,

URUGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a new design for the ½ c. stamp, roughly lithographed, and evidently of local manufacture. The design is copied from the 3 c., grey, stamp of the 1890 issue of Newfoundland. The value is expressed in "MILESIMOS," five of which are equivalent to one half cent. Of the surcharged stamps one more value has to be added, the 5 c. commemorative stamp of 1896.

Adhesives. ½ c. on 5 c., blue and black.
(1899) 5 m., rose-pink, perf. 11½.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—The following is from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* :—

"The Postmaster-General has despatched a commission to Cuba to investigate the postal system there, and to make changes as it deems necessary to conform to the new condition of things. This commission is to make preparations for an officer appointed by the Postmaster-General, to be designated 'the Director of Posts for Cuba,' who will have complete control over postal affairs, subject to the orders of the Postmaster-General, but who will be nominally under the United States military authorities. As the first step towards the accomplishment of this arrangement, the Postmaster-General has called upon the Secretary of the Treasury to submit designs to his approval for a new series of stamps to be used in Cuba, after the new system is put into operation. As it will take some time to engrave the necessary plates for printing these stamps, the Postmaster-General has directed that the United States stamps of four denominations be used temporarily, with the word 'CUBA' surcharged in conspicuous type.

"The Bureau has been ordered to prepare at once these stamps in the following quantities and denominations :—

1 c. . . . 2,000,000
2 c. . . . 5,000,000
5 c. . . . 1,000,000
10 c. . . . 200,000."

We have not yet viewed specimens of these stamps, which will fill, when issued, a place in Philatelic history. In the meantime, *Mekeel's Weekly* adds some further interesting information relative to the future of Uncle Sam's new possession :—

"Washington, *December 17th.*—Postage stamps for temporary use in Cuba will be on sale in a few days. Printing will begin on Monday. The new stamps are our own stamps, with the addition of distinguishing imprinting upon the face.

"The denominations are one, two, five, and ten cents. Across these will be printed the word 'CUBA' in black ink, with the amount in pesos near the lower edge. The letters will be small, but sufficiently distinct to prevent mistakes. The green one cent stamps will be known as 1 cent de peso, and red two as $2\frac{1}{2}$ cent de peso; the blue five as 5 cent de peso, and the brown ten as 10 cent de peso.

"The Post Office Department had under consideration several designs for permanent use, and only after considerable deliberation was a selection made. One design submitted contained a bust of General Calixto Garcia, but this was rejected, because the intention is in every way to avoid giving offence to any class in Cuba. It was finally decided to substitute for the Garcia bust either the profile portrait of Columbus or one of the well-known statues of the discoverer. Another denomination will bear the typical Cuban scene, and another will typify Industry.

"One stamp will contain a representation of a cane mill, with a cane field in the rear. For another denomination the subject will be Commerce. The design will show a full-rigged clipper ship on the water, and in appearance the stamp will be similar to the 12 cent issue of 1869, one of the most attractive stamps ever issued by this Government. The rate of letter postage in Cuba, 5 cents for half an ounce, will not be changed for the present."

PORTO RICO.—It may be well to give publicity to the following information taken from the *A. J. of Ph.* :—

"The *Timbre-Poste* announces the surcharge '*Habilitado*—17—*Octubre*—1898,' on various stamps of Puerto Rico of the issues from 1891 to 1896. As the United States assumed the government of the island on that date, and the old stamps were no longer admitted to use for prepayment of correspondence, these surcharges can have no Philatelic value. They may prove of interest as souvenirs of the transfer of authority from Spain to the United States, but the stamp catalogues will surely not recognize them as collectible varieties."

The varieties and numbers surcharged are as follows :—

½ m., violet (1896), carmine surcharge . .	(10.000)
1 m., lilac-brown (1896), carmine surcharge .	(5000)
2 m., yellow-green (1896) ,, ,, . .	(5000)
4 m., blue-green (1896), black surcharge . .	(2000)
5 c., green (1891) ,, ,, . .	(1500)
8 c., brown (1891), carmine ,, . .	(1000)
10 c., violet-rose (1891), black ,, . .	(1000)
20 c., mauve (1891), carmine ,, . .	(700)
40 c., salmon (1896), black ,, . .	(100)
80 c., black (1897), carmine ,, . .	(150)

PORTUGUESE COLONIES.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have received new colours for the 15 and 25 reis stamps of Angra, Funchal, Horta, and Ponta Delgada. These have been issued to conform to the Postal Union requirements.

Adhesives. 15 reis, green and black.
25 reis, rose ,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. Lloyd.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—R. Dalton,
30, *Carnarvon Road, Redland.*

A meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, Dec. 15th, the President being in the chair. There was a very good attendance of members, to inspect the twenty-one sheets of very fine specimens of the stamps of Ceylon exhibited by Mr. Lloyd, and containing several of the rare early issues, unused and used, in splendid condition, and which were much admired.

Mr. T. C. Cartwright also brought eleven sheets, chiefly of the later and less noteworthy stamps of the same colony.

The next and Annual General Meeting for the election of officers, etc., for 1899, will be held on Thursday evening, Jan. 5th, 1899, in the Society's room, 42, Cotham Hill, Redland.

The third general meeting of the above Society was held on January 5th, 1899.

Messrs. P. J. Lloyd and F. E. Ellis were respectively re-elected President and Vice-President, and other special business transacted.

The President then congratulated the Society on its growth and satisfactory condition, and stated that, as the accounts for the past year had not yet been audited, he could not present them in detail at this meeting, but that there was a good balance in the hands of the Treasurer, and that the sales during the past year were 50 per cent. more than those of the preceding year.

The following programme was then agreed upon for the bi-monthly meetings:—

January 19th .	"Mauritius."
February 2nd.	"British Africa."
,, 16th.	"New Zealand."
March 2nd. .	Lantern display by Mr. Dalton.
,, 16th .	"France," and a paper by Mr. Perrott.
April 6th . .	No meeting.
,, 20th. .	"British Guiana and British Honduras."
May 4th . .	"Italy and Italian States."
,, 18th . .	"The Leeward Islands."

Mr. T. C. Cartwright, after stating that nearly fifty years ago he was interested with others in the promotion of "Ocean Penny Postage," moved the following resolution, and which, seconded by Mr. Dalton, was carried, viz.:—

"That the hearty thanks of this Society be given to J. Henniker Heaton, Esq., M.P., for his indefatigable labours on behalf of postal matters generally, and especially it now desires to congratulate him on the success of his endeavours to obtain a penny postage rate throughout the British Empire, and it also expresses the hope that the time is not far distant when he will have the further reward of his exertions in seeing those colonies which are not included in the Treasury Warrant of December 22nd, 1898, participating in the boon conferred upon those named therein, and which came into force, both at home and in those colonies, on December 25th, 1898."

T. C. Cartwright, *Hon. Librarian.*

17, York Crescent Road,
Clifton, Bristol.

Herts Philatelic Society.

At a Special Meeting held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, December 6th, the proposed alterations and additions to the rules were carried unanimously. The expense for reprinting new rules was sanctioned. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: W. Brown, as life member; C. D. Lord, W. H. Peckitt, and J. C. Sidebotham, as ordinary members; E. D. Bacon, Chas. J. Phillips, and W. A. S. Westoby, as honorary members. W. G. Cook and W. Simpson were voted to the two vacant seats on the Committee.

At the close of the business, Mr. Simpson gave a display of his general collection and of some unique blocks of the 1 fr., France, 1853-60 issue. A vote of thanks to Mr. Simpson for his entertainment of members terminated the meeting.

The November packet of the Society contained 32 sheets, valued at £614 14s. 8½d.

At a general meeting held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on January 3rd, a proof of the revised rules was submitted and approved. It was resolved that a room for meetings be reserved at Anderton's for the remainder of the season. The following were proposed and elected as members: Rev. Dr. Chetwynd-Atkinson (life member), F. R. Ginn, G. C. Ginn, and J. W. Jones. At the termination of business, Mr. C. Forbes gave a reading on Persian stamps, and a display of his practically complete collection of the stamps of that neglected country. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Forbes for his entertainment. Dr. Golodnoff, of Copenhagen, forwarded some rare English plate numbers for inspection; the Rev. Walter Jenks brought his collection of Persians on entires; and novelties were exhibited by Messrs. Bradbury, Haynes, and others. The meeting terminated at 9.30 p.m.

H. A. Slade,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

Ingleside, St. Albans.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.

The sixth meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, December 2nd. The President took the chair, and there were ten other members present. Messrs. Barratt and Buxton were appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the annual dinner on January 6th, 1899. Mr. Duerst read a paper on "The Stamps of Baden," giving the numbers of each issue printed, destroyed, and sold to dealers.

At the seventh meeting, on December 16th, Mr. Petri took the chair, owing to the absence of the President through illness, and ten other members were present. Mr. J. Stelfox Gee was elected a member of the Society. Mr. Grunewald read a paper on "The Stamps of France since 1870."

The annual dinner took place at the Grand Hotel on Friday, January 6th, 1899. The President being still unwell, Mr. Petri presided.

After dinner a lantern exhibition of views in the Yellowstone Park was given by Mr. Buxton, the lantern being manipulated by Mr. Abbott.

The eighth meeting was held on Friday, January 13th. The President took the chair, and there were twelve other members present.

Mr. J. G. Smithson was elected a corresponding member of the Society.

The President read a paper on "The Stamps of Venezuela from 1874." He claimed to have made a discovery on the 1880 issue for exterior use of secret marks, consisting of a small dot on each side of the head in the oval surrounding it. All the values are from the same matrix, in the 1 bolivar the word "CENTS" being deleted and "BOLIVAR" inserted.

G. Fred. H. Gibson, *Hon. Sec.*
Kersal, Manchester.

Plymouth Philatelic Society.

The annual Philatelic display of this Society was held on Saturday afternoon and evening, January 14th, in 9A, Princess Square, Plymouth, and proved a most gratifying success, the exhibits being unquestionably in advance of all that had preceded. A large number of Philatelists and Philatelic friends inspected the stamps, and among those present were the Hon. Lady Fremantle, Lieut.-Colonel Crookenden, Major G. Stockdale, R.E., and several members representative of the trade. In themselves the exhibits were very varied and well mounted, though the room unfortunately did not lend itself to setting off the stamps at their best. To Baron A. de Worms certainly fell the honour of the finest display. His mint collections of St. Helena and British Honduras were deservedly the attraction of the room, and comprised in the St. Helena blocks of the 6d. perf. and imperf., the 1d. both sized bars, a pair of the 1s. green, short bar (difficult enough to procure unused in the single copy), and four varieties of the pale blue 6d., shown also in pairs; while in the Honduras one noted a pair of the 6d. orange and 1s. grey, two mint specimens of the 50 cents on 1s. and the 3 cent on 3d., 12½ perf., CC; this last stamp perhaps the *pièce de résistance* of the many good things shown by Baron de Worms. The Rev. E. T. Fyffe, R.N., contributed several striking copies of the first issue of India, with interesting specimens of proofs, but reached high-water mark in the very handsome display of Sydney Views that he also sent in. These included a very fine plate of the 1d., Die II. with clouds, of July, 1850—the stamps being all in fine colour—along with several impressions of varying plates of the 2d. value, all in fair condition. From Major Stockdale, R.E., came an exhibit both of quality and quantity, embracing Ceylon, Egypt, Persia, Spain, France, Luxemburg (unused and complete), Malta (unused), Gibraltar (unused), with copies in mint of the two early 1s. Among some of his most coveted treasures were to be seen unused copies of the 10d. imperf. Ceylon, and of the 9d., 4d., 5d., and 1s. 9d. star issue of the same country. Indeed, his Ceylons were very complete and fine, and included a number of the rare 2 cent surcharges on red-lilac. Major Stockdale's French, which were also much admired, were those recently exhibited at Birmingham. An equally full assortment of European issues in fine used condition had been sent by the Rev. E. A. Donaldson. His Germany was practically complete, and in addition Mr. Donaldson showed very full collections of Bremen, the two Sicilies, Wurtemberg, Parma, Romagna, and Holstein, breaking ground also into Italy. Among the plums of this Continental dish the collector picked out the ½ Tornese of the two Sicilies, the two shades of the 70 kr. Wurtemberg, the 50 and 100 lire unused 1884 of Italy, and several fine Oldenburg. The New World found its best exponent in the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland issues exhibited by the Rev. E. R. Hudson. These comprised a superb copy of the 6½d. orange-vermilion (used) of Newfoundland, the 1s. of the first issue, but with poor margins, and the 1s. values of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the latter also lacking environment. Great Britain was also shown by the same collector, the 1d. values in mint and often in pairs. Nor were West Indians forgotten. Mr. R. T. Stevens, the Society's Vice-President, contributed a fascinating little group of Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago—but a tithe of what he could have shown had more been called for; and in Dr. Houghton's collection of Turks Islands a very complete and choice lot of stamps had been got together, including as these did several varieties, such as a pair of ½d. surcharge on the 4d. grey. Africans were looked after by Messrs. H. W. Mayne and W. A. Walker. The former, besides sending in some very nice St. Helena, displayed British East Africa, inclusive of a pair of the 2 anna imperf. used, with Uganda, used and unused. Mr. Mayne had also on view an effective mounting of Gibraltar, with some of its later issues in pairs and strips.

It were impossible to enumerate everything on the walls, but special mention must be made of one of the most interesting features of the display; this was the exhibit in a couple of glazed frames of forgeries of rare stamps, both modern and old (*e.g.*, Swiss Cantonals, etc.). These had been most kindly sent by Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son, of Essex Street, Strand, London, and distinctly formed one of the attractions of the day.

Lastly, to the Executive Committee which carried out the display, and in particular to Dr. Russel Rendle and Mr. H. W. Mayne, the thanks and congratulations of all present must be heartily accorded on the complete success of the Society's gathering.

W. A. Walker.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

JULY packets have come back from circulation, and accounts will be made up and submitted as speedily as possible. Sales were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
July A Packet	114	17	2
„ M „	88	4	11
„ X „	59	0	2

Owing to holiday season only three packets were circulated in July and August. 203 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £2197 15s. 3d., were received and made up into four packets for the November circuit. Many rare stamps, in good condition, were offered at reasonable prices, United States, Central Africans, and West Indians being specially strong. Three members (two resignations and one death) dropped out during the past month. New members include—Miss Spicer-Jay (London), Surg. Bishop, R.N. (Jersey), J. Williams (Cheltenham), J. S. Cricks (London), Prof. Dobranich (B. Ayres), W. Benson (Southport), E. P. Airlie Dry (Bedford), Mrs. Sherard (Ashburton), Rev. E. Wootton (Faversham), M. Webb (Stoke Bishop), Bo Oxehufwud (Umea), H. J. Coombe (Greenwich), and V. Essayan (Constantinople). August packets will be back within a fortnight. Non-contributors wishing to see packets are requested to notify the Secretary. Applications for membership should include references, to avoid loss of time and needless correspondence. Club sheets will be forwarded to members on demand.

OWING to the holidays, fewer sheets were received for the December packets, which contained 189 sheets, valued at £2001 14s. 2d., and were put into circulation on December 28th. The sales on August packets, just returned, are exceptionally good. All July accounts have been duly balanced. The members enrolled during the past month include: Miss D'Albiac, Brighton; J. Cohen, Tangier; F. Phillips, Westgate; W. Crothers, Guildford: Miss Poynter, London; and F. Boone, Newmarket. Non-contributors wishing to see packets are requested to notify the Secretary, as no supplementary rounds will be sent out in future. Applications for membership should include references to avoid delay and correspondence. It may be stated that very common stamps and poor specimens are in little demand, but good varieties sell well at reasonable prices. Members are requested to use club sheets (supplied on demand) to ensure uniformity.

H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Sec.*
INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

351, FOURTH AVENUE.

THE second annual general meeting was held at the Club House on December 14th, but the business was purely formal, consisting in the reception of the reports of the various committees, which were not all rose-coloured, and hardly seem to call for full "display" in the columns of the *London Philatelist*.—[ED.]

THIRTY-SECOND meeting of Governors, held at the Club House December 12th, 1898. Called to order at 8.25 p.m. by Vice-President Bruner, the following Governors being present: Calman, Luff, Scott Stebbins, and the Secretary. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. The Secretary read letters from Messrs. Deats, Perozo, and Gibson, and was instructed to reply to one of them. Treasurer's report was then received, showing a balance in bank $541.32, exclusive of U.S. bonds The committee on piano purchase reported progress. The Chairman of House Committee made his report, which was received. After an informal discussion on the subject of new quarters and further accommodation for the members, the Treasurer was appointed a committee on lease of new house, and the meeting adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

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.*

THE question of the "reduction in price advertisement" is still occupying a large space in the columns of the Philatelic press on the Continent, the vast majority considering that the protesting dealers have made out a good case, and that really valuable stamps, if undamaged, are not as a rule to be acquired anywhere at 50 per cent. under catalogue. As Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Bright have now mostly cut away the soft places, the under-bidding process will be still more difficult. The *Revue Philatélique Française* has an article fully voicing this aspect, and quotes in a long paper a case where an approval book had been sent from London, by a half-catalogue house, which was composed of defective, repaired, or heavily-obliterated stamps, reprints, forgeries, and certain stamps which, owing to temporary over-supply, were depressed. The writer can truthfully testify that he is not the recipient of 50 per cent. discounts, as the following offers, all occurring within this month, will testify:—

	Catalogue value. (Senf, 1898).			Price asked.
	£	s.		£
a . .	40	0	...	200
b and c .	17	10	...	18
d . .	20	0	...	45
e, block of 4	5	0	...	20
f ,, .	6	0	...	22
h ,, .	10	0	...	50
i ,, .	12	10	...	60

The identity of the stamps is for obvious reasons not disclosed, but the figures are correct.

* * *

IN Paramaribo, Suriname, an auction of postage stamps was held on December 14th, by order of the Administrator of Finances of that colony. Among the objects that were to be disposed of, 2198 used postage stamps of Suriname, the Netherlands, British Guiana (early issues), and others, and a number of entire sheets are to be sold (so-called printer's waste, refused on account of errors, etc.) of the provisional 2½ cent on 50 cent, orange, of 1892. The first sheets that were printed at the time showed numerous errors; the word "cent" was often printed but partially; besides, there are sheets with the surcharge inverted, a stamp not even catalogued so far. These sheets had to be delivered by the printer with the rest, and by the advice of some young men in the financial service of the colony they are to be sold for what they will bring. Considering that the catalogue price for the stamps, unused, is very high, the sale is certain to bring in quite a little sum, says the *Philatelic Era*, yet it is to be regretted that the Administrator of Finances agreed to such a sale, which was advertised in the daily papers of Amsterdam and of Paramaribo.

* * *

We have never yet been able to secure a genuine used red Mercury, but it has been stated in various journals that a Berlin dealer, M. de Vries, recently sold the Austrian Mercury Newspaper stamp (6 kreuzer, vermilion) to a London collector for £200. "This enormous price was warranted by the condition of the stamp, which was perfect, with very wide margins, and still upon the original entire newspaper it had been mailed upon," says the *Philatelic Era* in a comment hereon; but, like the canny Scotch, "we hae our douts"!

* * *

AT the sale of the late Mr. Lockyer's stamps, on January 5th and 6th, Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER realized fine prices upon the following: British Columbia, a pair of the 2½d., pale brown, imperforate, showing side margin, £42. New South Wales (Sydney), 2d., blue, Plate I., unused, earliest state of plate, £40; ditto, 3d., green, unused, superb condition, £40: both of these Sydneys were magnificent specimens, quite irreproachable as to condition, and deservedly sold at high figures. Laureated 1d., carmine, on bluish wove paper, the variety no leaves to the right of "SOUTH" (mint, full original gum), unused, £16. There were large quantities of good sound stamps sold, worthy of Mr. Lockyer's reputation as a Philatelist, but not calling for especial mention.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale on January 10th and 11th. Cape of Good Hope, woodblocks, 1d., red, a strip of four, £21. British Guiana (1850–51), 4 c., pale yellow on pelure, cut into on three sides, but square, stained by the thick brown gum, £25; ditto, 12 c., blue, a very fine copy, cut round, on entire original, £12; and 1852, 4 c., blue, large margins, on piece of original, £7 10*s*.

* * *

CORRESPONDENCE that has reached us from several quarters in the United States shows that the present remarkable commercial improvement has not been without its influence on stamp collecting, in which there has been a great revival of interest. The *Philatelic Monthly* says that "stamps at auction are generally bringing better prices than last season, and buyers should make their bids accordingly. At one of our late sales we received 1329 mail bids, and could buy only 159 lots for our customers. This is less than 12 per cent."

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VIII. FEBRUARY, 1899. No. 86.

Our Philatelic Forefathers.

READERS of Philatelic literature published in the early sixties are frequently impressed with the amount of knowledge that was possessed by a few pioneers in the then new pursuit of stamp-collecting. Philately is but now in its second generation, the first, in the usually-accepted sense of a third of a century, being taken as from its virtual commencement—in serious vein—about 1855 down to 1888. The remarkably interesting appearance of a real old collection, as described elsewhere, has come upon many as a revelation of the methods and collecting instinct of our Philatelic forefathers of the past generation. The late Mr. Jules Pauwels, who collected from about 1858 until his death twelve years later, was assuredly one of the "conscript fathers" of British Philately. He and Judge Philbrick commenced their collection at the same time, and, the latter purchasing—wise indeed in his generation!—(*inter alia*) the collections of M. Herpin, M. de Saulcy, and Mr. Stainforth, frequently exchanged stamps together. Contemporaneously they purchased stamps of the noted Madame Nicholas in Paris, ransacked the late E. L. Pemberton's treasures, or made requisitions to M. Moens for unused stamps, which that far-seeing gentleman cut off the sheets as and when required! A recital of names redolent of the early days of Philately!

While expressing our fullest appreciation of the true instinct and evidence of study that are betrayed by the examination of such an old-time collection, it must be borne in mind that the field of study in the olden days was very much restricted, and collectors could concentrate their energies far more than to-day. When Mr. Pauwels commenced, the Tuscan lions were still in daily use, and the 3 lire was not created until a couple of years later. Strange to say, however, the copy in the collection is but a poor one! Perhaps Mr.

Pauwels was not keen on buying high-value stamps at face! More probably, like the noted case of our own 10s. and £1, watermark anchor, collectors let the opportunity slip by—a feature by no means confined to stamp affairs!

So the present collector of unused specimens is the direct descendant of those prescient Philatelists of a bygone day who wanted to have every stamp unused if possible. Slowly and steadily their good example has gained adherents, until to-day, the adherents of the cult unused form a numerous and powerful section in Philately. To all such, the contemplation of such a collection as Mr. Pauwels' will afford ample food for reflection, coupled with a strong incentive to go and do likewise, viz., to steadily acquire fine copies, and to leave Father Time "to do the rest."

The Reprints of Lübeck.

A Paper read before the Brighton Philatelic Society on January 3rd, 1899.

By M. P. CASTLE.

THERE is a flavour of mediævalism still attaching to the quaint old Hanse Towns, that doubtless renders their long-superseded postal issues very interesting to the Philatelist. Beyond this, there is in the case of the stamps of Lübeck, in the earlier issue, an especial attraction in the unique design, the graceful pose of the old city arms, and the brilliant colouring. To the collector of a past day the familiarity with these stamps might be deemed enough to breed—not contempt, but distrust, as a generation since the "set of five Lübeck" was one of the cheapest, and it is only within the past year or two that some of the values have made an appreciable rise in the dealers' catalogues. The reason for this was the very large remainder that was disposed of on the supersession of the Lübeck Government by the North German Confederation on the 1st of January, 1868. Herr C. Lindenberg, of Berlin, to whose excellent article in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* of October 18th last I am indebted for much of the information in these notes, states that this remainder was sold on January 11th, 1869, to M. Charles Pelletrave, of Paris, for 600 thalers (about £90), and he estimates that it consisted of about the following numbers :—

½ sch.	...	...	72,500
1 „	...	...	29,500
2 „	...	...	79,500
2½ „	...	...	26,500
4 „	...	...	107.500

The ½ and 1 schilling are, of course, those without watermark, issued in April, 1862, to replace the exhausted stock of those two values of the first issue (January 1st, 1859, with watermark of flowers—presumably forget-me-nots), and of which 400 sheets = 40,000 stamps of the ½ schilling, and 200 = 20,000 for the 1 schilling, were printed. It seems to me that the ½ and 1 schilling of the first issue should be scarce stamps, as but a small

portion of those used could have been saved. As to the remainders, the 1 and 2½ have both, as far as my experience goes, fully borne out the figures of Herr Lindenberg on the score of their relative rarity. An interesting discovery connected with the gum of these stamps is that mentioned by Herr C. Krotzsch, in his *Handbook on German Stamps*, page 131. Most collectors have doubtless noticed that a very large proportion of these stamps has never been gummed, and I think it is due to this and the large quantity of the remainders that an impression prevailed pretty generally a few years since that the Lübecks had been freely reprinted. However, personally I had a predilection for "o.g.," and hence (as you will see) carefully hunted in bygone days for such; it will be observed that it is found both white and brownish, in the latter case having a tendency to crinkle. It appears that the entire stock of sheets of stamps was kept ungummed in the Municipal Treasury of Lübeck, and that they were delivered as and when required to the Director of Posts, *who then gummed them.* This explains the relative rarity of specimens with o.g., as when the postal administration was taken over, there was but a small stock of stamps at the Post Office, the bulk being those never gummed, at the Treasury, of which the sold remainder practically consisted. It seems therefore clearly to be accepted that as regards the specimens of the Lübeck stamps, with which long use has familiarised us, there is no question of reprints.

In the number of the *Postwerthzeichen* for April, 1898, Herr Lindenberg published an article, the purport of which was that, in addition to the well-known reprints of the second issue (the embossed stamps), reprints of the rectangular set had also been made at the request of Herr Paul Kirchner, soon after the Franco-German war. The quantity of reprints was very small, and those in Germany who had upheld that certain of the ungummed stamps were reprints doubted Judge Lindenberg's figures hereon, whereupon that gentleman responded, in a very judicial and precise summing-up manner, by giving the following figures from the original account itself! This reads thus, translated :—

Fol. 311. *Lübeck*, 30 *March*, 1872.

Amount due by Herr Kirchner to H. S. Rathgens, Insurance Agent.

Printer, *Lithographer*,

Jan. 28,	250 Lüb. postage stamps of 1 sch., gummed	2	8
Feb. 29,	250 „ ½ sch., of 1½ sch., of 2 sch., of 2½ sch., of 4 sch.	12	8
March 20,	250 „ of 1 sch.	2	8
„ 22,	250 „ ½ sch., of 1 sch., of 2 sch., of 2½ sch., of 4 sch.	12	8
	Received with thanks.	30	0

"It will be seen from the foregoing," writes Herr Lindenberg, "that there are four transactions; the first issue (Jan. 20th) referring to the 'trial sheets' of the 1 sch., second issue on thick paper, referred to in an article in the *Postwerthzeichen*. As this paper was deemed too thick, the remaining values of the second issue were reprinted, on February 29th, on thinner paper, and on March 20th the 1 sch. was also thus printed," making the set complete on thin paper, and accounting for the existence of 250 specimens with the 1 sch. on thick paper in addition.

These reprints of Issue II. of the oval stamps have been known for years, and in fact it will be found that in M. Moens' Catalogue both series of reprints are given—the 1863 oval issue, which are well known as having been printed in 1871, and the 1859 issue in 1883. M. Moens also wrote hereon in the *Timbre-Poste* of January, 1884: "The stamps of Lübeck, 1859, have been *reprinted* on plain paper to a limited extent—it is said 100 sheets of 25. It is therefore probable that the 2, 2½, and 4 schillings, which have never been seen on this paper, will be palmed off as an old issue." (The amounts printed, according to Herr Kirchner's invoice, were, however, only one-tenth of the number that M. Moens had been informed of.)

These oval stamps are printed upon a hard, tough paper, are imperforate, and are not embossed. They can therefore be readily distinguished from the originals (and, as may be imagined, they are far rarer). The colours are also different, *e.g.*:—

½ schilling, dull green.
1 „ bright vermilion.
1½ „ violet.
2 „ dark red.
2½ „ dark bistre.

The last item on the bill, March 22nd, relates to the *first* issue, as shown by the fact that no 1½ sch. is mentioned, this value coming out in Issue II. The rather confused manner in which this account was rendered may well account, says Herr Lindenberg, for the official denials that have been given of the existence of the reprints of the first issue. This issue was reprinted in sheets of 25, in five rows of 5, the measurements of the sheet being horizontally about 114 mm., and vertically about 145 mm. The paper is smooth and rather thin, resembling that of the originals; there is no watermark, but, as is frequently the case, there are small granulated specks to be noticed. The gum is very smooth, quite white, and appears as if it had been applied vertically. The colours are very bright and clear, and may be thus described:—

½ sch. Similar to the second issue (April, 1862), but with a stronger tinge of red in the lilac.
1 sch. Deep golden yellow, quite unlike the originals.
2 sch. Black-brown.
2½ sch. Very dull rose with a shade of violet.
4 sch. Deep blackish green.

The impressions generally, especially the ½, 2, and 4 sch., are clearer and sharper than the originals. I am sorry that I cannot produce these reprints for your inspection; but I am indebted for the above description to my friend Herr H. Fraenkel, of Berlin, who has seen the specimens themselves.

It is clearly now ascertained and proved that the Lübeck stamps have only once been reprinted—in quantities of 250 for each value issued, except the 1 sch., of which 250 extra copies on thick paper were printed, and that this very limited reprint was executed in 1872 for Herr Kirchner, who was, I believe, an invalided soldier in the Franco-German war. The collector therefore who garners in sheaves of these quaint old-world stamps may possess his soul in patience, content with the knowledge that the reprints are, according to statistics, at least four hundred times as rare as the originals!

Notes on the Stamps of Colombia.

Being a Paper read before the London Philatelic Society, on the 15th and 29th of April, 1898.

By THOMAS W. HALL.



THE Republic of (the United States of) Colombia, so named in honour of Columbus, is a modern confederation in South America.

For a long time the country was divided into nine divisions—seven States and two territories—now into the nine States of

Panama,	Santander,	Cundinamarca,
Bolivar,	Antioquia,	Cauca,
Magdalena,	Boyacá,	Tolima,

represented on most of the stamps by nine stars, and comprises a considerable portion of the old Spanish vice-royalty of New Granada.

The history of this country of many revolutions and changing boundaries has not been chronicled with minuteness, and I have been able to ascertain only a few of the exact dates at which the several names were in use.

The country is said to have been discovered by Columbus in 1498; it was certainly visited by Ojeda and Amerigo Vespucci in 1499, and was partly explored by Columbus in 1502, conquered in 1538, made a vice-royalty with Ecuador in 1732, and with the other South American colonies declared itself independent in 1811. Though the wars which followed were not terminated until 1824, in 1819 the great national hero Bolivar effected a union between the three divisions of the country—New Granada, Venezuela, and Ecuador—and thus formed a confederation under the name of "Estados Unidos de Colombia," a union never very harmonious, and broken up by the withdrawal of Venezuela in 1829, and of Quito or Ecuador in 1830, leaving the remaining State to adopt the official name of "Republica de la Nueva Granada" on the 21st of November, 1831. In 1832 a constitution was promulgated and the territory divided into eighteen provinces, each of which was to have the control of its local affairs, the first President being General Santander. In 1840 the province of Cartagena seceded, and was followed by Panama and Veragua; their restoration was, however, soon effected, and the constitution reformed in 1843 under the name of the "Republica de la Nueva Granada." Revolutions and internal dissensions succeeded one another, until in June, 1858, a new Government christened itself "Confederacion Granadina." Whether the "Estados Unidos de la Nueva Granada" was the successor or predecessor is uncertain, but on the 20th September, 1861, the old name of "Estados Unidos de Colombia" was again taken up, and a constitution adopted, modelled on that of the United States of America.

This proved altogether unsuitable to the Colombians, and after a twenty years' trial brought about the revolution of 1884–5. A new constitution was then promulgated in August, 1886, by the National Council of Bogota.

By this constitution the independence of the nine States was abolished, a central authority was set up, and the country styled "The Republic of Colombia," under which name it now exists.

The nine States are now simple departments which still, however, retain the management of their own finances, their presidents being reduced to governors under the direct nomination of the President of the Republic, whose term of office is six years. The population of Colombia is about five millions.

When preparing these few stray notes for the Society's meeting I was a good deal interested in finding out how the before-mentioned nine States or departments obtained their nomenclature.

Bolivar, of course, derives its name from Simon Bolivar, the Washington of South America, named El Libertador, for having rescued South America from the Spanish yoke. As at this moment everything relating to Spain's lost colonies in the West is of interest, a few notes on Bolivar may not be altogether out of place :—

He was born at Caracas, July 24th, 1783, and partly educated in England. On the declaration of independence by Venezuela in 1811 war was commenced with the Spaniards, and Bolivar, after varying successes and failures, having achieved the victories of Tunja and Boyacá, soon afterwards declared New Granada united with Venezuela as a Republic under the name of Colombia.

The constitution of Colombia was adopted on August 30th, 1821, and Bolivar was chosen President.

In 1822 Bolivar added Ecuador to the Republic, and was summoned to help the Peruvians. He was then named Dictator of Peru, from which country, after two years' fighting, the Spaniards were driven.

In 1825 Bolivar visited Upper Peru, the name of which was changed in his honour to Bolivia.

A constitution prepared by him for the Bolivians in 1826 excited much dissatisfaction on account of the executive power being entrusted to a life presidency with power to nominate a successor. In September he delegated the government of Peru to a council, returned to Venezuela, suppressed a rebellion, and was again appointed President. Meanwhile his code had been renounced in Peru and the Colombian troops expelled from Bolivia. His assumption of supreme power in 1828 roused the republicans, and in 1829 Venezuela separated from Colombia. In consequence Bolivar retired in April, 1830, on a pension of 3000 dollars per annum, voted him at the Congress of Bogota on condition of his residing abroad.

He died at San Pedro on the 17th December, 1830, having conquered the independence of three States and exhausted his own large private fortune for the good of his country. Statues are erected to his memory at Lima, Bogota, and New York.

Panama, both a State and city of Colombia, derives its name from an Indian word meaning "abounding in fish." The city of that name was

founded in 1528 by Pedro A. Davila, and is thus the oldest European town in America.

Magdalena and *Cauca* are the two most important rivers in Colombia, both flowing south to north through the entire length of the country, uniting about 130 miles from the sea.

Cundinamarca was the name of one of the recalcitrant leaders, against whom Bolivar led an expedition to Santa Fé de Bogota, in December, 1814.

Santander was a celebrated general who commanded the Republican force in New Granada, and united with Bolivar during the campaign of 1819 in the war of liberation, which resulted in the victory of *Boyacá* on August 7th. On August 30th, 1821, the constitution of Colombia was adopted with Bolivar as President, General Santander as Vice-President.

Tolima is the Indian name of a very high snow-capped mountain, situated in the province of the same name.

As regards *Antioquia*, Dr. Michelsen informs me there is a strong belief current in Colombia that the province or district of Antioquia was peopled during Spain's domination by exiled Jews.

It is, so Dr. Michelsen asserts, a fact that the natives of Antioquia belong physically to the Semitic type, and it is very curious, assuming the above belief to have no foundation, that in the country there should be so many biblical names. Many of the town-names are distinctly Oriental, and even the name Antioquia itself is said to have been given in remembrance of Antioch.

The Estate of Magdalena has issued only one postal fiscal (20 c., blue) and one official cubierta (black on blue).

This and the Estate of Boyacá are the only ones devoid of proper postal adhesives.

The dates of the first issues of the Republic and States, so far as I can ascertain, are as follows :—

Republic of Colombia	... ...	May (1857), 1859.
Estate of Bolivar	... ...	1863.
„ Antioquia	... ...	1868.
„ Tolima	... ...	1868.
„ Cundinamarca	... ...	July, 1870.
„ Panama	... .	1878.
„ Cauca	... ...	(1877) 1879.
„ Santander	... ...	June, 1884.

Taking the issues of the Republic first, we find the early stamps consist of a centre ground, border or frame, and inscription.

Centre.—Arms of the State displayed on a solid coloured disk ornamented with a wreath of white beads, and bounded by a broad white and fine-coloured circle, and consisting of a Norman shield bordered by a broad white line, and divided into three nearly equal parts.

In upper third two cornucopiæ of flowers with large flower between openings.

In middle third a liberty cap with tassel to left.

In lower third the Isthmus of Panama, with ship sailing to left above and below.

In the first issue the groundwork is of straight lines, and the ornament dividing the inscription is diamond-shaped.

In the second issue the groundwork is of curved lines, and the ornament dividing the inscription is a star. Probably the second or 1860 issue is, in the light of recent discovery, one of the most interesting.

As regards colouration, the 5 c. is generally catalogued as violet and the 20 c. as blue; in reality they overlap. The following shades are by no means uncommon:—

5 c.	20 c.
Bright blue.	Bright blue.
Violet-blue.	Dark blue.
Lilac.	Blue.
Violet.	Sky-blue.
Dark violet.	
Slate.	

The 10 c., as may be seen, pretty well exhausts all shades of orange, red, and brown.

As regards the 5 c., the stamps were printed in sheets of 50 in 5 rows of 10 stamps.

On the first row the ninth and eleventh stamps are inverted.

On the second row the second stamp is inverted.

On the fourth row the fifth stamp has the value "50 c." above and below.

This last error (see illustration A) is exceedingly scarce, as it was noticed almost immediately, and in all sheets in hand this particular stamp was cancelled by punching out the shield with a large circular punch.

On the fifth row the sixth stamp is inverted.

For a long time, and indeed until some sheets were discovered by the late Mr. W. J. Curtis, this 50 c., blue, was considered very doubtful, and even amongst those who believed in it, its position, whether on the sheets of the 5 c. or 20 c., was unknown.

It is now, I think, established that in making up the plate of the 5 c. stamp, through some oversight, a die of the 20 c. value was used for the transfer of one of the stamps, this mistake only being discovered after the plate was completed. It was remedied by erasing the figure "20" and replacing it by the figure "5." This was done in a very bungling way, as the erasure is plainly discernible. That the stamp is of the 20 c. type is clearly seen in that the circle is composed of 44 beads instead of 48, as on the 5 c.

As regards the 20 c., most of my readers will remember Mr. Ehrenbach's acquisition of a complete sheet of the early printing. As will be seen from the left-hand portion of a sheet in my collection, the errors were speedily found and altered.

Comparing Mr. Ehrenbach's sheet with mine, in the former

the second stamp on the second row is inverted,
the third stamp on the third row has had the value altered,
the second stamp on the fourth row is the error 5 c.

In the 1861 issue the title "Confedⁿ. Granadina" gives place to the "Estados Unidos de Nueva Granada."

Dealing with the 2½ c., black, of 1861, I was for a long time bothered with the figures of value "2–1–½"—"1" really stands for "and" (2 *and* a half).



D.



A.



B.
GENUINE.



C.
FORGERY.



E.



F.

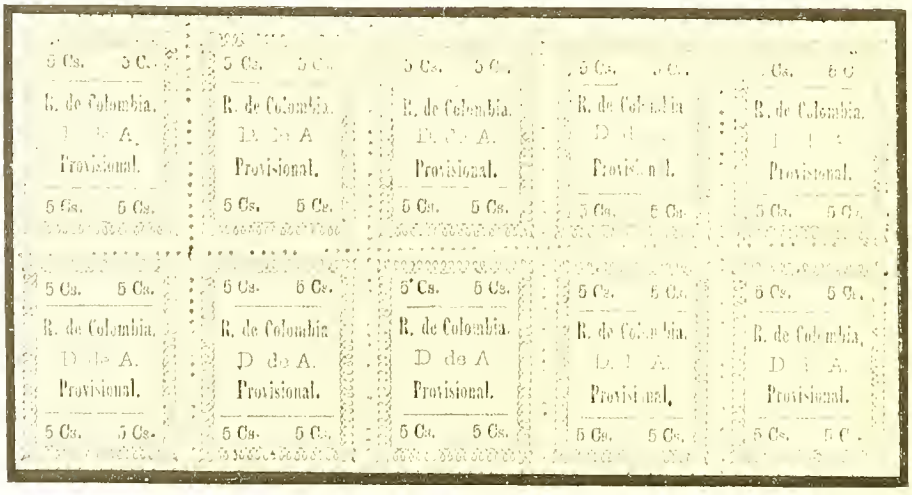


PLATE I. G.



PLATE 2. H.

The 2½ c. is the original type.

In the 10 c. the numeral of value only was erased.

In the 5, 20, and 1 peso the entire lower label was erased. It has been frequently suggested that there were two plates—one for the 10 c. and the other for the 2½. Whether this be so or not, it is certain that the 10 c. shows no trace of the point of the "i," nor the ¹ of "½," as do all the other values.

Of the 2½ and 10 c. there is only one type; of the 5, 20, and 1 peso, ten types of each.

Monsieur Breitfuss, in writing to the *Record* on the 5th September, 1884, says the 2½ c. and 1 peso of 1860 on blue are doubtful reprints, and that the following of the 1863 issue are simply forgeries:—

20 c., red on slightly blued paper,
50 c., green on *white*,
20 c., *green* on white,
50 c., red on blued paper, and the
50 c., red on white.

I agree with him, with the exception of the 50 c., red on white.

These bogus stamps are probably done by zincography from the original plate—although it has been suggested that they were not made from the plate, but by photo-lithographic means, and not in Colombia at all, but abroad. The impression anyway is indistinct and, to use an expression of our Vice-President, too woolly.

As regards the 50 c., red on white, this is an undoubtedly genuine error in the plate of the 20 c., although so eminent a collector of this country as Dr. Michelsen—see *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, November, 1897—seems to be in doubt as to whether the error is in the plate of the 20 c., or whether some of the 50 c. sheets were accidentally printed in red. As has been pointed out in the *Philatelist* of November, 1897, the Tapling Collection contains an unused vertical pair—50 c. above, 20 c. below—and also a used horizontal strip of three—the left-hand stamp being a 50 c. and the remaining two 20 c.—postmarked "Rio Negro" in blue, clearly proving that the error is caused from a misplaced *cliché* in the sheet of the 20 c., red.

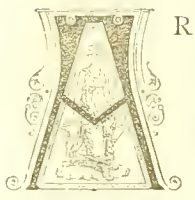
There is one certain and almost infallible test for the first, second, fourth, and fifth forgeries above mentioned, and in fact for most of the forgeries of the 1863 issue, which test, so far as I know, has not been noted before, and that is a plain white space in the middle of the bottom half of the lowest oak-leaf on the left-hand side of the stamp. (See illustrations B and C.)

This 50 c., red, error has always been a very rare stamp, and has consequently not escaped the hands of the forgers. I believe a whole sheet of these same forged errors was printed and shown to Mr. Wheeler, H. B. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Bogota, and these being manifestly bogus cast suspicion on the real Simon Pure.

There are at least ten varieties of each value of the 1863 issue, and at least two varieties of each value of the 1864 issue. Of the 1865 issue there are ten varieties of each value except the 1 peso, of which there are only six varieties.

(*To be continued.*)

An Old-time Collection.



RIP VAN WINKLE in the Philatelic line is the collection that has just been brought to light, in which many of the specimens have been, like the hero of the Katskill Mountains, slumbering peacefully for forty years. In the latter part of the fifties there lived at Torquay a gentleman of Belgian descent, who was one of that select band who had then commenced the collection of stamps. Mr. Jules Pauwels evidently soon became acquainted with the leading collectors and dealers of the day, and gradually built up a fine collection—being a steady and consistent Philatelist until his death in 1870. It has long been an article of general faith that his collection passed to other members of his family in Belgium, and that it was inalienable; while as the years passed the memory of it became dimmer and dimmer, although the older collector, such as Judge Philbrick, or the long-established dealer like Mr. Edward Stanley Gibbons—the late head of that firm—had a vivid recollection of the many good things that had been absorbed by Mr. Pauwels in his day at antiquated and hugely enjoyable prices! It appears that Mr. Pauwels' stamp collection has already, owing to the busy scythe of the Mower, changed ownership several times, and at length was bequeathed to someone outside the family, who has disposed of the collection to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, for the sum of £4000. There is but one volume and a supplement, and the original owner could have spent but very few hundreds thereon!

Correctly interpreting the general interest that so old a collection would evoke, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons invited a number of well-known Philatelists to inspect the collection. As a means of promoting the good-fellowship that follows upon the contentment of the inner man, a most sumptuous dinner was given, under the genial presidency of Mr. Charles J. Phillips, in the Salon Louis XV. at the Hotel Cecil, on the 8th of this month. The dinner was one worthy of the reputation of the Cecil *cuisine* and of the well-known hospitality of the host, while the inspection of the collection pleasurably occupied the remainder of the evening, and proved to be of engrossing interest.

The prominent feature was the large number of stamps in mint condition, nearly every stamp being unused. Slightly fastened at the upper angle, these stamps have not seen the light for a generation, and many of them are absolutely "as issued." Mr. Pauwels was one of that far-seeing and select *coteric* of early collectors who knew what unused stamps meant, and whose ranks included Judge Philbrick, Mr. Westoby, and others. A further notable feature was that the difficult stamps (unused) of a country of to-day were precisely the same a generation since — except where, as in Barbados, Trinidad, etc., there has been a "find."

There were apparently a good few forgeries and reprints, and, strange to say, cases in which the gum had been palpably added. In some instances stamps had been skilfully repaired, a feat that Mr. Pauwels was well capable of. It is related of him that in olden days he would frequently "fake up" some stamp in order to raise a laugh at a friend's expense, and for a joke would deceive his brother collectors by the manufacture of some vagary of perforation or roulette.

The sources from which Mr. Pauwels mainly derived his stamps were M. Moens, the late Mr. Pemberton, and Madame Nicholas of Paris, and Messrs. Young and Stockall; later on Messrs. Stanley Gibbons supplied sundry stamps, and others came to him in exchange from Mr. Philbrick, out of the de Saulcy Collection, purchased by the latter. Other names are pencilled beneath the stamps. That of M. Herpin occurs several times, but in a very interesting letter we have received from His Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C., that gentleman informs us that M. Herpin's collection was bought by him, was never in a dealer's hands, and remained untouched for a year or more after Mr. Pauwels' death. The probable solution of this contradiction is that M. Herpin exchanged or traded stamps other than those of his collection. Instances of this peculiar trait in Philatelic humanity have been known both in the past and the present generation! Another name that occurs beneath the stamps, notably in the case of the early Sardinian, is apparently l'Eglise. Judge Philbrick states that this name was entirely unknown to him, but suggests "it may be Leeherf or Lecerf—a collection M. Moens got in 1859 or 1860, with lovely things in it that we can't see now." *Apropos* of this, it is distinctly "old times" when our correspondent writes, "There should also be there five unused lions of Tuscany, cut off strips that I acquired in the de Saulcy collection."

The more important features of the collection include the following, all being unused unless otherwise stated:—

Austria: Red Mercury, Newspaper Tax 4 kr., and Lombardy 45 c. British Guiana: 1856, 4 c. on sugar paper (used), and the 1 and 4 of 1852 (brilliant), with about twenty varieties of the 1862 provisionals, some unused. Buenos Ayres: brilliant set, in mint condition, including a curious *red-brown* shade of the 4 pesos. Cape: both errors used, and the 4d. dark blue used, and pale blue with original gum. Ceylon: 8d., imperforate. Roumania: the 81 and 108, and the 80 p. of the second issue on blue paper, the latter very fine. France: 1 franc, vermilion, and three of the 15 c., green. Reunion, 15 and 30, superb copies, the latter cut from the corner of the sheet with the full margin. Colombia: 1862, 20 c., rose, and Antioquia, $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. Liberia: an especially strong lot, every variety, on thick and thin paper, imperforate, proof, etc. (Mr. Pauwels was on intimate terms with Mr. H. Nissen, of the firm of Nissen and Parker, who, we believe, printed these stamps.) Mauritius: several fine "natives," mostly used, and the rare one shilling, perforated, of the Britannia series. British North America: all the one shillings, and an especially strong lot of Newfoundlands. New South Wales: several fine Sydneys, inclusive of a vertical pair, and a single of the 2d., Plate II., second retouch, with full gum, being apparently from the same sheet as the block of four in the Tapling Collection. New Zealand: 1d., no

watermark, thick paper, *perf.* 12, used, and the same value watermark Star, with serrated perforation, two stamps that we have never yet come across. It must here be said that having had an opportunity of a second and daylight inspection of the collection, confession must be made that there are assuredly a number of perforations and roulettes which are bad, and also others that require careful examination. There are several other serrated New Zealands, and as this was just one of the perforations that the late Mr. Pauwels liked to imitate for the purpose of playing jokes on his friends, they must be accepted with all reserve. It is also possible that he might have been deceived himself—the biter being bit! Portugal: the first issue complete, the 100 reis, however (as usual), not fine. Prussia: 2 sg., solid background, dark blue, a brilliant mint copy. Sierra Leone: 6d., imperf., cold violet, with top margin of sheet. South Australia: several of the rarest varieties of the tenpence, and the 4d. rouletted by perf, mint! Spain: all except, as usual, the dark blue of 1851 and the light blue of 1854. Switzerland: 4 r. Zurich, with o.g., 10 c. Geneva, and the rare 4 c. Vaud. The envelope stamp of Geneva that was used as an adhesive is also to be seen with thick crinkly gum, that, if not original, is a remarkably good imitation, and, in view of the recent question of its separate issue, raised by Mr. Westoby, is of considerable interest. Trinidad: two or three fine blue native prints, and the very rare 6d., with value expressed, imperf. Tuscany: complete, the 3 lire not being fine. Naples: the cross and arms, latter not fine. Victoria and Western Australia: many of the early issues in the finest condition.

In many cases there are brilliant series of all the issues in immaculate condition, and throughout, the collection abounds in copies that are hard to find nowadays, and whose value will be doubtless duly appreciated by the enterprising vendors. There need, however, exist no doubt as to the soundness of the purchase of these two volumes for the comparatively large amount of £4000, and we should say that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have made a remarkably lucrative investment.

Although in some instances, such as Wurtemberg, where the fuller information as to reprints came too late, the collection is weak, there is still abundant evidence that Mr. Pauwels was a keen and shrewd Philatelist, and the evident amount of knowledge possessed by him in those very early days was a source of considerable surprise to many of the gentlemen who were privileged to view the stamps. As an example of this, many of the stamps have the perforations correctly gauged, while the smallest variations of paper are carefully noted! One of his contemporaries has said that Mr. Pauwels was a keen hunter after bargains, and remarkably sharp at tripping up anyone who had promulgated false Philatelic doctrines. It is clearly evident that Mr. Pauwels consorted with the best Philatelic authorities of his day, and his collection is standing evidence of the veritable intuition that attached to the leading collectors and dealers of a generation ago.

Philatelic Notes.

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

THE BULGARIAN 5, BLACK SURCHARGE, ON 30 STOTINKI.

OWING doubtless to the constant rejection of the specimens of this stamp, on account of the surcharge being forged, the opinion has been so widely spread that it never existed, that its excision from catalogues has actually been discussed. At the last Philatelic Congress at Gössnitz, an excellent paper on the stamps of Bulgaria was read by Herr Glasewald, in which, on the foregoing grounds, he inclined to consider this stamp as a proof. This opinion, however, was corrected by the receipt of a communication from Herr Wirsching in Wurzburg, which unmistakably established the existence of five specimens undoubtedly postmarked, and on the original letters, all of which were traced to their respective owners. This information is supplemented by Herr Wirsching and Herr Krötsch in a very interesting article in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, superbly illustrated with enlarged representations of this stamp and its fellow in red, showing the well-known variations of the figure "5" with the thin double lines. Herr Krötsch, however, thinks this is but an accidental kind of double stroke in the process of printing. From the information contained in the article there is no kind of doubt as to the existence of this stamp; but there is ample as to the chance of securing it!

Occasional Notes.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

MR. E. D. BACON writes to inform us that the stamps on view at the British Museum are again changed, and that those now inviting inspection are the issues of France from 1862, and the stamps of Austria down to the issue of 1867.

THE NEW IMPERIAL POSTAGE.

THE Postmaster-General has issued a notice stating that, notwithstanding the steps which have been taken to notify the public as to the limits within which penny letter postage to British Possessions and Protectorates is applicable, considerable numbers of letters are being posted, prepaid only 1d. per ½ oz., addressed to places not yet included in the scheme. Australia and New Zealand, the Cape Colony, Jamaica, Malta, and Mauritius are as yet exceptions to the new penny rate. Zanzibar now has adhered to the scheme,

and the letter postage for that place is 1d. per ½ oz. (from February 1st). Burmah, as a part of British India, and British Columbia, as a part of the Dominion of Canada, are both included in the new rate.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, MANCHESTER, 1899.

We are informed that there are upwards of 140 gold, silver, and bronze medals offered for competition in the classes for specialists, for advanced collectors, and for medium collectors. We call collectors' attention to the fact that all entries will close May 1st, 1899, and that the full prospectus can be had of G. Fred. H. Gibson, Hon. Sec., 2, Cooper Street, Manchester, England. We hear of exhibits of a high degree of interest and value that will be forthcoming from various quarters of the globe, and everything betokens a brilliant success for the Manchester Exhibition.

DISCOVERY OF OLD POSTAGE STAMPS AT THE LONDON POST OFFICE.

It was stated recently in various daily papers that an important discovery of stamps had been made at the London General Post Office in the department occupied by the Secretary and his chief officials. The story was to the effect that while the premises were being overhauled and placed in a state of repair for the new Secretary, the men came upon a great number of stamps, many of them of comparatively ancient date—1841, for example. "Amongst them were a number of the black penny variety so dear to the heart of the juvenile Philatelist, and now becoming somewhat difficult of acquisition. There were, it is said, other varieties of equal interest, also some Mulready envelopes. One authority placed the value of the stamps at several thousands of pounds." There has been no confirmation of this report, and we are strongly inclined to class it as one of the usual Philatelic canards. The last one was the sale of the Duke of York's stamps for charitable purposes.

EXHIBITION OF STAMPS AT BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

"The Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences has decided to invite Philatelists to join with it in commemorating the recognition, by the Institute, of Philately as a science, by giving an exhibition of Postage and Revenue Stamps, including adhesive and envelope stamps, post cards, and reprints, and to that end offers for competition various medals and awards. The Exhibition will be formally opened March 18th, 1899, at 8 p.m., and will be opened free to the public Sundays from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., and week-days from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., from Sunday, March 19th, to Friday, March 31st inclusive, at the Art Rooms of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, 174, Montague Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. The Art Rooms of the Institute are specially adapted for the exhibition of art treasures, and have the advantage of good light without danger from exposure to the sun's rays. Night and day watchmen will be employed, and every possible precaution will be taken to secure exhibits from damage or loss, but neither the members of the committee nor the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences will assume any liability for loss or damage. The intent of the exhibit is not so much its completeness as the

benefits derived from its educational advantages and the general advancement of Philately in the public eye. Saturday, March 25th, will be devoted to the children of the public schools, and packets of stamps contributed by the leading dealers will be distributed.

"RULES AND REGULATIONS.

"All exhibits must be mounted under glass in sealed frames, at the exhibitor's own expense, ready for hanging, and a uniform charge of fifty cents (50) per frame will be made for space.

"Exhibits must be sent, charges prepaid, and will be returned at the expense and sole risk of owner, unless insured (insurance in transit, if any, being paid by owner).

"Exhibits should be delivered on the 16th or 17th of March, 1899, at 174, Montague Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., addressed to the Exhibition Committee, Section on Philately.

"The following judges have kindly consented to act, the awards in each class to be made by at least three judges: P. F. Bruner, John N. Luff, J. W. George, Charles R. Braine, Jr., J. M. Andreini, Alex. Holland."

The foregoing is from the Prospectus sent to us by the Secretary, Mr. J. D. Carberry (174, Montague Street, Brooklyn), and it is with great satisfaction that we note the holding of a Philatelic Exhibition in the States.

Mr. Carberry informs us that during the past summer the Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences—an institution established "for the people by the people," of the highest standing among scientific societies the world over—had under consideration the application of the Long Island Philatelic Society to join the Institute. The importance of the study and preservation of postage stamps was laid before the Trustees in a clear and concise manner by the members of the Society, and after a careful examination and thorough discussion of the merits of the subject the Trustees were convinced that Philately is a study of the highest educational value, alike to young and old, and one worthy to be classed with the arts and sciences, and they unanimously decided to form a department to be known as the "Section on Philately."

To commemorate the recognition of Philately as a scientific study, and its classification as a science—a recognition which Philatelists over all the world have been seeking for years—the Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute has decided to give a public exhibition of postage and revenue stamps, and stamped envelopes, at the Art Rooms of the Institute, 174, Montague Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., from March 18th, 1899, to March 31st, 1899.

The notice is unfortunately too short to permit of many exhibits from this part of the world, but our warmest hopes for the complete success of the Brooklyn Philatelic Exhibition are tendered, and our congratulations to Philatelists in America on the support extended to stamp collectors by a scientific body such as the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. Among the judges figure the well-known names of Messrs. J. M. Andreini and John N. Luff. The following are the classes for which appropriate medals are awarded—adhesive stamps only competing. Group C is abreast of the times. We only hope our American cousins are not hungering to make groups C and D into one!

CLASS I.

Division I.—*North and South America.*—Group A: United States Postage (including Departments, Dues, and Newspapers). Group B: United States Revenues —(1) Document and Private Proprietary, (2) Telegraphs. Group C: United States Colonies—(1) Hawaii, (2) Cuba, (3) Porto Rico, (4) Philippine Isles. Group D: (1) Colombian Republic and States, (2) Brazil, (3) Mexico, (4) Central American States (Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras), (5) Chili, (6) Peru, (7) Ecuador, (8) Argentine, (9) Bolivia, (10) Uruguay and Paraguay, (11) Venezuela, (12) British Colonies in North America (Canada, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and British Columbia), (13) British Colonies in Western Hemisphere, remaining, (14) Danish and Dutch West Indies (Surinam, Curaçoa), (15) Hayti and Dominican Republic.

Division II.—*Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.*—Group A: Europe in fifteen sections. Group B: Other countries in nine sections.

CLASS II.

Exhibit by Dealers.—Arrangement to count 10 per cent. Quantity to count 40 per cent. Quality to count 50 per cent.

CLASS III.

Division I.—*Best exhibit by a lady.*

Division II.—*Best exhibit by a boy or girl under eighteen.*

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE LINDENBERG.

WE have read with much regret that the respected President of the Berlin Philatelic Club has, at the end of the past year, resigned the position that he has held for so many years with such signal ability and good results to the Club. It is, indeed, mainly due to the influence and example of the President during the past eleven years that its present high position is due. The reasons that have induced Herr Lindenberg to resign are the calls upon his time by his manifold public and private duties, and the feeling that he does not see eye to eye with many members on some of the more important Philatelic questions of the day. We have ourselves frequently differed widely in our views from Herr Lindenberg, but we have always held him in the highest personal esteem as a man alike of stainless honour and of unwearied research, who has done wonders for Philately in the Fatherland, and we deeply regret his resignation. His connection with the Club will, however, not be severed, but at least continued in an honorary manner, and the ex-President can at least lay the flattering unction to his soul that there are in the Club able and distinguished Philatelists who will carry on the good work.

MESSRS. BRIGHT AND SON.

IN this country Philatelic business has always had a sense of gravitation to the metropolis, and we are not hence very surprised to find that Messrs. Bright and Son are following time-honoured precedent in coming to London. They write to inform us that they have taken the shop and premises at 162, Strand, and expect to be installed early in April. The

management of the business will be in the same able hands as during the past five years, and it is evident that this firm intends taking a prominent trade position. There are already a good few dealers near the Strand, but in the interest of collectors competition is excellent, and they may all come!

THE POSTAL JUBILEE OF FRANCE.

WITHIN a month or two, half a century has elapsed since the stamps of the Second Republic were issued, and the idea has naturally occurred to the French Philatelists that this event should be signalised by some permanent form of memorial. With this view the *Société Française de Timbrologie* has presented a petition, strongly signed and supported, to the French Government, in which they ask that this celebration should be of a twofold nature: (1) The reprinting and placing on sale at the commencement of the new year, for three or six months, of the first issue of the stamps of the Republic. Although the *Société* suggests that by perforation or other means, every precaution should be taken to prevent these reprints being confused with the originals, we most sincerely hope that the French Government will not grant the request. There are already too many French reprints, and it is the fear of them (although perhaps needless) that for many years prevented the French stamps from being popular with the medium collector. In certain cases the differences between original and reprint are dangerously minute, and the appearance of a fresh series would inevitably have a bad effect upon French stamps as a class. We do not for a moment believe that the half a million collectors would "rush in" to buy, as argued by the petitioners. If France would make a fresh issue worthy of the nation that has such inherent artistic tastes, surely it would be a better thing! Should, however, the central design be a head, it would be safer to have it removable in case of a *révision* of the form of government. (2) The establishment of a Postal Museum, including a Philatelic Department, is urged. In support of this request the examples of London, Berlin, and Rome are cited, and a strong case for the institution of such a Museum is made out. Everyone will wish that so laudable an object may be achieved, and trust that the French Government will see its way thereto.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN SIEWERT.

IT is with great regret that we have to announce the death of this gentleman, who has been for many years a member of the Philatelic Society of London. We are informed that Mr. Siewert had been in indifferent health for many months past, and that therefore his demise, though deeply regretted by all his friends, did not come as a surprise. Mr. Siewert's name has for many years past been known in the annals of Philately, both as a collector and an author, in both of which ranks he achieved an eminence that marked his name as one of the most distinguished among the collectors of his own country. Death has indeed latterly been heavy-handed with the Russian members of the London Society. Within so few months have passed away H.I.H. the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelowitch, Mr. T. Notthafft, and now Mr. J. Siewert.

Reviews.

THE INDIAN SURCHARGED STAMPS.*



THE second volume of Mr. Stewart-Wilson's able and exhaustive work on the Indian surcharged stamps lies before us, and presents the same features of patient and laborious research with regard to an almost unknown subject. The countries treated in this instalment are Jhind, Nabha, and Patiala. There is also, in addition to an appendix of official documents, an addendum relating to Chamba and Faridkot, with a photo-etched plate of the errors of type. Similar plates also represent the vagaries of the Indian printer's devil of each of the three States first named. With all due respect to Mr. Stewart-Wilson, we think too much importance has been given to some of these errors—*e.g.*, the "small A" in "STATE," which frequently occurs. This is really only a defective print of the upper portion of the letter, which makes it seem smaller, and like instances of which occur among the Italian States and other countries. Such varieties as "CHAMBA STATE," "JHIND STATE," are but the impressions of the printer's "spaces." There are, notably in the case of Jhind and Patiala, varieties enough of the surcharge orthographic to whet the appetite of the collector, and the due retirement of the printer's "errors" or misprints to the back seat of relative unimportance is eminently desirable. As we have previously said, the highest praise is due to Mr. Stewart-Wilson for the unwearied energy with which he has hunted up masses of statistics and official information relating to these stamps. These facts are ably marshalled for the benefit of all and sundry, and the author is to be warmly congratulated on the complete success of his undertaking, which will redound alike to his credit and that of its publishers—the Philatelic Society of India.

* *British Indian Adhesive Stamps Surcharged for Native States.* Part II. By C. STEWART-WILSON, Philatelic Society of India (Calcutta). Birmingham: W. T. Wilson.

MR. WESTOBY'S "EUROPE."†

The present and seventh instalment of this useful work completes Volume I. with Iceland and Ionian Islands, and commences Volume II. with Italy, Lubeck, and Luxemburg. In an added note as regards Hungary, Mr. Westoby states that the watermark in a circle of the issue of 1881 was modified in size in 1887. An interesting account is given of the surcharges of the 15 cents. of Italy in 1865, and the chapters on the Estero are also excellent, although the surcharge omitted on the 2 c. is not listed with the others of that ilk. Issues 1 to 4 are not adequately portrayed, nor have they ever been, and the "full, true, and correct history" of the embossed stamps of Italy is a really long-felt want. Dr. Diena to the rescue! The present instalment presents the same features of excellent work, both literary and Philatelic, as all its predecessors.

† *The Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe.* Part VII. By W. A. S. WESTOBY. 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.

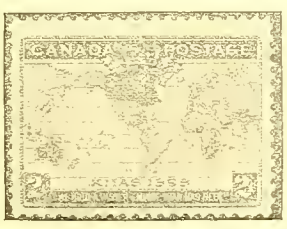
Members of the London Philatelic Society, and other readers generally, are invited to co-operate with us in making the columns as interesting as possible. Our foreign readers can especially help us in this direction, by sending copies of any official documents relative to changes in the current issues, 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.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—The following cutting from the *Government Gazette* of this Protectorate is interesting as affording some proof of the necessity for the recent provisionals. We estimate that fully 7½ per cent. of the 10,000 copies unaccounted for by the postage returns must have found their way into the London market. The provisional alluded to is presumably scarcer unused than used (?).

"POSTAGE STAMPS.—A further supply of postage stamps has arrived, and there is now no danger of a recurrence of the circumstances which, together with an accident to a case of stamps, led to the recent surcharging of stamps and issue of tokens. Of the three shillings stamps surcharged one penny 33,420 were sold, and returns, which have recently been received, show that 23,901 of the tokens were used in accounting for the postages paid in cash at the different post offices in accordance with the notice published in the *Gazette* of 19th March last."

CANADA.—We have seen three distinct varieties of the Imperial penny postage stamp. These all differ in the colour of the sea. The first printing appears to have been lavender, the second green, and the third



a deep blue. We hear also that the 2 c. stamp, in violet, has been changed to the colour of the 3 c.—rose—and that, owing to the reduction of the inland postage, this latter value will be dispensed with. From the same cause some provisionals—possibly of unofficial sanction—were created "up country" by one-third and two-thirds portions of 3 c. stamps, divided vertically, being surchaged either "ONE" in green, or "2" in purple.

Adhesives. "ONE," in green, on ⅓ of 3 c., rose.
"2," in purple, on ⅔ of 3 c. ,,

INDIA.—The new 3 pies stamp has been issued, similar in design to the late 9 pies stamp, but with the portrait from the high-value stamps within an oval. "INDIA POSTAGE" at top, "THREE PIES" at base. Wmk. Star, perf. 14.

Adhesive. 3 pies, carmine.

Chamba.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the 1 rupee stamp of India has been surcharged "Chamba—State," in two lines, for use here.

Adhesive. 1 r., carmine and green; surcharge black.

MALTA.—We hear that the new series of stamps spoken of recently is current. Particulars will be given next month.

MAURITIUS.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us, just as we go to press, the 5 c. envelope surcharged "TWO CENTS" in one line of sans-serif capitals.

Envelope. 5 c., grey-blue on white; surch. black.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A *Gazette* notice, under date December 1st, 1898, authorises a change in the colour of the current ½d. and 2½d. stamps from grey and royal purple to

green and deep blue respectively, thus bringing these values in accord with Postal Union demands. It is rumoured that the 6d. stamp, so recently changed from rose to green, is to be further changed to orange. Just as we go to press this stamp comes to hand from Messrs. Smythe & Nicolle, of Sydney.

Adhesives. ½d., green.
2½d., deep blue.
6d., orange.

QUEENSLAND.—A vagary of perforation has made its appearance on the current one penny value, which proves to be but ephemeral in existence. This new method of perforation consists of a number of pieces of printer's "rule" set in zigzag form, thus ΛΛΛΛΛ, a little above the usual height of the *clichés* from which the sheets of stamps are printed. Thus, as in the case of the early rouletted Luxemburg stamps, the perforating is performed in one operation when the sheets are passed under the forme. The result is a kind of serrated perforation, with the points straight instead of slanting downwards. We understand that the new process has already proved unsatisfactory, and hence will not be repeated.

Adhesive. 1d., vermilion; serrated perf.

ST. VINCENT.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a set of the new issue in colonial type, one value of which we illustrate. The colours are as follows:—

Adhesives. ½d., lilac and green.
1d. ,, carmine.
2½d. ,, ultramarine.
3d. ,, olive.
4d. ,, orange.
5d. ,, black.
6d. ,, brown.
1s., green and carmine.
5s. ,, blue.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 6d. stamp has been surcharged "O.S." (perf. 13).

Official Stamp. 6d., blue.

TOBAGO.—The stamps of this colony are reported obsolete, having been superseded by those of the neighbouring colony of Trinidad.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a complete set of stamps for this colony, one of the Leeward Islands, which have once more become disintegrated. We give an illustration herewith. The design, decidedly *à la* Portugal commemoratives, consists of a full-length figure of a Virgin crowned with a halo and rays instead of the stars as on earlier issues. The stamps are evidently the work of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. Wmk. Crown CA; perf. 14.

Adhesives. ½d., green.
1d., red.
2½d., ultramarine.
4d., brown.
6d., violet.
7d., deep green.
1s., orange-brown.
5s., indigo.



ZANZIBAR.—The current set of postage stamps will probably be changed shortly for a set bearing the portrait of the present Sultan. This news was supplemented by the information that the plates of 1896 would be destroyed! Pending these events, and the surcharging business being quiet, attention has been turned to the watermarks (Rose), which at present, instead of appearing one on each stamp, have been brought closer together, so that one and a half or more appear. The paper also is said to be slightly thicker.

EUROPE.

CRETE.—Messrs. Alfred Smith and Son have sent us specimens of the new Cretan stamps described last month. These we illustrate.





The following cutting from the daily papers speaks of an issue of postage stamps which must be in its embryo state:—

"I mentioned a few days ago that, according to an Athens report, sharp differences had

arisen between Prince George and General Sir H. Chermside, the nature of which was not given at the time. Subsequent information represents the British General as having protested against Mohammedans being forced to leave Candia for their former estates in the interior without the previous rebuilding of the houses, on the ground that this would be cruelty and contrary to promises made to them. This sounds possible, which cannot be said of a story reported from Athens to the *Politische Correspondence* yesterday. Several measures of the British Commander in Candia had caused, according to this source, bad feeling on the island and in Greece. For instance, the construction of barracks with room for seventeen thousand men; the introduction of postal and fiscal stamps, of which the upper part shows the British flag, and the lower part the word Candia; the formation of mixed courts of one Christian and one Mohammedan judge, presided over by an Englishman, which courts pronounce sentence in the name of the Queen of England. All of these Prince George regards as an invasion of his rights, and strongly protests."

FINLAND.—Mr. W. L. Babcock contributes the following information to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"It may be of interest to your readers to know that Finland's existence as an autonomous duchy ends this month. The Finnish seim, or parliament, is now in session, called by Imperial ukase, for the purpose of taking steps to merge its administrative affairs with those of the Russian Empire. Provisions will probably be made for retiring its present issue of postage and local tax stamps, and merging its post department with that of Russia. Finnish coinage will be succeeded by Russian, and the Russian language taught in Finnish schools. To Philatelists this change brings up many new points of interest. Finland now sinks into the same class with Bergedorf, Hamburg, Saxony, etc., and will probably soon grace us with reprints galore."

FRANCE.—*Le C. de T.-P.* states that it has been decided to alter the current series of postage stamps, supplementing three distinct designs, one for book-post use, a second for letters, and the third for registered letters, etc. The designs have not yet been definitely decided upon, but will probably be a figure of value for the first type, allegorical figures for the second, and for the third the head of Liberty. It is further proposed to arrange the colours of the various values in the following groups.—

	Red.	Violet.	Brown.	Blue.	Green.
1st type .	1 c.	2 c.	3 c.	4 c.	5 c.
2nd „ .	10 c.	15 c.	20 c.	25 c.	—
3rd „ .	30 c.	40 c.	50 c.	1 fr.	—

We fail to see what useful purpose is served by any such arrangement, and join with our Parisian *confrères* in the hope that this suggestion may be altered so as to have each value of a distinctive colour. It is unlikely that any change will be effected previous to the Exhibition of 1900.

GREECE.—A new printing of the Mercury type of 1886 has taken place, the impression being fine and recalling the Belgian print. The values so printed—1, 5, and 20 l.—are issued imperforate and perf. 11½.

Adhesives. 1 l., brown.
5 l., yellow-green.
20 l., rose.

HOLLAND.—The history of the 1 gulden stamp is not yet complete. *Le T.-P.* now informs us that it is not obsolete, but rather that higher values may be expected shortly of similar design. Can anyone confirm the matter?

HUNGARY.—The values of the current type with new watermark issued up to the present are as follows: 1, 2, 3 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 20, 24, 30, and 50 kr., and the 1 kr. newspaper stamp. The 1, 3, and 5 kr. vary slightly in shade.

RUSSIA.—Mr. H. V. McCleland sends us a curious official advertisement sheet which has been issued for the benefit of charitable institutions in the province of the Empress Marie. The stamp is a 7 kop. one, but the sheet is sold for 5 kopecs. The profits from advertisements are given to the institutions. Up to the present there have been three issues of 50,000, the announcements printed in various colours on each.

SAN MARINO.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two new stamps in the type illustrated, which are for internal use only. Watermark Crown.

Adhesives. 2 c., brown.
5 c., orange-brown.



SWITZERLAND.—Our Continental contemporaries announce that a new value—70 centimes—will shortly be added to the

current set. From Ipswich we have the 5 c. in a new colour—green.

Adhesive. 5 c., green.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—The surcharging of the obsolete and current newspaper stamps is becoming serious. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us some additions to the list given last month.

Adhesives. 500, in black, on 300, rose.
1000, in red, on 700, pale blue.
2000, in green, on 1000, brown.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC. — The *I. B. J.* chronicles a new provisional stamp of 10 centavos, formed by surcharging the 1 c., green on greenish, of the 1883 issue, "10— centavos," in two lines.

Adhesive. 10 c. on 1 c., green; surcharged black.

HONDURAS.—A complete set of the "locomotive" issue to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. enables us to chronicle all values —so far only the low values have been given.

Adhesives. 1 c., pale brown.
2 c., rose-pink.
5 c., blue.
6 c., lilac.
10 c., deep blue.
20 c., orange-brown.
50 c., vermilion.
1 peso, pale green.

PARAGUAY. — The *Monthly Circular* is informed that the Government intended to issue last month 40,000 stamps of 15 centavos, surcharged "10 centavos."

PERU.—Two high-value Unpaid Letter stamps have been issued—5 and 10 soles.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.
5 soles, light green.
10 ,, lilac.

UNITED STATES.—The set of newspaper and periodical stamps which has been retired from use is to be shortly placed on sale at a price which will bring these handsome stamps within the limits of every collection. The sum of $5 has been suggested for the entire set. The $5 value is to have some distinguishing cancellation placed upon it to prevent its misuse for revenue purposes. Another source brings information that a petition to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General has been presented by the Boston Philatelic Society, praying that the stamps be not sold at any price under face value; since which we have heard that it has been decided to sell the sets at $5 each, and that an attempt has been made to corner the entire issue, 50,000 sets!

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the four cents value in the late colour of the six cents, claret, and the 10 c. in brown. The *A. J. of Ph.* adds the 2 c. in a salmon tinge of the current colour, carmine.

Adhesives. 4 c., claret.
10 c., brown.

URUGUAY. — We illustrate the new 5 milesimos stamp described in our last issue.



OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—A set of the provisional stamps is to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., one of which we illustrate. The set issued to this present includes the following values: 1 c., 2 c., 2½ on 2 c., 3 c., 5 c., and 10 c. Our correspondents point out that the 2½ on 2 c. was issued in error, and was sold at 2 c. The latter is now obsolete. Mr. C. H. Mekeel has discovered an apparent error on the 5 c. stamp, the surcharge reading "CUPA"; it is not unlikely, however, that the variety is due to a broken "B."

The sale of these stamps in America is stated to be phenomenal, nearly 5000 sets having been sold to stamp collectors within ten days, the results being a decided impetus to stamp-collecting in the States.



Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News chronicles and illustrates three provisional stamps created by the American authorities at Santiago de Cuba for use pending the receipt of the above surcharged United States stamps. These are the 1898 issue of Cuba (King) surcharged "HABILITADO," and new values in numerals and words. The

following, we understand, then, is the complete list of Cuban issues for 1899.

Surcharged on Cuba (1898) *type.*

2 cents on 2 mils., orange-brown; surcharge black.
3 ,, on 1 mil. ,, ,, ,,
5 ,, on 1 c., violet; surcharge red.

Surcharged on U.S. stamps.

1 c. de peso on 1 c., green; surcharge black.
2 ,, ,, 2 c., carmine ,, ,,
2½ ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
3 ,, ,, 3 c., violet ,, ,,
5 ,, ,, 5 c., blue ,, ,,
10 ,, ,, 10 c., brown ,, ,,

The following excerpt from the *American Journal of Philately* will allay any feelings of envy regarding the possession of the above-named "error." With a circulation of two millions there should be enough and to spare, making the "error" a genuine article of historic interest.

"The issue of surcharged stamps of the United States for use in Cuba has led to an enormous speculation, in one of the values in particular, namely, the 2½ c. on 2 c. When our Government authorised this issue the impression obtained that the suburban rate was 2½ cents for a single letter. When the stamps arrived in the island it was found that the suburban rate had been 2 cents for some time past, and, in order not to disturb the existing postal arrangements, it was immediately decided to sell the 2½ c. stamps for 2 cents in gold. Speculation immediately ensued, buyers being under the impression that the 2½ c. surcharge would become rare; but we do not think there is any danger of this stamp becoming a *rara avis*, as two millions were printed, and the entire supply sent to Cuba and distributed among the various offices."

FERNANDO PO.—Another dearth of stamps and inevitable surcharges. The following are to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.:—

Adhesives.

5 cen., in blue, on 2 c. de p., rose.
5 cen., in black on 25 c., mauve
Timbre Movil stamp, surcharged *downwards* "Habilitado Para," etc.
15 c., in violet, on 10 c., green (imperf.).

HAYTI.—The new stamps illustrated recently have been supplemented by a series of Unpaid Letter stamps, the 2 c. of which we illustrate. The values are:—

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

2 c., deep blue.
5 c., bistre.
10 c., orange.
50 c., black.



JAPAN.—The *Monthly Circular* chronicles three new stamps, in design a modification of the current 1 sen value, in the lower corners numerals of value to the left, and "S^N" to the right. Japanese characters occupy the upper corners. The colours conform to Postal Union demands as follows:—

Adhesives. 2 sen, green: *perf.* 12.
4 ,, rose ,,
10 ,, blue ,,

TRANSVAAL.—Messrs. Meyers & Co., of Pretoria, send us a specimen of the first registration envelope issued in the South African Republic. There are five sizes—F, G, H, H₂, and K. The imprint under the flap is that of Thos. De La Rue & Co., and with Dutch inscriptions, and a stamp of fourpence in bronze-green on the flap, the envelopes are similar to our own. The flap closes on the back.

Registration Envelope.

4d., blue and bronze-green on white.

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 fourth meeting of the season 1898–99 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 9th December, 1898, at 7.45 p.m., the following members being present, in addition to two visitors, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D Bacon, H. R Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R Frentzel, T. Girtin, C. N. Biggs, T. Wickham Jones, T. Maycock, W. Schwabacher, E. G. Davidson, H. G. Palliser, G. B. Routledge, E. J. Nankivell, E. B. Evans, J. A. Tilleard, A. B. Creeke, T. W. Hall, A. R Barrett, and B. D. Knox.

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

The Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Miss Tullis announcing her desire to resign her membership, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

Mr. Ehrenbach produced for inspection of members a *tête-bêche* pair of the 1d., rose, embossed stamp of Natal, which apparently has not before been chronicled in this condition, and also a fine pair of the 9d. stamp of the same issue.

Major Evans showed a printed copy of resolutions of the United States Senate passed in June, 1840, in reference to the introduction of postage stamps, containing a notice as to the issue of stamps in England, with an interesting sketch of the Mulready cover, and a representation of the 1d. adhesive stamp attached.

The receipt from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of a copy of the first part of their new catalogue, for the Society's library, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. Ehrenbach then read a short paper on the 1866–72 issues of Uruguay—the large figure issues—in which he gave full particulars of the varieties and errors to be found, explaining in detail the various printings of all the values, and illustrating his remarks by a fine series of the stamps taken from his own collection, including several entire sheets of some of them. On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Hall, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Ehrenbach for his interesting paper.

Mr. Frentzel gave a display of rarities and curiosities in his collection of the stamps of Mexico Most of the principal rarities were included in the display, and amongst the fine selection shown were stamps doubly surcharged in Roman and Gothic letters in the issue of 1856; errors of colour and a page of fractional stamps of the 1861 issue; rare surcharges and used imperforate stamps of the issue of 1853–54: errors of cancellation and other rarities in the "Eagle" stamps; errors of colour and essays of the Maximilian stamps of 1866; the 4 reales of 1867 on blue, and on so-called "sugar" paper; Campeche, Chiapas, and other rare locals of 1869, including perforated Guadalajara stamps on laid and quadrillé paper; errors of colour and watermarked stamps of the 1872 issue; a sheet showing the stamps of 1874 with the number and date separated, and coloured surcharges in this and the 1879 issues; errors of colour and imperforate stamps, and others with names of towns in the 1884 issue, and proofs and errors of the latter issues.

Amongst other interesting matters referred to by Mr. Frentzel was that of the possible existence of varieties of types in the early issues, a question which appears to be deserving of careful investigation.

On the conclusion of the display a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Frentzel for showing his stamps, and for the interesting explanations he had given.

The fifth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 30th December, at 7.45 p.m The following members were present, viz.: Messrs. M P. Castle, E. D Bacon, H R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. R. Barrett, T. Girtin, W. Schwabacher, E. G. Davidson, H. G. Palliser, Gordon Smith, C. N. Biggs, B D. Knox, and J. A. Tilleard.

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

The Secretary having reported the death of Mr. Pearson Hill, it was resolved, on the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Bacon, "That the members of the Philatelic Society, London, have heard with very great regret of the death of their esteemed fellow-member Mr. Pearson Hill, and desire to express their sincere sympathy with his family in their affliction."

Letters were read from Mr. J. C. Potter, the Rev. Neville Borton, Mr. J. N. Mostyn, and Mr. T. Dorman, announcing their desire to resign their membership, and the resignations were directed to be accepted with regret.

The receipt from Mr. Gordon Smith of some interesting "franks" for the Society's collection was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. J. W. Mercer, proposed by Mr. T. Girtin, and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

The special business of the evening consisted of a display of the stamps of Hong Kong by Mr. Hausburg, and in his absence abroad the stamps were shown and explained by Mr. Gordon Smith. Mr. Hausburg's complete collection of the issues of this colony, consisting entirely of unused stamps in perfect condition, was much admired by the members present, and on the motion of Mr.

Bacon, seconded by Mr. Castle, the very hearty thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Hausburg for sending his stamps, as also to Mr. Gordon Smith for his interesting explanations of the collection shown.

THE sixth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 6th January, 1899, at 7.45 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz: Messrs R. Ehrenbach, C. N. Biggs, T. W. Hall, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, F. Ransom, T. Girtin, J. W. Mercer, H. Hetley, A. R. Barrett, C. McNaughtan, F. E. Owen, W. Schwabacher, E. G. Davidson, H. G Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, T. Maycock, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox, and Gordon Smith.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Ehrenbach.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read letters from Mr. B. Crowdez and Mr. E. Collett resigning membership of the Society, and the resignations were directed to be accepted with regret.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell read a paper entitled "Behind the Scenes," in which he dealt with questions of catalogue values, auctions, and the collector-dealer. He traced the rise and fall of values and the genesis of recent inflation, related some amusing incidents concerning auctions, and dealt humorously with the collector-dealer.

In the discussion which followed, members contributed many interesting and amusing incidents on the topics included in the paper.

A hearty vote of thanks, on the motion of the Hon. Secretary, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, was accorded to Mr. Nankivell for his very interesting contribution.

THE seventh meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 20th January, 1899, at 7.45 p.m. The members present were—Messrs. M. P. Castle, Gordon Smith, R. Meyer, S. M. Castle, T. Girtin, W. R. Palmer, T. Maycock, L. S. Wells, E. G. Davidson, H. G. Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, J. A. Tilleard, A. B. Creeke, A. R. Barrett, E. D. Bacon, and B. D. Knox.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from Dr. J. Higham Hill referring to the death of Mr. J. F. Sharples, an announcement which was received with much regret.

The Vice-President stated that he had heard from Mr. Beckton, asking that members proposing to exhibit at the Manchester Exhibition should assist the Committee by sending early notice of their exhibits.

Mr. Castle then read a paper on "Condition," in which he called attention to the importance of the subject in connection with the formation of a satisfactory collection of stamps. He explained in detail the points to be considered in the choice of the most perfect specimens, both in used and unused stamps, and illustrated his observations by a choice selection of rare stamps from his own collection.

A fine selection, kindly sent by Mr. Stock, of Berlin, illustrative of perfect condition in used stamps, was also shown, and was very much admired.

On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Bacon, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Castle for his most interesting paper.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

President—W. T. WILSON.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A.
218, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

DECEMBER 1st, 1898. The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. J. J. Smith, A. H. Stamford, W. E. Lake, and J. N. Keynes; on December 15th the following: Messrs. R. Plant, Vittorio Durani, A. W. Chaytor, J. B. Brevoort, G. D. Welding, E. Heginbottom, H. De Lacey Ahearne. Monsieur Jules Bernichon was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Society.

A report of the exhibition was presented, showing that the total cost to the Society was about £24. This would be borne entirely by the funds, and nothing would be accepted from private members. It was felt that as dealers and collectors in all parts of the world were most enthusiastically supporting the Society, we in turn should do something for Philately. It had been most successful, over 700 seeing the exhibition during the two days and a half it was open, and we feel sure that it will have a marked and permanent effect. It was decided to send artistically arranged "votes of thanks" to all exhibitors as a memento of a very pleasant and successful exhibition.

January 19th, 1899. The following were unanimously elected members: Mrs. Tillotson, Messrs A. G. Farrar, A. D. Arter, and H. H. Buijs.

Votes of thanks were given to Messrs. H. Ferrier Kerr, Bright & Son, Gelli & Tani, for presentations to the library.

It was also decided to purchase Philbrick and Westoby's *Stamps of Great Britain* (new edition), *Postage Stamps of India*, and the *Indian Philatelist*.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. LLOYD.
Vice-President—F. E. ELLISON.
Committee—
A. BIRD. D. H. MCPHERSON.
N. G. HEAVEN. J. H. REYNOLDS.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—R. DALTON,
30, *Carnarvon Road, Redland.*
Hon. Librarian—Mr. T. C. CARTWRIGHT,
17, *York Crescent Road, Clifton.*
Hon. Exchange Packet Sec.—J. P. WAY,
31, *Manor Park, Redland.*

A MEETING of the above Society was held on Thursday evening, the 19th January, at the Society's room, 42, Cotham Hill, when all the above-named officers, as appointed for this year, were present. There was also a good attendance of other members.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, confirmed, and signed by the President, some new members were elected.

Mr. Cartwright also stated that Mr. Henniker-Heaton, jun., had sent a temporary acknowledgment on the behalf of his father, who had gone for a few weeks' rest to the South of France.

The suggestion having been made and adopted "that those members who send in exchange sheets should, as far as possible, make them up in the consecutive order of countries," it was decided that a memo. to that effect should be sent round in the next packet.

Several collections of "Mauritius" were then handed round for inspection, those of the President being especially fine in the "Britannia" issues, and containing two "*Office*" copies very cleverly imitated by one of the members.

"British Africa" will be the subject for the next meeting on March 2nd.

A MEETING of the Society was held on Thursday evening the 2nd inst., the Vice-President being in the chair.

The subject for display was "British Africa." Mr. Reynolds was the chief exhibitor of a very nice collection in which some sections were complete in each issue.

Mr. Cartwright called attention to the variation in the present 1d. letter card, the quality and colour of paper, and also of printing, being different from those of last year's issue, and the broken line and dot in frame are now restored.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

351, FOURTH AVENUE.

THIRTY-FOURTH meeting of the Governors, held at the Club House, January 9th, 1899. Present, President Thorne, Dr. Stebbins, Mr. Scott, and the Secretary. Committees were appointed in accordance with Sec. 14 of the bye-laws.

The Treasurer's report, showing balance in bank of $535·55, exclusive of U.S. Bonds, was then approved.

Resignation of Chas. E. Green, as a subscribing member, was read and accepted with regret.

The Secretary read a letter from the Chairman of Committee on Amusements.

An appropriation was voted for purchases, not exceeding $50, at the Casey Library auction sale, and a committee appointed, consisting of Messrs. Luff, Deats, and Rich, to attend to such purchases. The question of further expense for entertainments was laid on the table.

J. M. ANDREINI, *Secretary.*

Herts Philatelic Society.

A GENERAL meeting of the above Society was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London, on Tuesday, February 7th. Thirteen members and one visitor were present, Mr. Mardon being in the chair. The following were duly proposed and elected ordinary members of the Society: Captain E. Stokes Roberts, T. O. Googh, W. Hadlow, C. R. Sutherland, W. B. Kirkpatrick, G. F. H Gibson, and P. L. Pemberton. After the usual business Mr. Hubert F. Lowe gave a display of his superb St. Helenas, which was much appreciated, and for which a special vote of thanks was accorded. General collections were shown by Messrs. Wickhart and Sidebotham, and several members brought curiosities and rarities for exhibition. The meeting terminated at 9.30 p.m.

H. A. SLADE,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

THE ninth meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday evening, January 27th, when the President took the chair, and there were twelve other members present. Mr Vernon Roberts read a short paper on "The Triangular Stamps of the Cape," illustrating it by the exhibition of a portion of his fine collection, consisting of about 800 unused and a number used. There were blocks and pairs of all unused, including several blocks of 32, also 179 wood-blocks, amongst them being a block of four of the 1d. and a pair of the 4d., both unused, four 1d. errors, one of which had also the 4d. *se-tenant*, and three copies of the 4d. with white lines in the corner, one of them being in a pair of the rare green-blue shade.

G. FRED. H. GIBSON, *Hon. Sec.*

KERSAL, MANCHESTER.

New Zealand Philatelic Society.

A PLEASING report, evidencing the flourishing condition of New Zealand Philately, was presented by the Hon. Sec., Mr. L. A. Sanderson, at the annual meeting of this Society. The membership now numbers 100, which total has been reached by the addition of no less than 30 new names during the past season. The resignations numbered one.

The total receipts for the year amounted to a sum of £144 8s. 7d., and as the expenditure only reached £131 7s. 2d., a balance of £13 1s. 5d. is in hand with which to start the new year.

We wish our New Zealand friends renewed prosperity and continued progress.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

THE August packets returned from circulation in good time, and accounts were settled within seven days.

Sales were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
August A 1 Packet . . .	82	0	4
,, A 2 ,, . . .	77	14	11
,, B ,, . . .	42	13	2

Two hundred and seven sheets, valued in the aggregate at £2197 15s. 5d., were received and made up into four packets for the January circuit. Very good selections were submitted. The new catalogues have caused a depreciation in prices of the stamps offered, and good specimens of rare colonials and Americans were quoted very reasonably. In addition to low prices members have the advantage of examining the condition of stamps at their leisure before making a selection. The new members that have joined during the past month include the following: Evan Jenkins (Studley), A. H. Dingwall (Bath), R. Barclay (Wimbledon), Mrs. Livingston (Torquay), and W. Crothers (Guildford). Buyers are as welcome as sellers, but non-contributors are placed last on the list. References should be sent with every application to avoid delay. Rules to be obtained from H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Sec.*

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Warrington Philatelic Society.

AN ordinary meeting was held at the Patten Arms Hotel, Warrington, on 30th January. The chair was taken at 7.30 p.m. by Mr. John P. Reynolds, the President, and there was a fair attendance of members.

The Hon. Secretary read a paper on "Franking," by the Rev. Charles Grant, of Glastonbury,

one of the members. The subject was dealt with in an interesting manner, and was judiciously lightened with a slight touch of humour. The reading of the paper was followed by a short discussion, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Grant on the proposition of the President, seconded by Mr. Dutton.

Messrs. Bright & Son having presented a copy of their new *A B C Catalogue*, and Messrs. Smyth & Co. their *Philatelic Almanac* for 1899, the Hon. Secretary was directed to acknowledge the same with the thanks of the Society.

One new member was elected. It was reported that the sales from the December packet had been very satisfactory (about 17 per cent.), and that the packet had been settled for.

HERBERT WOODS, *Hon. Sec.*

MOORE, WARRINGTON.

Correspondence.

NEW ZEALAND PERFORATIONS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—When looking over a lot of New Zealand stamps of the issues 1882–97 I noticed a perforation which is only given with reference to the life insurance stamps in the latest catalogues, namely, 12 × 11½. I have all the seven values of the 1882 issue with this perf., the postmarks being mostly 1882–84, though some are as late as 1890. All my specimens of the 2½d., *ultramarine*, of 1891 have the same perf., while all the 2½d., *blue*, are perf. 11½ all round.

I also have the ½d., *black*, of 1895, perf. 12 all round. This is a very poor, ragged perforation, more like the early St. Vincent style, the holes indicated, but not punched out.

We have, therefore, for these issues 12½, 12½ × 10, 12, 12 × 11½, 11½, 11, 11 × 10, and 10. Can anyone explain how many machines are used, and how all these varieties arise?

I note also that the new issue is perforated anything from 12 to 15. Is this all done by the printers in England, or partly in the colonies, and, in the latter case, which is which?

I remain, yours truly,

ERNEST A. ELLIOTT.

[The New Zealand and New South Wales modern perforations seem very involved, owing to the simultaneous employment in the colony of several machines, both guillotine and comb. Six gauges of the 1892–97 are given in Gibbons' Catalogue.—ED.]

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.*

WHILE waiting for a report of the prices realised at the sale of the Casey Library of Philatelic Literature, we learn from United States journals that the books sold well, although purchasers were not inclined to pay exorbitant prices for the *de luxe* binding of the numerous volumes. The acquisition of a Philatelic library representative of the standard works of reference is a desirable adjunct to a stamp collection, but as collectors usually prefer to have their books in uniform binding, the sumptuous cover of some coveted work forms no part of its intrinsic value.

Just as we go to press some fragmentary details of the Casey sale of Philatelic Literature come in. The scarce works of the London Philatelic Society appear to have figured as the lots *rara in extremis*. *North American Colonies* realised £3 3s.; *Oceania*, £3 6s.; and *British West Indies* a like sum. The next highest price was 29s. for the seventh edition of M. Moens' Catalogue.

* * *

IF report be true, there is no falling off in prices at auction with our transatlantic friends. We hear of record prices having been obtained in recent sales, notably one held by the J. W. SCOTT Co., at which the collection of a Central American President was dispersed. Many of the stamps sold at ten or twenty-five per cent. above catalogue, while the average realised for the whole collection—a general one—was ninety per cent. of catalogue value.

WE are informed that the supply of medium rare stamps in New England is not equal to the demand. There is increasing interest showing itself just now in certain stamps of late issue, notably Africans, and London dealers are being called upon to supply the rarer surcharges and varieties, which in many cases cannot be done.

"Specimen" stamps also seem to be in distinct favour in America.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER sold on January 19th and 20th, among other general lots, a used copy of the hitherto unknown *inverted* surcharge, "Govt. Parcels" on 1d., lilac, current Great Britain stamp (£10). Some fine Australians, the property of a private collector, included about fifty lots of Victorian stamps, mostly of early issue, in fine condition—a difficult feature in the stamps of this colony; *e.g.*, a pair of the second issue lithographed, in the dull lilac shade, unused, was sold for £5 15s. Emblems issue, no wmk., rouletted, 2d., lilac, a horizontal pair on piece of letter, £2 2s. (a fine used pair, and ridiculously cheap). Ditto, on horizontally laid paper, rouletted, 2d., purple: an unused strip of three, £5.

* * *

MR. H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN has initiated a new system of buying and selling postage stamps on Stock Exchange quotations. At the present moment little can be said as to the probable success of the venture; but with medium stamps,

the "prices made," "buy or sell," should be largely dealt in. Those desirous of speculating should consult Mr. Ewen's *Weekly Circular*.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON offered the third portion of the collection of Mr. A. F. Calvert, on January 24th and 25th last. The only noteworthy feature of the sale was the number of stock books filled with more or less desirable specimens from all countries. These were bought up at prices ranging between £1 and £20.

* * *

"THE finest collection of postage stamps ever offered at public auction—in the United States." Such is the announcement of the J. W. SCOTT Co., Ltd. The catalogue will have to attain to some degree of excellence to fulfil the programme.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER'S sale on February 2nd and following day included some scarce and desirable specimens, notably the rare type of the first issue, Uruguay, 60 c., blue, unused, which reached its reserve of £23; also the set of eight Buenos Ayres, steamship, used and unused together, £69. Some good St. Vincents were sold, among them the 1s., vermilion, perf. 12, an unused pair, £12 10s; provisionals, ½d., in red, on half of 6d., yellow-green, an unused strip of six, £10; 1d., in red, on half of 6d., blue-green, an unused pair, £15 15s.; "One penny," on 6d., yellow-green, unused, but slightly off centre, £3 5s.; and 4d. on 1s., unused, but perforated close to design, £10 15s. Tuscany, 60 crazie, brown-red, realised £10. A strip of three Ceylon, no wmk., 6d., brown, unused, £4 15s. The 85 "State" U.S.A., unused, sold for £14 10s.

Part of a fine collection containing many scarce European and Colonial stamps was offered by Messrs. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER on the 16th and 17th inst. The sale in question is but further evidence that where really fine stamps are available, equally fine prices are forthcoming. We note the following:—Great Britain V.R., a pair, £14 10s.; ditto, wmk. Maltese Cross, 10s., grey-green, unused, with gum, £15 10s.; ditto, £1, lilac, £25, both fine but not quite mint; Turks Islands 1s., prime unused, a lovely copy, £30, and ditto, used, £16; St. Vincent "1d." on half of 6d., blue-green, unused pair with piece of margin, £21; a used pair, £13 13s; the "4d." on 1s., vermilion, unused, £15 10s.; and a magnificent 5s., Star, £14 10s.; British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., black on magenta, fine, £21 15s.; New Brunswick, the Connell, 5 c., brown, £18; U.S.A. State 810, unused, £8; ditto, 820, unused, £7 7s.; Barbados 1d. on half 5s., a pair, £17. The total amount realised at the sale (the first portion of the collection only) was £1345 17s. 6d.

* * *

THE SCOTT STAMP AND COIN COMPANY in their journal congratulate themselves on being able to make "the positive declaration that the hard times in the stamp business are over." They predict that within twelve months business will be brisker than at any time in its past history, and express the hope that speculation may not again raise its head. The law of supply and demand will cause a gradual increase in the price of stamps; and if this is allowed to operate naturally, confidence will be given to all classes. All of which is common sense, and has been also urged by many persons in this country.

* * *

THE collection of the late Mr. Harold Frederic, dispersed by Mr. W. Hadlow on February 6th and 7th last, cannot be said to have evinced "the great interest taken by its owner in Philately." (Vide Daily Press.) The lots, largely of a general character, brought few prices of any note. The *maxima* attained were divided between a double Geneva, used, and the ½ sch., red, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, rouletted, unused, both stamps being in poor condition, and selling accordingly.

* * *

THE UNION OF GERMAN DEALERS are apparently not letting the grass grow under their feet, and their ranks are now materially strengthened by the names of Messrs. Senf Bros., of Leipsic, and Mr. P. Kosack, of Berlin, and represent the very flower of the German trade. They call attention to the fact that the Guatemala Exhibition issue of 1897 has been sold to a German export firm, but that the 18, 75, and 150 cents. are wanting in the sets on offer. These eleven stamps, which are catalogued in Senf for 46 marks, are cited as only now worth 5 marks—a useful and a correct notification in the interest of the collector, the more noteworthy as Messrs. Senf themselves are assentors. The case of damaged stamps referred to in our December number has elicited a reply from the person accused, partially acknowledging his sins; but he is again boldly tackled by the Union with a prominently printed statement in the Philatelic journals that accuses him of repeating his offence of passing off damaged as pure stamps, and invites him to take legal steps to clear his name of the aspersions now made on it.

* * *

PRICES OF OLD AUSTRALIANS.—A long acquaintance with the difficulties of procuring many of the Australian stamps in unused—not to say mint—condition, enables us to thoroughly endorse the remarks of "Censor" in the *Australian Philatelist* of December last. There is little doubt but that a practically complete single-specimen collection of the Australian group, *unused*, will within the next ten years be worth a fortune. Says "Censor": "No matter what the coming catalogues may say on the subject, prices are bound to advance, for the simple reason that the demand for them is on the increase, whereas the supply is rapidly diminishing. Until recently, it was quite possible to procure large quantities of old Australians, which were quoted at high figures; but, no doubt owing to the fact that they have been largely advertised for by dealers and others, those who had any, but were in no way interested in Philately, were only too pleased to part with what was to them merely a tiny piece of paper for a sum which, to the Philatelically ignorant, would appear fabulous. But this sort of thing could not go on indefinitely, and has of late dropped off considerably. An end must come to everything, and it applies very forcibly to the early stamps of Australia.

"There is little or no fresh stock coming into the market to make good the wear and tear, not to mention the continued demand; and what will be the upshot of it all? Collectors are getting more and more fastidious as to the condition of their specimens, and the result of it will be that old Australian stamps will some day, perhaps not far distant, advance in price by leaps and bounds, and be in some cases almost unprocurable at any prices.

"I have always held the opinion that the prices of many of the old Australians were, relatively speaking, out of proportion, and I have no hesitation in saying that when prices are readjusted, as we are promised they shall be, it will be found that my prognostications are correct."

THE

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THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

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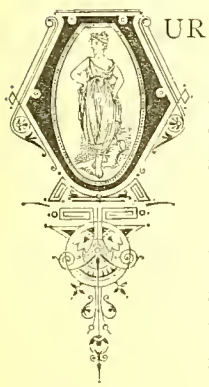
The Virgin and the Scales.



OUR schoolboy days are happily not yet so far behind most of us that we cannot recollect the coupling together of the signs of the Zodiac which enabled us to impress them upon our juvenile memories, and in virtue of which the Virgin and the Scales were imperishably associated.

The reappearance of a series of stamps, eight in number, ranging from ½d. to 5s., for the Virgin Islands, as chronicled by us last month, seems so significant, that the old association of names conveyed in the title to this article was irresistibly suggested. The fact that, after a super-session of nine years, a small and insignificant group of islets, forming part of the Leeward Islands group, should be permitted to start the reissue of their own stamps, solely to restore their fallen postal revenues, is alike a signal instance of the enormous modern extension of stamp "collecting" and a *decisive turning of the scales* as regards any attempt to stay the issue of either speculative or unnecessary issues.

The aims and intentions of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, so well known as the S.S.S.S., were in every way worthy of the support of collectors and dealers, and for a while it seemed as if its work would be permanent. Despite the loyal adhesion of many leading dealers, the demands of large numbers of the less reflective collectors ultimately broke through the square, and the Society saw itself compelled to desert from active operation, through the general demand for new issues, irrespective of the circumstances that evoked them.

Although this reissue of the Virgin Islands stamps is neither better nor worse than many of those of our Colonies or Chartered Companies that have appeared of late, it may fully be designated as the funeral note

of the S.S.S.S. The "Colony" is under direct Crown government, and since such a minute dependency is allowed to issue stamps, absolutely to supply collectors, two facts stand clearly out: (1) that in such a case no collector is justified in refusing to accept them as postage stamps, and (2) that if they are so accepted, no other series can be equitably discarded; the acceptance of which two propositions, to our mind, clearly establishes the futility of any society formed to discourage speculative issues.

We deplore the facts, but the situation must be faced, and it is clear that henceforth each and every collector must decide for himself or herself what shall be taken and what shall be left. The *London Philatelist* has always taken a great interest in the movement, and in acknowledging that the times are too strong for it, can, with many other supporters of the cause of Philatelic purity, at least feel the consolation that that effort was a conscientious one, and even if now abandoned will always remain on record as an honest attempt to serve the truest interests of Philately.

Notes on the Stamps of Colombia.

BEING A PAPER READ BEFORE THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY, ON THE 15TH AND 29TH OF APRIL, 1898.

BY THOMAS W. HALL.

(*Continued from page* 37.)

TO those who saw Dr. Michelsen's collection at the Exhibition the following may be interesting. According to a notice in the *Official Journal* of Bogota, dated April, 1889, all the stamps, post cards, and cubiertas of Colombia not bearing the inscription "Republica de Colombia" were declared obsolete, and were to be returned to the Treasury and sold to Mr. M. G. Michelsen, who agreed to purchase them at certain rates per 1000.

This purchase included and established the authenticity of the then doubtful 25 c., black on rose, and the 25 c., black on yellow.

These unpaid letter stamps, printed on blue and on green paper, were printed by Ayala, as well as by Paredes, and had a very short existence.

They were not used on inland letters insufficiently franked, but only on letters coming from foreign countries not having any postal treaty with Colombia and being insufficiently franked.

Amongst his purchases Dr. Michelsen also found the 5 c. of 1881, head of Liberty (printed in error on green and on rose), which were used for the inland postal service. The following errors can be found:—

1 cent. on lilac and on rose instead of green.
2 cents. „ green and lilac „ „ rose.
5 „ „ green and rose „ „ lilac.

It is possible, however, that some may be only essays.

In 1867 stamps of 5 and 10 pesos were issued. These are said to have been made for collectors, but I think this is certainly a mistake.

In the *American Journal of Philately* for April, 1869, it is stated that so many single letters had been stolen or had strayed during transportation from Santa Fé de Bogota to the port of Santa Marto, that the merchants there were in the habit of enclosing the whole of their correspondence in one or more packets.

Dr. Michelsen also states in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* that no money order service has ever existed in Colombia, and if money had to be remitted from one part of the country to another hard cash had to be sent.

The postage for such parcels was 80 c. per kilo, and these high-value stamps were thus necessary and so used.

They were pasted in a special book by the Post Office officials and afterwards cancelled either with a die or pen.

In spite of the order to destroy these books, several were saved by the officials, who made a nice income out of them.

Nowadays bills or cheques are used, but in some mining districts such high-value stamps are still the order of the day for franking parcels of ready money or gold dust.

One often comes across unobliterated copies of these 5 and 10 pesos of 1867 with a small circular hole punched out. These are said to be remainders, but are really gross forgeries, and will be at once detected by comparison with originals. In the forgeries of the 5 pesos the oval which surrounds the arms has twenty-six curves instead of thirty, and in the 10 pesos the stars, lettering, and dots are all shapes but rectangular, whilst in the genuine 10 the stars are regular and the lettering and dots are square and true.

Dr. Michelsen states that in 1876 a whole new series was intended, but only the 5 c. eagle and 10 and 20 head of Liberty were issued, as a number of 50 cent., 1, 5, and 10 pesos had been stolen.

During the civil war of 1876 some provisional stamps were issued.

These are very often called locals, but this description is not accurate.

To these provisional stamps belong those of Cauca, Cali, and Buga.

The Cali stamps, having the inscription "No hay estampillas," of which exist four plates, were only in use two months.

Dr. Michelsen states that all the stamps from 1858 to 1868 were printed in the lithographic works of Daniel Ayala in Bogota, and the *clichés* were destroyed at the end of every year.

From the year 1868 the stamps were printed by the above two firms of Daniel Ayala and Demetrio Paredes. They not only divided the work, but each had to deliver equal quantities of every value. For every value, therefore, two plates varying slightly were made, which explains the number and variety of the types of the paper and of the shades.

Paper of all sorts and of various manufactures was used. Europe was three months distant from Bogota, and when their stock of white paper was exhausted recourse was had at different times to common laid writing paper, and even to blue and green paper.

I was for a long time bothered by a series of surcharges on the 1881–1883 issues. In looking through some back numbers of the *Philatelic Record* I have unearthed what I expect is the explanation.

In June, 1883, that periodical chronicles a provisional formed by surcharging the 5 centavos, blue, of the Postal Union type of 1881,

"Cuarto"
"Centavos," in black.

In October, 1883, Messrs. Buhl write:—

"We always suspected certain surcharged South American stamps, chiefly because we found it impossible to get even a single copy of any of them from persons who obtained hundreds of other stamps of the same countries.

"We chiefly doubted the following:—

Dos y medio on the 10 c.,
Dos pesos on 10 pesos, and the
4 centavos on 1 real of Ecuador.

"From information received, these are all bogus. We are informed they are all made by C. K. Jeffreyes. We wrote to his address, and the youth called and offered us quantities of the Dos y medio, red surcharge, inverted, sideways, etc., informing us the black surcharge was obsolete. We took two, and he guaranteed them to be genuine.

In November Mr. Jeffreyes replies as follows:—

"*To the Editor 'Philatelic Record.'*

"DEAR SIR,—Having seen in the last issue of the *Record* a notice informing the stamp-collecting public that I am forging certain South American stamps, I take this opportunity of informing you that the said statement is untrue.

"This information is given by a firm of rather a shaky reputation, who wish no doubt to gain a cheap notoriety as genuine stamp dealers at my expense.

"Do they deal in forgeries?

"The two stamps I exchanged with them were obtained from a person who has since left England for South America, and the stamps I received from them in exchange were forged Guatemala. I did not offer to sell them quantities, neither did I give them any information about them. Trusting that in justice to me you will give this a place in your columns,

"I remain, etc., "C. K. JEFFREYES.

"*November 10th*, 1883"

Most of the Colombian counterfeits emanate, for some reason or other, from Bogota. Many of them are wretchedly done, but in some cases they are dangerous.

The late Mr. Curtis was one day approached by a well-dressed gentleman who asked him if he bought rare stamps. Upon replying in the affirmative, he was shown two pages of a book of very rare ones. There was also (and for this reason and *apropos* of the recent Bolivian disclosures I mention the fact) the affidavit of some gentlemen, *including the postmaster*, that to the best of their belief they were genuine. The whole lot, so Mr. Curtis states, were plainly counterfeits.

Mr. Curtis states that with the exception of the first issue of Antioquia, the 1 peso of the second issue, and perhaps the 5 cents. same issue, he was

unaware that any Antioquian reprints were in existence, or that there were any plates existing in 1892. On the other hand, Dr. Kalckhoff, in his catalogue of reprints, states that the 2½ c., 10 c., and 1 peso of the second issue, and the 5 c., green, of 1873, were reprinted in 1879 and 1881 on bluish white paper, and that the plates were retouched: the "2" of "2½" being more open, and the dash in the "½" in the right-hand lower corner being thicker, the 10 c. reprint having larger figures, and the 1 peso reprint being on thicker paper. The so-called error (in the second issue of Antioquia), 10 c., blue, sometimes met with is now admitted on all hands to be a reprint and nothing else.

(To be continued.

Swiss: Cleaned Stamps

By M. P. CASTLE.

THE question of cleaned as pseudo-unused stamps has been raised by a well-known Swiss collector, M. U. Reich Langhans, of Berne, in the columns of the *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung*. I have had the pleasure of meeting M. Langhans, and as I happen to know something of the matter treated upon in his important letter, I have thought it of sufficient interest to bring to the notice of collectors at home. The collection of Swiss stamps unused, except by the limited few, is quite a plant of recent growth, and I know that for years past my endeavours to procure these stamps unused have provoked a languid wonder and faint contempt at the hands of many worthy Switzers. I have, however, long held the theory, now deepened into a conviction, that the acquisition of Swiss stamps complete, *used* (except the forty types of the Poste Locale unframed), is simply a question of money and weeks; while the acquisition of the stamps of Switzerland complete, *unused*, could not be compassed in a lifetime. Our worthy Helvetian neighbours are not lacking in commercial proclivities, hence the pecuniary lesson to be derived from those now accepted facts is being brought home to them. The purchases of some of the more enterprising Continental dealers of Swiss stamps, unused, during the past two years have opened the eyes of the Switzers as to the difference between unused and used, and M. Langhans' letter, with the inevitable discussion that it will provoke, will round off the chapter.

M. Langhans calls attention to the fact that prior to the Zurich Exhibition in 1893 there was "but a very small number of amateurs collecting Rayons and Orts Poste and Poste Locale unused [what about Cantonals?]." He then details his unused exhibit at Zurich, which I afterwards saw at Geneva, and which was offered me *en bloc* with his collection later, included in which was a plate of the yellow Rayon in three groups, a block of twenty of the pale blue, and numerous other specimens. Despite

the absence of competition, M. Langhans says these were all he could raise in many years, and that the united competition in the Zurich show was small compared to his exhibit.* Owing to the growing demand for unused Swiss from abroad, says M. L., the prices rapidly rose, notably, of course, owing to the very limited supply. The Geneva Philatelic Exhibition was held in August, 1896, and M. Langhans holds up his hands in horror at the *lâches* of one exhibitor in the matter of *timbres lavés*. In very good company I had the honour of being one of the judges at the Geneva Exhibition, and I naturally felt disinclined to write anything hereon that might savour of partisanship. Now that M. Langhans has broken secrecy there can be no harm in saying that, I believe, in common with the other judges and many well-known Philatelists, I expressed my surprise at the exhibit of Mr. Willy Hauser, of Lucerne. The exhibit of so well-known a collector and prominent a citizen of fair Lucerne was naturally expected to be of the highest class, and we were disgusted to find that it consisted, practically, entirely of cleaned specimens (and very badly too), and varieties of unframed crosses consisting of clumsy attempted removals of the frame. Needless to say M. Hauser did *not* get a prize, or even a V.H.C.! M. Hauser was until lately one of the two official experts in Swiss stamps appointed by the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, but he has now resigned, and M. Langhans states that in January, 1898, he received an anonymous letter calling his attention to the "fraudulent manipulations, cleaning (*lavage*), mending, and regumming of two pairs of unused Poste Locale with cross unframed," both pairs being attested as unused by M. Hauser. In the same month M. Langhans was informed that one of these pairs had been offered in Paris, where it had not found favour, and had been returned to Lucerne. The other pair was presumed to have been exempt from adventures of this nature, as, says M. Langhans, they were generally considered to have been all right, although he states he has never seen them. I have, however. They were sold in England for the sum of £100, but their purchaser in since reselling them "faced the music" of his loss, and sold them on their merits. The pair was divided and each stamp sold by the present vendor simply as a fine used specimen, and at but a moderate advance over a postmarked copy. (I will refer later on to this point.) Now this pair, as I believe, was offered to me at a very big price at the Philatelic Congress in Cologne in June, 1896, by a well-known dealer, and declined by me as being undoubtedly cleaned.

M. Langhans then relates that in reply to an advertisement of his the other pair was recently offered to him by a Lucerne dealer for £116. In conjunction with another collector, they were critically examined and pronounced washed by him, and he subsequently sent the stamps to the Germania Ring, who took an enlarged photograph, which is reproduced with his article, and clearly shows that ink-stains have been removed. The dealer from whom M. Langhans received the stamps showed him an

* I think I may fairly say the same as regards my own collection of unused and all those shown at Geneva. My modesty precludes my giving the actual comparison, but the paucity of fine unused Cantonals was a great source of surprise to the numerous English visitors at the Exhibition.—M. P. C.

official declaration from M. Hauser, as expert of the United Swiss Societies, that these stamps were genuine and unused! It is only fair to say that M. Hauser states that he himself paid £108 for them, and there is naturally no evidence forthcoming as to how and when they were cleaned. At the same time the fact that M. Hauser exhibited a large number of stamps at Geneva that were cleaned, and of crosses that were doubtful, is significant; nor can I express any surprise that he has retired from his position as expert to the Swiss Societies. The 2½ c. Poste Locale, without frame, may be regarded as practically an unintentionally issued or transitional stamp, whose existence was perforce of the shortest duration (see the article by Mr. O. Pfenninger in the *London Philatelist* of December last, pages 308–11), and it is extremely unlikely that any copy exists really unused, *i.e.*, as issued with original gum, although a specimen or two *may* have escaped obliteration.

The lesson to be derived from the foregoing is too palpable to need much elaboration at my hands, but in these days, when enormous prices are asked for unused stamps, it is well to put collectors on their guard not to pay big prices when there is any possible doubt. The interests of the now numerous class of collectors of unused stamps are so great that an international society might well be formed to act on mutually protective lines. Such a society, with an honorary agent in each country, might well be created with but a normal subscription, but with a rigorous examination of the credentials of each applicant. Much co-operative help between collectors—and dealers—might be given and received with regard to cleaned stamps, reprints, gum, condition, etc. I am for one quite ready to co-operate with such gentlemen for our mutual protection, and invite communications hereon from any collector or dealer who may share my views.

Referring to the Swiss cleaned stamps, it should be borne in mind that these Orts Post and Poste Locale are (excepting the shield in red, which is a strong colour) black on white impressions, and consequently do not suffer in shade as do most stamps cleaned by acids or otherwise washed. If the obliteration was made by a soft pen it is probable that the ink stains could be removed without any other change than a whitening of the paper, and in such cases, notably for the making-up of plates, they are in my judgment far preferable to heavily cancelled or soiled used copies. The addition of false gum is of course to be deplored, but the stamps are so rare really unused that a collector may well insert them in his collection under the head of *proxime accessit!* If, however, a stamp of this class is worth, say, 15s. used and as many pounds unused, a fair estimate of the value of the cleaned class would be far nearer the former figure than the latter. The stamps of the Poste Locale, and other black, red, and white Swiss, to be really unused, must have the true gum on the reverse —crinkly in the earliest issues—and have a slightly yellowish or *toned* hue on the face.

British Railway Letter Stamps.

A Paper read before the Brighton Philatelic Society on December 6th, 1898.

By C. F. DENDY MARSHALL.

NOTWITHSTANDING the able defences of these stamps which have been put forward by various well-known Philatelists from time to time, there are still to be found in the highest places sceptics as to their character. Some make it a matter of conscience, partly from a spirit of conservatism, partly from their exceeding care lest the purity of Philately should be sullied by the introduction of anything undesirable, and one cannot be too careful in these days of picture post cards, hospital labels, and matchbox covers.

There is another section, one I am inclined to think rather a considerable one, who are almost persuaded but refuse to be convinced, because they fear that in beginning now they will be unable to vie in completeness with those collectors who got in at the ground-floor, to borrow a Stock Exchange metaphor. To the first section, who may be called the conscientious objectors, I address the following considerations.

Firstly, it is unnecessary to base an elaborate argument on a lengthy extract from the *Postal Guide* or an Act of Parliament, because no stronger plea can be found in their favour than the inscription on the stamps themselves, in which the twopence is described as a "Fee for conveyance of single post letters by railway." To my mind this is precisely the same thing as if they had said, "*To frank letters sent by train.*" Yet in this case no doubt could have been raised as to their legitimacy. That this inscription was inspired by the Post Office is evident from the fact that it appears on them all. It seems to have only one possible interpretation, namely, that the Railway stamp *completely* franks the letter while travelling on the railway. What could be more natural? In the case given in the *Postal Guide*, when a letter is addressed to a station "to be called for" there can be no alternative but to regard the penny stamp as a tax paid to the Post Office, in consideration of the fact that the Postmaster-General has waived his privilege of conveying every letter for which carriage is paid. In the other case, where the letter is posted on arrival, I submit the character of the penny stamp remains unaltered, but as an act of grace the Post Office undertakes to deliver the letter at the end of its journey without further charge, because under the circumstances it could not very well refuse to do so.

Secondly, since the railway companies, in carrying such letters, "act solely as agents . . . of the Postmaster-General" (I am quoting from the *Postal Guide*) for the particular purpose of this transaction, they must be considered part of the machinery of the Post Office.

So much for the conservatism which militates against the acceptance of these stamps. The other feeling, to which I have already alluded, also

stands in their way to some extent, namely, the fear lest it is the thin edge of the wedge, and that if they admit these into their collections they will be placed in a similar dilemma later with regard to Railway Parcel and Newspaper stamps. No greater mistake than this could possibly be made. The gulf between the letter stamps and the rest is one that can never be bridged over, because the others have no connection with the Post Office. I need not spend much time over that section of the community who hesitate to begin now for fear that the day for bargains is past; I will merely tell them that in my opinion this branch of our science is but in its infancy, that there is still plenty of opportunity to make a fine collection at a moderate cost, and remind them that very few Philatelists can claim to have commenced their collections at the time the stamps were first issued and carried them on uninterruptedly to the present day, whatever countries they affect.

There is one other point; the lists published by Mr. L'Estrange Ewen, though most painstaking and accurate, are doubtless somewhat alarming to a beginner, so I append a shorter list, which will, I think, be found easier to work with at first, and of course a collection can at any time be expanded if it is desired to specialise in detail.

This list includes all prominent varieties, without separating the different printings where there is no great variation.

A Short Reference List of Railway Letter Stamps.

I. ENGLAND.

Aylesbury & Buckingham R.
Cheshire Lines Committee.
Cleator & Workington Junc. R.
Cockermouth, K. & P. R.: dark and pale.
Colne Valley R.
East & West Junc. R.
Eastern & Midlands R.
East London R.: shades.
The Furness Rys.
The Furness Ry.: with and without control No.
Garstang & Knot End R.
G. E. R.: lithographed and engraved.
G. N. R.: perf. 11½ and 10.
G. W. R.: lithographed and engraved.
Hull and Barnsley R.
Isle of Wight R.*
Isle of Wight Central R.†
L. & Y. R.: with and without control No.
L. D. & E. C. R.
L. & N. W. R.: shades.
L. & S. W. R.: shades; perf. about 11½ and 10.
L. B. & S. C. R.: shades; perf. about 11½ and 10.
L. C. & D. R.: shades; imperf., perf. 11½ and 10½.
L. T. & S. R.
M. S. & L. R.
G. C. R.
Macclesfield Committee.
N. Wales & L. Com.: shades
Sheffield & Mid. Com.
Manchester, S. J. & A. R.: shades.
Maryport & Carlisle R.: shades.
Metropolitan R.: shades.
Midland R.: shades; perf. 10 and 11.
Midland & G. N. Jt. R.
Midland & S. W. Junc. R.
Northampton & B. J. R.: shades.
N. E. R.: red and green (shades).
N. London R.: rouletted and perf.
N. Staffs R.: two types (shades).
Severn & Wye & Severn Bridge R.
Severn & Wye J. R.: lithographed and engraved.
Somerset & Dorset R.
S. E. R.: two types, the latter rouletted and perf.
Southwold R.
W. Lancs. R.
Wrexham, Mold & C. Q. R.

* Issued January, 1899.

† Issued March, 1899.

II. WALES.

Barry Dock & Ry.
Barry R.: shades.
Brecon & Merthyr R.
Cambrian R.: shades; perf. 12½ and 11½.
Manchester & Milford R.
Neath & Brecon R.: two types.
North Pembroke & F. R.
Pembroke & Tenby R.
Rhondda & Swansea Bay R.
Rhymney R.
Taff Vale R.

III. SCOTLAND.

Ayrshire & Wigtownshire R.
Caledonian R.: shades.
City of Glasgow Union R.
Dundee & Arbroath R.
Glasgow & S. W. R.: shades.
G. Barrhead & K. R.: shades.
G. N. of Scotland R.: shades.
Highland R.
N. B. R.: shades.
Portpatrick & Girvan J. R.
Portpatrick & Wigtownshire R.

IV. IRELAND.

Ballycastle R.: shades.
Belfast & Co. Down R.: shades.
Belfast & N. C. R.: shades.
Castlederg & V. Bridge R.
Cavan, Leitrim & R. R.
Clogher Valley Tramway.
Clogher Valley Railway.
Cork & Macroom: blue and green.
Cork, Bandon & S. C. R.: two types.
Cork, Blackrock & P. R.
Donegal R.: two types.
Dublin, Wicklow & W. R.
Dundalk, N. & G. R.
Finn Valley R.
Finn Valley & W. Donegal.
G. N. R. of Ireland: shades.
G. S. & W. R.
Kanturk & Newmarket R.
Londonderry & L. S. R.: 1d., blue; 2d., red.
Midland G. W. R.
Sligo, Leitrim & N. C. R.
Tralee & Dingle R.
Waterford & Cent. I. R.: green; brown.
W. & Limerick R.: shades.
W. L. & W. R.: shades.
Waterford & Tramore R.
W. D. & L. R.: shades.
West Clare R.

International Philatelic Exhibition,

MANCHESTER, 1899.



THE design of the medals has been chosen and a wax proof received from the makers, an illustration of which is given herewith. The medals are 1¾ inches in diameter, and the gold ones will be 18 carat. The exhibitor's name and the class in which the particular medal is awarded will be engraved round the rim, similar to the English crown pieces.

Exhibition stamps have been issued, which are intended to make the Exhibition widely known, and to keep the date of the opening fresh in the memory of the public.



At the executive meeting held on March 15th the following well-known Philatelists were appointed to act as

JUDGES:

Mr. E. D. Bacon, London.
M. Jules Bernichon, Paris.
Mr. R. Breitfuss, St. Petersburg.
Mr. M. P. Castle, J.P., Brighton.
Dr. Emilio Diena, Rome.
Major E. B. Evans, R.A., London.
Dr. Vedel, Copenhagen.

The Committee feel that they are exceptionally fortunate in having received the consent of these eminent Philatelists to act as judges; they form a body international in character, and are in the highest sense individually representative of the best traditions of Philately in their respective countries.

Tickets for the Exhibition are now ready. They take the form of a souvenir card, and are as follows:—

Subscriber's ticket (not transferable), one guinea, entitling holder, in addition to admission to the Exhibition, to attend all ceremonies (including the dinner, subject to paying therefor). The list of subscribers will be printed in the catalogue.

Season tickets (not transferable), one guinea, which carry with them five single admission tickets, entitle the holder and lady to admission, and to attend ceremonies (except the dinner). The holders of these tickets will not be deemed to be subscribers, and their names will not appear in the official catalogue.

Single admission tickets, one shilling each, including catalogue and admission, but not available for the opening or other ceremonies.

The Advertising Committee desire to call the attention of intending advertisers to the circular already issued, the terms of which will be strictly adhered to. Practically all space facing reading-matter is already bespoken.

The following Special Medals have been accepted since the last report:—

Nederlandsche Vereinigung van Postzegelverzamelaars (Amsterdam).—A Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a Dutchman.

Societa Filatelica (Lombarda).—A Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit in Class II. of Italian States.

Ernst Stock (Berlin).—One Gold and one Silver Medal for two best exhibits of unused German States regard being paid to the pristine beauty of the specimens exhibited, as well as to their rarity.

Société Française de Timbrologie.—One Silver Medal for the best collection of France or Colonies.

Messrs. Butler Bros.—One Bronze Medal for the best collection of not less than 2000 varieties made by a boy or girl under 16 and attending school.

In view of the number of promises of support in the nature of exhibits (for which the Committee desire to express their thanks), it has been found advisable, in view of the future calls in this direction which the Committee anticipate being made before May 1st, to approach the Council of the City Art Gallery for the use of another gallery in addition to the four already arranged for. As a result another room, 77 × 29 feet, has been engaged.

The Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that although the success of the Exhibition, so far as exhibits of the highest degree of excellence are concerned, has for some time now been an assured fact, yet they desire to receive as many more exhibits as possible, seeing the large number—about 160—of medals offered for competition.

The competition in Europeans (except German States, more exhibits of which are required) and South America promises to be keen and extremely interesting. Having regard to the number of medals offered for Colonials (especially West Indies) and North America, the competition wants strengthening by many more entries. The time to elapse between now and May 1st, together with this note, will, it is hoped, remedy this. This being perhaps the last available opportunity, I wish to call renewed attention to the special facilities offered in the Prospectus to collectors of showing certain countries omitting the earlier and usually rarer stamps. This is entirely a new experiment in exhibitions, and collectors ought not to allow the opportunity thus afforded to slip by.

The Committee desire to express their hearty thanks to the Philatelic Press at home and abroad for the kind notices which have appeared concerning the Exhibition.

All entries close on May 1st, 1899.

G. Fred. H. Gibson, *Hon. Secretary.*

2 Cooper Street, Manchester.

Philatelic Notes.

Note.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make these columns of a varied and interesting nature.*

THE 1867 ISSUE OF HOLLAND.

The Dutch stamps have formed the subject of several monographs latterly, and attention has been most deservedly drawn to the honest issues of a straightforward country. The excellent paper written

by Mr. Gordon Smith, and published last year in the *Monthly Journal*, made an exhaustive study of the various perforations, and reduced them to something like a system, where finality was at least possible. M. Moens, in his articles hereon (see *Timbre-Poste*), mentions the varying sizes of the perforations generally known as small and large holes, the differences therein being very marked, and with a lordly disdain of such trifles dismisses them as the result of the imperfect piercing of many sheets at one time by the perforating machines, in which the top ones obviously received the brunt of the attack. This may be so, but the difference in the sizes of these holes is remarkably evident, nor have we found the intermediate sizes which would result from the forenamed action of the perforating machine. M. Moens treats very freely of all the methods of production, essays, trials, and proofs, and gives *in extenso* many of the official decrees. The result of these several articles, coupled with the researches of the Dutch Philatelic Society, should result in the practically complete Philatelic history of the Netherlands.

Of all the issues, the third—that of 1867—has perhaps yielded the greatest field of interest in the result of recent discoveries. The two types and the curious admixture of perforations will be found a perennial source of research to the collectors, and although the 15 c., perf. $10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, was first recorded from the writer's collection, and strenuous efforts have been made to secure all possible varieties, it appears from M. Moens' list that there are several yet to be acquired. In view of the interest herein we append a list of the several types and printings, adopting the dates given by M. Moens.

Date of Issue.	Type.	Perf.	Values.
October 1, 1867 . .	I. ...	$12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ ...	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50 c.
July 27, 1868 . . .	II. ...	„ ...	5, 10, 20 c.
About end 1869 . .	I. ...	$10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ ...	10, 15 c.
July to end 1869 . .	II. ..	„ ...	5, 10, 20 c.
March, 1869 (5 and 10 c.) to	I. ...	13, $13\frac{1}{2}$, 14, compound ...	5, 15 c.
March, 1871 . . .	II. ...	„ ...	5, 10, 15, 20 c.
June to Dec., 1871 .	II.	... 14 (blued paper) ...	5, 10, 15, 20 c.
March, 1872 . . .	II. ...	$12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ ...	15, 25, 50 c.
„ . . .	II. ...	14 ...	25 c.

The 15 c. of March, 1872, has not been hitherto seen in this country, and several of the other varieties are extremely rare, even in used condition.

DISCOVERIES: TRANSVAAL.

MR. NANKIVELL informs us that he has recently secured a copy of the 3d., mauve, on green paper, with Roman VR inverted. This variety has never been chronicled. The Tapling Collection contains two copies with the Italic VR, but no copy of the Roman.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA: THE 1898 PROVISIONAL ISSUE.*

A FRESH field for African specialists is opened up by the recent "Internal Postage" provisional stamps, which can be "plated" by the enthusiastic Philatelist. Mention has already been made in our columns of a more or less useful method of protection against forgery which was adopted in the case of these provisionals, viz., impressions from uninked type were applied to the backs of the stamps while in the complete sheet. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., having received a sheet of these stamps, forwarded the same for our inspection; and we have spent some time endeavouring to decipher the somewhat faint impressions on the back.

The sheet consists of two panes of 30 stamps each, and it will be seen that each pane is impressed with the same type, which, as far as the numbers go, has been systematically applied, as, starting from the top right-hand side, they run from 1 to 15, and again, from the lower right-hand side, from 16 to 30. The letters appear to have no significance at all, and in some cases are not distinguishable.

We append a plan of the sheet, showing the numbers and letters which we have been able to decipher.

15	14	13	12	XA	10	9	F	7	6	F	4	3	2	1
K		D	WX	11	2	C	S	H	P	5		X	G	E

30	XQ	28	27	2	25	24	23	S	21	T	2	Q	17	16
S	29	FA	B	26	J	A	N	22	WP	20	19	18	E	S

No letters could be deciphered on either numbers 4 or 14.

It may be well to further mention that all the dividing lines (vertical) are double. The entire sheet also was obliterated with a violet-brown postmark of parallel bars, and had apparently never been gummed.

DIE I. OF THE KASHMIR STAMPS.

MR. D. P. MASSON, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Philatelic Society of India, is the author of a series of articles upon the Kashmir stamps that have latterly been in course of appearance in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, and their author has evidently given much study to the quaint-looking stamps of this country, fortified by the acquisition of many specimens upon the original covers and by enquiries made in the cities of their origin. In considering the varieties of the circular stamps, Mr. Masson, some months since, promulgated the startling theory that the type of Die I. with the well-known larger circles was not, in his opinion, genuine, stating that he had never seen one on original cover. This *dictum* was naturally received with a certain amount of incredulity in this and other European countries, where these stamps have for many years been always accepted and highly prized as being among the most difficult of Philatelic acquisition. In the

* We are not quite sure as to the exact date of issue of this stamp. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, in their new catalogue (1899), give it as July, 1898. We should be loth to discredit any information given in this excellent work; but as the accompanying illustration, from an original specimen, is dated *April 1st* (ominous date!), 1898, we think further evidence hereon is desirable in the sacred interests of truth!—ED

February number of the forenamed journal Mr. Masson returns to the charge, and reiterates it in such an emphatic manner that, failing refutation, it must shake collectors' faith in these stamps. Mr. Masson states that he has now examined both a used and an unused copy of the half anna of Die I., specimens that, we gather, were sent for his inspection by Major Evans, and also a specimen of the 1 anna. The grounds given for this condemnation are as follows:—

1. The fact that the central characters occupy exactly similar positions on each die.

2. The extreme roughness of Die I. as compared with Die II.—the characters representing the word "Kashmir" being notably malformed, and quite unlike the true Nagri letters.

3. The postmark, which is assumed to represent the brick obliteration of the Srinagar Post Office, but instead of being "from the well-known circular seal" the colour is smudged over the greater part of the face of the stamp.

Mr. Masson asserts that it is simply impossible that such dies could have been used in a country where at the time "seal-cutting had attained the excellence of a fine art." We have seen, and indeed possess, most artistic examples of Kashmir art, such as metal-work, etc., but must confess that we have never seen much high art in any of the stamps emanating from that country.

The editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, Mr. Stewart-Wilson, also states that on a recent visit to Jummoo the State officials were much amused at the idea of such a die ever being accepted in their country, and he also considers it quite beyond the region of dispute that the so-called Die I. is a forgery pure and simple made in Europe.

These are weighty words, and assuredly call for discussion and consideration by the holders of first issue Kashmir. The late T. K. Tapling and Gilbert Harrison lived and died in the good faith as to this issue, and there are doubtless many important collectors hereof who will break a lance in their favour.

Occasional Notes.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

OWING to the intervention of the Easter holidays, we are desired by the Hon. Sec., Mr. J. A. Tilleard, to call attention to the fact that the next meeting of the Society will be held on Friday, April 7th, when we are informed that a visitor, Mr. Forbes, will read a paper on "The Stamps of Persia."

THE UNITED STATES PERIODICALS—REPRINTED.

ADVICES in the American Philatelic journals state that these stamps have not as yet been put on sale, but it seems generally anticipated that there will be a decided rush for them when the auspicious moment

arrives. The paragraph in the official announcement of the intended sale is a remarkable up-to-date acknowledgment of modern Philatelic requirements. *Mekeel's Weekly* gives it as under:—

"The Department, however, cannot require postmasters to segregate for the accommodation of purchasers marginal strips of stamps bearing plate numbers; nor can any guarantee be given that the stamps shall be perfectly 'centered.'"

As we go to press we read in the *A. J. P.* of March 1st:—

"The sets of Newspaper and Periodical stamps were finally placed on sale on Saturday, February 25th, and we are informed that there was an enormous rush for them. One of our friends has shown us a set which was sold at the New York Post Office, and the suspicions which we expressed in the article contained in another portion of this number are confirmed. The set shown to us had originals of the 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 c., $2 and $50, and reprints of the $5, $10, $20, and $100 stamps. The reprints are easily distinguished from the originals by the difference in colour and the extreme whiteness of the gum and paper.

"The colours of the original stamps of the values referred to are as follows:—

"$5, blue.
$10, green.
$20, grey-violet.
$100, reddish purple.

"The colours of the reprints are as follows:—

"$5, Prussian blue.
$10, grey-green.
$20, cold grey-lilac.
$100, bluish purple.

"Those who may by chance be successful in obtaining originals in their sets will indeed be fortunate, as we have no doubt that the larger part of the stock of the values referred to are reprints, and not the originals."

KOHL'S CATALOGUE OF RARITIES.

HERR PAUL KOHL, of Chemnitz, who is well known as one of the most prominent dealers of the Continent, has issued, in addition to his general catalogue, a price list containing the prices at which he is willing to sell many very rare stamps, quotations that are generally eagerly studied by actual holder or would-be acquirer. The Baden 9 kr., green, error, at £250, and Saxony ½ gr., blue, error, at £100, seem fairly respectable prices for the Fatherland! There are, however, many rare and fairly priced stamps.

JUDGE LINDENBERG.

IN addition to the retirement from the Berlin Philatelic Club announced in our last number, we learn with surprise and regret that Judge Lindenberg is also severing his connection with the Berlin Postal Museum, and that he will definitely retire therefrom on the 1st of April next. Although Herr Lindenberg is not of a specially robust nature he is still in the prime of life, and we can hardly imagine that either the state of his health or his age can in any way be held accountable for his retire-

ment. In the interests of all Philatelists in Germany it is earnestly to be hoped that some method of avoiding his retirement may be attained. The creation of the celebrated Berlin Philatelic Collection and Postal Museum is practically the result of the unwearied labours and scientific studies of Judge Lindenberg alone, and the removal of the guiding hand of the master will be regarded through German Philatelic circles as nothing short of a calamity.

THE PAUWELS COLLECTION.

THE name of l'Eglise which appeared in the collection of the late Mr. Pauwels, referred to last month, has given rise to some curiosity as to its origin. Judge Philbrick writes that he has never heard of it, while Mr. Westoby had dealings with him upon many occasions, and informs us that l'Eglise was a dealer in a fair way of business at Dunkerque, and that he had at that time transactions with several correspondents in this country. Mr. Pauwels, being a Belgian by birth, frequently visited his native land and its neighbouring countries, hence nothing is more likely than purchases in Dunkerque—in Havre he was a customer of Chandellier. It is interesting to hear that the Mauritius one shilling, perforated, in the collection first came to Mr. Philbrick in the Stainforth Collection, and thence into that of Mr. Pauwels. "From information received" we are confident that the "crinkly" gum, or *gomme écaillée* —to use the more elegant French idiom—on the Geneva envelope-adhesive is not original but acquired, and on others of the early Swiss stamps it was evidently separately applied by a practised hand! An excellent account of Mr. Pauwels will be found in that mine of Philatelic interest the *Stamp Collectors' Journal*, of November 1st, 1870.

ITALIAN PHILATELISTS.

LONDON has lately welcomed as visitors two of the best-known Philatelists from Italy—M. Vittoria Capanna, of Leghorn, a *persona grata* throughout Philatelic Europe, and M. Attilio Barocchi, of Venice, one of the most prominent Italian collectors, and whose name figured so prominently among the successful exhibitors at the Milan Exhibition. Both gentlemen were invited to attend the meeting of the London Philatelic Society on the 3rd of this month. M. Barocchi was at the last moment prevented from so doing, but availed himself of an invitation to visit the Vice-President at Brighton, where he was enabled to inspect the important section of Mr. Castle's collection that represents the Italian States. M. Barocchi, fortunately, was travelling with a large portion of his collection by him, and an opportunity was thus afforded for inspection. As might be expected, the strongest portion of the collection is that consisting of the Italian Duchies, which are represented in two special separate collections respectively, unused and used. The 3 lire Tuscany, used with another value on piece of letter—a splendid specimen—is one of M. Barocchi's treasures, although he has it also unused, a less fine specimen. All the other values of

Tuscany are to the fore unused, embracing probably between 100 and 150 *unused* specimens, all fine—a task whose repetition would be found very difficult to-day. The Naples arms and cross, both fine, and the Parma second issue (except the 25 c., brown), the sky-blue 40 c. Modena, are all present in the collection unused, while the used collection includes a large array of strips of stamps and special obliterations. In Lombardy the 45 c. in two or three papers, and in Austria the red and rose Mercuries, are noteworthy stamps, while in all other European countries M. Barocchi has a thoroughly representative lot; *e.g.*, in Moldavia he has all values, and the 54 and 108 also unused. The collection, taken as an entirety, is an important one that must have absorbed thousands of pounds, and that also represents a thorough and practical knowledge of European Philately. M. Barocchi is a keen student whose experience is at once displayed in his collection, and is of that select class who assuredly build up Philately in their own country.

MADAME NICOLAS.

WE are reminded by Judge Philbrick that the lady dealer's name referred to in our last number anent the Pauwels should read as above—*i.e.*, without any aspirations to an H! An interesting fact in connection herewith is related to us by Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, who states that the name of the Parisian dealer alluded to in our February number as having purchased the Lübeck remainders is, not as given in the German papers, Pelletran, but Pelletreau. Our correspondent writes hereon as follows, and we venture to think these links with the past are well put on record.

"You have not in your remarks on the Lübeck stamps got the name right. It was M. Pelletreau who bought the stationery business of M. Nicolas and the stamp business of Madame Nicolas, when they retired. I did not frequent the shop much after he bought it, for he began to mix his stamps, and on my expostulating with him, he said he got more profit out of the imitations! I saw the Lubeck purchase, but only bought one sheet, a 2 sch. showing the errors. They were not gummed, as the Post Office gummed them as they were wanted; a good thing in such a damp place as Lübeck. When the last lot of Philippines was cleared out of the Manilla Post Office and sent to a Greek in Paris—who *was* a Greek—there was a large cake of the 1854 issue, which could only be got apart in a bath."

STATISTICS OF ALL STAMPS ISSUED.

IN forwarding their new catalogue, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following interesting statistics as to the numbers of stamps issued to date:—

"The following calculations, which have never before been published, may be found interesting. The figures quoted refer to distinct varieties of postage stamps only,* and are exclusive of post cards, letter cards, stamped envelopes, or wrappers. The total number of all known varieties of postage stamps issued by all the Governments of the world up to the present time is 13,811. Of this number, 131 have

* As these calculations only include, as stated, leading or pronounced varieties, the number would be probably sixfold were all the minor varieties of shade, paper, and type included.

been issued in Great Britain, and 3843 in the various British Colonies and Protectorates, leaving 9837 for the rest of the world; or, dividing the totals amongst the continents, Europe issued 3359, Asia 2571, Africa 2320, America 4656, and Oceania 905. Taking the countries separately, the most prolific is the United States, which heads the list with 287, followed by (curiously enough) Spain with 278, Salvador 272, and Uruguay and Shanghai with 215 each. Las Bela (Baluchistan), Poland, Tierra del Fuego and Wadhwan have each found a solitary specimen suffice for their postal needs, whilst Cordova, Crete, Formosa, Jhalawar, and New Hebrides have each been content with a pair. Two of the British Colonies have issued more varieties of stamps than the mother country, Victoria with 174, and Ceylon with 138.

THE NEW ISSUES OF 1898.

SOME interesting statistics of a year's new issues are supplied by M. Maury in a small catalogue, issued with *Le C. de T.-P.*, of the emissions for the year 1898. No fewer than 750 new stamps saw the light for the first time during this year, and these stamps were distributed as follows:—

Europe	49	stamps.
Asia	117	,,
Africa	271	,,
America	276	,,
Oceania	37	,,
	750	

This number is further subdivided by M. Maury as follows:—

Portugal and Colonies	251	stamps.
British Colonies	164	,,
France, Belgium, and Holland	9	,,
Various	224	,,
	648	

leaving 102 stamps to be accounted for presently. M. Maury distributes the total number appearing under "Various" as follows:—

Africa	18	stamps.
America	160	,,
Asia	25	,,
Oceania	1	,,
Europe	20	,,
	224	

Added to this number are the following quotations for the Republics of Central America and Hayti:—

Guatemala	31	stamps.
Nicaragua	29	,,
Hayti	24	,,
Salvador	20	,,
	104	

which approximately makes up the total of 750.

Portugal and Colonies	251	stamps.
France, Belgium, and Holland	9	,,
Various	224	,,
British Colonies	164	,,
Republics and Hayti	104	,,
	752	

Certainly the British Colonies are not the least offenders in the subject, but the abnormal number of Portuguese issues is evidence of this country's deliberate catering to the wants (?) of stamp collectors.

To purchase all the issues included in the above statistics at their face value would require a sum of £33.

Reviews.

MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & CO.'S CATALOGUE.*

THE pen of the reviewer of Catalogues is seldom idle, and we have yet another, and a distinctly fresh one, to bring to the notice of our readers. There has been much just lament of latter years as to the needs of the young or not advanced collector being overlooked in the clash of conflicting compendious Catalogues and inclusive Handbooks, and efforts have been made—notably in Mr. Westoby's *Stamps of Europe*—to present lists of stamps in a simplified manner that shall not act as a deterrent to the rising collector. We have much sympathy with this movement, for as the veterans drop down, their places must be filled by the younger recruits of the Philatelic army as we march in the future. The first thing is to interest the outsider, not to perplex him; to persuade him to walk into the parlour of the stamp collector before he is entangled in the webs of the Philatelist. We do not shut our eyes to the fact that Catalogue publishers are fairly human, and that hence their aspirations are not always altruistic. It is natural, perhaps, that one section should favour large accumulations of the varieties of *old* issues while another should equally recommend the wholesale absorption of *new* issues. Within an easily measurable distance the commencement of the new century will afford an admirable break between the opposing forces of the old and new collectors, and a new school may well arise who will take the twentieth century only.

The object of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s Catalogue is to cater wholly and solely for the younger and unscientific collector, and with this view all unimportant varieties are discarded. As stated in the preface, which is as lucid as it is sensible and modest, the editor states that "minor varieties

* *The Universal Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World*, edited by H. M. Gooch. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

of type, perforation, surcharges, etc., have been rigidly excluded," and that "mature consideration was given as to what should be omitted." The line of inclusion is drawn as follows: Imperforate, perforated, rouletted; watermarks (in British Colonies) Star, CC, and CA, and in other countries well-known or interesting varieties hereof. It will be seen that the task of due elimination is a most difficult one, and we think that Mr. Gooch has very successfully carried out his labours. The whole work bears the impress of careful and conscientious consideration of a very difficult classification, and we cordially congratulate him and the publishers on the production of a Catalogue that will be of the greatest value to the would-be student of Philately. Mr. H. M. Gooch, who is well known to the readers of this journal as associated in its direction, has fairly won his spurs as a Philatelic author, and we have much pleasure both in testifying to the ability he has displayed, and in recommending the new Catalogue as a *vade mecum* to that very numerous class of collectors who do not wish to plunge too deeply into the subject. It will be found on examination that most of the prominent varieties are included and simplified; as it is, the Catalogue embraces over 300 pages. In some instances we think the line of exclusion has been too rigorously drawn, *e.g.*, in the leaving out of the Belgian watermark LL and of the Wurtemberg silk threads, which are as collectible, even for the young collector, as those of Spain 1855 and 1856, which *are* included. In the case of Newfoundland it is also apparently misleading to find only "vermilion" quoted, as the 2d. thus unused seems very cheap at 30s.! The few similar instances that occur can, however, be readily corrected in the subsequent editions, while there is a vast amount of information—collated, as avowed, from all sources—that will be very useful to the young collector. The publishers state that great attention has been given to the question of prices particularly, every stamp being priced, "as the general collector likes, with the specialist, to have a peep behind the scenes into the values of rare stamps." Either class would probably be glad to buy the first issue of Roumanian 27, 54, and 108 p. for £80 the lot *unused*. The prices of the early Hawaiian, Switzerland, and British Guianas want levelling up. The general collector, however, is not likely to encounter these stamps in shoals, so no great harm is done!

The Catalogue is accompanied by illustrations of all the types in a reduced size that as a general rule are clear and distinct, and preferable to many of those existing in the older works of this nature. The typography is excellent—clear, large, and legible—while in size, paper, and general appearance the Catalogue has all the essential requisites. Although a work of this nature does not appeal so directly to the readers of the *London Philatelist* as those of a more advanced nature, we feel constrained to give it a high meed of praise, for we consider its educational advantages to the young collector as being in furtherance of the best interests of Philately, and we congratulate both editor and publisher upon their completion of a useful and acceptable aid to collecting.

THE OBLITERATIONS OF AUSTRO-HUNGARY.*

Herr H. Kropf has long occupied a very prominent position in Austrian Philately, and it would be expected that a work emanating from so advanced a student should be at once comprehensive and scientific. In both these and other respects this important book leaves nothing to be desired, the whole history and delineation of the various systems of obliteration adopted by the Dual Empire and its quondam provinces being most exhaustively described. Some idea of the great amount of labour involved in the preparation of this volume may be inferred from the fact that it contains 71 plates of illustrations of postmarks, of which 959 varieties are reproduced in *facsimile*, with 160 pages of accompanying text.

In the introduction Herr Kropf alludes to the gigantic strides made of late years in specialising, and states that the Austrian Empire has fully shared therein, while he justly calls attention to the value of obliterations in sometimes determining the authenticity of a stamp (Mercuries to wit!). The fact that obliterations being widely collected will, in many cases, cause them to increase in value and hence to be imitated, is in the author's opinion quite sufficient justification for the issue of such a work. To the student of Austrian stamps it will be invaluable, and in fact every Philatelic library of any pretensions should include this book.

The first portion deals with the postmarks of Austria and Hungary, including those used on the Steamship Companies and in the Austrian Post Offices abroad, while the second part treats of the obliterations of the provinces of Lombardo-Venetia (that are now portions of the Italian kingdom), many of which are of quaint and picturesque designs. The names of Padua, Vicenza, Verona, and Venice, with many other ceded Lombardy towns, must afford a most interesting field of collection to both Austrian and Italian Philatelists, all of whom should receive this work with the greatest satisfaction. The book is beautifully printed on surfaced paper, with appropriate binding, and reflects the greatest credit upon the very excellent Philatelist whose handiwork it is. The stamps of the Austro-Hungarian group are of a high order of interest, and the appearance of Herr Kropf's work cannot fail to stimulate the rapidly increasing approval of collectors.

* *The Obliterations of the Stamps of Austro-Hungary and Lombardo-Venetia*, by H. KROPF. Office of the *Austrian Philatelist*, Weinberge, Prague, Bohemia.

HISTORY OF THE POSTAL ISSUES OF HAWAII.†

This is a comprehensive and well-written history of the Hawaiian issues from 1851 to date. The author, Major Brewster C. Kenyon, has made a study of these stamps during twenty years past, of which the present work is the outcome. Complete plates of the early type-set "Hawaiian Postage" and "Interisland" provisionals are shown, and in the letterpress the distinguishing features of the originals and reprints are fully discussed. The work is illustrated with eight process plates and full-page frontispiece of the author.

† *History of the Postal Issues of Hawaii.* Compiled by BREWSTER C. KENYON. Published by A. W Dunning, Newton, Mass., U.S.A.

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.—A 2d. stamp in the type of the 1892 issue is to be issued shortly in order to provide for double-rate letters directed to the countries participating in the Imperial Penny Postage Union.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—In our remarks last month we confused the two numbers quoted. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. point out that the second quantity of 23,901 "tokens" refers to the blue and red "Internal Postage" provisional. Of this stamp none were sold in unused condition.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that the 5 c. envelopes on blue as well as white paper have been surcharged "Two Cents" in one line of sans-serif capitals. These are the envelopes which in our last issue were described in error as emanating from Mauritius.

The surcharge applied to the envelopes has also commenced its rounds on the adhesives. We have the 10 c. Jubilee issue disfigured, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., from whom we have received the specimen, inform us that they believe the 15 c. has been treated in a like manner.

Envelopes. 5 c., grey-blue on white; surch. black.
5 c. „ blue „
Adhesive. 2 c. on 10 c., red and black; surcharge black.

CANADA.—American contemporaries continue to discuss the merits and demerits of the Imperial penny stamp, which we understand has been issued to the number of sixteen millions. The latest change appears to be a return to the original lavender seas, although the whole question is open to adjustment from official sources. The *Chicago Tribune* supplies the stanza of Sir Lewis Morris' poem, entitled "A Song of the Empire," from which the motto appearing on the stamp was taken. It may not be uninteresting to reproduce this, although it is an "old issue":—

"We love not war, but only peace,
Yet never shall our England's power decrease!
Whoever guides our helm of state,
Let a men know it, England shall be great!
We hold a vaster Empire than has been!
Nigh half the race of man is subject to our Queen!"
&c., &c.

Various accounts are given of the new 2 c. envelopes, which have been apparently as liable to changes as the "XMAS" stamp. The first envelope issued bore a 2 c. stamp in purple the colour of the then current adhesive of this value but when the inland rate was reduced to 2 c. the violet envelopes were withdrawn and the stamp was printed in *red*

Envelopes. 2 c., violet on white.
2 c., red „

CYPRUS.—Changes are impending in this Colony. It is reported that a new set in English currency is to be issued shortly.

GIBRALTAR.—Our contemporaries are just waking to the realities of the blue, or indigo, surcharge "Morocco Agencies" on certain values of the cents issue, which was first noted by us in October last. We then mentioned having seen the 50 c. with this surcharge The *M. J.* adds the 1 peseta value and we now give formal chronicle.

Adhesives. 50 c., purple; indigo surcharge.
1 p., bistre and blue „

GREAT BRITAIN.—*Railway Letter Fee Stamps.*—Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall and Mr. Earl have both written to inform us that the Isle of Wight Central Railway is now using a green stamp, rouletted, and printed in sheets of 12 with imprint "Mc Corquodale & Co." The Isle of Wight Railway is also using a similar stamp.

INDIA.—Two correspondents—Messrs. W. Corfield and L. L. R. Hausburg—have forwarded us specimens of the new 3 pies stamp, which we illustrate herewith. The *P. J. of India* states that the stamp has been overprinted "On H.M.S.," wmk. Star, perf. 14.

Adhesive. 3 pies, rose.
Service Adhesive. 3 pies, rose; surcharge black.



INDIAN NATIVE STATES.—*Nepaul.*—Some Philatelic changes have taken place recently in this State, which has preserved one unpretending design since 1887.

The *P. J. of India* states:—

"Hitherto no charge has been made for postage on letters despatched to the Maharaja's camp while he is on tour in the interior, or from his camp to the capital. The result of this has been an increasing weight of mails between his Highness's camp and Khatmandu, and a decreasing speed in the transit. In order to reduce weight by the exclusion of unnecessary mail matter a half anna stamp has been introduced."

The new stamps, which our contemporary illustrates, are printed in black on native wove paper. The device is very indistinct, but appears to represent a bow and arrow at the top, and a couple of *kukris* (or Ghoorkha knives) curved at the base. Native inscriptions at top and base.

Adhesive. ½ a., black on brownish; imperf.

Sirmoor.—This State has entered the new issue field with some high values expressly for Philatelic needs. The issue of new values in two designs concurrently is unique in speculative impositions, and yet we have new 3 as., 4 as., 8 as., and 1 rupee values in two separate designs, the Rajah's head issue and the oblong stamps with the elephant thereon. The new stamps bear the effigy of the *present* Rajah; there are therefore three distinct designs in use for Sirmoor!

Adhesives. 3 as., pale green.
4 as., yellow-green.
8 as., blue.
1 r., red.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that the 2½d. and 7d. stamps were withdrawn from circulation in January last, and these values were to be surcharged 1d. and 2d. respectively We withhold chronicle pending sight of these new provisionals.

MALTA.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us four of the new stamps alluded to last month, all of decidedly "Philatelic catering" appearance, of meretricious designs and inferior execution. From the illustrations given herewith it will be gathered that the new stamps are assuredly no improvement on the existing set. Comparison between the stately 5s stamp and the 10s. monstrosity herewith depicted renders the latter odious indeed. The subject is apparently the escape of St. Paul from shipwreck off the island of Melita. The two lower values are on paper with watermark Crown CA, the two high values Crown CC, perf. 14.

Adhesives. 4½d., brown.
5d., vermilion.
2s. 6d., sage-green.
10s., indigo.









MAURITIUS.—This Colony appears to have left the ranks of virtue, and to have joined the somewhat general Colonial declension

which at the present moment is so marked. This downward movement is repeatedly evidenced in this present number of the *London Philatelist*, and appearances point to the ultimate Philatelic supremacy of countries which cater for the public and not the collector. We learn from the *M. J.* that the 36 c. commemorative stamp has been divided vertically by perforation for use as 18 c. stamps, and that some more celebration stamps are in preparation of local manufacture. Portugal and her Colonial products will yet find a rival out of the "vaster empire"!

We further learn that the commemorative issue to which we have referred is to celebrate the bi-centennial of M. Mahe de la Bourdonnais. It is strange that we should have to go to France for an explanation of this gentleman's good deeds which make him the subject for this issue; but we learn from *Le C. de T.-P.* that—

"He was governor of the Isle of France, later called Mauritius, at the period when Dupleix, that veritable political genius, attempted to conquer India for his country, the Isle of France being particularly valuable as a naval, military, and commercial base on the route to India.

"Mahe de la Bourdonnais, who distinguished himself as executive as well as sailor, defeated the English several times, but found himself, concerning the surrender of some point, at odds with Dupleix, who accused him of treason. De la Bourdonnais was arrested and confined in the Bastille, where he remained for four years, in spite of the efforts of his numerous partisans. When Louis XV. abandoned Dupleix and foolishly ceded India to England, de la Bourdonnais was declared innocent, and restored to liberty and the possession of his fortune, which was considerable; he died soon after. Dupleix, about the same time, returned to France, ruined and in despair."

Thus the portrait of Bourdonnais is to figure on the stamps of Mauritius.

QUEENSLAND.—The serrated perforation described last month was evidently so unsatisfactory that the sheets were passed through the perforating machine. Mr. Hadlow has received specimens showing both perforations—a curious combination.

Mr. Ley informs us that the 4d., yellow, stamp with numerals of value in all four corners has been issued, and the *Australian Philatelist* announces the appearance of the 2½d. stamp in deep red on blue paper, similar to our current 2½d. adhesive.

We illustrate the new type of the ½d. value.



Adhesives. 1d., vermilion; *combination perf.*
2½d., deep red on blue.
4d., yellow.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Mr. J. W. Gillespie has shown us the 8 c., blue, stamp overprinted "4 cents," and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., in sending the same stamp, inform us that both colours of the 5 c. adhesive have received the same surcharge in black.

Adhesives. 4 c. on 5 c., brown.
4 c. on 5 c., blue.
4 c. on 8 c., blue.

Pahang.—The following is from the *M. J.*:—

"Our publishers were shown some time back what professed to be a provisional 2 c. stamp, formed from half of a 5 c. of the 1891 type, but were doubtful whether it was worthy of notice. We are now shown an envelope, postmarked 'Ulu Pahang, 20 Sep., 97,' bearing several of these provisionals, which have all the appearance of being authentic. With the exception that the stamps are divided diagonally, instead of vertically, these appear to have been issued in the same form as the '1d.' on half 6d. of Tobago. The sheets must have been divided into strips containing halves of adjoining stamps, and in the copies before us the upper half of each stamp is surcharged '*3 c.*' and the lower '*2 c.*,' with the original figure '5' crossed out. The surcharge is in MS., in *red*, and accompanied by initials. Possibly both 2 c. and 3 c. stamps ran short, and this plan was adopted to avoid complicating accounts by altering the value of the complete stamp. As we stated above, these look all right, but we should be glad of further information as to their character."

Adhesives. 2 c., in *red*, on ½ of 5 c., blue.
3 c. ,, ,, ,,

UGANDA.—We learn that the new stamps are not yet in postal use, although their existence has been Philatelically reported and illustrated for some time.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have discovered a curious error on the sheet of the halfpenny stamps; the first stamp in the bottom row has an "F" for the "E" of Penny. We also note what is surely a singular manner of denoting the 2½d. value, "2½ penny." Why not "2½ pence"?

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Mr. Ley informs us that the 2d. adhesive has appeared in orange, and further that the watermark has been altered. Whereas the Crown was placed above the letters CA, it now appears *between* them.

Adhesive. 2d., orange.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.—The 5 c. has changed from blue-green to bright yellow-green.

Adhesive. 5 c., yellow-green.

GREECE.—To the values mentioned last month as having been reprinted, Mr. W. H. Earl adds the 10, 25, and 40 l. imperforate, and the 10, 25, 40, and 50 l. perf. 11½. The 60 l. and 1 drachma values are expected shortly. Our correspondent has forwarded blocks of these new stamps for our inspection, from which we gather that the printing scarcely "recalls the fine Belgian impressions," but while not being fine, especially in the case of the 25 and 50 l. values, is finer than the Athens impressions; the colours of some values, as usual, show some variation.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—We have received a copy of the current 12 c. with the paper *blued* on the surface, possibly due to running of the rich colour in which this stamp is printed.

BRAZIL.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send some further surcharges on the newspaper stamps.

Adhesives. 20 on 10 r., ultramarine; surcharge blue.
50 on 20 r., green ,, ,,
100 ,, 50 r. ,, ,, red.
700 ,, 500 r., orange ,, green
700 ,, 500 r., green ,, black.

The *M. J.* adds:—

20 on 10 r., grey-blue; surcharge black.

CHILI.—The unpaid stamps have been supplemented by a 30 c. value.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 30 c., rose.



COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two values of the new design, one of which we have already chronicled on page 23. We illustrate the 5 c. value.

Adhesive
5 c., brown on salmon.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—The Government have decided that the bones of Christopher Columbus, which we thought were recently conveyed to Seville, really repose in the Cathedral at San Domingo. (Or perhaps they are a duplicate set!) These were apparently discovered in this sacred edifice in 1877, and are now to be reinterred in a costly tomb, towards the expenses of which stamp collectors will be invited to contribute. Stamps of the values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 c., 1 and 2 pesos, are to be in use between February 27th, 1899, and the same date in 1900, to the exclusion of all other stamps. The surplus from the sale of these stamps during the twelve months will be devoted to the cost of the tomb!

GUATEMALA.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. forward some additional surcharges to those we described in vol. vii. p. 275; these are:—

1 c. on 5 c., mauve; surch. red.
6 c. ,, ,, ,,

The following revenue stamps (long rectangular) have also been overprinted "Correos—Nacionales—value in figures—centavos" in four lines:—

1 c. on 10 c., blue-green; surch. red.
2 c. ,, 1 c., pink ,, black.
2 c. ,, 5 c., mauve ,, red.
2 c. ,, 10 c., blue-green ,, ,,
2 c. ,, 25 c., red ,, black.
2 c. ,, 50 c., blue ,, red.
6 c. ,, 1 peso, violet ,, black.
6 c. ,, 5 pesos, lilac-blue ,, ,,
6 c. ,, 10 ,, green ,, ,,

Of the square type we have the 1 c. surcharged "Correos Nacionales" in two lines, in red, and the same value with the addition of new value "2 centavos."

1 c., dull blue; surcharge red.
2 c. on 1 c., dull blue; surcharge red.

NICARAGUA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* has received a specimen set of the new issue for the current year. The design is the same as that of 1894, with the date altered, except that 4 c. and 15 c. values have been added and the 5 pesos value has been eliminated.

Adhesives. 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., 20 c., 50 c., 1 p., 2 p.
Unpaid Letter Stamps. 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., and 50 c.
Official Stamps. Same values surcharged *Franqueo Oficial.*

PARAGUAY.—From Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. we have the 15 c., orange, stamp surcharged "Provisorio—10—centavos" in three lines.

Adhesive. 10 c. on 15 c., orange; surcharge black.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—The "5 dollars" on 3 c. provisional chronicled by us in vol. vii. p. 325, appears to be a fiscal. The *A. J. of Ph.* states :—

"Mr. David Benjamin informs us that the $5 surcharge on the 3 c. Revenue stamp of China, which was announced some time ago, was never issued for postal purposes. He writes as follows :—

"'This stamp, surcharged $5, was never used for postage (unless some may have managed to pass, or rather may be found postmarked), but was issued many months ago, about the time the other surcharges and provisional stamps were in use, for use in connection with money orders, when there were no higher than $1 stamps; and in sending a money order, say, for $10, you stick (or rather the P.O. did) two of these stamps, and the money is paid at the other end. The stamps were not sold over the counter, and are not 'stamps,' so no notice should be taken of these unless as pure Revenues.'"

COAMO, PUERTO RICO. — Provisionals, 1898. — We have received the following account of these provisionals from Mr. C. H Mekeel. They have been examined and approved of by Mr. Andreini and other leading American authorities, and we presume will be inscribed in the books of chronicling. Personally we prefer British Guiana circulars as an investment !

"The issue of the Coamo, Puerto Rico, provisional stamps was one of the interesting historical incidents connected with the Spanish-American War. These stamps were issued on or about August 13th, 1898, and continued in use until about September 4th, 1898, and were an emergency issue required for postal purposes, and prepared with no thought of speculation. At the time these stamps were issued Coamo was occupied by the American army under General James H. Wilson. The General authorised and instructed the Mayor to open up new postal communications, as the Spanish postal service had been abandoned upon the approach of the army.

"Sr. Florencio Santiago, a merchant, and member of the house of Santiago Hermanos, was the Mayor of Coamo. In establishing this provisional postal system, the Mayor was acting upon the instructions of the highest authority, that of the Commanding Military Officer, and this postal service was simply a forerunner of the U.S. Military P.O. that now exists in Puerto Rico.

"The Mayor was authorised to charge 5 centavos for each letter as a means of defraying the expenses and for the payment of the carriers

"No stamps being available for the purpose of the post, the local printing office of the town of Coamo was instructed to prepare stamps suitable for the emergency, type-set, in a sheet of ten varieties, consisting of 'CORREOS' at top, 'COAMO' below, and value '5 CTS.' across the centre.

"As a check upon the printer, and to further prove the validity of the issue, the Mayor caused a rubber-stamp impression of his name, 'F. Santiago,' to be placed across every two stamps in the manner illustrated above. The stamps were printed with ordinary black ink upon white wove paper, imperforate, gummed in a primitive manner, with a preparation unevenly applied and of a brown colour.

"The gum on some of the stamps where it was applied too thickly discoloured the paper in some places, making brownish spots. The rubber-stamp impression is in ordinary violet rubber-stamp ink. Each stamp in the sheet is slightly different, as is usually the case where stamps are type-set. There were four kinds of type used to produce the numeral '5.' They have been classified as Types I., II., III., and IV., there being four varieties of the first, three of the second, two of the third, and one of the fourth in each sheet of ten stamps.

"These stamps were in use on all mail matter handled by the Coamo postal service for about two weeks, when the regular U.S. stamps succeeded them.

"The first information to the Philatelic world as to the existence of these stamps came to M. Arthur Maury, the Paris dealer, from a correspondent in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. This correspondent stated the fact of provisional stamps being in use at Coamo, and this information was published in the September number of *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste.*

"Mr. A. O. Tittmann, a stamp collector living in Ponce, heard of the existence of these provisionals, and secured the remainders at a nominal sum.

"When these stamps first appeared in New York they were naturally viewed askance by the stamp fraternity, and even doubted by some. But now their Philatelic value has been clearly established, and there is no question as to their legitimate character.

"Mr. J. M. Andreini, a well-known Philatelist, who is also a partner in a prominent Wall Street banking-house that has connections in the Spanish West Indies, took the matter up and went into it thoroughly.

"Although Mr. Andreini was a doubter when he commenced, his researches changed his views, and at the conclusion of a full report, read before the Philatelic Society, New York, at their meeting January 19th, 1899, he says:—

"'My conclusion is that the Coamo provisional stamp was issued for legitimate purposes, and served such purposes as an emergency stamp. I believe, therefore, that it is entitled to some consideration at the

hands of collectors, not only as an emergency issue, but as an interesting historical relic.'

"Mr. Andreini's collection of documents on this subject includes autograph letters, confirming the facts given above, from Gen. James H. Wilson, Mayor F. Santiago, and other responsible parties in Puerto Rico. The Coamo provisional is destined to rank as a rarity, if the limited number available for collectors is considered."

CUBA. — A correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* gives the following particulars regarding the permanent issue for Cuba :—

"Within a short time work will be commenced upon the new issue of stamps to be used in Cuba. The Department has decided upon four designs, and Mr. Johnson, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, is now having these designs drawn.

"The 1 c. de peso stamp will be a representation of the beautiful statue of Columbus, now located in the courtyard of the Captain-General's palace in Havana.

"The 2 c. de peso stamp will show the allegorical figure of Cuba, known to all Cubans as 'La Cubania,' now situated on the plaza at Havana.

"The 3 c. de peso will represent commerce and ocean postage, and will bear a representation of a merchant ship on the sea.

"The 5 c. de peso stamp will depict an agricultural scene, with tobacco plants, towering palm, and a sugar mill.

"No conclusion has been reached by the Department relative to the design for the 10 c. de peso. Suggestions are being received from all over the country, but no selections have been made up to this time."

A good deal of discussion, and not a little speculation, appears in progress across the water over the various Cuban postal changes consequent upon the American occupation. When matters have quieted down there may be some reasonable hope of being able to say what provisionals have or have not been issued. At present, apart from the surcharges on the U.S. adhesives, the task is hopeless, and there is room for some bidder for Philatelic fame to write the history of the Philatelic occupation of Cuba.

FERNANDO PO.—Another surcharge.

Adhesive. 50 c. on 12½ c., brown.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.—We hear that the 2 c., brown, stamp, with the view of Honolulu Harbour, has been changed to pink.

Adhesive. 2 c., pink.

Just as we go to press we learn the *raison d'être* of this change of colour in the 2 c. value. *Mekeel's Weekly* informs us that pending permanent legislation in regard to Hawaii there is to be what may be called a temporary Colonial series for the islands, which may or may not be made permanent according to circumstances. This series will consist of the present set of six values, with colours changed in accordance with Postal Union requirements. The 2 c. has already been operated upon. The 1 c. is to be green, and the 5 c. blue, and the 10 c. most likely brown. Why should not these islands be supplied with similar stamps to those received by Cuba, viz., the current U.S. adhesives overprinted "Hawaii"? The currencies are identical.

JAPAN.—A specimen forwarded by Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. shows that the description of the new stamps given last month was not quite accurate. The design is a modification of the 1 *yen* value, and not the 1 *sen*. The upper corners are occupied by teapots (or preserved ginger jars?), and not Japanese numerals.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—The *Philatelic Record* mentions an apparent error in the colour of the one shilling adhesive, which is in the colour of the halfpenny value—brown. The specimen in point was received on a newspaper.

PORTO RICO.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* states that the United States issues have—*à la* Cuba—been similarly surcharged for use in Porto Rico, the only difference being the substitution of the words "Porto Rico" for "Cuba." The following quantities have been sent from Washington :—

1 c. . . .	1,000,000.
2 c. . . .	2,000,000.
5 c. . . .	500,000.
10 c. . . .	500,000.

Adhesives. 1 c., green ; surcharge black.
2 c., carmine ,, ,,
5 c., blue ,, ,,
10 c., brown ,, ,,

SAMOA.—The "2½d." surcharge has been applied to the 1d. value ; a specimen is to hand from Ipswich.

Adhesive. 2½d. on 1d., green ; surch. red.

SIAM.—From the same source we have received the 12 atts adhesive overprinted "1 att" in English and native characters.

Adhesive. 1 att on 12 atts, lilac and pink ; surch. black.

TUNIS.—The 5 c. has been changed from blue-green to yellow-green.

Adhesive. 5 c., yellow-green.

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

The eighth meeting of the season 1898-9 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 3rd February, 1899, at 7.45 p.m., when the following members were present, in addition to one visitor, viz.: Messrs. E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. R. Barrett, T. Girton, J. W. Mercer, T. Maycock, H. G. Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, C. N. Biggs, T. W. Hall, Gordon Smith, F. E. Owen, J. A. Tilleard, and B. D. Knox.

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

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Passer as to making use of the Society's work on the stamps of the African Colonies, for the purpose of papers to be written by him for his society, and it was resolved that the permission asked should be granted.

The resignations of Mr. C. Hart, Mr. M. E. Hughes-Hughes, and Mrs. Raahange were directed to be accepted with regret.

Mr. Ehrenbach then gave a display of the stamps of Buenos Ayres, and fully explained the several issues.

The magnificent collection shown by Mr. Ehrenbach was much admired by members present, and the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to him on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Nankivell.

Mr. Gordon Smith showed a copy of the 4 pesos of the first issue in "cinnamon-brown" instead of vermilion, kindly sent by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, for inspection by the members.

The ninth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 17th February, 1899, at 7.45 p.m. The members in attendance were:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, Gordon Smith, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. R. Barrett, W. Schwabacher, C. N. Biggs, A. A. Davis, T. Maycock, A. E. Creeke, H. G. Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, J. A. Tilleard, H. R. Oldfield, T. W. Hall, and B. D. Knox.

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

Mr. Castle mentioned that he had received information of the death of Mr. John Siewert, an announcement which was received with much regret. On the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, it was resolved, "That the members of the Philatelic Society, London, deplore the loss of their old and honoured fellow-member, Mr. John Siewert, and desire to express their sincere sympathy with the members of his family in their affliction."

Mr. E. J. Nankivell showed an unchronicled variety of the 3d., mauve on green, Transvaal stamp, large "V R.," with the overprint inverted, and also a copy of the 1d., red on yellow, small "V R," on laid paper.

Mr. R. Meyer then read a paper on "Speculative Issues," in which he dealt fully with the dangers to Philately in the issue of stamps made for sale to collectors as apart from real postal requirements, and commented on the attempts which had been made to deal with the difficulties involved in the issue of such stamps.

An interesting discussion ensued, in which many of the members present took part, and on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, the best thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Meyer for his admirable paper, which it is hoped will be published in the *London Philatelist*.

The tenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, March 3rd, 1899, at 7.45 p.m., the following members being present, viz.:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, Gordon Smith, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, T. W. Hall, R. Ehrenbach, E. D. Bacon, H. Hetley, A. R. Barrett, T. Maycock, F. E. Owen, G. E. Davidson, E. J. Nankivell, B. D. Knox, J. A. Tilleard. Signor V. E. Capanna also attended as a visitor.

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

Mr. Henry Barber, proposed by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. J. E. Heginbottom, proposed by Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society.

The business of the evening consisted of a display of the stamps of Finland by the Vice-President. In showing the stamps, Mr. Castle read a series of notes on the history of the various issues, fully describing all the varieties and errors and the points of interest in connection with the study of the stamps of the country under consideration, and he also explained the great difficulty in making a complete collection, in consequence of the large number of varieties of perforation. Mr. Castle's magnificent collection of the stamps of Finland was much admired. It is practically complete; and in addition to the errors and the other principal rarities, it contains a set of the rare reprints which are supposed to have been made for the late Grand Duke Alexis.

On the motion of Mr. E. D. Bacon, seconded by Dr. Hetley, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vice-President for his most instructive and interesting display.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Honorary President—W. B. Avery, Esq.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—Mr. G. Johnson, B A.

February 2nd. Miss S. M. D'Albiac and Mr. A. Still were unanimously elected members.

Mr. W Pimm showed his collection of N.S.W., which is strong in the early issues, and includes some exceptionally fine reconstructed sheets, every stamp being in fine condition.

February 16th. Messrs. T. E. Laurenson and L. Konig were unanimously elected members.

Mr. T. W. Peck gave a short paper on U.S.A. watermarks, illustrated by a large number of strips and plate numbers.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. Lloyd.
Vice-President—F. E. Ellison.

A meeting of this Society was held as usual on Thursday evening, February 16th, the President being in the chair.

It was proposed by Mr. Cartwright, seconded by Mr. Ellison, and carried unanimously, that a copy of the work being brought out by Messrs. Hastings E. Wright and A. B. Creeke, jun., on *The Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles*, and also the monthly called *Stamps*, be ordered for the library

The President then exhibited twenty-seven sheets of Type I. of New Zealand, on which were many rare specimens, and a large proportion of the whole were in mint condition. Some of the other members also showed their collections of the same colony. Mr. Bird showed a very fine mint copy of the 1870 lilac-rose 1½d., Great Britain, and Mr. Cartwright passed round for inspection a complete and perfect copy of the "Beaufort House Essay," an interesting reminiscence of the engraver's art as applied to postal and commercial purposes half a century ago.

The thirty-sixth meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, the 2nd inst. In the absence of both President and Vice-President, Mr. Bird was requested to take the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, it was proposed and carried that the *Junior Stamp Collector* be purchased for the library.

One of the members then showed an album containing part of a general collection, and Mr. P. C. Cartwright passed round five sheets of the U.S.A. "Carrier and Local Stamps," interesting as records of private enterprise in the "forties."

The promised lantern display was unavoidably postponed, to the disappointment of several members and friends who had come expecting the same.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A General Meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, on March 7th, at 7 p.m. Present: Harold J. White (Hon. President), Gordon Smith, M.A., Captain E. Stokes Roberts, W. A. Bois, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, G. Gaffe, W. Simpson, L. R. Sutherland, E. A. Mardon, E. Pemberton, J. W. Jones, E. P. Dry, E Bounds, S. J. Anderson, H. A. Slade, and J C. Sidebotham.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The recommendations of the Committee that Messrs. Bradbury, Cool, and Haynes be appointed to form a Finance Committee, and that the April meeting be postponed till the 11th, on account of Easter, were carried *nem. con.*

W. Dyson Perrins, E. Bounds, C. S. Milner, and M. Z. Kuttner were proposed and elected members of the Society.

Business being concluded, the Hon. President gave a display of his famous collection of English stamps of gold medal notoriety. A special vote of thanks to Mr. Harold White for his interesting and instructive entertainment was carried with acclamation, and brought the proceedings to a termination at 9 30 p.m.

The February packet of the Society contained thirty sheets valued at £433 11s. 6½d. November and December sales realised £27 4s. 2d. and £39 2s. 9d. respectively.

H. A. Slade,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.
Ingleside, St. Albans.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.

The eleventh meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, on Friday, February 24th, when the President took the chair, and there were ten other members present.

Mr. H. J. Brycesson was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. H. R. Oldfield read a paper on "Bolivia," and gave a display consisting of practically complete collections of specimens of all the various issues. He devoted a considerable amount of time to the 5 centavos, green, 1867-8, showing that though only one plate was used there are distinct evidences of six retouches, which form, for specialist purposes, seven distinct plates. Of these the rarest are Nos. 4 and 7, and the two sheets handed round for inspection are probably unique. He also showed the 1894 issue on both thick and thin paper, and also reconstructed plates of the high values of the early issues. The whole display evidenced the great care and minuteness with which the investigations have been made with regard to the stamps of this little-known country.

At the conclusion a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Oldfield for his most interesting paper, and for his kindness in journeying specially from London to read it.

G. Fred. H. Gibson, *Hon. Sec.*
Kersal, Manchester.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

September packets have come back, and accounts duly rendered for that month.

Sales were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
September A 1 . .	104	14	3
,, A 2 . .	87	4	11
,, B 1 . .	50	2	6
,, B 2 . .	27	7	2

October packets are expected back very shortly. 187 sheets, valued in the aggregate at

£1914 15s. 2d., were made up into four packets and despatched on the February circuits in good time. Stamps were priced so reasonably that good sales should be the result. During the past month two resignations were accepted, and the following were duly elected as members: J. Collingridge (Brentwood), W. B. Kirkpatrick (Bournemouth), A. H. Dingwall (Bath), C Piens (Aldershot), C. E. Fagan (London), T. N. Rayward (Sidcup), Dr. Chambers (London), J. E. Sparrow (Aberystwyth), C. T. Long (Dover), and G. H. Evans (Manchester). Non-contributors wishing to see packets should advise the Secretary to that effect. Club sheets only should be used, and a proposal for a packet for entires only is under consideration. Supporters of this scheme should send their names in without delay. Applications for membership should be accompanied by references. H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Sec.*

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Boston (U.S.A.) Philatelic Society.

Secretary—GEO. L. TOPPAN, 294, Newbury Street, Boston.

THE annual meeting of this Society was held on January 17th. President Van Derlip in the chair, there being thirty members present and three visitors.

The Treasurer's report showed a cash balance of $300. The report of the Secretary included the following statistics: Total membership, 122; admitted in 1898, 10; resigned in 1898, 17; dropped in 1898, 12; loss by death, 1; or a net loss of 20. Number of meetings held, 20, with an average attendance of 21·6.

Mr. Rothfuchs addressed the Society upon the proposed sale of newspaper and periodical stamps at a nominal price by the Government, and it was voted that the Secretary be instructed to communicate with the Third Asst. Postmaster-General and protest, in the name of the Society, against selling any United States stamps at less than their face value.

Mr. Wylie announced the discontinuance of the *Boston Stamp Book*, and moved that the Chair appoint a committee of three to obtain propositions from publishers of Philatelic journals who might desire to have their papers adopted as the official organ of the Society: and that said committee be instructed to report within sixty days. This motion prevailed, and the Chair appointed Messrs. Van Derlip, Brown, and Phelps.

Mr. Holton then spoke upon the obligations of the Society to its retiring President, Mr. W. C. Van Derlip, who, in the eight years that he had held that office, had done everything possible to promote its welfare and best interests, and moved that the Society tender a vote of thanks to Mr. Van Derlip for his untiring services and devotion to it. This was unanimously carried amidst loud applause.

Upon motion of the Secretary, the Chair appointed the following committee to look into the feasibility of establishing a library for the Society: Messrs Van Derlip, Holton, and Batchelder.

After adjournment a very pleasant hour was spent in examining Mr. Mason's collection of United States Proofs and Essays, which were greatly admired by all present.

Adjourned at 9.55.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

351, FOURTH AVENUE.

THIRTY-FIFTH meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, February 13th, 1899. Present: Messrs. J. W. Scott, Albert Perrin, John N. Luff, and J. H. Stebbins, jun.

Meeting called to order at 8.45, Mr. John N. Luff acting as Chairman.

In the absence of the Secretary, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with.

The Treasurer's report was then read and approved, showing $515.53 cash balance on hand.

The report of the Chairman of the House Committee was then read and accepted.

The report of the Special Committee on the purchase of books was read and accepted.

Mr. Luff then announced the following donations to the Club: One volume *American Journal of Philately* for 1898, presented by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company; one volume of the *Postal Issues of Hawaii*, presented by Mr A. W. Dunning, which were accepted with thanks.

The following candidates were then balloted for and duly elected stockholders of the Club: Mr. Louis Ruhl, 174, St. Nicholas' Avenue, proposed by J. W. Scott, and seconded by Henry Clotz; Mr. Paul Stiepman, Park Avenue Hotel, proposed by N. Dieschbourg, and seconded by P. F. Bruner.

It was moved that the Secretary be requested to call a special meeting for Saturday evening, Feb. 18th, at eight o'clock, to discuss the advisability of securing new quarters for the Club.

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.*

UNDER the novel and quaint title of *The Collector-Dealer: A Philatelic Miscellany*, we welcome a new contemporary that, if not of large dimensions, is full of vitality. This little paper is published by Mr. C. E. Quinton, of Southsea (27, Sackville Street), and although apparently, like most Philatelic journals, issued as a trade medium, is both original and independent in its tone. The incident of the would-be purchaser of Gibbons' Decline and Fall of the British Empire is, at the very least, *ben trovato*, while there are other "smart" little paragraphs.

* * *

THE sale announced by the J. W. Scott Co., of New York (referred to in our last issue), that was to eclipse all others of the season in New York, turns out to be the collection of Mr. J. V. Painter, of Cleveland, a member of the London Philatelic Society. This gentleman has been well known for many years on both sides of the

water as an old collector, and has frequently visited this country. The sale extends over six days, and includes about 2500 lots of all countries; so it will be strange if there are not many desirable stamps. A closer examination of the catalogue does not, however, reveal many great varieties.

* * *

THE claim of the J. W. Scott Co. is justified that this will probably prove to be the "sale of the season" in America. We shall look with interest for the results of the six days which will be occupied in the disposal of Mr. Painter's treasures.

Among the best stamps in the collection we note the following:—Barbados 1d. on half 5s., a pair; Bergedorf, complete, unused, originals; Buenos Ayres, 4 ps., unused, and 5 ps., used, two copies; Great Britain VR, unused; Lagos, 1885, 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s., unused; Newfoundland, 1s., orange, fine; St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., unused. We note an oddity in Geneva, two halves of the double stamp used together on original, one being a forgery.

* * *

THE Scott Stamp and Coin Co. supplement in this month's *A. J. of Ph.* their previous remarks upon the Philatelic revival in the U.S. They say:

"Each new day adds testimony to the revival which is under way, and we venture to predict that within six months we shall enjoy the greatest period of prosperity that the trade has ever known."

The business aspect of the revival includes a greatly increased sale of albums, evidencing a brightening of the interest taken in stamp collecting by the young collector. This aspect is happily not confined to America.

The condition of the market is alluded to as follows:—

"Although prices have not yet advanced, they are hardening from day to day, and a good-sized boom is in prospect. We consider the present a splendid time to buy, and stamps will before long be again looked upon as a good investment and a readily realisable asset."

* * *

MR. J. W. PALMER.—Old sayings have it that "threatened men live long," and that "the creaking gate lasts longest"; but the premises of our friend Mr. J. W. Palmer, whose exterior has for many years past betrayed his apprehension of an enforced removal, have at length succumbed to the edict of the London County Council, and are to be improved off the face of the Strand. Mr. Palmer, if not of the rose in future, will be near it, as he has secured premises at 7, Catherine Street, W.C., where we sincerely trust he may be spared for many years to continue his promulgation of "Palmer's protective clause" and the publication of the quaint and exceedingly characteristic *Bric-a-Brac*.

* * *

THE question of catalogue value will always be with us, and is very much to the fore. The lists of Gibbons, Bright, Whitfield King and Co., Senf, Gelli and Tani, and Moens, have all been recently reviewed in these columns, while Scott (wisely) waits. The anticipations and disappointments caused by the recent Gibbons' British portion will have hardly simmered down before the appearance of Part II.—the non-British adhesives. There is less room here for variation, as very few countries have been forced up *à la* Colonial, and in the better stamps, whether used or unused, of the principal European and South American countries, the supply is so limited that any serious fall is beyond consideration. We have occasionally written freely about general and indiscriminate prices in catalogues, but according to the statements in Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.'s "Standard," elsewhere reviewed, the appraisement of values forms one of the strongest incentives to purchases. This is perhaps so, but it behoves any dealer pricing a rare stamp that he does not hold in stock, to give due consideration to the valuation that he is, unasked for, making of another man's property. In the case of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons they claim to price what they have to sell, and so big is their stock that this is no idle boast. In arriving at these prices they boast to act entirely by their own stock and knowledge, and, like the ostrich in the desert, proudly act on their own initiative. We have frequently urged upon this firm that the prices in their and other leading catalogues are unconsciously adopted by thousands of collectors, and that the true general market value of every stamp should be the true basis. *The Collector-Dealer*, in an extremely sensible article hereon, which we thoroughly endorse, says, "Stamp collecting has grown with the catalogues, and is so intimately associated with them and indebted to them for the identification of varieties, that no collector can afford to dispense with their guiding aid. Hence it is that prices are introduced and studied as comparative standards of rarity; and if in course of time these standards give to certain stamps the value of a currency among collectors, then any attempt to debase this currency means distrust and consequent realisation of stock. The compilers of any catalogue which professes to be a standard of value have higher interests to study than the interests of a particular firm, the interests of those whose investments are the backbone of Philately. Since all the catalogues now on the market are vended as books, and charged for as such, they should represent some standard of value fixed and less conjectural than any one dealer's stock, however large and varied that may be." This touches *the* spot!

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER'S sale on the 2nd and 3rd inst.:—India, 4 annas, red and blue, showing dividing lines, unused, £10; British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., black on magenta, £10 10s.; St. Vincent, Star wmk., 5s., rose, unused, £11 11s. Several collections were included, one, consisting of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia only, realising £34.

* * *

ANOTHER 1d. "Post Office" Mauritius is in the market, hailing this time from Russia. This copy will be found advertised elsewhere in this issue.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON disposed of a collection on the 7th and 8th inst. containing a pair of the Barbados 1d. on half 5s., reading upwards, the numeral with slanting serif variety. This realised £19. St. Vincent 1d. on half 6d., blue-green, a pair, brought £11 10s. Other lots, more or less in poor condition, sold at general prices. The month has been lacking in the presence of fine and rare stamps at auction.

* * *

THE sale of the United States periodical remainders appears to be exciting considerable interest in America. Latest advices are to the effect that the general public are entering heartily into the facilities for obtaining this handsome set of stamps at $5. British collectors are, according to American contemporaries, to be left begging!

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VIII. APRIL, 1899. No. 88.

The Young Collector.

NOT so long ago a word of lament went up to the skies, not only in this country but on the Continent and in the United States, that the "boy trade was being starved," and that Philately, already on the wane, would die with the present generation. Like most watchwords or cries, this bitter lament was a little overdone, but was evidently none the less of use in calling attention to an aspect of Philately that must evoke the consideration of every collector, big or small, whose interest in Philately is not of a transient nature.

The remedy has possibly been, to a certain extent, the result of this outcry, but in any case it is gratifying to record that, especially in the United States, there has been a great development of the juvenile purchase departments. Everybody can form some sort of judgment upon the question of the future of collecting as regards the "seeds" of future Philately that are now being planted. In the writer's experience the number of young relatives and friends who are collectors is legion, and it seems that nowadays no family is without a juvenile collector, and that in most schools—notably the younger and preparatory ones—the majority of the boys collect. Another notable feature of late years is the increase of lady collectors. Here again the personal experience of the writer is that there are many more than of old days, and in some instances that the ladies are able and painstaking Philatelists. The pursuit is indeed equally suitable for both sexes, and some day we shall expect our wives or daughters to "match the shades" of all our stamps for us. The selection of colours is peculiarly a feminine accomplishment, and it has indeed been scientifically ascertained that instances of colour-blindness in woman are hardly known.

We are glad to hear that the recent simplified catalogue of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., which was issued mainly for the young collector —young in years or experience—has had a phenomenal sale for a new work, as it affords another instance of the reawakening of the general collector. It is sometimes foolishly and needlessly urged against the leading Philatelic journals that they ignore the small collector. We do not think this reproach is justified, and although it is obviously impossible to cater at once for both classes, we are convinced that the *London Philatelist*, or any other scientific stamp journal, is always ready to do everything possible to further the interests of the young collector. We have frequently in the past called attention to the advisability of supporting the "simplified" collector, and we trust may feel assured that no "complicated" Philatelist who is of our readers will fail to encourage to the full of his bent the aspirations of his juvenile friends.

We are glad to note that at the recent Exhibition and Congress at the Brooklyn Free Institute the children were made much of, and we hear tales from the States and the Continent of huge free distributions of stamps to children. All this is to the good—the wider the seed is scattered the more stalks will come up. If there should be a big crop of collectors in the next century they will have to ignore the better stamps of the first half of the nineteenth century, or there will assuredly be not enough to go round!

Speculative Issues.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on February 17th, 1899.

By RUDOLF MEYER.



THE subject I have chosen for to-night's paper is in some sense unfortunate, and it is with considerable hesitation I approach it. It is a subject that has, perhaps, given rise to as much discussion as any connected with our hobby. The brains of many of our deepest thinkers and the pens of some of our cleverest writers have been exercised again and again in treating of the matter, so that, however particular I am, and however careful in my choice of language in the course of my remarks to-night, I fear I shall lay myself open to a charge of plagiarism. Be this as it may, having given my promise to read a paper on speculative issues, I will keep my word and do my best.

My ideas on the subject are well known to most of you, and though I have recently tried to study both sides of the question, I have seen no reason to change my opinions. Not long ago I was interested in reading a really able defence of speculative issues, in which arguments in favour of Seebecks and commemorative issues, etc., were mingled with sly hits at hoarded antiquities and the "high-handedness of the old school of collectors." The writer emphasises the fact that the *new* collector cannot possibly hope to

obtain, at prices now ruling, anything like a complete collection, and that consequently—to quote the writer's own words—he must commence at a later date. Granted, but must he commence with Seebecks and such-like wild fowl? What pleasure can there be, even for the new or young collector, in, I will not say collecting—for that would be a misnomer—but in purchasing job lots of things made especially for him to buy, cheap and various though they might be and well within his means?

Now, Philatelically speaking, what do these speculative issues really mean? As I observed before, they mean stamps manufactured for sale to collectors, doubtless, in some degree, for postal use also, but such being only secondary to their use as a Philatelic speculation; hence it is almost an absurdity, from my point of view, to talk of genuine postal issues where they are concerned. Even if the new collector is unable to do much at prices now ruling, let him take heart, as old collections were not made in a day.

I have not the slightest wish to dictate to him, but advice is not dictation, and there is no man so wise but that he can take advice from those older and more experienced than himself, while no man surely is so foolish as to take offence when a formidable danger is pointed out to him, and a loss of his money possibly prevented.

I will give instances of the worthlessness of some of the labels in question to illustrate my meaning.

What is the value of 10s. Great Britain? 10s. 1 dollar U.S.A.? 4s. 2 g. 50 c. Holland? 4s. 1 rouble Russia? 2s.

What is the value, on the contrary, of 10 pesos Nicaragua, 10 pesos St. Salvador, 10 pesos Costa Rica, 25 francs Obock? Well, all about one penny each—if that—in my humble opinion.

I think you will all agree with me, that the smartest exponent of a high-handed system of dictation can hardly say my advice is based on self-interest, for if the new collector is satisfied with speculative issues no possible danger can accrue to us from his advent; it will not even have the effect (which otherwise the increased number of buyers might have) of causing more trouble and expenditure of money in the accumulation of our treasures, but we are as a rule sorry to see those who are just entering into the enjoyment of that pastime, which has afforded us so much pleasure, led aside and sent wandering into by-paths, which we veterans know will only lead ultimately to vexation, disgust, and probable retirement from the pursuit.

The new collector, if intelligent and persevering, is the very backbone of Philately, and ought to have all the encouragement and help that can be given him; but that encouragement must not take the form of advising him to buy the ever-increasing issues of, say, Portuguese Colonies, British East, South, and Central Africa, British Borneo, British North Borneo, etc.* To the dealer it is no doubt pleasant enough to pour out his bagful of stamps on counter or table and let his customer help himself, with a certain and

* Although we cordially appreciate the true Philatelic ring of Mr. Meyer's excellent paper, still there are some portions of it that doubtless, affected by the author's long acquaintance with Philately in its purer days, are somewhat sweeping, and we must not be held to entirely agree therewith. The British African Companies are assuredly, though not stainless by far, not so utterly hopeless as the Portuguese Colonies.—Ed.

agreeable knowledge that he will be selling nothing that he cannot easily replace, and that he is securing for himself a handsome profit, at no expense of time or trouble; but I am not here to study the dealer, neither, of course, am I here to censure him. He has as much right as any other tradesman to buy and sell, if he can, whatever pays him best. *We are here to defend our hobby*, and to resist the introduction of anything that will cause depreciation or deterioration, which is what speculative issues will most certainly do.

To return to the subject that I have referred to, namely, the money value of the various stamps, the 10s. English as worth 10s., and the 10 pesos Nicaragua as possibly worth one penny. Now let us consider what would be the result of collecting these two; obviously appreciation in the one, depreciation in the other.

The 10s. English must increase in value considerably as the years go on and the supply is stopped, whilst the 10 pesos Nicaragua, owing to its unlimited supply, cannot possibly increase in value at all; and that it is so with many others you all know so well that it is not worth my while enlarging on the subject.

I have always held it a truism that no one should get up and cry out about an evil unless he is prepared, in some measure at least, to show the way to remedy it; and as the dealer is so anxious about the pocket of the young collector, I think it would be advisable, when we point out the danger of collecting labels, at the same time to call attention to some of the comparatively uncollected countries, where the beginner may have a fair chance of forming a collection which, in a great measure at any rate, can be called complete, and that without any serious inroads into his pocket; for instance, Danish West Indies, Iceland, Bulgaria, etc. I have no doubt many more will occur to the minds of those now present, and I think if the Society that is in existence to rid our hobby of the weeds were to call attention to some of the genuine, though common, flowers, it would make a great stride in the accomplishment of the work for which it was called into existence.*

Again, as to collecting. To me the very word collecting seems significant of the gradual accumulation of anything rather than acquisition in large lots. How can a man be said to be collecting when he is able to buy these issues by the sackful, unused or postmarked, just as his fancy pleases?

Where would be the pleasure of collecting were it not that one has to go about with every faculty alert, on the look-out for errors of colours, strange watermarks, larger or smaller perforations, and varieties, in fact, of stamps already in our possession, and on that account always of interest? Moreover, buying stamps in large quantities must of necessity make purchasers careless in their inspection. It is to the collector who spares neither time nor trouble, but goes carefully round after his single specimen, that we owe much of our knowledge of, and interest in, our art. Loss of interest inevitably follows when the attainment of any object is easy; it has been so from time immemorial, and mankind has always eagerly pursued the difficult of attainment. It is so with us as children, and remains when we are of

* The Society in question, which has practically ceased to exist, had no other mission than to *suppress*—if possible.—ED.

larger growth; hence stamps made to order, like manufactured orchids, would soon cease to please.

I venture to think all true lovers of stamp collecting will agree with me in the following.

We all have the same hobby. We are collectors of postage stamps, by which we mean genuine postal issues for the genuine postal requirements of a country.

We do not want stamps manufactured especially for us, and we have no desire to swell the profits of speculators nor to replenish the exchequers of poverty-stricken states. Those are not the things which have created Philately and nurtured the hobby.

These remarks do not include ALL new issues: far from it. We are none of us so wedded to our "hoarded antiquities" as to exclude all others. *Let them all come* if they be honestly what they represent themselves; they are heartily welcome, and they will keep the old as well as the new collector busy and less liable to fall victims to the seller of speculative issues.

The dealer is our very good and necessary friend, but we need not study him: he must study *us;* he is there to study *us* and to supply our wants.

So let us unite hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder to keep our hobby pure, for it really does not matter who does the work, whether it be the S.S.S.S., T.T.T.T., or any other initials, so long as it is done. It is imperative that this objective should be sought by all those who fear nothing except the reproach of not having done their duty honestly and well.

Notes on the Stamps of Colombia.

BEING A PAPER READ BEFORE THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY, ON THE 15TH AND 29TH OF APRIL, 1898.

BY THOMAS W. HALL.

(*Continued from page* 61.)

THE reprints of the first issue, except the 10 c., have lines across the face, and therefore can be easily distinguished. The reprint of the 10 c. is distinguishable from its more woolly appearance and from the paper, which has a blue tinge, as against the yellowish whiteness of the original. Forgeries of the 10 c., first issue, and splendidly executed forgeries too, are by no means uncommon; a good test is the letter "C" in "CORREOS," which in the original and reprint almost touches the central oval, but in the forgery stands quite clear. Nearly all the Antioquian stamps have been forged, but they are chiefly rough lithographs, which could only deceive beginners. When Mr. Curtis was in Colombia he made enquiries, but could not find any information with regard to the plates, so thinks they must have been destroyed.

The plate for the 1 peso, *second issue*, is or was undoubtedly in existence

about that time. Mr. Curtis was asked if he would buy it, and on his agreeing to do so he was informed the next day that the owner, becoming frightened, had destroyed it.

Possibly he may have heard the story of the postmaster of Almaguer.

This postmaster of Almaguer attempted to issue a series of three provisional stamps on his own account. The series consisted of three or four values. I have in my bogus collection the 1 c., black on blue, and 20 c., black on pink, in addition to which the 2 and 5 c. are said to exist. They are all of the same type, viz., an eagle with outstretched wings over a double-lined circle containing the figure of value. He was arrested, however, the moment the Government heard of it, and Mr. Curtis was summoned as one of the witnesses. The postmaster denied that he had ever used any for the postage of letters in Colombia, but it is fairly certain a few were sent through the post through a friendly postmaster.

The question of what object the postmaster could have in issuing the stamps, or that anyone could be fool enough to buy them, appears to have troubled the Court a good deal, but, notwithstanding, that postmaster of Almaguer was provided with board and lodging at the expense of the State, and all letters prepaid with the stamps were treated as unpaid.

The late Mr. Curtis writes in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* for September, 1892, that he one day happened by accident to enter the Post Office at Bogota just as the new order of stamps was being packed for Medellin by that day's mail. The 20 c., 50 c., 1, 2, and 5 dollars were new issues, and he noticed that in the sheets of the 50 c. there was an error, viz., a 20 c. stamp.

He thereupon requested that the sending of the 50 c. be postponed until he had time to make arrangements for the purchase of the entire issue, 12,500 stamps in 250 sheets of 50 stamps each. This he succeeded in doing. The colour of the 50 c. was then changed from brown to green, and the error corrected. By the fire at Colon—whatever that was—a large proportion of the sheets is said to have been destroyed; the error, therefore, in an entire sheet should be rare.

This error has been described as "accidentally done on purpose," which Mr. Curtis thinks is hardly doing justice. He suggests that Antioquia has acted in a way that might well be emulated by other states and countries.

In 1890 there was a resolution offered in the National Congress to have all these State stamps abolished and only national stamps used. The final debate, owing to the pressure of other business, was never reached, and since then nothing more has, so far as I know, been heard of it.

Mr. Curtis also states—and probably no one, bar, perhaps, Mr. Michelsen, could speak with greater authority—that many propositions have been made to have old issues and the provisionals reprinted, but that the Government have absolutely refused to allow it. Whether this is strictly accurate or not, there is no doubt that as regards the early stamps of Antioquia the first issue—the issue of 1882 on laid paper—and some few others of the older stamps are exceedingly rare in an unused condition, although the remainder are scarcer used and still scarcer postmarked, owing to the general mode of cancellation being penmarking.

Referring still to the stamps of Antioquia, in the sheets of the 2½ c.,

black on yellow, of 1886, one stamp has been cut out or a blank space left in the printing.

When these stamps were first printed there was said to be an error, viz., a 5 c. stamp printed in the sheet of the $2\frac{1}{2}$; the error was discovered before any were used, and the mistake corrected by cutting out the stamp in those sheets printed, or leaving the space blank, as in the portion of a sheet I have in my collection. (See illustration D.)

Some time since I acquired from Mons. Moens a similar block to the one illustrated, but with the blank space cut out. To hazard an hypothesis, it may be that a few of the sheets were first printed with the errors, which, on being discovered by the printers, were cut out; that the 5 c. cliché was then bodily removed and subsequent printings made, leaving the space in the sheet blank, as in the illustration.

The fact may certainly be registered in favour of the Colombians, that this 5 c. error was so completely destroyed that I have never seen nor even heard of a copy existing, nor is it catalogued.

The 50 c. error in the sheet of the 10 c., carmine, was not discovered until some sheets had been sent out. When discovered the error was corrected by cutting the stamp out of the plate. This was not done very thoroughly and a part of the stamp is still to be seen. (See illustrations E and F.)

The sheets are printed in panes of 50, and the error is the fourth stamp in the second row, as may be seen from the entire sheet I have in my collection

Of the provisional Antioquian issues of 1888 the complete plate of the 5 c., black on yellow, consisted of eight stamps, six 5 c. in vertical pairs with a pair of $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. at the bottom. There were two plates or settings, the chief difference distinguishing them being the third stamp on the plate, in which the two pieces of the framework forming the top have got reversed in the second setting.

Of the 5 c. provisional of 1890 there are also two plates. In Plate I. (see illustration G) No. 2 has no interior bottom line, and the corner ornaments on No. 2 bottom right, No. 4 bottom left, No. 5 both bottom, No. 8 bottom right, No. 9 top left, and No. 10 top and bottom right, all vary from the second setting. (See illustration H.)

The type-set stamps of Tolima have always been difficult of classification, the reasons being :—

1. That the stamps were type-set, and consequently there are as many varieties as stamps on the sheet.

2. That more than one setting up took place.

3. The stamps have until lately been so rare that it was practically impossible to get enough together to properly classify them.

It has now, I think, been fairly established that there are at least four plates or settings up.

(1) Plate I.,
(2) Plate I. altered,
(3) Plate II.,
(4) Plate II. altered,

each plate or setting up consisting of ten stamps in two vertical rows of five each.

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

Plate I.

By far the most clearly printed. The letter "C" of the first line is in all cases a small "c."

Printed on *horizontally* laid grey-blue paper, and also—which is, I think, now catalogued for the first time—on blue *wove* paper.

Plate I. is, in my opinion, the rarest of these type-set stamps, and not even excluding the Plate II. on buff bâtonné.

Plate I. altered.

Similar to Plate I., except *that Type 4* has "CORRES" instead of "CORREOS," and in Types 4, 8, and 10 many of the letters have slipped.

Papers—Blue vertically laid.
„ „ „ bâtonné
„ quadrillé.

Plate II.

The distinctive feature of this plate is that the *final* letter "C" of the first line is a capital "C," except in Type 7, where it is a small "c."

This Type 7 appears to be the same in all the plates, and except for the papers and the clearness of the printing is undistinguishable, except when found *se tenant* with other types.

Papers—Blue wove.
Blue quadrillé.
Blue vertically and horizontally laid bâtonné.
Buff bâtonné.

This is the only plate found upon the buff paper.

The stamp said to exist on buff *wove* does not exist, so far as my researches go.

Plate II. altered.

Is the same as Plate II., but the last four types have the value changed to 10 centavos.

Paper—White wove.

Also said to exist on white wove blue bâtonné. The bâtonné here means blue surface-lines printed on the paper; these wash out like the same lines on the Colombian cubiertas, and, according to Mr. De Coppet, the two papers are identical.

A considerable difference of opinion exists as regards the second or so-called re-engraved type of the 5 c. of the 1871 issue. Dr. Michelsen asserts he has bought the stamp at the Post Office in Neiva, and has seen it genuinely used on letters, and I have in my collection a copy bearing a postmark which has the appearance of being genuine. As will be remembered, the undoubtedly genuine type differs in having two small concentric circles at each side of the large circle, whilst the so-called re-engraved, and in my opinion, notwithstanding the above, counterfeit variety has an eight-rayed star in place of the circles.

Confirmation of my view exists in the fact that the 5 pesos, yellow on

white, of 1883, and the 5 pesos, orange-red on white, of 1887, which are both of this type, exhibit the small concentric circles, and not the star, as one would naturally expect if the plate had been re-engraved.

From this remark I must not be taken to admit the authenticity of the above two 5 pesos stamps, about both of which I have grave doubts.

Mr. Henry Gremmel, writing to the *American Philatelist* in May, 1889, states that one of his correspondents in Tolima informed him that Señor Arciniegas, Veiva, Tolima had received the permission of the Government of Tolima to reprint all the Tolima stamps; but as almost all the plates of the old issue were destroyed he had ordered new plates. They were to be issued as reprints, but were of course counterfeits. Apparently some of these plates must have been afterwards discovered, as nearly all the unused copies one sees of, for instance, the 1871 issue (except the 5 c.) are reprints. A careful examination will disclose the lines used to cancel the plates. The 10 c., for instance, shows a distinct line across the right-hand figure "10"; the 50 c. a line between "A" and "C" of "CINCUENTA CENTAVOS," and also another line between "DEL" and "TOLIMA"; whilst the 1 peso shows a line through the bottom "DEL."

The same remark applies to the 5 cent., blue, of Cundinamarca, of 1870, the reprints of which exhibit the same conditions to a lesser extent.

How easily these particular reprints may be passed over is seen from the fact that quite 25 per cent. of those in my own collection, which obtained gold and silver medals at our recent Exhibition, were reprints, and I did not notice them until they were pointed out to me by Mr. Bacon.

As the stamps of Cauca have always been more or less under a cloud, the following decrees as to their authenticity may be of interest:—

"E. Milano Rei, Secretary of the Préfecture, certifies that the first issue of stamps was made with the seal of the province of Choco (100); the second, with the monogram 'S.P.' enclosed by four red lines; the third, with the same monogram enclosed with pencil lines. The second issue was of 250 stamps, the third of 500.

"I vouch for the above. Given in Quebdo, May 24th, 1888.

"E. Milano Rei."

"Quebdo, *April* 19, 1881.

"*To the Administrator of Treasury, present.*

"I remit to you 250 stamps which I have had stamped, as indicated herein, to be used for prepaying correspondence and orders circulating through the mails of the State.

"The value of each stamp is 5 cents., and you will debit yourself with those I remit to you, the same as is done with the sealed paper money sent you by the General Administrator of the Treasury.

"The transmission of orders is paid by pasting on the money-order stamps to the value required for transmission.

"Please remit a sufficient number to the Collector of Assessments of Riosucio and also to Finbo.

"This in answer to your note of same date.

"I remain, etc.,

"Salmon Posso."

"The undersigned provincial Administrator of Treasury of Atrato testifies that the stamp in monogram 'S.P.' at theheading of this instrument is of legitimate issue of stamps adopted in this province for the mails of the State by order of the Government, and which were issued from 1883 to 1885, as can be seen in the accounts of this office, which are in the general accounts of the Treasury in Popayan, value 5 c.

"I attest to this document in Quebdo, July 28th, 1887.

"JUAN E. VALENCIA,
"*Provisional Administrator of the Treasury.*"

The rest of the decrees and documents relating to these stamps are given in full detail in the *American Journal of Philately* for February, 1889.

Philatelic Notes.

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

TRANSVAAL.

MR. R. PEARCE writes as follows:—"In your March number, on the authority of Mr. Nankivell, you announce as a 'discovery' the 3d., mauve, on green, with Roman VR inverted—a variety which you say 'has never been chronicled.' Will you kindly allow me to point out that this variety is included in Messrs. Bright and Son's 'A B C' Catalogue, and was first chronicled early in 1897, in the second edition of that work, on information supplied by me? These 3d. stamps were printed in sheets from the two plates which had been sent to the Transvaal—that is, in sheets of two panes of forty stamps each. The positions of the two types of VR on the sheets, and the numbers printed of each, are not known, as, although an entire sheet of the two panes was shown at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1890, unfortunately no one seems to have taken a note of the arrangement of the types. From this sheet, however, collectors learnt that if one type existed inverted, the other must of necessity exist in the same state, as both were included in the double sheet. The Tapling Collection, so rich in varieties of Transvaals, has, as Mr. Nankivell reminds us, two copies of the Italic VR inverted, and has consequently long proclaimed the existence of the Roman VR inverted. But although Mr. Nankivell has only discovered what was known, he is to be congratulated on having actually secured a copy of so rare a stamp."

Occasional Notes.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

AT the especial request of the Committee of this Exhibition, we desire to draw the notice of intending exhibitors to the fact that *all entries close on the first of May*. There are still many entries promised by members of the London and other well-known Philatelic Societies, and it is earnestly requested that all who have not yet sent in their entry forms will at once do so to Mr. G. F. H. Gibson, Hon. Sec. Philatelic Exhibition, 2, Cooper Street, Manchester.

The Exhibition will be opened on Thursday, June 29th, by Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., and will close on the evening of Wednesday July 5th.

A special gold medal is being given by M. Jules Bernichon for the best collection of French *tête-bêche*, either shown alone in Class III. or forming part of an exhibit of France in Class II. This will bring the total number of medals up to 160, 25 being gold, 81 silver, and 54 bronze; and on this account, as well as because the time of the Exhibition is so close at hand, the Committee have decided that no further offers of medals can be accepted.

Applications for space are coming in freely, but up to the time of writing (April 14th) some European countries, notably German and Italian States, and also British Colonials, are still not so well represented as they should be. The exhibits promised by ladies and junior collectors are likewise rather disappointing. They no doubt feel that anything they could send would have little chance in the open competition, but it was exactly in order to meet this difficulty that no fewer than seven special medals were offered for collections by ladies, youths, and schoolboys. We hope that by May 1st, the last day on which entries can be received, both of these causes of complaint may have been removed.

A complete list of the special medals will shortly be sent to each exhibitor, who will be asked to facilitate the work of the judges by stating for which he or she intends to compete, as the Committee cannot undertake to enter any exhibit for a special medal competition unless instructed to do so by the owner.

The subscription, season, and ordinary tickets mentioned last month are now ready, and can be had from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Fred. H. Gibson, at the Exhibition Offices, 2, Cooper Street, Manchester.

DEATH OF MR. AUGUST DEJONGE.

We learn with much regret of the recent death (March 21st) of this gentleman, who was well known as President of the Staten Island Philatelic Society, and we have a lively recollection of the kindly reception afforded to us by Mr. Dejonge when we visited Staten Island in 1893. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says that "President Dejonge, who was in the sixty-seventh year of his age, was one of the best known collectors of the Greater New York, not on account of the size of his collection or even of his Philatelic knowledge, but because of his bonhomie and general good fellowship. For thirty years he has been prominent at all social gatherings of stamp amateurs, and during that period made the acquaintance of practically the entire stamp-collecting fraternity of the country. To know him once was to remain his friend for ever. His loss will be a severe blow to Staten Island Society, of which he has been President since its foundation, some thirteen years ago." Our keen sympathies are with American Philately in its loss.

MR. WESTOBY'S "STAMPS OF EUROPE."

Two more sections of this work have now been issued (as before by Mr. L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, W.C.), being Nos. VIII. and IX., comprising the countries from Luxemburg to Romagna inclusive. There is one notable feature in these numbers, viz., the superiority of the illustrations, for which either unused or very fine specimens have been reproduced. The view of the Dutch perforations taken by Mr. Westoby would hardly commend itself to an advanced collector. He is, however, quite right in contradicting the catalogue error of there being only one type of the current Dutch unpaids. Mr. Westoby says that at the end of 1896 there was an issue of the 1 c., 2½ c., 5 c., and 10 c., all of Type I. We have, however, specimens of the following in both types, I. and III.: 1, 1½, 2½, 5, 10, 12½, 15, 20, and 25 c. It might have been true a few years since that no countries in Europe had attracted so little attention as Scandinavia, but nowadays there is a numerous school of Scandinavian Philatelists—patriots and foreigners—and the days when "skilling bokos," as the schoolboys termed it, could be had for the asking are vanished into the *Ewigkeit!*

Very interesting is the author's list of the Portuguese, and on the whole well up to date, as commemoration stamps are justly given a corner to themselves. Few countries in Europe can show no less than four sovereigns on their stamps in the forty-six years of their existence. To think that Her gracious Majesty Queen Victoria should have been sixteen years enthroned before the issue of the first of these Portuguese rulers—Dona Maria! It seems uncharitable to hope that the Queen may last during yet another Portuguese reign or two! The technical information, the historical description, and the sound Philatelic knowledge displayed throughout the work are again notable.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

ON good authority we learn that the task of arranging the Tapling Collection of postage stamps in the British Museum in something approaching systematic and chronological order is very nearly complete, though it will scarcely be finished in the present financial year. The sum annually allowed by the Treasury for the work has disappeared from the recently issued Estimates, and this may be regarded as an indication that this vast assemblage of postage stamps will soon be available for purposes of reference and comparison. There is, however, a difficulty in making the collection readily accessible to the public. It is obvious that it would never do to allow anyone from the numerous army of Philatelists to handle the specimens, even if properly recommended, as in the case of books, prints, and drawings. There is also the difficulty of damage from exposure to light to contend with. Several experiments for the preservation of the stamps have been tried, and methods of mounting them in a way that will allow of their being readily available for reference are now under the consideration of the authorities. We have had at various times information hereon from those "behind the scenes," to which we are not at liberty to refer, but it may be stated that at least one scheme presents many advantages, and it is to be hoped will be ultimately adopted by the authorities.

The expense attendant upon any one scheme that would allow of the whole collection being so displayed is, however, so material a factor that it is hardly likely that the collection, *as a whole*, will ever be permanently placed for public exhibition, although it is not improbable that when all the stamps have been properly classified and mounted arrangements may be made for exhibiting the greater part of them for a time. There can be small doubt that the views of the original donor—the late Mr. T. K. Tapling—are far from being carried out as he would have desired. The principal object of the generous donor was naturally that the collection, as in the case of kindred exhibits in all museums, should be displayed for the entertainment and instruction of the public who are interested in Philately. Most assuredly this object has not been attained during the past few years, while the collection was in process of mounting, for which to a certain extent this may be held accountable; and we are glad to announce that this will be finished next autumn. When, however, we learn—and the authority in this case is unimpeachable—that the future holds out no brighter prospect, we can but say most emphatically that the testator's wishes are far from being carried out, and that had he contemplated that the British Museum would thus bury his Philatelic treasures they would have been left to some other body who would have better appreciated them. The value of the bequest can at the present time be little short of £100,000; hence the grudging of the few hundred pounds expense per annum, necessary for but a very few years, clearly indicates that a Government department can look right down the throat of a gift-horse.

DR. GARNETT.

DR. RICHARD GARNETT, C.B., whose name has become a household word to many people associated with literary work, has retired from his post at the British Museum, after a long period spent in the public service, at the age of sixty-four, one year short of the age when retirement is compulsory.

The official title of the post occupied by Dr. Garnett is Head or Director of the Printed Book Department. Leagues of books, missals, papyri, manuscripts, and newspapers are under Dr. Garnett's care. The surveillance of the engravings and etchings is also within the scope of the "Printed Book Department," and under this category—as minute "prints" or "engravings"—come the Postage Stamps donated by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling. Mr. E. D. Bacon, who has been engaged during the past six years in mounting the collection, has naturally frequently come in contact with the chief of the department, and it is pleasing to learn of the great interest shown by Dr. Garnett in the collection. There can be no doubting mind as to the great ability and services rendered to the nation by Dr. Garnett in his capacity of keeper of this great and important section of the national museum, and it is to be hoped that some lasting recognition thereof will be tendered by the Government.

We are informed that the Doctor's successor is Mr. G. K. Fortescue, who will, it is to be hoped, endeavour in good time to have the important Philatelic section of his department displayed in accordance with the purposes for which it was donated.

PARCEL "STAMPS."

FROM Mr. Ewen's journal we cull the following paragraph, which is apparently given with a view to awakening interest in yet another class of adhesive labels, assuredly not "stamps":—

"Apparently the first railway to issue 'parcel' stamps was the Great Eastern (of which I have specimens dated as early as 1879), although the L. and N.W. seems to have received what credit may be attached to their introduction. Other lines issuing parcel stamps are the Isle of Wight, Lancashire and Yorkshire, North Eastern, North London, Midland Great Western. Other kinds of railway stamps are those used for corn samples (Great Eastern and London and N.W.), telegrams (South Eastern, obsolete), and newspapers (issued on most lines). These latter represent the lowest and least collectible class of railway stamps. The L. and N.W. parcel stamps have been issued up to the following numbers (each number represents a row of six stamps, A to F):—

½d.	740 (obsolete)	8d.	2,000
1d.	140,000	9d.	30,000
2d.	110,000	10d.	1,000
3d.	95,000	11d.	5,000
4d.	85,000	1s.	100,000
5d.	60,000	1/2	500
6d.	130,000	2/6	3,000"
7d.	3,000		

This is a free country, and everyone can collect what he or she may like, but in the interests of Philately we think that the modern attempt to wean collectors into other grooves is ill-advised. The number of stamps issued is so stupendous as to surely afford room for all grades of stamp collectors within its limits. The remove from the sublime to the ridiculous is proverbially constituted but by one step, and without claiming that Philately is "sublime" it is hard to draw the line and say where the "ridiculous" begins in the following of collectible objects, ranged in order of merit:

1. Adhesive Postage Stamps.
2. Postal Stationery—Envelopes and
3. Telegraph Stamps. [Cards.
4. Money Orders (stamped).
5. Fiscal Stamps.
6. Postmarks.
7. Railway Letter Stamps.
8. ,, Parcel ,,
9. Illustrated View Post Cards.
10. Railway Tickets.
11. Tramway ,,
12. Match-box Labels.

We have known earnest and painstaking collectors of all the last three objects, but although their enthusiasm may command our respect, it does not incite us to follow their example.

MR. SIGISMUND FRIEDL.

WE have no wish to let the name of this most unwholesome personage again defile the pages of this journal, but in the interests of collectors it is necessary. Mr. Friedl is unloading his stock of stamps and also the celebrated "Museum" so long supported by voluntary contributions, and despite all the ugly truths known about him, his advertisements are still accepted in many of the Continental journals. This should not be. It is obvious that it is easier to be wise after the event; hence many journals are now deploring the fact that they so readily accepted the advertisements of the now notorious Williams & Co., of Lima, but in the competition for advertisers some consideration should be given to the interests of the advertisees—*i.e.*, those who reply thereto. We are not preaching that which we do not practise, as the *London Philatelist* has exercised the greatest possible care in the exclusion of any advertiser of whose absolute bonâ-fides there is the smallest doubt.

Among the stamps still advertised by Sigismund Friedl are 27 and 81 paras of Moldavia, "Jassy forgeries, genuine obliterations, 100 marks each." The "obliterations" are of course simply forgeries, probably made by Friedl himself, and their attempted sale is absolute swindling.

Sigismund Friedl also advertises of the same country, "1858, 5 p., black on bluish paper, 50 marks," and "an entire sheet with four rows of eight of the 5 p., black on bluish, 32 stamps, 1500 marks." Although the writer long since purchased a pair of these stamps, under guarantee of a respectable firm, their appearance was never such as to inspire confidence. It has been generally surmised that they came from the Friedl *atelier*, but the announcement that Sigismund Friedl is prepared to sell them *in sheets* is an absolute death-warrant. *Noscitur a sociis!*

Beyond this, in Roumania again, Sigismund Friedl advertises, "5 b.,

carmine-rose, error, without guarantee, as many believe this error was never in issue." It has now been generally accepted as fact, many articles having appeared in this and other journals during recent years, that the 5 bani, rose, was never in circulation, and that if at the first, any 5 bani sheets ever existed with the error, they were severally removed before the issue of the sheets. Mr. Sigismund Friedl fully knows this, as also that the stamps were reprinted, and he knows doubtless that his stamp is a reprint. He was the seller, and probably the maker of these errors—both 5 b., red, and 5 b., blue—each *se tenant* and "postmarked" with a normal value, and as he has refused to refund the moneys of collectors whom he has swindled by the sale of his so-called used errors, it savours of sublime impudence that he should now be advertising these stamps "which are not believed to have been in use."

Beyond the history of the now notorious Friedl Mercuries, there are other skeletons in the cupboard of this man which time will reveal, and his name will be handed down to Philatelic posterity as possibly the most astute swindler of the nineteenth century. But, as we said at the commencement of this note, why should the managers of journals who consider themselves honest and respectable accept advertisements from known dishonest traders? and again we say, *Noscitur a sociis!*

BROOKLYN STAMP EXHIBITION.

FOLLOWING upon the information given in our February issue, we have received an attractive catalogue of the exhibits. The Exhibition was opened on the evening of March 18th, the opening ceremony being attended by numerous prominent officials of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and a representative gathering of Philatelists.

The list of awards has not yet reached England, except in the case of the special gold medal, which was awarded to Mr. J. W. George for his exhibit of U.S. Match and Medicine stamps. We are glad to notice that the exhibit of a member of the London Philatelic Society is mentioned as coming in a close second, this being the display of the stamps of Great Britain by Mr. A. Holland, nearly complete in plate numbers, watermarks, etc.

It is said that the daily attendance of visitors was very large; on one day alone the Exhibition was viewed by three thousand school students. Despite the short time allotted for the arrangements, the Brooklyn Exhibition is pronounced an unqualified success.

THE POST OFFICE OF MONACO.

THERE are at least two post offices at Monte, as it is familiarly called by residents on the Riviera, but the head bureau is a singularly unpretentious-looking affair, and on a scale with the numerical forces of the Monaco army. It appears that the "General Post Office" could afford to be better housed if the profit made were not diverted from its proper

channel. In an interesting article in the *Standard* of April 7th it is stated that the item "loss upon the Post Office" is also a curious feature of the administration in Monte Carlo. The late Prince Charles consented to the establishment of the Post Office, for the convenience of visitors, only upon condition that, if there was any loss, the Casino people should make it good. French stamps were used, and the office was nearly paying its way, when Prince Albert "succeeded." Then he insisted upon having stamps of his own, with his effigy thereon, and also that he should have the receipts, the Bank to continue to pay the expenses. This admirable arrangement—for the Prince—costs the Company £2000 per annum.

THE TRANSVAAL COLLECTORS' QUARTERLY.

As announced in our last issue, *the* Philatelic Quarterly has now appeared. Although in bulk it hardly competes with other magazines thus entitled, it will be found bright and pleasant reading to all who affect the collection of Transvaal stamps, and we gather that the editor's wish is that they should increase exceedingly and multiply. Mr. Nankivell's great experience as a journalist stands him here, as elsewhere, in good stead, and the Quarterly is quite a dainty little production.

THE UNITED STATES "PERIODICALS" REPRINTS.

Lively interest continues in America over the topic of the hour, the sale of the periodical remainders. The most has evidently been made of a glorious opportunity for Philatelic speculation. The American journals teem with disquisitions upon the pros and cons of the whole subject. The most important news centres in accurate information regarding the number of reprints made by the Government. It appears that there was sufficient stock of all values, from 1 c. to $2, to make up the 50,000 sets, but that of the higher values only the following quantities were in stock as originals :—

$5	155
$10	11,640
$20	8780
$50	16,245
$100	7685

To make up the requisite number of sets, therefore, reprinting had to be resorted to. Whether the 155 copies of the $5 stamp are in actual circulation remains to be seen ; we have not yet heard of copies being purchased. The U.S. Government would have acquitted itself better had a resolution been arrived at to entirely reprint these high values. The subject is one upon which a great deal further might be said. As it is, we fear the action of so prominent a Power, solely for the purpose of financing its exchequer, will open the door for depredations on the part of smaller Governments with less meritorious claims for their action even than exist in the sale of the periodical reprints.

The following paragraphs are from the New York *Sun* of March 24th, which is a prominent daily organ, and shows that the interest in this somewhat debatable action of the U.S. Post Office Department is by no means confined to Philatelic circles. It seems clear that the Post Office has made a clear £50,000 (or will as soon as the sets are all sold, a probably not remote contingency), and it is to be feared that the success of the proceeding may lead other Governments to follow. It will assuredly be a strong card with the French who wish the 1849 issue reprinted:—

"The Post Office Department is highly gratified with the success attending the sale of the newspaper and periodical stamps, and with reason. When it was announced, that owing to the solicitation of collectors, the Department had determined to place on sale 50,000 complete sets of the old newspaper and periodical stamps, at the price of $5 per set, most people who read the notice probably wondered where the Department expected to find persons to purchase that number of stamps that had absolutely no face value and could never be used or redeemed by the Department. The 50,000 sets were distributed at the large Post Offices, New York receiving 3000, and the others proportionate amounts. Five thousand sets were retained to be sold direct by the Department. Notice of the sale was given on Feb. 4th by means of a circular, and the sale commenced on the 15th of last month. In scarcely thirty days the stock is almost exhausted.

"In New York the entire 3000 sets were sold in one day. The stock in New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago, and San Francisco is exhausted. Very few sets remain at the General Post Office, and the orders are coming in so rapidly, there will be none left in a few days. The sets consist of twelve stamps—the 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, and 50 cent, the 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 dollar stamps. For these twelve bits of paper, then, there are 50,000 persons willing to pay $5, although the stamps can never be used or redeemed. The total will cost the Government about $3 or $4, or, to be liberal, say $25. The profit on the issue will thus be about $249,975. The Government evidently is not in the stamp-collecting business for the fun of it. These sets of stamps sold so rapidly, the Department is regretting it did not place more on sale, but its word is pledged that no more than 50,000 sets shall be sold. While it may seem strange they sold so rapidly, it should be considered that for many years collectors have tried in vain to obtain these stamps. They were never sold to publishers, but were placed by the Postmaster in a book and cancelled as the postage was used by the publisher owning the stamps. They never passed out of the possession of the Postmaster. Now there are 50,000 complete sets in circulation. There are, however, several hundred thousand collectors in the United States alone, and a million or more in the world."

THEFT OF POSTAGE STAMPS IN HUNGARY.

A SENSATIONAL theft of postage stamps has, according to the daily papers, been brought to light in Buda-Pesth. It appears that sheets of stamps from the State Printing Office which had been ordered to be destroyed have by means of bribery been systematically stolen. The stamps in sheets were forwarded from the State Printing Office to the Drasche brick-kilns, to be burned, a committee being present to witness the ordeal and to ensure their destruction. M. Szecsoedy, a former member of the Diet, bribed the stoker at the brick-kilns not to throw the stamps into the furnace until the fire had

been raked out, when, immediately after the departure of the committee, the scorched stamps were taken out and handed to M. Szecsoedy. They were then placed in the hands of a coffee-house keeper for disposal. Nothing definite is known as to the amount of the stamps stolen, but it is estimated that many thousand florins have been realised. The discovery is due to information given by a young woman to the Burgomaster, out of revenge to one of the parties implicated.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE, PART II.

As we are going to press we have been favoured with a glimpse at an advance copy of the second portion of the Catalogue. It is evident —from a cursory inspection—that this portion has been very materially improved, and that it is of great general excellence—while as regards the financial aspect there is little that will scare the most timid. In our next issue we hope to fully review the Catalogue.

IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE.

The Hon. W. Mulock, Postmaster-General of Canada, in writing to Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, M.P., on April 3rd, says :—

"You will be glad to learn that the reduced postage has given an immense impetus to correspondence from Canada to the United Kingdom, and I am assured by my officers that the number of such letters is quite double what it was under the old rate, and appears to be steadily increasing. Yesterday I received a letter from a citizen of Halifax telling me that the old rate practically compelled him to discontinue a somewhat extensive business he had been seeking to establish with Great Britain, but that now he had re-established it, and that his correspondence would reach over four hundred letters a month. The Canadian public are most grateful to you for your successful advocacy of the measure, and always associate the name of Henniker Heaton with Penny Postage."

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 GUIANA.—We have received the "Two Cents" on 15 c. provisional alluded to last month from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., who also inform us that there are two errors in the complete sheets of the 2 c. on 10 c. and the 2 c. on 15 c. On the former one stamp has "GENTS" for "CENTS," and on the latter one stamp has no period after "CENTS."

The following cutting from the British Guiana *Daily Chronicle* speaks for itself:—

"Since the notice appeared in Wednesday's *Chronicle* that fifteen and ten cents Jubilee stamps, surcharged two cents, would be issued on Friday, there has been a great demand for them at the General Post Office, and the first lot received by the Postmaster-General from the Commissioner of Stamps was entirely sold out. The cost of producing the Jubilee stamps was heavy, and in consequence of the adoption of the Imperial penny postage scheme it was expected that the demand for stamps of the higher denominations would be materially reduced. In order to avoid a loss to the revenue, and in order to dispose of the Jubilee issue of stamps as soon as possible, it was decided to surcharge a number of the stamps for which there would be little demand. Consequently about 124,000 fifteen cents stamps and 96,000 ten cent stamps were surcharged two cents. Of these between 40,000 and 45,000 have been issued by the Post Office, but in order to prevent large speculators buying up the greater part of the issue, and to allow people in the country districts an opportunity of buying the stamps, it has been decided to give the Postmaster-General small lots every three or four days, as he requisitions for them. Of the surcharged stamped envelopes nearly all have been issued, and the Commissioner of Stamps has now only about 8000 on hand."

Adhesive. Two Cents on 15 c., blue and brown, surcharge black.

CANADA.—With some surprise and no little gratification we learn from a contemporary that the recent bisected provisional stamps with reduced values are "absolutely unauthorised and unworthy of recognition." If this be so, why are we thus late provided with the information? Surely collectors in the Dominion are sufficiently interested in the stamps of their own country to supply prompt particulars of an issue which, if genuine, in no way elevates postal reputation?

Mr. D. A. King has forwarded the 3 c. envelope and letter card, both surcharged "2 c." in large type.

Letter Card. 2 c. on 3 c., rose on *azure*; surcharge black.
Envelope. 3 c., red on *white*; surcharge black.

CEYLON.—The *Ph. J. of India* announces a forthcoming new issue of stamps to include a permanent 6 c. value for letters, and 75 c., R. 1.50, and R. 2.25 values for parcel post uses.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND.—We have received a communication from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. which throws further light upon the pigeon-post stamps alluded to with reserve in our January issue. Our correspondents send a copy of a letter received by them from the Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department at Wellington, New Zealand, which reads as follows:—

[*Copy.*] "GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND,
"*20th February*, 1899.

"GENTLEMEN,—I am in receipt of your letter to the Chief Postmaster, Auckland, of the 6th ultimo, asking for information as to the authenticity of an issue of 1s. stamps inscribed 'Great Barrier Island, Special Post.'

"In reply, I beg to inform you that the Department has no knowledge of the stamps having been

used. The so-called pigeon-post between the mainland and the Great Barrier Island was purely a private speculation, with which the Department was in no way concerned.

"Your enclosure is returned herewith.

"Yours obediently,

"(Signed) W. GRAY, *Secretary.*

"Messrs. WHITFIELD KING & Co.,
"Postage Stamp Dealers,
"Ipswich, England."

We fear it is impossible to allude to these labels except as being of a private character, although we entertain no doubts as to the *bonâ-fides* of the pigeongram service for which they were used.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall writes us:—

"The current penny stamps have been recently issued on distinctly ribbed or, as the technical term is, 'rep' paper, the lines running vertically.

"On examination of some corner pairs with control letters it appears that this has been going on for some time, though hitherto it has escaped the notice of Philatelists.

"The penny with W and the halfpenny with Q always show this appearance faintly, V and P sometimes only. As a rule the lines are very indistinct, only one block having been seen up to the present which is at all startling. Some of the other values also present this peculiarity to a very partial extent if quite modern ones be examined."

We have purchased specimens at various post offices, and find that in some instances as regards the one penny the paper shows a faint vertical ribbing, as described by Mr. Marshall, but in no case so distinct as the specimens that he submitted to us with his letter. The paper of the lower values at present in use is whiter—*i.e.*, less toned—than that previously in use. It is also thinner in substance, so much so that the employés of the Post Office have complained that it renders the stamps liable to tears.

Miss D'Albiac has forwarded for inspection a specimen of the current letter card without any perforations. The specimen in point was purchased in the usual way at the Post Office, as we understand, soon after these cards were issued, and is a curious error of manufacture, as, being devoid of perforation, it cannot be opened without destruction, and practically ceases to be a letter card.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.—The provisionals to which we referred last month are not to be issued, for which mercy we are truly thankful. No reason is assigned for this sudden change of purpose.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The *A. J. of Ph.* mentions a new setting of the ninepence on 10d. provisional, on which the surcharge measures 13 mm. instead of 14½, as heretofore.

Adhesive. 9d. on 10d., red-brown, surcharge black (measuring 13 mm.).

QUEENSLAND.—More news is to hand anent the perforation vagaries which have been for some time a topic for discussion. If we quote the following from the *Australian Philatelist* we shall serve the double purpose of giving up-to-date information on the points (serrated!) raised and rectifying our suggestion made in an earlier issue that the rouletting was accomplished at the time of printing, *i.e.*, in one operation. Our contemporary says:—

"The zigzag perforation was a fiasco, principally on account of it being necessary to perforate *before* gumming. The gum then fastened up the holes made by the steel rule. It was impossible to perforate *after* gumming, and about 3000 out of the 5000 sheets printed and issued to the G.P.O. were returned to the Government printing office to be perforated in the ordinary way by the comb machine. There are thus four varieties of this latest perforation, viz.:—

1 serrated.
2 „ in black.
3 „ and perf. 12½.
4 „ in black, and perf. 12½.

The explanation given for the existence of the serrated in black variety is that the machinists (this work being done on an ordinary printing machine), in order to get the perforation to register properly, ran several sample sheets through the press and so arranged it that the frame did not perforate, but, with the judicious application of a little printer's ink, simply left a black impression. Where this impression encroached on the coloured design of the stamp the register was altered, until at last all the lines of the perforating frame fell between the rows of stamps; then the 'sampling' was discontinued, and the perforating proceeded with merrily."

The only fault we have to find with the varieties mentioned is that the sheets, after undergoing the process of 'sampling' as explained by our contemporary, were put into circulation instead of to the fiery ordeal they merited.

RHODESIA.—The following letter from Mr. D. Montague Jacobs gives the latest news

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of South African speculating, and confirms our fears regarding the provisionals alluded to :—

"SALISBURY, RHODESIA,
"*March 6th*, 1899.

"DEAR SIR,—I beg to notify you for publication in the *London Philatelist* that the Chief Distributer of Stamps for Rhodesia having received, at the time of issue, from Bulawayo one sheet of each of the values of the provisionals surcharged on Capes, and same having been issued from time to time to various applicants, and as a large number of further applications have recently been made for them, the Administrator gave instructions that the whole balance in the hands of the Chief Distributor should be handed to the Postmaster-General for issue to the general public. In consequence the latter notified that the stamps would be on sale at noon on Monday last, the 27th ult., at which time they would be sold at their face value, but not exceeding three full sets to any one applicant. Shortly before the hour mentioned a large crowd were waiting at the Post Office counter for the issue to be made, and in almost every instance the full three sets were applied for. In less than twenty minutes the whole lot had been issued, upwards of sixty people being compelled to depart without obtaining them. The series consists of 120 sets of the ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. This is, I believe, the last of the provisionals obtainable at face value in Rhodesia.

"Yours faithfully,
"D. MONTAGUE JACOBS."

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—We have another provisional to add to the list given last month, which we understand was prepared in London by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. This is a 5 c., rose, surcharged in one line of sans-serif capitals "FOUR CENTS."

Adhesive. Four Cents on 5 c., rose ; surcharge black.

Negri Sembilan.—The dearth of 4 c. stamps has spread up country. *Le T.-P.* announces the 8 c. adhesive surcharged "FOUR CENTS."

Adhesive. 4 c. on 8 c., lilac and blue ; surcharge black.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—We were in error last month in stating that the new watermark was Crown between C A ; it should be *between W A*. We note that the 1d. stamp has been issued with similar watermark.

Adhesives. 1d., carmine ; watermarked Crown W A.
2d., orange ,, ,, ,,

EUROPE.

BELGIUM.—The *A. J. of Ph.* announces a projected stamp bearing the portrait of the painter Van Dyck, to be put on sale in August next in connection with the celebration of his centenary.

FINLAND.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the following translations from a Finnish journal relative to the proposed retirement of the "thunderbolt" issues in favour of ordinary Russian stamps.

Translated from the *Hufvudstadsbladet* of Helsingfors, dated March 9th, 1899.—

"THE POSTAL QUESTION.

"As stated below, the Russian Minister of the Interior has decreed in a despatch received here that the Russian postage stamps provided with circles, which at present are used in Finland, shall, as soon as the stock of the same has come to an end, be abolished and replaced by the corresponding Russian stamps (those used in the empire). As the reason for this alteration it is stated in the despatch that now, since 'the Finnish and Russian monetary conditions have become stable,' it is unnecessary to have special Russian postage stamps for use in Finland

"The present order for the use of postage stamps was introduced through a postal manifesto of the year 1890. It was then decreed that the Finnish stamps were to be used as before for correspondence in the country and abroad. For correspondence to Russia special Russian stamps, provided with circles, were introduced, which in this case were obligatory. These stamps would also have currency within the boundaries of Finland.

"By the last decree of the Russian Minister of the Interior, such alteration will take place in these conditions that the edition of the Russian stamps provided with circles will be replaced by the ordinary Russian stamps, which will also have legal currency in Finland together with the Finnish stamps.

"As a reason for a special edition of Russian stamps for Finland being introduced in 1890, it was adduced from Russian quarters that the fluctuations of the rate of exchange of the rouble made a control of the Russian stamps which were sold to Finland necessary. As a gold standard has been practically introduced into Russia, such control is no longer considered necessary. Hence the last alteration.

"For Finland this alteration will be of no great practical consequence. The present Finnish stamps, in penni, will be retained for correspondence in the country and abroad. Russian stamps are used as a rule only for correspondence to Russia.

"There is reason to believe that the 'postal question,' which at one time was much agitated and has contributed to keep people in uneasiness, has been solved by the above reform."

Translated from the *Hufvudstadsbladet* of Helsingfors, dated March 9th, 1899 :—

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"The Minister of the Interior in the Russian empire has decreed that the Russian postage stamps (those provided with circles) now in use in Finland shall be abolished, and those current in Russia be used in their stead. The alteration will take effect as soon as the present stock of postage stamps has come to an end. The present Finnish stamps are retained for inland use and for postal correspondence abroad (except to Russia)."

GERMANY.—The *P. J. of G. B.* states that four new values are to be issued shortly : 30 pf., 80 pf., 2 and 5 marks.

HOLLAND.—We are a little nearer the correct status of the new type 1 gulden stamp. The following is from the *Philatelic Monthly* :—

"There appears to be much speculating in Holland with the new 1 gulden stamp with the head of the young Queen. These stamps were from the first but sparsely distributed among the post offices of the country, for the postal authorities wished to dispose first of the stock of the old stamps still on hand before generally distributing the new. In consequence of this policy there is a certain scarcity of the new stamp. This led some speculating collectors and dealers to form a syndicate and to try to buy up all the so-called Coronation Gulden stamps available at the present moment. Circulars were prepared and mailed to all of the 1400 odd post offices of the little kingdom, when orders were given to the authorities to entirely ignore such requests and to inform no private individual of the stock on hand of these stamps in any office. This official circular was understood by some to mean that the stamps had been retired, and rumours to that effect were freely floating around last month. It is not so, however. The new Gulden stamp is not withdrawn. It is sold with the others wherever a stock is on hand, but is given only to such customers as ask for it, while a simple request for a Gulden stamp will be met with the old kind."

MONTENEGRO.—The *M. J.* states that the 2 nov. has appeared in a new colour, and perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesive. 2 nov., emerald-green ; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

PORTUGAL.—*Lorenzo Marques.*—The *M. J.* has received news of some new provisionals formed by dividing the 30 and 800 reis, long rectangular bill stamps of Mozambique, and printing upon each half, "correio de—Lourenço Marques—50 reis." There are two different values thus surcharged, and tops and bottoms of each.

SERVIA.—From the same source we learn that the 20 p. Unpaid Stamp has been issued with a new perforation, $11\frac{1}{2}$ instead of $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 20 p., orange-brown ; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

SWITZERLAND.—Following the change in the colour of the 5 c. to green, we learn from *La Revue Phil. Française* that the 10 c. has been adopted in vermilion, replacing rose.

The colour of the 10 c. has varied during recent years from a pale rose to an aniline impression so bright that it has practically been vermilion.

Adhesive. 10 c., vermilion.

AMERICA.

COLOMBIA (REPUBLIC OF).—The *A. J. of Ph.* announces the 10 c. value in the new type recently illustrated.

Adhesive. 10 c., brown on *lilac-rose.*

Santander.—Our contemporaries illustrate a new 5 c. stamp which was issued in January last.

Adhesive. 5 c., black on rose ; perf.

PERU.—The *M. J.* announces the current 2 c. stamp in a new colour—red.

Adhesive. 2 c., red.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—The current United States stationery is being surcharged for use in the new colony, the surcharge, "CUBA—1 c. de peso," being applied just underneath the stamp in the top right-hand corner.

Post Cards. 1 c. de peso on 1 c., black.
2 „ „ „ 2 „ „

The new set of stamps is not expected to be out for at least three months.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

FRENCH COLONIES.—The short span of Philatelic quietude is about to be broken. The following is inserted on the authority of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* :—

"Guadeloupe and Indo-China have asked for stamps of special designs, and, if this demand should be acceded to, it would probably mean the abandonment of the present colonial type. In addition Indo-China is to have four different types for Cambodia, Annam and Tonkin, Cochin China, and Indo-China proper."

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.—The *A. J. of Ph.* having received copies of the 2 c. stamp in the new colour mentioned last month, finds three distinct shades of the same—carmine, salmon-pink, and salmon.

HAYTI.—The current adhesives are apparently to afford a field for hunting in to collectors of minor varieties. We hear that there are two slight imperfections in the present design. There should be an accent over "E" in "Republique," and a trema over the first "I" in "Haiti." The American Bank Note Company has received instructions to make these corrections as soon as a new supply of stamps is required.

MOZAMBIQUE CO.—The following is a cutting from the *Beira Post*, forwarded to us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The warning is one which is scarcely needed; we fancy even the lesser quantity of labels mentioned would more than go round!

"Philatelists will do well to beware of an issue of Mozambique Company's stamps, carmine, 75 reis, surcharged *Provisorio* across centre, and 25 on top; the original 75 below being ruled out, all surcharging being in black ink. Of these 10,000 were printed, but less than 3000 were issued to the public from the Post Office; the balance of 7000 were bought up by speculators within an hour or two of the Treasury Office opening by those who had been *privately* informed of the issue coming out. It was not advertised previous to issue, and there is so much doubt connected with the issue that locally it is regarded as not an issue fit for collectors to touch; the boycott should be *general*."

PORTO RICO.—The same contemporary states that the first supply of U.S. stamps, surcharged for use in Porto Rico, arrived with the mail of March 23rd. Only the four values chronicled last month have appeared thus far. The surcharge is in long primer capitals placed diagonally.

TRANSVAAL.—The following is from the *Philatelic Monthly*:—

"The federation of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic is assuming a definite shape. As a consequence President Kruger will retire, and President Stein, of the Orange Free State, will probably be at the head of the united countries. It is proposed to honour Kruger by placing his portrait upon one of a new set of postage stamps."

This information, if reliable, is important. Our contemporary supplies no authority for the statement.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

President—M. P CASTLE.
Hon. Sec.—BARON A. DE WORMS,
27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE second meeting of the season 1898-99 was held at Markwell's Hotel on Tuesday, December 6th, at 8.15 p.m.; six members and one visitor were present. The President took the chair, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. Dendy Marshall exhibited his very fine collection of Railway Letter Fee stamps, consisting almost entirely of unused specimens, on which he read a most interesting paper. He described all the principal varieties, and mentioned that the stamps of several railways were no longer issued, and that some of them were now extremely rare. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Marshall.

THE third meeting was held on Tuesday, January 3rd, at 8.15 p.m., when seven members attended, the President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the President read a paper on the reprints of the stamps of Lübeck. He described the differences between them and the originals, and said that the former were difficult to obtain, owing to a very small number having been printed, and also that the last issue could be easily distinguished, as the stamps were imperforate and not embossed. The President was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his interesting notes.

THE fourth meeting was held on Tuesday, February 7th, at 8.15 p.m., when six 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 were read and confirmed. Mr. Sang then held an auction, but, owing probably to the small attendance of members, the sale was not as successful as on previous occasions. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Sang for all the trouble he had taken in arranging the sale. The resignation of Mr. W. E. Hughes as a member of the Society was accepted with regret.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. LLOYD.
Vice-President—F. E. ELLISON.

A MEETING of this Society was held as usual on Thursday evening, the 16th instant, the President being in the chair.

After the business for the evening had been disposed of and several new members proposed,

a very interesting and amusing paper was read by Mr. J. Perrett on "Early Reminiscences of Stamp Collecting," in which he related his own personal experience, dating from the year 1858, or more than forty years ago, when stamps now the envy of wealthy and advanced collectors, were bartered for apples and marbles by boys at school, who with a collection of 60 to 100 stamps were proud of their possession, and, as he said, one of his acquaintances boasted that in that number twenty-seven different countries were represented. Mr. Perrett then referred to the prices paid for stamps at about that date, there being one or two shopkeepers in Clifton and Bristol who sold stamps, though now they would be considered as being given away rather than sold; for example, 1s., orange, Newfoundlands, at 6d. each, was a high price for what is now catalogued at £16. The prices in the earliest catalogues were then referred to, and copies of some of them, as that of Messrs. Young and Stockall, of Liverpool, and others, were afterwards passed round for inspection, and stamps now catalogued at from £20 to £30 apiece, could then be had for a few pence. One of his early associates, and with whom he had considerable dealings, was Mr. E. L. Pemberton. The President (Mr. P. J. Lloyd) was the purchaser of one of his early collections, and paid the then large sum of £60 for it, an outlay never regretted since by the then youthful collector, and from the nucleus of which has grown Mr. Lloyd's present splendid collection. Amongst the early purchases made by Mr. Perrett, who in 1873 had become a *bonâ-fide* dealer, was a parcel from Mr. Stanley Gibbons, the invoice of which was exhibited, and which contained many items that the present "Co." are not likely to part with at the prices then charged, as U.S.A., 1869, 90c., rose and black (head of Lincoln), at 10s. per dozen. Their catalogues consisted then of only a few pages in an illustrated paper cover, issued monthly, price 3d., whereas now there are four bound volumes, which cost about 6s. Mr. Perrett having concluded by expressing the hope that his attempt to interest the members would be followed by others, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for his interesting paper.

There will be no meeting held on April 6th. For the next meeting, on April 20th, the subject will be "British Guiana" and "British Honduras."

Mr. Way, having recovered from his recent serious illness, will now resume all his duties as hon. exchange packet secretary.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A GENERAL MEETING was held at Anderton's Hotel on Tuesday, April 11th, at 7 p.m. Present: Messrs. H. R. Oldfield, W. A. Bois, E. Airlie Day, L. E. Bradbury, G. Gaffe, E. Bounds, C. Forbes, J. W. Jones, M. Z. Kuttner, W. Simpson, C. R. Sutherland, F. A. Wickhart, E. J. Nankivell (visitor), and H. A. Slade.

The minutes of last meeting being read and duly confirmed, the following were proposed and elected members of the Society: Messrs. Edgar Watkin, S. J. Anderson, and Hubert Warren. It was determined that the close of a successful season be celebrated by a dinner at headquarters on May 2nd.

At the conclusion of business Mr. Herbert R. Oldfield gave a display of his magnificent collection of Swiss stamps, accompanied by lucid and interesting explanations of the various issues. A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Oldfield for his entertainment brought an enjoyable evening to a close at 9.30 p.m.

H. A. SLADE,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.
INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

THE twelfth meeting took place at the Grand Hotel, on March 10th, the President occupying the chair, and eleven other members present.

The Hon. Librarian announced the receipt of a number of contributions to the Library, including unbound volumes of *La Revue Philatelique Belge*, 1898, *Der Philatelist*, 1898, and *Le Timbre-Poste*, 1898, from Mr. Duerst; the back numbers required to complete the volumes of the *London Philatelist*, from Mr. Castle; the *American Journal of Philately*, the *Monthly Journal*, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, the *Record*, and *La Revue Postale*, as well as Messrs. Bright and Son's new catalogue, all of which were acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. North read a paper on "The Seamy Side of Philately," dealing with the work of the forger, the manufacture of perforated stamps from imperforate, and *vice versa*, wrong surcharges, chemical changelings, and other varieties, concluding with a reference to reprints, stamp changers, and commemorative stamps.

G. FRED. H. GIBSON, *Hon. Sec.*
KERSAL, MANCHESTER.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

OCTOBER packets have come back from circulation, and accounts have been promptly rendered and settled. Sales were as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
Oct. A1 packet . . .	123	4	7
,, A2 ,, . . .	114	3	1
,, B1 ,, . . .	77	0	11
,, B2 ,, . . .	59	19	2

November packets are expected back within the next fortnight.

For the March circuit, 171 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £2002 5*s.* 4*d.*, were made up into four packets, and despatched on their rounds on the 25th. Many members sent some of their best duplicates at reasonable prices, so a good percentage of sales is anticipated. The issues of the various African companies were specially strong, with Continentals a good second. Six applications for membership were received during the past month, four of which were accepted. Members of the principal foreign clubs are invited to send selections, while British buyers, sending good references, will always be welcomed. For copy of rules and full information apply to

H. A. SLADE, *Secretary.*
INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

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.

CO-OPERATION BY COLLECTORS OF UNUSED STAMPS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

SIR,—I have followed with much interest your observations upon cleaned stamps in this month's *London Philatelist*, and consider that the suggestion you make as to co-operation amongst those interested in such goods for mutual protection is one deserving the attention of all serious collectors. For myself I will aid all I can in assisting in the formation of a society having these objects in view. With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

W. DORNING BECKTON.

DAISY BANK, SWINTON PARK, MANCHESTER,
March 3rd, 1899.

SIR,—I think that the time has arrived when certainly *collectors* of unused stamps might be banded together to good purpose. In collecting unused stamps, unless one has great experience, there are many pitfalls to be avoided, and I am convinced that the leading collectors thereof would be doing good service to those who follow in their footsteps in heading this movement.

I am a collector of European stamps, and perhaps for this reason would advocate confining the society to such. But the whole world would open the doors too wide, and in the case of the British Colonials I should not think the difficulties are so many, as reprints are largely absent.

Yours faithfully,

UNUSED EUROPEAN.

April 14th, 1899.

RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS.

SIR,—In the last number of this magazine, Mr. Dendy Marshall gave what at first sight appeared to be a very decisive opinion as to the status of Railway Letter stamps. In reality he leaves us to gather his meaning from his general statements; and, as far as I can understand, he considers these stamps as being quite on a level with the Post Office issues. I cannot understand his statement that the railway companies, acting as agents of the Postmaster-General, must be "considered part of the machinery of the Post Office." On the contrary, the very fact that they issue stamps in their own names seems to show that they are distinctly separated from the Post Office for this particular purpose. The ordinary mails are largely conveyed by rail, and to that extent the companies form part of the machinery of the P.O., but not in the case of Railway letters.

Again, does the 2d. stamp *completely* frank the letter while travelling on the railway? If so, why is the 1d. required? Mr. Marshall gets over the difficulty by supposing that the 1d. stamp is a tax paid to the P.O. in consideration of waiving the privilege of conveying the letter, which leads to the further suggestion that any delivery or further handling of the letter by the P.O. after it leaves the rail is "an act of grace"!

It seems to me that the 1d. stamp is the essential and obligatory label, without which the letter cannot be forwarded at all.

If this stamp is alone, then the letter is forwarded by the ordinary route, in the usual manner, and at the regulation hours. At the same time, the sender may, if he so please, affix a Railway label, in order to secure the transmission of the letter in a somewhat different manner, or at other hours. The main point to be insisted upon is that the official 1d. stamp is obligatory, the 2d. Railway label optional, as far as mere delivery of the letter is concerned, and merely used to secure special delivery.

From this it seems clear that the Railway Letter label is an *officially sanctioned* (but not official) *Special Delivery stamp*. Its position is absolutely unique, being slightly below the Government Special Delivery stamp, and far above any other private delivery company's issues. Collectible they are, or are not, according to the fancy of the individual collector, but it must be borne in mind that they are numerous—about 120 main varieties—and also available only over a strictly limited area. For the rest I can only quote the words of your editorial, that "every collector must decide for himself or herself what shall be taken and what shall be left."

Yours truly,

ERNEST A. ELLIOTT.

41, HOLLAND PARK, *March 29th*, 1899.

"BREAKERS AHEAD."

SIR,—I have read with interest Mr. W. A. Walker's article, "Breakers Ahead," in the November number of the *London Philatelist*, and agree with what he says as to the prices of many stamps in dealers' catalogues not in any degree representing the "value relative to the number printed." I should very much like to see an amateur catalogue such as he speaks of, brought out, say, under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of London, giving the values of stamps relative to the approximate numbers issued.

Take the Niger Coast Protectorate, for instance. I note that a well-known dealer, whose catalogue is taken as a standard, prices the ½d. in vermilion, block type, surcharged on 2½ Oil Rivers, at 4s., used! I only have two of these stamps, which are in my collection, and I cannot think that this represents their value relative to the number printed. I wonder if this dealer could and would

supply me with even five of these stamps, used, if I sent him a cheque for £1.

I do not know if it is known exactly how many of *these* stamps were printed, but of the "one halfpenny," surcharged in black, on 2½d., blue, priced by the same dealer at 40s., unused and used, it is known that only 960 were issued.

Can any of your readers inform me how many were printed of the British Honduras 50 cents, surcharged in small type, on 1s., grey? It is priced by the same dealer at 85s. unused, and 95s. used. I enclose my card.

Yours faithfully, A. G. GRIFFITH.

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE,
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON, W.C.,
March 18th, 1899.

NIGER COAST PROVISIONALS, 1893.

DEAR SIR,—I cannot see that any dealers chronicle two varieties of the bisected and surcharged 1d., blue, of 1893 (provisional) issue of the Niger Coast Protectorate.

One was in use when I got to Opobo in May, 1894—*i.e.*, the *dark* blue bisected and surcharged "½" in red; then in August, 1894, when Opobo was again without ½d. stamps (they only sent very small stocks from G.P.O. to out stations), one sheet of the *light* blue 1d. stamps *then* in use was bisected and surcharged "½" in red.

I send for your inspection, so that you can chronicle the difference, one of each variety, used, and on entire envelopes, as they passed through the post; it is just as much a variety as are the two shades of the stamp itself which are chronicled.

The dark blue 1d. were the first lot sent out from England, and the second lot sent out were a much lighter blue.

The enclosed letter, written to me when I was at Old Calabar by the late Vice-Consul Tanner, refers to the surcharge (*light* blue) issued by him (as Postmaster of Opobo) in *August*, 1894. The *dark* blue one, as I before said, was in use at Opobo when I arrived there in *May*, 1894.

The tissue paper which I have placed over the stamps to preserve them can be lifted up to examine them.

Kindly return them, and Mr. Tanner's letter, registered, at your early convenience. I enclose envelope stamped 3d.

Yours faithfully, A. G. GRIFFITH.

[The stamps submitted by our correspondent bear out his remarks as being uncontestably of the two shades of blue. Both these bisected surcharged stamps are on originals, and despatched from Opobo—the dark blue dated May 22nd, 1894, and the pale blue August 26th, 1894. The ink employed for the surcharge also seems to vary, that of the latter being brighter, and the whole surcharge more distinct. The former overprint is indeed so indistinct that unless on the original it would hardly be capable of verification. The semi-official letter sent by Mr. Griffith gives naturally the full *raison d'être;* but we are decidedly of the opinion that in the stamps of this Protectorate, as also in other cases, a great deal must be taken on faith. One of *our* articles of faith is that Philatelic speculations frequently dominate postal requirements —ED.]

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.*

AN AMERICAN AUCTION.—On the 6th April were received in this country catalogues of a sale to be held by the New England Stamp Company at the Boston Stamp Bourse on April 24th, thus practically giving a month's notice to home buyers and sufficient time to those abroad to have both executed. The stamps were on view at different dates between the 4th and 14th April at Montreal, Portland, Providence, and Worcester, and at two places each in New York and Philadelphia. In this country the stamps cannot be seen except in the forty-eight hours precedent to the sale, when the catalogues also are allowed to appear, the result being that "prices ruled low"!

With regard to the catalogue, the sale in question is an example of how such should be done, well illustrated, and with the catalogue value against every lot. The conditions of sale, which we reproduce in part, are on the lines that we have so long and vainly advocated with the leading auctioneers in this country.

"A sale of carefully selected stamps taken from an old and valuable collection. As a rule these stamps are perfect, with very few exceptions, carefully and conscientiously noted; they are not what might be termed average copies, but picked copies, far above the average, and meriting the highest prices. Coming from an old collection, many of the unused stamps are without the original gum, but, as a rule, such stamps are those that are rarely found with gum; in other words, the lines that European catalogues list at from two to five hundred per cent. higher when found with gum. All cancelled stamps are in fine condition and lightly cancelled; there are no badly centred specimens in the sale.

"These stamps are sold on honour; every stamp not fully up to the catalogue description need not be paid for, the buyer to be the judge. We only stipulate that complaint be made within five days from receipt of package, as we desire to make prompt settlement with owners; this time limit, however, does not apply should a question of genuineness be raised. Stamps are absolutely without reserve.

"The cataloguers expect to be, and desire to be, held responsible for any errors of omission or commission concerning the sale."

* * *

M. JULES BERNICHON, the well-known Paris dealer, has lately acquired an entire sheet of the 1855 issue of Spain, 1 real blue, containing the "2 reales" error. The price of this acquisition was no less than £300; but this stamp, unused, is practically, if not absolutely, unique. Even used it is twice as rare as the Cape errors.

* * *

AT MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER'S auction on March 16th and 17th last, the more notable lots were: Great Britain, the V.R., unused, £7; 4d., rose, medium, garter on white,

unused, with gum, £10; 5s., plate 4, on white, unused, with gum, £8 17s. 6d.; four lots of five Guildhall post cards, 1d., rose, unused, an average of 6s. 9d. per lot. These—the first British postal speculation—have fallen! Ceylon, imperf., 8d., brown, £14; New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, unused, £10; Nevis litho, 6d., grey, unused, £6; St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., £6 17s. 6d. A collection in *Imperial Album* and eight supplements, 5020 varieties, £160.

* * *

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper's sale on the 6th and 7th instant included few stamps of great rarity. We note the following: India, ½ anna, red, 8 arches, watermarked, unused, £3 17s. 6d.; a collection of India and Native States, 1290 varieties, £18 10s.; Newfoundland, half a 1s. vermilion used on letter as 6d., £14 10s.; Buenos Ayres, 1st issue, 2 p., blue, 3 p., green, 4 p., vermilion, 5 p., orange, 1 p., brown, 1 p., blue, 10 p., blue, 4 p, brown, and head issue complete (7), £47 10s.

* * *

If report is true, the remainders of the Thessaly stamps have been acquired by some bold speculator, and will no doubt in due time be in the home market. This issue was undoubtedly speculative—*i.e.*, not primarily required for public use—but still they sell!

* * *

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., are selling at auction on the 26th and 27th inst. the collection of Mr. A. R. Gallatin. Among the best stamps catalogued we note the following: United States, *Baltimore*, 5 c., on original; Baton Rouge, 5 c., on ditto; Ceylon, imperf., 4d., rose, used, and 2s., blue, unused; Mexico, 3 c., brown, eagle; early Newfoundlands; Roumania, 54 paras, used, and other good Europeans, the rarities, however, more or less in poor condition. * * *

The following excerpt from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* imparts sound advice to the would-be stamp speculator:—

"We still believe that the stamp collector who has gained a little experience, and who goes to work with judgment and patience, will find in the end that he has made a collection that will sell for very little less than it has cost him, and that may sell for considerably more—that he has ridden a pleasant hobby at small cost and possibly even at a profit. But experience, judgment, and patience are not to be got out of magazine articles. A few simple rules we can give him: (1) Not to buy damaged specimens at half catalogue price, because, although a 3 per cent. investment bought at 50 will pay him 6 per cent., the same rule does not hold good with stamps; (2) not to buy 'fashionable' stamps (or stocks) when they are at the very top of the market, because after a 'boom' there is likely to be a 'slump'; (3) to abstain from *speculating*, in the way of attempting to 'corner' certain issues, until he has gained a little experience, and then—then to go on abstaining. Any stockbroker will give him the same advice."

Our own opinion has always been that in stamps, as in wine—*if* a return of capital is expected—only good sound stuff should be bought, worthy of being "laid down," and that ample time should be given for its due maturing.

* * *

Some fine early Mauritius stamps were included in Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's sale on the 21st and 22nd March last. The 1d., orange, and 2d., blue, both early impressions, used together on piece of original, realised £30, and another similar lot £27; a vertical pair of the 1d., orange, on piece, £22; and the error "Penoe," 2d., blue, on piece of original, was sold for £14 10s. The sale also included some fine St. Vincents, the same realising poor prices.

* * *

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's sale on April 11th and 12th included 154 lots of United States stamps and a large quantity of the African Companies' stamps, mostly in wholesale lots. In the U.S. portion we notice the following: 1861, 5 c., mustard, unused, no gum, £5 15s.; a pair of the same issue, 90 c., blue, unused, but off centre, £3 12s. 6d.; a copy of the rare 90 c., blue, of the same issue, the first type, unused, but without gum, £18; 1869, 24 c., with inverted centre, damaged, £12 12s.; ditto, 90 c., unused, no gum, £4. In the foreign section a strip of three Victoria emblems, 2d., lilac, wmk. 4, unused, was slaughtered at £3 17s. 6d.

* * *

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* of April 8th states that the absorbing feature of the week has been the great Painter auction. "The sale has been an unqualified success. Prices were at least twenty-five per cent. better than were realised at any auction sale last year, and in many respects the Painter sale is a most notable one, as the great majority of the stamps, although purchased many years ago, had never had a hinge on them before being mounted on the auction slips preparatory to sale; it is, therefore, unnecessary to say that with few exceptions the stamps were in superb condition, and the prices secured show that they were appreciated by collectors. The auction emphasised the return to prosperity in the stamp business. Dozens of collectors and small dealers living in secluded parts of the country sent bids on from one to five hundred lots and failed to secure a single stamp, and yet their bids averaged at about prices which prevailed six months ago. A large number of stamps sold at over catalogue prices, although seventy-five per cent. of catalogue appears to be the general estimate of value. The sale was very well attended and the bidding most enthusiastic; in fact, the competition was so strong that from three hours to three and a half was occupied in disposing of about four hundred and fifty lots, while usually one hundred more lots are disposed of in one hour less time. The thanks of collectors are due the cataloguers for the small lots in which the collection was divided, giving all an equal chance to purchase what they desired without getting duplicates." We fancy that they would do better here if the auctions were fewer and better conducted in the interests of the seller.

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In the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, Mr. H. A. Smedberg, contributing the following on the subject of prices, says that "the constant placing of new issues, largely speculative, upon the market, with the increasing interest in such issues, has given a field for the investment of collectors' cash, with a consequent falling off in the demand for the old high-priced stamps. As an illustration of this, notice that the Newspaper stamps call for the investment of 250,000 dollars by Philatelic interests, and this preceded by large Canadian outputs, and similar ones on the part of many other Governments. I may be wrong, but I am inclined to think that in the future Governments will keep the market well supplied with stamps to take up collectors' money."

THE

London Philatelist:

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The Forthcoming Exhibition.

WE cannot better occupy the foremost page in our Journal than by reminding our readers, both at home and in the various quarters of the world, that within a month from their perusal of these lines the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition will be upon us. It cannot, therefore, be too widely announced at the present time, and we trust that the splendid enterprise of our Manchester Philatelic friends may be rewarded by the most triumphant success. It will be seen from the notes sent to us by Mr. Gibson that the Exhibition week is to be by no means devoted entirely to the inspection of stamps. We have, indeed, authority to state that a comprehensive scheme of entertainment and amusement for the whole week is being framed, and that intending visitors will by no means find the time hang heavy on their hands. There can be no two opinions as to the true Lancashire grit in promoting the first British International Philatelic Exhibition in the provinces, and we are sure that visitors, like the exhibitors, will testify to their appreciation of the Manchester spirit of enterprise and give it the fullest possible support.

These Exhibitions are of the greatest benefit in securing the permanent footing of Philately. The wide publicity given to the affair, and the comments and notices in the general press, extend the knowledge of stamp collecting and its pleasures to the general public, and inevitably increase the number of its adherents. To those already addicted thereto the results are even more valuable. The greatest inducements are held out to a healthy spirit of emulation, and tend strongly to evolve marked improvements in the collections of all who compete. In the present instance

it is common knowledge that the forthcoming Exhibition has already had a favourable influence upon the trade supply to collectors, and the leading dealers, in return, have loyally and liberally supported the undertaking by the presentation of appropriate prizes. The educational advantages are, however, the most important features. Many a collector has never seen the finest assemblages of stamps, and the sight of the very choicest—such as will be seen at Manchester—cannot but have the happiest results in educating the spectator up to the standard of excellence. It may indeed be urged, as it frequently has, that at first sight, this is a little discouraging to the neophyte or the less advanced collector. The true student of any pursuit is, however, not depressed by the inspection of better work than his own. The amateur painter who visits the Royal Academy is no whit discouraged by the masters' works that he sees displayed, but consciously or unconsciously endeavours to correct his methods by the examples exhibited. The work entailed and expenses involved upon the promoters of Philatelic Exhibitions are so great that the gratitude of all collectors, as in the present instance, is due to those who so cheerily take the heavy burden upon their shoulders.

In one respect the Manchester people have learnt wisdom—in the length of time during which the stamps are exposed. Seven to ten days is the longest period practical for exposure, and even then care must be taken to avoid damage. In the last London Exhibition there were one or two glaring examples of fading in the case of lilac or grey stamps, and where these are of any value they should be covered by a small shield of dark cloth or leather, capable of being lifted up for examination. Another point on which our friends in Manchester can profit by past experience is in the protection of the backs of the sheets of stamps. It was found in 1897 that the backs of the show-cases, in many instances, stained the sheets or cards, and some valuable stamps narrowly escaped damage, while a large proportion of the sheets on which the exhibits were mounted were hopelessly soiled and stained. Beyond this, however, no risk whatever was run, nor will be now, to the exhibits, as forewarned, forearmed: exhibitors may feel confident that their treasures will be returned in the same condition as sent. We hear on all sides of intending visitors to the Exhibition, and have every reason to hope that it will be the brilliant success that is the desert of unremitting and conscientious labour on the part of its promoters.

A Proposal for a Catalogue for Collectors.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on March 17th, 1899.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



N setting forth a proposal for the compilation of a Catalogue for Collectors, I do not wish to undervalue the splendid price lists published by dealers, which have hitherto served the double purpose of trade price lists and guides to collecting.

What I wish to emphasise is the fact that stamp collecting has now taken such a firm hold upon all classes of the community as to be regarded as one of the most delightful of the many hobbies which serve to divert the attention of the busy man and provide a pastime for the man of no occupation. Its adherents now include some of the keenest business men of the day, some of the most exalted in the State, and some of the most studious. The result is that we are every year more and more efficiently gathering up and piecing together the postal history of every stamp-issuing country. Hence it follows that Philatelists have become the real historians of the introduction and the development of the Postal Service of the world.

Under these circumstances I submit that it is somewhat of an anomaly that we should continue to depend solely upon dealers' price lists for the publication, in catalogue form, of the results of our studies and researches.

The excellent price lists which the leading dealers now publish have unquestionably been brought to a most commendable state of perfection—as price lists. But as Catalogues for collectors, as guides to collecting, they are lacking in not a few very important essentials.

The dealer provides a price list for the sale of his goods, and he naturally compiles it with that view.

In some countries we have a wealth of detail in the matter of perforation, printing, and surcharge; in other countries but little attention is paid to these matters. There is, in fact, and in the nature of the case, an utter lack of proportion in the price lists of the day regarded from the purely Philatelic standpoint. This is so apparent to the most ordinary collector that I need not labour the point by drawing invidious comparisons.

What the collector wants is a Catalogue that shall deal exhaustively with every country, whether it be a popular selling country or a much-neglected State.

A dealer may justifiably economise space when dealing with countries for the stamps of which there is no commensurate demand. But the Philatelist can have no such excuse, and it somewhat reflects upon us as Philatelists that we have not before this set to work to remedy an admitted defect.

The need of a Catalogue for Collectors by collectors is every day be-

coming more and more pressing. In the price lists there is an undue straining after varieties in the case of popular countries, a multiplication of infinitesimal oddities, that is doing much mischief to the true interests of collecting.

Given a popular country and an enthusiastic specialist with a microscopic vision, and you may ruin the most promising and enjoyable country by over-elaboration. More than one splendid country has been smothered with infinitesimal varieties. If we follow the road some specialists would lead us, we shall some day come to collect by microscope. We shall have Die I., Die II., Die III., and dies innumerable, till we die altogether, prematurely hastened into our graves by racking endeavours to differentiate between varieties which even the most powerful microscopes fail to make satisfactorily clear.

Can we remedy this state of things? I contend that we can, and that we should do so without further delay by the publication of a Catalogue prepared and issued by collectors for collectors, and published with the authority and *imprimatur* of the Philatelic Society of London.

My proposal would embody the production of a Catalogue that should be unpriced, that should deal exhaustively and in proper proportion with every country, and that should serve alike the purposes of the beginner, the advanced collector, and the specialist. This may seem a large order, but, properly managed, it may easily come within the scope of a society which commands so much Philatelic talent as our own society embraces within its roll of membership.

As to the *modus operandi*. I would form a large committee of, say, a dozen or twenty of our leading members, including, of course, the members of the Publishing Committee. The committee should be large, so as to be able to delegate portions of the work to sub-committees of its own body. This committee should have its elected chairman, an editor, and an energetic secretary.

The duty of the committee would be to prepare a draft of a Catalogue which, as I have said, should deal exhaustively, and in proper proportion, with every country down to the end of 1900. This draft should be set up in type and supplied in proof form to the regular attendants at our meetings, and to any other members or collectors whose desirable co-operation could be secured. The recipients of those proofs should examine, criticise, and make suggestions. To further revise the lists and ensure their accuracy I would reinstitute our reference list meetings. At those meetings the lists should be examined in detail, and members having had the opportunity of previously examining and criticising the proof should be able to help materially in the work of perfecting the details of the Catalogue. The co-operation of specialists should be invited in order that the Catalogue should be as comprehensive as the closest study could make it. The work of final revision and the examination of suggestions and corrections would of course rest with the committee, who would finally decide what to omit and what to include after taking note of the evidence gathered together as the result of the circulation of the proofs.

In order to make it available for the beginner, the advanced collector,

and the specialist alike, the normal issues should be set up in large type, say long primer, and the varieties in small type, say nonpareil. The beginner would collect by the large type the normal issues, and the advanced collector and specialist would take in the small type as well.

The illustrations should all be of the very best quality, and specially done for the Catalogue, each stamp being in its natural size, and every type, whether of design or surcharge, should be clearly illustrated.

The cost of production will no doubt bulk up heavily. The printing of proofs and the subsequent correction of those proofs, and the preparation of the thousands of illustrations which would be necessary, would total up to a very considerable item. I do not wish to minimise either the labour or the expense which it will entail.

But despite all these drawbacks, properly managed it would be a source, not of loss, but of very considerable profit to our Society. Taking it from the strictly pecuniary point of view, it would not be too much to say that it would be certain to secure a very large circulation. Personally, I should be disappointed at anything under a circulation of 5000 copies, for it will be in demand wherever there is an English-speaking collector. It would therefore have an unquestionable value as an advertising medium, and I estimate that the advertisements would cover the cost of production, and that the sales would be net profit.

Finally, the question arises, "Is the game worth the candle?" It seems to me that it is.

To a Society like ours the effort should be worth the making. It would be no small gain to Philately if we produced a work that should truly and comprehensively register the high-water mark which we have reached in the study of the postal issues of the world; that should set out, in form as serviceable to the beginner as to the specialist, the normal issues and the true varieties of every country; that should include all true type varieties and weed out the infinitesimal and the accidental; and that should discriminate between genuine postal issues and worthless speculative issues.

Such a Catalogue, I venture to say, would satisfy the cravings of the beginner and the specialist alike, would settle disputed points of varieties, once and for all, for dealer as well as for collector; for the *imprimatur* of the Society to such a work would in the end establish an undeniable authority for the dictum of the Catalogue.

I feel certain that it would redound to the credit of this Society, that it would establish more firmly than ever its claim to the sympathy and respect of the Philatelic world. And there is no question that it would give stamp collecting an impetus that would be felt in the years to come. It would put an end to perplexities that puzzle us; it would settle questions that vex us, for it would be the final court of Philatelic appeal. We should free Philately from the thraldom of the price list, from the domination of the trader, and give it a better and truer and freer status as a pleasure-yielding pursuit.

Notes on the Varieties of the 1866-1872 Issues of Uruguay.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on December 9th, 1898.

By ROBERT EHRENBACH.



HE so-called large-figure issue of Uruguay of 1866–1872 has always commanded a fair amount of interest amongst collectors on account of the numerous shades to be found in these stamps, and also because the 5 cent. value affords a decently large field for the specialist in the way of varieties, or, if I may say so, errors. It will hardly be necessary to give a description of the design, which is familiar to all.

The stamps were designed and printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co, and sent out by them with a duplicate printing stone and a supply of paper. Although one or perhaps two or three printings were in later years made locally at Montevideo, Messrs. De La Rue & Co. continued to print the greater portion of the supply, especially of the imperforate set. Details as to these various printings may be found in the excellent book on Uruguay stamps by Dr. Wonner. The series was issued to the public on the 1st of January, 1866, and consisted of four values, viz. :—

5 cent., blue.
10 „ green.
15 „ yellow.
20 „ rose.

To these a fifth value, the 1 cent., black, was added on the 1st October of the same year. The stamps were issued imperforate on a rather hard white paper of medium thickness, which does not vary very much in the four lower values; the 20 cent., however, exists likewise on a much thicker paper.

During the latter part of 1866, the same stamps were issued to the public in a perforated state and apparently on quite different paper, varying from medium thick to thin, in the case of the 5 cent. sometimes so thin that one might call it *pelure;* the 10 and 15 are likewise said to exist on this *pelure* paper.

The perforating machine is a so-called guillotine machine, gauging 12 to 13. The values 10, 15, and 20 cents. likewise exist perforated in a larger gauge, $10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, and are all rare.

All values, both in the imperforate and in the perforate state, show a good range of shades, especially in the case of the 5 cent., where the shades range from bright ultramarine to a very deep Prussian blue; this value, however, imperforate, shows a far greater number of shades than the

perforate one, while up to the present I have not been able to find the latter in ultramarine.

The paper has no watermark, that visible in some specimens being merely a manufacturer's mark and of no importance to collectors.

Within the last months I have been fortunate enough to acquire an entire sheet with margins of the 5 cent. value, and present for inspection likewise an entire sheet of the 10 cent. It is on these two values in particular that I wish to make a few observations, although there may be nothing new to convey to anyone who has studied these stamps.

The stamps are printed in sheets of 200 in 10 vertical rows of 20, and it is clear, as will be seen from the relative positions of the varieties, that the lithographic stone in the last stage is made up of two blocks of 100 stamps each, in 10 rows of 10. How the panes of 100 were made up it seems at present impossible to say.

A curious fact, however, with regard to the sheet of 5 cents. now exhibited is that it consists of only 190 stamps, with the sheet of paper showing enough empty space for the missing 10 stamps. It is, to my mind, evident that during the years the plate of this value was in use, something must have happened to the stone.

From marginal stamps of the right and left sides of the imperforate stamps of an early printing I have been able to find out that the first row is missing from my sheet, and as a matter of fact the empty space referred to above is on the left side, showing that sheets of paper large enough to take the 200 impressions were used, and that this first row must have been removed from the lithographic stone. As a matter of interest it would be very desirable to know whether only the perforated stamps exist in sheets of 190, or whether the imperforated ones do likewise, or whether also full sheets of 200 are known of the perforated stamp. Perhaps somebody who possesses entire sheets may be able to settle the point.

Taking all the stamps on the first vertical rows to be missing, I feel justified in giving the numbers of the following list of the most prominent varieties as belonging to the full sheet of 200. They are as follows :—

(1) The head of the numeral "5" is unshaded (white).
Nos. 7 and 17 in the first row of the sheet (horizontal).

(2) The first "C" in "CENTECIMOS" is omitted.
Nos. 7 and 17 in the second row.

(3) The "S" in "CENTECIMOS" is smaller than the normal one and a fainter impression than the other letters, as if it had been added.
Nos. 5 and 15 in the third row.

(4) The "S" in "CENTECIMOS" is also smaller than the normal one, but farther away from the "O" than in the variety No. 3.
Nos. 3 and 13 in the fifth row.

(5) The "S," of normal size, is wide apart from the "O," with a full-stop after it. Nos. 8 and 18 in the sixth row.

(6) The inner curved line of the "5" above "CENTECIMOS" is not finished.
Nos. 3 and 13 in the sixth row.

(7) The "S" in "CENTECIMOS" is omitted.
Nos. 2 and 12 in the seventh row.

(8) The "S" in "CENTECIMOS" is omitted, but there is a hyphen after the "O." Nos. 4 and 14 in the seventh row.

(9) The "S" is larger than the normal one, wide apart from the "O," and nearly touches the outer line of the "5."
Nos. 5 and 15 in the tenth row.

(10) There is no shading in the quartering of the shield below the horse. Nos. 2 and 12 in the tenth row.

(11) The inner curved line of the "5" above "CENTECIMOS" runs into the outer line. Nos. 3 and 13 in the tenth row.

Besides the varieties mentioned above there are a number of minor ones, as, for instance, in stamps 2 and 12 in the third row, where the quartering of the shield under the horse is only partly shaded, but it would lead too far to enumerate all these minute variations, which are hardly worth collecting.

As to the sheet of the 10 cent., I find only one really prominent variety, and this is the stamp in which the "I" in the word "CENTECIMOS" is omitted. Of this variety there are three in the sheet, viz., 4 and 14 in the third row, and 12 in the seventh.

A second variety which might be taken is the fourteenth stamp in the tenth row, with a very small "S" in "CENTECIMOS."

All the other variations, as stamps where the "T" looks like a "J" and the "E" in "DIEZ" resembles an "I" or a "Z" or a "B," are not worth mentioning.

With regard to the 10 c., certain varieties may be discovered due to the irregular placing of the horizontal background, of "CENTESIMOS," etc., especially below the foot of the figure "1." In many cases two lines are visible below the shading of the foot of the figure; this, however, is not due to an irregularity in the position of the large figure itself, but entirely to the background. The varieties of letters in the background only partially printed, or in some cases apparently omitted, are due only to imperfection in taking the impression.

I know of no prominent varieties on the 15 c. and 20 c. values, but in these cases I am under the disadvantage of not having inspected sheets of these values.

A variety of the 1 c. stamp is known with a small circle on the right of the figure 1, but as this variety does not exist on the sheets which have been seen, the inference is that this must have occurred only in the first printings and afterwards rectified, or that it must be an essay or proof. On the *perforated* 1 c. it is not known. Proofs of this issue exist on cardboard in black and also in colours.

Philatelic Notes.

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

TRANSVAAL 3d., "V R" INVERTED.

MR. E. J. NANKIVELL writes us as follows in reply to Mr. Pearce's note in our last issue :—

"Mr. Pearce's assurance that in chronicling the discovery of a copy of the Transvaal 3d., mauve on green, with Roman 'V R' inverted, I was only discovering what was already known, is quite beside the mark. Every elementary student of Transvaals knows that the Roman and Italic types were printed on the same sheet, but till the discovery of my copy of the inverted Roman 'V R' by Mr. Phillips, so far as I am aware, there has been no known evidence of the existence of the Roman 'V R' inverted. The Philatelic innocence of Mr. Pearce's remark that 'if one type existed inverted, the other must of necessity exist in the same state,' will be most encouraging and refreshing to experienced collectors who have been searching in vain for years for copies of stamps 'which must exist.' A catalogue compiled on such a basis must be utterly unreliable. The absurdity of it will be obvious to most people. For instance, the Transvaal 1d., red on blue, is known with surcharge inverted; ergo, according to the Pearce theory, the error 'Transvral' on the same sheet 'must exist' also inverted, but it is not chronicled in the catalogue referred to. Why? And so I might run through the gamut of a host of stamps which, forsooth, because they probably did exist, 'must exist.'

"Again, the two copies of the Italic 'V R' inverted, in the Tapling Collection, which Mr. Pearce holds to have long proclaimed the existence of the Roman 'V R' inverted, proclaim nothing of the sort; as a matter of fact they do not even proclaim that it ever existed. We have no sheet of the 3d., mauve on green; in fact, we have not even a pair, to show how the inverteds occurred. All that we know for certain is that the sheet contained the two types of 'V R.' There is plenty of evidence that it was a fresh setting, and we surmise that the inverteds were, in all probability, due to the inverting of a sheet, but we have no absolute proof of any sort that it was not, as it may have been, due to the inverting of a solitary surcharge in each case. It will, therefore, be seen that there is no 'must' in the business."

DISCOVERIES.

GREAT BRITAIN. Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen announces that he has recently met with an interesting block of eight 1½d., red, printed on bluish paper, surcharged "Specimen." It is well known that the issue of the 1½d. value was first suggested in 1860, and that a stock printed in lilac-rose was actually prepared. The block is printed on the same bluish paper, wmk. Crown of 1855 (with *fleur-de-lis*), as this 1½d., lilac. It would be interesting to know if any such were ever issued.

Occasional Notes.

THE MANCHESTER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

THE day is rapidly approaching for this important event, and we are desirous of reminding intending exhibitors and visitors of the little time left to complete their arrangements. As the Exhibition opens at the end of June, and that is about the time that our next number will be in the hands of our readers, this will practically be the last opportunity afforded of alluding to several matters in connection with it. Mr. Gibson, the indefatigable Honorary Secretary, writes :—

"Philatelists are reminded that their exhibits must be sent between June 5th and 8th to the Safe Deposit Co., 4, Chapel Walks, Manchester, addressed to the Honorary Secretary, together with, if possible, a short account of the stamps, and particulars of anything of special interest. The receipt of each exhibit will be acknowledged by a post card, which must be produced after the close of the Exhibition if the exhibit is to be taken away by the owner personally.

"The Secretary of State for India, after consultation with the Indian authorities, has consented to allow all stamps returned to Bombay to enter the country free of duty.

"Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, M.P., will formally open the Exhibition on Thursday afternoon, June 29th, at 3.30, and the dinner will take place at the Grand Hotel on Saturday, July 1st, at 7 o'clock. Tickets for the latter can be had on application to the Honorary Secretary at the Exhibition Offices, 2, Cooper Street, Manchester.

"Arrangements have been made with the Manager of the Grand Hotel, Aytoun Street, for the accommodation of holders of Season Subscribers' Tickets at a reduced tariff.

"Holders of Season Subscribers' Tickets will also have the use of the room belonging to the Manchester Philatelic Society at the Grand Hotel, which will be arranged as a club-room during the time of the Exhibition."

In some of the classes there will be a strong competition, which should delight everyone, for there can be no merit in running a race without a sufficient number of starters. In any case so numerous are the prizes that it will go hard if the judges are not able to give satisfaction all round. In the present instance, as in that of the London Exhibition of 1897, there are almost too many awards promised, and the judges should be again empowered not to distribute such in cases where the competition was not up to the general standard.

We understand that the labours of the judges will be somewhat lightened by the preparation of competition tables, showing what exhibitors are competing for each medal in addition to the class or division. This is a useful innovation which will be appreciated by the judges. A circular has been sent by the Committee to all exhibitors, asking them to indicate which medals they wish to compete for, and a large proportion has already replied thereto.

It is hoped, however, that no exhibitor will fail to respond to this desire of the Committee before the opening of the Exhibition.

The exhibits have already commenced to arrive, and are being securely housed in a strong room on the premises of the Safe Deposit Company. We learn that in one instance, that under Class II., Division 2 B, the exhibits of the German States are not as numerous as could have been wished. The stamps of these states are of a high order of interest, and when used do not present very great difficulties as a group, even to non-Teutonic collectors. There is assuredly no lack of collectors thereof in Germany, and that their co-operation should not have been forthcoming is a matter of both regret and surprise.

THE LATE HERR E. WINZER, OF DRESDEN.

WE regret to hear of the death of Herr Winzer, whose name has been so long known on the Continent as a collector of the older school. Herr Winzer, by many years' diligent search, ultimately built up a fine and valuable collection, which included a large proportion of all the best known rarities. Except in one or two countries no attempt was made to specialise, but in almost all cases the stamp was taken used and unused. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, who purchased this collection in 1894 for three thousand pounds, issued at the time a catalogue of the rarities, which is at once an evidence of the importance of the collection and the remarkable development of values in the last five years. Herr Winzer had been a member of the Dresden Philatelic Society since October, 1883, and had for several years filled the important offices of Superintendent of the Society's Library and Controller of the Exchange Department. Since the sale of his collection Herr Winzer, doubtless from his age and declining health, had practically retired from Philately, but his name will long be remembered as that of the holder of one of the best general collections ever made in the Fatherland.

THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE LINDENBERG.

WE regret to announce that this event, to which we have previously referred, is now an accomplished fact. It is satisfactory to learn that the distinguished services of the ex-Director of the Philatelic Department of the Berlin Postal Museum have been recognised in the bestowal of the order of the Red Eagle, but the most enduring and satisfactory recognition of Judge Lindenberg's whole-hearted devotion to the formation of a German national collection, and the general development and popularisation of Philately, will always be found in the grateful memories of his fellow-collectors. The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* is responsible for the announcement that Herr Lindenberg's successor is to be Herr Püschel, who is well known as a Philatelist of good standing, being formerly Superintendent of the Exchange Department of the Berlin Philatelic Club. Herr Püschel is already a Secretary in the Postal Service, and is a capable man in Philately as in his official career, but the gap created by Judge Lindenberg's retirement is of very large dimensions.

THE RECENT "FIND" OF ENGLISH STAMPS.

THE rumour in the daily papers that a considerable number of English stamps had been found in connection with the removal of papers consequent upon the retirement of some official was recently referred to in the *London Philatelist*, when we expressed the opinion that there was probably more smoke than fire. We are informed now that a considerable number of certainly the older and more valuable English stamps *were* found, but with "SPECIMEN" imprinted thereon! At a recent sale of Messrs. Puttick and Simpson about a dozen octagonals, unused, were sold, which by the pin-holes and dirt thereon, revealed the fact that they had been fastened on to letters or memoranda, and these may have emanated from such a source as that indicated in the daily press. A few of these stamps had, where they were unsevered, fortunately escaped the mutilating pin, and realised in consequence good prices. The absorbent qualities and the market for the rarer English in mint condition have not been abnormally tested of recent years, and would stand more tests than are likely to be forthcoming.

THE LAST OF THE MERCURIES.

THE facts relating to the sudden appearance of a large number of the Austrian Mercury Newspaper Stamps—red, pink, and yellow—upon the market in 1895, their ultimate condemnation as forgeries, and the partial return of the moneys paid by their vendor, Mr. Sigmund Friedl, of Vienna, have been frequently referred to in this and other stamp journals, and we but refer thereto in the present instance to give the last chapter of the history.

Herr Friedl, after a vain lengthened defence of his manufactures, decided to refund all the money he had received from his various clients, and having advertised to this effect, was soon doing a remarkably steady business in the reimbursement line. It is only fair to say that Mr. Friedl must have repaid large sums (which, however, he had received without a just equivalent!) in many cases, as with the writer and others in this country who duly had all moneys returned to them. Later on it would appear that Herr Friedl had a cold fit of dishonesty again, or else found that his coffers were becoming exhausted, and hence declined any further reimbursements. The other defrauded purchasers, however, naturally felt their case equally good, and set the law in motion. After the usual legal delays the test action of Herr Edward Horak, of Graz, has at length been heard, with the result that Friedl has been condemned in full damages, with interest at five per cent. since June, 1897, and all costs; and a large number of similar actions entered are naturally all decided in a similar way. It is obvious that Herr Friedl will have to pay a very large amount of money, but he is lucky to escape with financial loss only.

IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE.

MR. J. HENNIKER HEATON announces the adoption by Germany of Imperial Penny Postage from May 1st, and writing to the *Times* says :—

"Germany has been quick to follow our example. It is announced that from May 1st the postage on letters to and from the Colonies and Protectorates of the German Empire shall be the domestic rate of postage in Germany itself, which is as nearly as possible equivalent to our penny. A letter from Berlin to New Guinea will therefore be carried *viâ* Sydney by North German Lloyd steamers for this profitable and popular sum."

Mr. Heaton also states that at a near date penny postage will be introduced throughout New Zealand, which points to an extension in course of time to the home country.

The *Daily Mail* of the 17th instant contained the following warning on the same subject :—

"The Postmaster-General is anxious that the public should realise the limits within which penny letter postage to British Possessions and Protectorates is applicable. In spite of his circulars, great numbers of letters are still being posted (with a penny) to places not yet included in the scheme. The principal Colonies concerned are Australia, New Zealand, and the Cape Colony. The letter postage to those Colonies is still 2½d. per ½ oz., and letters prepaid at the penny rate are charged 3d. per ½ oz. (double the deficiency) on delivery. Since the issue of the previous notices Jamaica, Mauritius, British North Borneo, and Labuan have adhered to the scheme; and the letter postage for those places will be 1d. per ½ oz. from the 24th of this month. Burma and British Columbia are included in the scheme—Burma as a part of British India, and British Columbia as a part of the Dominion of Canada."

THE PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT REGENSBURG.

THIS interesting old Bavarian town has just been the scene of a successful Philatelic Exhibition, postponed on account of the sad death of a distinguished personage. The classification of prizes was calculated to induce strong local competition, the special Gold Medal and "Prize of Honour" (Class I.) being devoted to the best exhibitor of the stamps of Thurn and Taxis, which was carried off by Herr A. E. Glasewald, of Gössnitz, who has a marvellous collection of *postmarks* on these stamps. In the general division the following were the recipients of gold medals :—M. Th. Lemaire, of Paris, for France ; Herr A. Chelius, of Munich, for Baden and Alsace-Lorraine ; Herr J. J. Lindau, of Heidelberg, for Germany (unused); Dr. J. Lange, of Magdeburg, for German envelopes ; and Lieutenant A. Markl, of Kornneuburg, for Greece. Numerous other silver medals and diplomas were accorded. Included in the literature classes were the well-known names of Herren H. Krötzsch, of Leipsic; Paul Kohl, of Chemnitz; and L. Brummer, of Munich, who appear as recipients of gold medals. We note that Herr E. Stock was one of the judges. We hear that the Exhibition was a complete success, and that the numerous visitors thereat had a "real good time."

Reviews.

STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE, PART II.*



THE second and doubtless the most important of the four sections into which this well-known Catalogue is henceforward to be divided has now been published. Uniform in size, printing, and binding, but embracing 351 pages of matter as against 224 pages in Part I., the Catalogue presents the same excellent features. The principal drawback, that of the indifferent illustrations, is also again noticeable; although in some instances a change has been made for the better, the majority of the cuts are valueless.

It is obvious that a large amount of conscientious labour—and by good Philatelists—has been expended in the 1899 Edition of the non-British countries. In many cases the lists have been practically rewritten, bringing them up to a level with the very latest state of knowledge thereon—an instance thereof being Holland, which will be found to embody, in succinct form, all the latest investigations and discoveries as to perforation and design.

Among the lists that have been either materially improved—in some instances so much so as to have involved their practical rewriting—we would name France, Dutch Colonies, Luxemburg, Belgium, Mexico, Montenegro, Bosnia, Finland, Turkey, Portugal, and many others.

The explanatory notes will also be found to be at once more numerous and more explicit, and throughout the volume (as in the case of Part I., where, however, they do not exist in equal numbers) the existence and description of the several Reprints are given. This work alone has been of an arduous and prolonged nature, and is almost entirely the work of one of our leading Philatelists, Mr. E. D. Bacon, who has had for groundwork the practically complete and valuable collection of Reprints which Messrs. Stanley Gibbons possess. Much nonsense has been said and written about Reprints, which is invested with about as much substantiality to the intelligent collector as is the bogey-man to the juvenile; *i.e.*, as soon as either can be taught to think, the bogey disappears. It would be better, perhaps, for Philately if Reprints did not exist, as the world would be better (perhaps!) without its vices, though both might be a trifle tame without something to contend against. Reprints, however, have been with us from early days, and the trade has apparently been divided into two sections, one who decline to sell them at all, and the other—the smaller and less honourable portion—who, more especially in olden days, sold them as originals. The true inwardness of the case is that if the first section were to sell the Reprints

* *Priced Catalogue of Stamps of Foreign Countries*, Part II. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, 391, Strand, London, W.C.

as such, the second section would have found its occupation long since gone. In the truest interest of Philately nothing can be better than a general intimate acquaintance with Reprints, when, as we have before said, the spectre will fade away as regards the issues of many countries. The appearance of these Reprint Notes in both sections of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue is a most commendable improvement, and reflects great credit upon author and publisher for the careful and concise manner in which it has been effected. The development of unused collecting cannot fail to be facilitated by these lucid and interesting notes of Mr. Bacon's.

There are one or two important general improvements in the present edition. The first is in bulk, as although Part II., with the locals excised, occupies some sixty pages less than its predecessor, it is only half the thickness. This is due to the superior and far thinner nature of the paper employed, and in these days portability is almost as vital in a stamp catalogue as in a bicycle guide. Various opinions have been held as to the politico-geographical arrangement as against the alphabetical, but in any case the addition of the sub-titles at the top of the pages will save much waste of profane language. We think Messrs. Gibbons are perfectly right in adopting this system. Their Catalogue appeals, perhaps, more to the specialist than to the general collector, but even the latter has his stamps arranged (for him!) in geographical groups of continents, etc. In the very near future there will be no fresh general collector other than he who uses the printed album; and to anyone who specialises in groups we think the system of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons offers the most convenience.

There are a few obvious inaccuracies—notably as to pricing—which the publishers have doubtless already fully realised, but which are not important enough to demand comment here. As a general rule the Catalogue is remarkably accurate, and contains very few mistakes when the involved nature of the work is considered. The 10 c., bistre on rose, of the 1870–73 issue of France, although given in the list of *têtes-bêche*, is omitted elsewhere. The stamps of Switzerland from 1862 to date require considerable working up. In Finland the 1, 5, and 10 marks of 1895, perforated 14 × 13, are given, but although the other and lower values have long been current we have never met with the former, nor does it seem likely, judging by recent events, that they will be required. We notice that Portuguese Colonies extend to twenty-five pages—small wonder that *they* are not fashionable!

There can be no two opinions about the general excellence of the Catalogue. In its financial aspect it is still no doubt capable of improvement, but for accurate, original work and conscientious listing it deservedly bears the palm at the present moment.

As regards the very important question of prices much could be written. Broadly speaking, however, there is not only no general diminution in Part II., but in many cases a steady increase of prices—more particularly in the unused stamps. Except in the case of remainders it is absolutely certain that the older and the middle issues—that are lucky enough to remain each year in mint unused condition—are an ever-shrinking quantity, and unless the demand also falls off, which in the case of most countries is not to be apprehended, they must inevitably rise in value.

Messrs. Gibbons announce that marked reductions in the supply of current unused stamps will be found—a sensible, if tardy, innovation. Reductions to the purchaser of commoner stamps who may take 100 or more are also announced, the publishers regretting that they "cannot admit fractions of a penny." There are, however, a good many people in the world less fortunate! The prices are presumed to be those at which Messrs. Gibbons will sell, are not to be taken as a standard, and are avowedly based upon the personal experiences (and interests!) of that firm only. Collectors will therefore do well to bear this in mind. There are numerous instances where the prices given are not the true ones as regards other people's stocks and experiences. To take one example as a test.

The first issues of Belgian unused, *i.e.*, 1849, 10 and 20c., 1851, 10 and 20c., and the 1861, 1, 10, 20, and 40c. We omit the 40c. of 1851 and the rare 1850 issue as not being quoted in the earlier Catalogues. These stamps are all fair standard examples, ranging from 50s. down to 2s. 6d. each. The aggregate prices of the eight in Messrs. Gibbons' Catalogue for 1895-6 was £4 7s., in 1896-7 £12 2s., and in 1899 £7 18s.! Can it be pretended that this in any way reflects the true values of the early Belgian stamps? There is far less stock, and a far higher appreciation of these stamps to-day than has ever been, and the broad and bare fact is disclosed that taking the average of the past three editions Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' valuation of these stamps is entirely unreliable. There are other countries of which similar things could be said, but in any case Messrs. Gibbons are by no means the worst offenders herein. Collectors should really issue their own standard Catalogue, when the dealers will be doubtless content to purchase at the prices indicated!

FRANCE AND ITS COLONIES.*

Colonies are the rage of the expiring century, and every European—and American—great Power is anxious to extend its "sphere of influence" in the uttermost parts of the world. In this earth-hunger France, Russia, and Great Britain seem to possess the keenest fangs, and remembering the delightful way in which we have recently "divided off" Africa with our Gallic friends, it is to be anticipated that the already numerous French Colonial possessions — and their postal issues — will soon be materially augmented. As it is, 250 pages are required by Messrs. Yvert and Tellier to "quotate" the stamps of France and Colonies. Twenty-five pages are devoted to the mother country's stamps, while over 100 pages are occupied by the Colonial issues. It will thus be seen that a complete collection of the French Colonies is no light matter—as evidenced by some of the prices quoted. It is a pity that there is so much uniformity as to the design, but since the flood of surcharges has been stopped these stamps have been rapidly gaining in favour, and in view of our international colonial aspirations there is little doubt of their hold on general favour in France. The stamps

* *Catalogue of the Postage and Fiscal Stamps and Entires of France and the French Colonies*, YVERT and TELLIER, 10, Galerie du Commerce, Amiens, France.

of the mother country never needed any incentive to absorption in the true collector's eyes, having always been reckoned as of the best, but it is only of late years that they have bounded into general favour. Messrs. Yvert and Tellier's Catalogue hereof will be found to contain good work, the minor differences and shades being clearly shown; *e.g.*, in the issue of France, 1853, the 20 c. is given in ten shades. (The 80 c. is but given in three, whereas a French collector recently gave about thirty: there are shades and shades and fades.) We are somewhat surprised that the stamps of this issue and the unpaid letter stamps rouletted, with those perforated by Messrs. Susse, are not given. They are of considerable interest, even if not official, as representing the first attempts at perforation, and are assuredly more worthy of inclusion than the 107 essays that figure therein. The Catalogue is excellently printed, clearly illustrated, and of undoubted value to any Philatelist who affects the interesting stamps of either France or its Colonies.

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.—The following is from the *Philatelic Monthly*:—

"A shipment of postage stamps, addressed to the postal authorities of British Central Africa, which had been supposed lost or stolen some months ago, has at last been traced and arrived safely at its destination. We will escape, therefore, the danger of an entire surcharge set, which was announced in our December number."

BRITISH GUIANA.—Referring to the surcharges "2 CENTS" on 10 c., and "2 CENTS" on 15 c., an employé of the Post Office sends the *A. J. of Ph.* a list of the errors to be found on each sheet and the numbers issued. Strange that such a list should be necessary at all! We quote from our contemporary:—

2 c. on 10 c.

Inverted surcharge	60 issued.
Small "E" in "CENTS"	500 ,,
No period and narrower "C" in "CENTS"	1600 ,,
"GENTS" instead of "CENTS"; no period after "CENTS"	500 ,,

2 c. on 15 c.

Comma between "T" and "S" in "CENTS"	2000 issued.
Dash between "2" and "CENTS"	2000 ,,
Comma between "N" and "T" of "CENTS"	1800 ,,
Double surcharge	50 ,,
No period after "CENTS"	2100 ,,

CANADA.—Further particulars of the split and provisional stamps, alluded to last month, are provided in the following extract from a letter from the postmaster of Port Hood, supplied by a correspondent to the *M. J.*:—

"When the change in Canadian postage was made—of which we got notice by wire—I had only very few two cent stamps in stock, so that before I got my supply from Ottawa I ran completely out of them, and, to keep my account straight, I was compelled to cut threes, making three twos out of two threes. This was for one day only, and not over 300 stamps were cut. I would say about 200 '2' and 100 '1' were used. Those stamps I put on letters for delivery within the country as much as possible. About 100 '2' and probably nearly as many '1' were marked with the figures 2 and

1 as you describe, and were placed on letters for delivery in towns throughout the Dominion. Those were the only provisional stamps used by this office."

CEYLON.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the recently issued 2 r. 50 c. stamp is to become obsolete.

Just as we are going to press we have received from the same source four new values, the types of which we illustrate. For the 1 r. 50 c. and 2 r. 25 c. stamps the type of the 2 r. 50 c. adhesive has been printed in a new colour and surcharged. The 6 c. and 75 c. values are in the type of the current 25 c.

Adhesives. 6 c., pink and black.
75 c., slate and brown.
1 r. 50 c., slate, surcharge black.
2 r. 25 c., orange-yellow ,,







GIBRALTAR.—*Morocco Agencies.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent for our inspection specimens of the stamps surcharged "Morocco Agencies" showing a new setting of the surcharge, which they inform us has been effected in London The type used is slightly smaller, the most noticeable difference being in the "M," which is narrower on the London print than on the local. The London surcharge also is sharp, and free from the blurred appearance of the local print.

The *M. J.* now reports the 40 c. adhesive with the indigo surcharge.

Adhesives. 40 c., orange-brown; surcharge blue.
5 c., green
10 c., carmine
20 c., olive
40 c., orange-brown
50 c., lilac
1 p., bistre and blue
} London print, surch. black.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. forward a specimen of a new issue of stamps for the pigeongram service which has just been made. The design is an elaboration of the first type-set one, and is evidently produced by lithography. No watermark; perf. 12½.

Adhesive. 1s., greenish blue.

GREAT BRITAIN.—*Railway Letter Fee Stamps.*—Mr. Ewen announces the following new issues in the *Weekly Circular*:—

Belfast and County Down, 2d., deep green.
Belfast and Northern Counties, 2d., deep green.
Sligo, L. and N. Counties, 2d., dark olive-green.
Sheffield and Midland, 2d., deep green.
Metropolitan, 2d., carmine (Nos. 5401 to 6020).
North-Eastern (Nos. 139,000 to 142,000).
Barry (probably Nos. 4000 to 5200).

The North-Eastern and Metropolitan are similar to previous issues, and are probably of the same printing. None of the above varieties differ in any important detail from previous issues.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Le T.-P.* announces the 3 c., type of 1892, printed in brown in place of carmine. There is also a surcharge of 3 cents on the 1 c., green, of the same type.

Adhesives. 3 c., brown.
3 cents on 1 c., green; surcharge black.

Negri Sembilan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us of some provisionals which have been created here, apparently for Philatelic rather than postal purposes, including various errors, defective printings, etc. The following values have been disfigured:—

Adhesives.

4 c. on 1 c., green (1892 type); surcharge black.
4 c. on 3 c., lilac and carmine (1892 type); surcharge black.
4 c. on 5 c., black and carmine (,,) ,,
4 c. on 8 c., lilac and blue (1895 type) ,,

Pahang.—From the same source news is to hand that 4 c. provisional stamps have been issued here, also that the Malay States of Perak, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Selangor,

and Sungei Ujong have been federated, and the stamps of any of these States are now valid for postage throughout the Federation. When the present stock is exhausted, there will in all probability be a new issue for the whole Federation. When this millennial era arrives we shall be devoutly thankful, although the promised effects of federation have been in anticipation for some time without performance.

TASMANIA.—Pending the long-expected "federation," Tasmania has, *à la* New Zealand, decided on branching out to the picturesque. The following cuttings from the Hobart *Daily Telegraph* are a setting forth of something more than the postal requirements of the proposed new stamps. We cannot but admire the patriotic strain of the writer's thoughts, but do similar events in various British colonies affirm patriotism to be the sole motive for "picture gallery" issues?

"HOBART, *Tuesday*.—Collectors of postage stamps all over the world will be glad to know that Sir Edward Braddon has ordered the Secretary of the General Post Office to send to England for a new set of stamps similar to those lately issued in New Zealand. These stamps will be illustrated with views of different places of interest in Tasmania.

"The decision of the Government to lay in a new stock of stamps, letter cards, and other saleable postal goods, may be regarded as an indication that the public officials connected with that department are waking up to a sense of the importance of letting the Colony appear before the world in its best clothes. Since the question of more effectively advertising Tasmania has been under discussion—a period covered approximately by the time that has elapsed since an industrial policy was outlined in our columns in 1897—a distinct desire to move ahead has been apparent. It is evidently beginning to dawn upon those to whom the idea previously seemed preposterous that by more enterprise in certain directions and more efficient organisation some departments of the public service hitherto regarded as encumbrances can be made reproductive, and that comparatively little expenditure is needed to do it. Brains rather than money are wanted to put the Colony on something like a fair footing with its neighbours as regards dissemination of information concerning the island and its natural resources. The adoption of stamps and letter cards as mediums for advertising the attractions of the Colony is a step in the right direction. If the illustrations are well done they will help to convey to thousands of people beyond the shores of Tasmania some idea as to the charms of its scenery."

The *Australian Philatelist* is informed that the following is a suggested list of the values, colours, and designs of the new issue :—

½d., green; *Lake Marion, Du Cane Range.*
1d., red; *Mountain Lake, Huon Road.*
2d., lilac; *Cataract Gorge, Launceston.*
2½d., dark blue; *St. Columba Falls.*
3d., claret; *Lake St. Clair.*
4d., orange; *Russell Falls.*
5d., light blue; *Mount Gould.*
6d., violet lake; *Dilston Falls.*

The order for the stamps is in the hands of the engraver, and it is expected they will be ready for issue in a few months' time.

The following enigmatical letter from the Premier, addressed to Mr. F. Bourne, suggests that the intended issue is being made without any pretensions to a lengthened period of existence :—

"*March 6th*, 1899.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst., I am instructed by the Rt. Honourable the Premier to inform you that the designs for the new issue of postage stamps have already been chosen. Whilst they are scarcely intended to be permanent, they will last until there is a reason for a change in the same. I have, etc.,

(Signed) GEORGE STEWARD,
Secretary to the Premier."

VIRGIN ISLANDS.—The *M.J.* states that a correspondent on good authority pronounces the recent new stamps to be of a purely speculative and unnecessary nature. The ordinary Leeward Islands stamps are not superseded, but are to continue in use in the Virgin Islands in conjunction with the new issue.

EUROPE.

CRETE.—The *Monthly Circular* states that a fresh printing has been made of the current design in new colours.

Adhesives. 10 par., brown.
20 ,, rose.

DENMARK.—We have recently received specimens of the current stamps of this country, and note that in some instances the shades have slightly varied, mostly however in the 16 öre, which is now brighter, and the slate-coloured background darker. The set, perf. 12½, is now complete by the appearance of the 25 öre, and this perforation also now appears among the Service stamps.

25 öre, green and grey, *perf.* 12½.
4 ,, bright blue, *perf.* 12½, Service stamp.

GERMAN COLONIES.—The Washington correspondent of the *Metropolitan Phila-*

telist informs us that most of the German colonies, Togo, Marshall Islands, etc., are still using the regular stamps of the mother country, and only as the supply of the various denominations becomes exhausted are the surcharged stamps brought into use.

The values which have not yet been issued are said to be the following :—

German S.W. Africa, 1st issue, 25 and 50 pf.
" " 2nd issue, 3, 5, and 25 pf.
German New Guinea, 25 pf.
Marshall Islands, 3, 5 (?), 25, and 50 (?) pf.

RUSSIA.—Mr. Breitfuss kindly writes to inform us that there is shortly to be a set of the current stamps issue surcharged "КИТАЙ" for use in Russian China. This surcharge, like those of the German Colonials, will be diagonal, and means "China." The stamps have been, writes Mr. Breitfuss on April 4th, already printed, and are on their way to China. In view of the present international grabbing, it seems there will soon be but little of China left, and the Universal Postal Union might recommend that every nation should have a special set surcharged China to represent its "sphere of influence" among the hapless Celestials!

SAN MARINO.—*Filatelic Facts and Fallacies* explains the use of the new 2 c. and 5 c. adhesives for internal use thus: "The inhabitants of the little republic of San Marino will cease to enjoy a privilege which has been theirs for many years, consisting of the free postage of all mail matter within its borders. Up to this day such matter was carried free between the three post offices of the little country, but now special stamps for the internal service have been provided for of the value of 2 and 5 centesimos." San Marino badly wants absorbing by the Italian kingdom.

SWITZERLAND.—The 25 c. value has been changed to conform with the Postal Union regulations. *Adhesive.* 25 c., blue.

TURKEY.—The *M. J.* announces the 20 paras stamp printed in claret in place of pale rose. *Adhesive.* 20 p., claret.

AMERICA.

GUATEMALA.—The following information is gathered from our contemporary the *Philatelic Journal of India*:—

"It appears that the Central American Exhibition, of which so much was expected, turned out a dead failure, entailing a loss of $10,000,000. Its organiser, too, President Reina Barrios, was shot about the same time by an assassin who wished to revenge his brother, so no one wanted to hear any more about poor Barrios and his exhibition, and it was fully intended to burn all the Exhibition stamps which could not be used for telegraph purposes. But Government was very hard up and had numerous applications for the remainders, so they were auctioned and sold to a German firm for $4000. Among the lots were only a very few of the 18 c., and none at all of the 75 c. and 150 c. values. Most of these were lost, it appears, in the harbour in unloading the cases of stamps on arrival, and the rest were used for telegraph purposes.

"About the end of 1897 we were treated to some provisionals from this republic. These, it seems, were made by the then Postmaster-General as a little private swindle of his own. He intended to collar the lot, but he was found out and dismissed. A nice story!"

URUGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the new 5 milesimos stamp, with the colour changed from pink to violet.

Adhesive. 5 m., violet.

VENEZUELA.—A new series of postage and registration stamps has been issued. The design is similar to the 1893 issue, with portrait of Bolivar, but larger, and is inscribed "Correos de Venezuela." The registration stamps are inscribed "Certificado." At present we can only chronicle one value, the 25 c.

Adhesive. 25 c., blue.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—The U.S.A. Special Delivery stamp has been overprinted for use in Cuba. We hear also that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has received instructions to prepare a design for a permanent Special Delivery stamp. It will be the same size as the U.S.A. stamp, but the design, instead of the messenger running on foot, will exhibit him on a bicycle.

Special Delivery. 10 c. de peso, blue; surcharge black.

FERNANDO PO.—*Le T.-P.* announces a full set of adhesives and stationery for this solitary colony in the usual colonial type, inscribed "Fernando Po—1899."

Adhesives.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 mils., chestnut.
1 c. de peso, purple.
2 " blue-green.
3 " deep brown.
4 " orange.
5 " rose.
6 " ultramarine.

8 c. de peso, grey-brown.
10 ,, vermilion.
15 ,, olive-slate.
20 ,, claret.
40 ,, deep lilac.
60 ,, black.
80 ,, chocolate.
1 peso, yellow-green.
2 pesos, indigo.

Post Cards. 5 mils., 1 c., 2 c., and 3 c., single and reply.

We gather from the *A. J. of Ph.* that this issue is to be limited, pointing to speculative rather than postal purposes being its *raison d'être*. Of the low values there are to be issued 10,000 each of the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 mils., and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 c.; 5000 each of the 6 c. and 8 c.; 10,000 of the 10 c.; 15,000 of the 15 c.; 1000 each of the 40 c., 60 c., and 80 c.; while the 1 and 2 peso values drop down to 500 and 200 respectively. A 20 c. to appear later on has been allotted 10,000.

JAPAN.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us some further additions to the new type described on pages 51 and 84. These are:—

Adhesives. 5 rin, grey.
1 sen, salmon.
3 ,, marone.

PERSIA.—The *M. J.* describes a violet surcharge which has been applied to the 1898 issue to "distinguish the stamps supplied by the present administrators of the Post Office from those in the hands of their predecessors or of the general public." The surcharge has been applied to all values from 1 shahi to 50 krans.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* writes that "at last the Philippines are to be favoured with a colonial set. The Post Office Department is now preparing to send to Manila stamps for use on the islands. They will be the same as those now in use" (for Cuba and Porto Rico), "but will be surcharged with the word 'Philippines,' which will probably be printed diagonally across the face of the stamp similar to the Porto Rico surcharge. The first shipment of these stamps, which it is expected will be despatched to Manila about the last of the month, will probably consist of the following values and quantities:—

1 c. . . .	2,000,000.
2 c. . . .	4,000,000.
3 c. . . .	500,000.
5 c. . . .	500,000.
10 c. . . .	500,000."

PORTO RICO.—The San Francisco correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* informs us that "severe comment has been made by the people of Porto Rico on account of the surcharge on the new stamps of the island not being spelt in their language. They are not pleased with the stamps, as it is a blow to their ability in being able to spell their own country's name correctly. The clamour raised on this account will cause the authorities to gratify them, and cause the name to be surcharged as the population request it should be."

We illustrate the surcharge alluded to:—



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 eleventh meeting of the season 1898–9 was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 17th March, 1899 at 7.45 p.m. The members present were :—Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. R. Barrett, T. Girtin, T. W. Hall, T. Maycock, E. S. Davidson, E. J. Nankivell, Gordon Smith, C. N. Biggs, and J. A. Tilleard.

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

Mr. E. J. Nankivell then read a paper entitled, "A Proposal for a Catalogue for Collectors."

After explaining the reasons operating to prevent any of the priced catalogues issued by the trade from constituting a reliable catalogue from a collector's point of view, Mr. Nankivell stated his views of the requirements for his proposal, and sketched the lines on which such a catalogue as he had in view should be prepared. He suggested that under certain conditions the work might be taken in hand by the Society, and issued in monthly parts, and he dealt fully with the question of the expense and labour, and other matters of detail involved in the scheme.

A long discussion ensued, and although the meeting was fully in sympathy with the proposal, the majority of the members present were of the opinion that it would not be practicable for the Society to undertake the work at the present time.

On the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, seconded by the Secretary, the very cordial thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Nankivell for his most interesting paper.

The twelfth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 7th April, 1899, at 7.45 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz. :—Messrs. M. P. Castle, Gordon Smith, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, W. Silk, H. Hetley, W. Barnard, C. N. Biggs, T. W. Hall, E. J. Nankivell, E. D. Bacon, J. A. Tilleard, A. R. Barrett, and B. D. Knox.

The Vice-President occupied the chair, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. G. Owen Wheeler, proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith, and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. Gillett, proposed by Mr. Dorning Beckton, and seconded by the Secretary, were duly elected members of the Society.

A copy of the first number of *The Transvaal Collectors' Quarterly*, presented by the editor, Mr. E. J. Nankivell, for the Society's library, was received with thanks.

The special business of the evening consisted in a display of the stamps of Persia by Mr. Forbes. After being introduced to the Society by the Vice-President, Mr. Forbes gave a detailed account of the early issues, illustrated by his extensive collection, and showed most of the reprints and official imitations which have been made. He drew attention to the fact that the issues which were printed in Austria have the Austrian perforations of the same period, and the later issues printed in Holland the characteristics of the Dutch stamps.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Forbes, proposed by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and seconded by the Vice-President, for the entertainment he had provided for the members of the Society, was carried unanimously.

The thirteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 14th April, at 7.45 p.m., when the following members were present :—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, A. R. Barrett, S. M. Castle, T. Maycock, W. Schwabacher, H. G. Palliser, E. J. Nankivell, A. W. Chambers, Gordon Smith, and B. D. Knox.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The business of the evening consisted in the reading of a paper by Mr. R. Frentzel on "The Emperor Maximilian and the Issues of Postage Stamps during his Reign," the latter part of the paper being illustrated by the display of stamps from Mr. Frentzel's magnificent collection of Mexico. Mr. Frentzel gave a short sketch of the history of Mexico from the sixteenth century, paying particular attention to the events in the career of the Emperor Maximilian down to the execution of that ill-fated monarch. His treatment of the subject was received with much appreciation, and a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Frentzel was proposed by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, and carried unanimously.

Mr. A. W. Chambers showed two specimens of an unchronicled provisional of British Guiana on their original envelopes. They consisted of the 4 c., blue, 1860 type, perf. 10, cut diagonally, each half being used for the local rate of 2 cents. One of the envelopes was dated in 1879.

THE fourteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, 28th April, 1899.

Mr. Bacon was in the chair in the absence of the Vice-President, and the following members also attended:—Messrs T. W. Hall, O. Firth, R. Ehrenbach, E. S. Davidson, H. R. Oldfield, W. Schwabacher, R. Meyer, H. G. Palliser, R. Frentzel, E. J. Nankivell, A. R. Barrett, G. F. H. Gibson, W. Silk, B. D. Knox, C. N. Biggs, Gordon Smith, T. Maycock, and J. A. Tilleard.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. C. R. Aldrich, proposed by Mr. A. C. Hill, and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. O. Firth produced, for inspection of members, an album designed by him, as an improvement on the Oriel system, to facilitate the removal of any particular page without disturbing the others, and explained the means by which he attained this object.

Mr. T. W. Hall then read a paper entitled, "Notes on the Later Issues of the Argentine Republic," accompanied by a display of his very fine collection of the issues under consideration. The paper commenced with the stamps of 1888, and all the types and varieties of this and the succeeding issues were fully described, explained, and classified, a large amount of novel and interesting information derived from official and other sources being contained in the paper, which, it is hoped, will be published in the *London Philatelist*. The very perfect collection shown by Mr. Hall, remarkable for the fine condition of the specimens, the wide range of shades exhibited, and the beautiful mounting and arrangement of the stamps, was very much admired, and on the motion of Mr. O. Firth, seconded by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Hall for the great pleasure he had afforded to the meeting.

Mr. G. F. Gibson reminded the members that the entries for the forthcoming Exhibition in Manchester would close at an early date, and expressed a hope that the Society would be well represented at the Exhibition.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

President—W. T. WILSON, Esq.
Hon. Sec.—Mr. G. JOHNSON, B.A.,
208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

MARCH 2nd. The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. S. G. Vlastos, C. P. W. Andreae, and G. Avyerinos.

Mr. Pimm gave a very interesting paper on the stamps of New Zealand, illustrated by his own fine collection of that country, and also by those of Messrs. W. T. Wilson and T. W. Peck, the former showing all varieties in ranges of shades, used and unused, and the latter fine blocks of imperfs. in mint condition, and other rarities in exceptionally fine condition.

The paper was interspersed and followed by remarks and discussion as to the various shades in use at certain dates, and a good number of copies with dated postmarks and stamps on original, including some of the rare watermarks, roulettes, etc., materially helped the discussion.

APRIL 20th. The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. W. Nathan, J. Venn, W. Morgan, C. E Price, and A. N. Hayne.

Mr. R. Hollick then showed his collections of New South Wales and Tasmania, carefully explaining to any who required it, the numerous varieties and retouches of the plates in the early issues of the former colony. Many very fine copies and shades of these early issues were shown, and this was the cause of a subsequent discussion on catalogue values and discounts, from which it appeared that most of the members would only be glad to get satisfactory copies at full catalogue rates, or even more; but such copies are a steadily decreasing quantity, and for them there is always a good demand, which is gauged to a very small extent by quotations of auctions or catalogues.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

President—M. P. CASTLE.
Hon. Sec.—BARON A. DE WORMS,
27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE fifth meeting of the season 1898–99 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday, March 7th, at 8.15 p.m., when seven members were present, the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President exhibited his extremely fine collection of the first five issues of Spain, consisting of numerous shades of all the different values of each issue in splendid unused condition. He explained the most noteworthy varieties in a few interesting remarks, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Gillespie, and seconded by Mr. Thrupp.

THE sixth and last meeting of the season 1898–99 was held on Monday, May 1st, at 8.15 p.m. Eight members attended, the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, all the officers and committee were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. The President and Mr. J W. Gillespie then exhibited their collections of the stamps of Holland. The President showed all the issues in shades, in perfect unused condition, and Mr. Gillespie displayed a quantity of fine specimens unused, including a mint copy with large margins of the first issue 5 cents, light blue. He also read a very interesting and instructive paper on the Dutch stamps, for which he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

Herts Philatelic Society.

THE close of the season for 1898–99 was celebrated by a dinner at Anderton's Hotel, on Tuesday, May 2nd, 1899. Present: Messrs. F. A. Wickhart, W. G. Cool, M. Z. Kuttner, C. R. Sutherland, C. Forbes, E. Bounds, G. C. Sidebotham, L. E. Bradbury, G. Haynes, H. Warren, E. F. Lawrence, E. P. Airlie Dry, F. Henderson, G. Gaffe, H. Haynes, P. L. Pemberton, M. P. Castle, and H. A. Slade.

Material needs being satisfied, the Chairman (G. Haynes) gave the toasts of "The Queen"

and "Success to the Herts Philatelic Society," and referred in felicitous terms to the prospects and prosperity of the Society. He stated that the Herts Philatelic Society was started early in 1898 by five Philatelists at St. Albans, and that the original intention was to confine membership to collectors residing in the county; but its growth being unexpectedly rapid, it was resolved to move headquarters to London, and to cater for the needs of collectors living in or near the metropolis who do not care to brave the expenses and technicalities of the premier Society. He went on to state that the number of members had increased from five to seventy-nine, that there was a balance in hand of nearly £10, and that the library and exchange departments were in a flourishing condition. He deprecated any intention of competition, and asserted that the Herts Philatelic Society had come to stay, and was filling a great want.

Mr. Castle then afforded the members an opportunity of inspecting his famous collection of unused Spanish stamps, practically complete, and abounding in rarities seldom heard of by the ordinary collector. In response to a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks for his courtesy, Mr. Castle thanked the members for his reception, and expressed his readiness at all times to further the cult of Philately. He congratulated the Society on its management and future prospects, and intimated his willingness to attend again next season. A pleasant evening terminated at 10 p.m.

The annual report will be published and forwarded to members in September, and the first meeting of the 1899–1900 season will be held on the first Tuesday in October next. Exchange packets will be circulated throughout the summer if sufficient sheets be received.

Applications for membership should be accompanied by two references.

H. A. SLADE,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

AT the thirteenth meeting, on March 24th, the President occupied the chair, and was supported by eleven members

Signor G. L. Arduin was elected a corresponding member of the Society.

The Librarian having reported that a copy of *The Stamp Collector*, by Messrs. Hardy and Bacon, had been presented to the Society by the latter gentleman, it was unanimously resolved that the best thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Bacon for his kindness.

Mr. Petri read a paper on "The Italian States," giving an account of the circumstances attendant upon the issue and withdrawal of the various stamps.

THE fourteenth meeting took place on April 7th, the President and nine other members being present.

Mr. David Benjamin was elected a corresponding member.

As Mr. Abbott was unable to give his promised lantern exhibition, Mr. Beckton made a few remarks upon the stamps of Moldo-Wallachia, illustrated by specimens from his own collection and that of Mr. Abbott.

THE fifteenth meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, April 24th, the President in the chair, supported by ten other members.

It was arranged that the annual meeting should take place on Monday, May 15th, and Messrs. Gillett and Ostara were appointed to audit the Hon. Treasurer's accounts.

Mr. Gillett read a paper on "Philately as an Education." He said that any hobby should have something more in it than the mere arrangement of articles, however interesting, and claimed for Philately that it demands and encourages accurate observation, neatness, order, and carefulness, perseverance and industry, besides inspiring a desire for knowledge, and also for finality. It cultivates artistic perception and familiarity with the history, monetary system, and forms of government of various countries, besides being an excellent teacher of geography. In conclusion, Mr. Gillett illustrated how the natures of the inhabitants of a country, and their social and political history, may be compiled from a study of their stamps.

THE annual meeting took place at the Grand Hotel on Monday, May 15th. The President occupied the chair, and there were twelve other members present.

The Hon. Secretary's report showed that the number of members has increased to seventy-one, and that fifteen ordinary and fifteen list meetings have been held during the winter, at one of which Mr. H. R. Oldfield read a paper on Bolivia, this being the first occasion in the history of the Society when an evening has been occupied by an outside member. Allusion was made to the generous manner in which the members have provided the necessary guarantee fund for the forthcoming Exhibition, and to the satisfactory manner in which the season's programme has been carried out.

The Hon. Treasurer announced that there is a balance in hand of £13 18*s.* 9*d.*, and the Hon. Librarian reported an increase of volumes in the library.

The Hon. Secretary of the Exchange Packet stated that eight packets have been circulated, the net value of the stamps being £763, and the sales amounting to £666, or 8½ per cent.

The following officers for next season were unanimously elected:—

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.
Vice-Presidents—J. H. ABBOTT, ERNEST PETRI.
Hon. Secretary—G. FRED H. GIBSON.
Assist. Hon. Secretary—C. H. COOTE.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B. DUERST.
Hon. Librarian—J. C. NORTH.
Exchange Packet Hon. Secretary—W. GRUNEWALD.
Committee—A. BUXTON, OSWALD GILLETT, W. W. MUNN.
Exchange Packet Committee—D. S. GARSON, THOMAS OXLEY.

Mr. North proposed—"That the Exchange Packet Hon. Secretary for the future have first choice of stamps from the sheets." This was seconded by Mr. Oxley, and carried.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

J. H Abbott.
G. L. Arduin (c).
W. Armistead.
W. Bancroft.
F. Barratt.
T. Battersby.
F. J. Beazley.
W. Dorning Beckton.
David Benjamin (c).
A. H. A. Bennett.
George Blockey (c).
W. G. Bowden (c).
H. B. Broomhead.
W. Brown.
H. Jesson Bryceson.
H. Buckley (c).
A. Buxton.
M. P. Castle.
W. Chapman.
W. L. Chew.
E. P. Collett.
John Cooper.
C. H. Coote.
G. B. Duerst.
E. Ehlinger.
J. W. Etherington.
E. Fildes.
J. Flohr.
D. S. Garson.
J. Stelfox Gee.
G. Fred H. Gibson.
Oswald Gillett.
M. Giwelb.
W. Grunewald.
A. H. Harrison.
R. F. V. Harrisson.
J. E. Heginbottom.
J. R. Hesketh.
Nathan Heywood.
R. D Holland (c).
Dr. Jago.
M. W. Jones.
J. J. Leech.
Charles Litchfield.
H. Lund.
W. W. Munn.
G J. Newman.
J. C. North.
D. Ostara
Thomas Oxley.
R. Pellew
P. Loines Pemberton.
Ernest Petri.
Judge Philbrick.
H. Ranck.
Thomas Ridpath.
Evan T. Roberts.
F. A. Roberts
Vernon Roberts.
H. E. M. Rolsted (c).
J. W. Simpson.
T. Kershaw Skipwith.
J. G. Smithson (c).
E. C. Symonds.
C. Taylor (c).
W. Terry.
J. H. Thackrah (c).
A. Wallace.
N. Wanstall.
John Westhorp.
Seth Wregley.

Plymouth Philatelic Society.

THE eighth session of the Plymouth Philatelic Society, which will shortly close as far as active winter work is concerned, has been a most successful one. Nineteen new members have joined since October, 1898, and fourteen ordinary meetings have been held, at which papers have been read in conjunction with alternate evenings for discussion and exchange. The following have contributed to the readings: Major G. W. Stockdale (President) twice on the "Issues of France"; Rev. E. A. Donaldson and Mr. H. W. Mayne on the "Collecting of Entires"; Rev. E. T. Fyffe, R.N., on "Auction Prices and Catalogue Values"; and Mr. W. A. Walker on "Breakers Ahead." On the 14th of January, 1899, an exhibition of stamps was held, which proved a most gratifying success, and the Exchange Branch of the Society shows a very marked development, its monthly packets averaging over £100 in value. A silver medal has also been contributed to the forthcoming Manchester Philatelic Exhibition. The present session will end shortly with a lecture on "Philately," to be contributed by the Rev. E. Bell, of Saltash.

ON Wednesday, May 10th, under the auspices of the Plymouth Society, a most enjoyable lecture was delivered at the Athenæum by the Rev. E. Bell, M.A. (of St. Stephen's, Saltash), on the educational value of Philately. Premising that the hobby was a scientific pursuit, the lecturer dwelt on the threefold division of Philatelic humanity into the ignoramus, the timbromaniac, and the Philatelist proper or collector, who found in stamps an intelligent interest and a valuable training. With this introduction the political histories of France and Spain and the unification of Italy were ably traced through the postal issues of these countries, lantern and screen combining most effectively to illustrate the points of the lecture. From Southern Europe Mr. Bell passed to South Africa, and reviewed the vicissitudes of our politics in the Transvaal, showing how marked an object-lesson was to be found in the issues of that republic. Equally impressive, but more pleasing, was the lesson to be learned from the stamps of Fiji, where British rule had kept and not relinquished its hold. The diagrams that followed on the screen were now of more varied type and illustrative of different phases of Philatelic interest, æsthetic bearing, or educational value. Thus on one striking group the heads of five sovereign monarchs were depicted, four of whom had met with the bitterest reverses of fortune; the effigies of our own Queen in varying stages of her rule were also presented, and colonial enterprise and sentiment fitly illustrated in the symbolisms of New South Wales, Cape Colony, and Canada. Finally, after a series of plates that typified the debt of Philately to the natural world in its designs of bird, animal, reptile, and fish, the lecturer made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the hobby of stamp-collecting, with its æsthetic and educational training, in contrast to the destructive and wanton enthusiasms of the ornithologist and entomologist.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bell for his lucid, interesting, and most suggestive address was then proposed by Mr. R. T. Stevens, seconded by Mr. H. W. Mayne, and unanimously accorded by all present.

W. A. WALKER,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

C. E. RUSSEL RENDLE,
Hon. Secretary Exchange Branch.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

THE November packets have come back from circulation, and accounts were duly submitted and settled within four days. Sales for the month were as follows:—

		£	s.	d
Nov.	A1	117	11	2
"	A2	94	13	11
"	B1	57	7	4
"	B2	39	15	6

December packets have nearly finished their rounds, and sheets will be returned as soon as possible.

197 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £2014 3*s.* 7*d.*, were made up into four packets and despatched on the April circuit on the 24th inst. Good selections at moderate quotations were sent in, and members will have an opportunity of acquiring perfect specimens of rare stamps at a very reasonable figure. Africans were more strongly represented than other sections, but Europeans and Australians ran them a good second. The following have lately been selected as members:—Dr. Atkinson (Ashton), Captain Stokes Roberts and Major Nathan (Waltham Abbey), E. W. Shackell (Cardiff), Pryce Carson (London), J. Wilcox (Dunedin), and F. C. Pigott (London). Three applications were held over. Collectors living abroad are invited to send selections regularly, and non-contributors can see as many packets as they like, though their names are placed last on the list. Club sheets should always be used, and will be supplied on demand. Applications for membership should be accompanied by references to prevent delay. Rules, etc., from the Hon. Sec., H. A. SLADE.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

351, Fourth Avenue.

Thirty-sixth meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, on Saturday, February 18th, 1899. Present: Messrs. Thorne, Bruner, Calman, Luff, Perrin, Scott, Stebbins, and the Secretary.

Called to order by President Thorne at 8.30 p.m., when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the election of Mr. J. J. O'Donohue, as a subscribing member on January 9th, 1899, should be recorded as his election as a stockholder.

The thanks of the Club were extended to the publishers of the *Pennsylvania Philatelist*, received at the Club up to August, 1898, but accidentally omitted from previous list.

The Secretary read letters from Messrs. Meyenberg, Joynt, Gooch, and Kissinger, and he was instructed regarding same.

The Committee on purchase of books was authorised to complete the proposed purchase of books from Mr. Deats.

The question of the new headquarters was thoroughly discussed, and a committee appointed to search for a suitable house and report thereon without delay. The Chairman named Messrs. Bruner, Luff, Perrin, and Stebbins as such committee, with power to add to their number.

The Governors agreed to meet again next Thursday evening, February 23rd, at eight o'clock.

Adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

John N. Luff, *Secretary pro tem.*

Thirty-seventh meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, February 23rd, 1899.

Vice-President Bruner called the meeting to order at 8.30 p.m., the following Governors being present: Bruner, Calman, Luff, Perrin, Scott, Stebbins, and the Secretary.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read and approved, the Secretary stated that at the request of Mr. C. P. Krauth, through Mr. Luff, he had issued a two weeks' visitor's ticket to Dr. Hazzard, of Pittsburg, Pa.

The Committee on Headquarters made a full report, and the Governors thereupon resolved that the Committee be authorised to close for a lease of three years of house 41, E. 19th Street, at $1800 per year, provided that proper repairs be made as suggested by the Committee, also provided that a bonus of $1000 for the first two years and $500 for the third year be paid by the owners should the lease be cancelled at owner's request.

Amended as follows: In case that the above negotiations fall through, then the President is hereby authorised to renew the present lease of 351, Fourth Avenue, and the Committee shall proceed to make the alterations necessary to extend the billiard-room. Motion, as amended, was duly carried.

The Secretary was instructed to call a special meeting as soon as he heard from the Chairman of Committee on Headquarters that the negotiations about house 41, E. 19th Street, have been closed.

Adjourned at 9.20 p.m.

Thirty-eighth meeting of the Governors held at the Club House, March 13th, 1899. Called to order by President Thorne at 8.15 p.m., the following Governors being present: Messrs. Bruner, Scott, Stebbins, Perrin, and Luff. In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Luff was appointed secretary *pro tem.* The Treasurer's report was received, showing a balance of $498.11 cash in hand. The Secretary *pro tem.* read several letters, and report of the Chairman of House Committee was received. Special committee on alterations of billiard-room reported they had carried out the Governors' instructions. Mr. Scott presented estimates of cost of laying a new floor in the billiard-room, and upon motion, duly seconded and carried, he was empowered to have a new floor laid at an expense of $40, and to have the room papered and painted. Upon motion the President appointed Messrs. Bruner and Stebbins a committee to look for and purchase a billiard-table. Adjourned 9.5 p.m.

Thirty-ninth meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, April 10th, 1899. President Thorne called the meeting to order at 8.15 p.m. The following members were present: Messrs. Bruner, Calman, Luff, Perrin, Scott, Stebbins, and the Secretary. Minutes of preceding meeting were read and approved. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Jos. S. Rich presenting to the Club two framed pictures and loaning two others, all of which were placed in charge of the House Committee. The Secretary was instructed to convey to Mr. Rich the Governors' thanks for his generous gift and for his kind loan of pictures relating to historical postal matters. The Treasurer's report was then received, showing a cash balance of $526.74. The Chairman of House Committee and the special committees on enlargement of billiard-room and on purchase of billiard-table made their reports, which were accepted. Mr. McCoy S. King having settled matters with the Treasurer, it was agreed that his name be posted for re-election as a subscribing member. The Governors decided to take final action on delinquent members at the next meeting. The Chairman of the Amusements Committee, Mr. Luff, kindly consented, at the urgent request of the Governors, to deliver his Brooklyn Institute lecture on "What Philately Teaches" at the Club House on Saturday evening, May 6th, with the aid of Mr. Rich and his lantern slides. The Governors desire members and their Philatelic or non-Philatelic friends to attend this instructive lecture. Upon ballot the following candidates were unanimously elected as subscribing members to the Club: Rev. Aug. Ullmann, John A. Klemann, and George E. Baldwin. Adjourned 9.20 p.m.

J. M. Andreini, *Secretary.*

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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BRITISH RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS.

SIR,—May I have the opportunity of making a short rejoinder to Mr. Ernest A. Elliott's reply in to-day's *London Philatelist* to my paper in the previous issue on British Railway Letter stamps, pointing out where, in my opinion, his reply falls short of completeness? I brought forward certain arguments in favour of the acceptance of these stamps by Philatelists, as being a branch of the postal service; no suggestion was intended that they were on a level with the Post Office issues. Since Mr. Elliott considers I was not sufficiently definite, I will quote from the paper in the *London Philatelist* for December, 1897, in which I originally drew attention to these stamps, that, "in my opinion, they come next to the regular official issue of postage stamps in point of interest."

Mr. Elliott "cannot understand that the railway companies, acting as agents of the Postmaster-General, must be 'considered part of the machinery of the Post Office.'" I am sorry; it seems such a simple statement.

To point out that the penny stamp is obligatory is no answer to my suggestion that it is in effect a "tax": it leaves that question exactly where it was before.

What is this stamp to be considered when the letter is left to be called for at a station, and the regular Post Office officials do not even see it?

I agree that the Railway Letter label is a Special Delivery stamp. Mr. Elliott draws a distinction between "officially sanctioned" and "official." Their position may be still more delicately defined by pointing out that they were ordered to be prepared by the Post Office, and not initiated by the railway companies, as the term sanctioned implies.

The quotation with which Mr. Elliott's letter concludes is as acceptable as it is incontrovertible. One can only suggest; to attempt to dictate were an impertinence.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. DENDY MARSHALL.

CRAIGNUIR, HASSOCKS, SUSSEX,
April 28th, 1899.

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.*

A WRITER in the *Australian Philatelist* is aggrieved to think that the 1899 catalogues are very unsatisfactory in regard to the pricing of Australian stamps, and draws sad comparisons between home catalogues and the present colonial values. Quoth he, "It has often been said that the stocks of no two dealers are alike, and this to a certain extent no doubt is true"; a great discovery! but that certain stamps should regularly appear at low prices raises the question, "Have the dealers quantities of these stamps in stock?" or as some unkind individuals assert, "Are they merely trying to bear the market until they can buy a stock, without having the slightest intention of selling these stamps at their catalogue prices?" The dealers in stamps, as in aught else, buy and sell in the most profitable markets, and always will; the purchasers must beware, as we learnt at school!

A wail also goes up from the Editor of our Indian contemporary on the subject of catalogue prices as viewed from the standpoint of the Indian Native States collector. By comparing the three leading English catalogues in their prices for the stamps of the Native States using Indian stamps surcharged, he reveals confusion which will be straightened out, no doubt, when something more is known regarding them, their use, and abuse. The obscurity which has hitherto enwrapped the stamps of these States is happily being cleared away, and collectors are awaking to the fact that in certain instances they are tolerably scarce!

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale on April 20th and following day included an unused Naples "Arms," which in "fair" condition

realised £21. The sale on May 4th and 5th was represented by some noteworthy rarities, *the* stamp being a fine used copy of the Cape of Good Hope, 1d., pale blue, error, this being finally knocked down for £70 after a spirited competition. Among the desirable stamps we note the following: Ceylon, 2 r. 50 c., lilac-rose, perf. 12½, unused, £8 10s.; Hong Kong, 96 c., yellow-brown, CC, unused, an absolutely perfect copy, £10 10s.; Gold Coast, 20s., green and carmine, unused, £4 10s.; Grenada, 1881, broad-pointed star, 2½d., rose-lake, unused, £4 4s.; St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., unused, £18; and 1885, 4d., red-brown, in same condition, £5 7s. 6d.

* * *

Messrs. Bright and Son announce business "in full swing" at their new premises in the Strand, where an attractive window no doubt reaps its own reward. Philatelic business in this thoroughfare appears to thrive, and the Strand bids fair to become more than ever *the* Philatelic promenade of the Metropolis.

Mr. D. Field, however, has removed from this neighbourhood to a more fashionable quarter, having taken a lease of premises in the Royal Arcade. This handsome gallery connects Albemarle and Bond Streets, and is in the very centre of the West End. Mr. Field's exterior frontage, comprising Nos. 4 and 5 in the Arcade, is of decidedly imposing effect, and undoubtedly displays a larger expanse of plate-glass than any other Philatelic shop in the metropolis. With a carefully assorted stock there should be an excellent business spring up in this fashionable quarter.

* * *

An American contemporary, describing the state of the trade across the Atlantic, says, "The stamp season is now at its height, and from the large number of new people who have taken up collecting the trade will undoubtedly keep up during the summer. . . . The desire to purchase stamps is manifested in every direction. People of all ages are buying in the stores, at auction, and through the mails." The same journal says, "The Painter sale realised nearly $11,000, the greater part coming out of the pockets of New York collectors, and yet there does not appear to be the slightest sign of satiety."

* * *

The collection of postage stamps, about 7000 in number, which was formed by the late Colonel Chard, v.c., one of the heroes of Rorke's Drift, was sold in London on April 26th by Messrs. Wilkinson, Sotheby, and Hodge. The collection was well represented in the Indian States and Far East countries where their former owner had been stationed, and there were a large number of unused stamps, bought a few years since, that represented a considerable value; hence the respectable price attained—over £70. There were, however, no rarities, and the collection was in no sense Philatelic.

* * *

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's sale on the 9th and 10th inst. included a block of five Great Britain (two slightly damaged), 6d., octagonal, unused, with gum, which realised £21, and a pair of the 1s., Die 2 (vertical), with one stamp damaged by pin-holes, £12; Oldenburg, 2nd issue, ⅓ gros., black on green, £5 10s.; Tuscany, 60 crazie, red, small margins, £5 12s. 6d.; Turks Islands, 1881, 2½d. on 1s., lilac, Type 10, £7; British Guiana, 1852, 1 c., magenta, a block of four, cut close all round, on original, £9; Chile, 1st issue, 10 c., blue, with error of watermark "20," £6 10s.

* * *

The Union of German Dealers has received further accession to its ranks, and has issued another circular, in which it avers that it has no interest in advocating high prices, and again protests against the "50 p.c. discount" advertisements. We have ourselves received a letter from a correspondent who gravely asserts his view that dealers should be compelled to buy all they sell at half the prices quoted! This might interfere with the packet trade, and in the case of used current stamps would be attended with absolute financial disaster. There is equal nonsense in both the foregoing cases of discounts. Collectors must exercise their judgment as to the quality and nature of the wares offered, as they would naturally in making any other kind of purchases.

The co-operation of the eight leading stamp firms of Germany is further promised in this circular, with a view of making the prices in Senf's Catalogue fully reliable. In the case of unused stamps, notably of the German States, the quotations even now are widely unjust, as anyone can ascertain by trying to buy really fine copies here, as in Germany. If the dealers, however, are prepared to pay fair prices for stamps, such action will outweigh bushels of circulars in upholding values.

THE

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The Season of 1898-1899.

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED now appears for the last time in its dual capacity as representing the two halves of the expiring Philatelic season, although the winter of 1899–1900 will see the last complete season of the century. It is obvious, therefore, that the time is not yet for a general survey of the past; but, none the less, a few remarks may be made with regard to the trend of recent events.

Philately, like trade, follows the flag, and it is with the transference of this emblem of sovereignty from one great nation to a greater that the dominant feature of the past year is to be found. The collapse of the Spanish colonial power, in the recent conflict with our American cousins, has been signal, and so complete that, bereft by the fortune of war of all the colonies that were important, the Spanish Government has just ceded to Germany, against payment, the few remaining groups of islands that America did not claim. How are the mighty fallen! The quondam world-wide empire of Spain has dwindled down in the expiring nineteenth century to the ownership of Fernando Po!

Le roi est mort: vive le roi! The United States Government, in taking over the various postal arrangements of their new colonies, has been prompt in continuing and improving the previous facilities; and in so doing has alike made use of the local stamps, surcharged their own stamps for colonial use, and made arrangements for permanent issues. The natural outcome of all this has been a keen interest on the part of American collectors in the stamps of their new colonies (including Samoa), and the laying of the foundation of a new school of collectors that will some day be one of the great Philatelic factors—"America and Colonies."

The German nation—*longo intervallo*—is following suit; but at present their Philatelic interest is confined to surcharges on the current Imperial issue. And, although they are but of slender interest, they are fairly numerous, and present also the germ of "Germany and Colonies." The recent appearance of French works of reference and catalogues has opened our eyes as to the very numerous colonial possessions of our immediate neighbours and their still more numerous issues of surcharged stamps. The last few years have, however, seen no recrudescence of those superfluous overprintings, with the result that confidence and patriotism having allied themselves across the Channel, a great revival of interest has been shown in the issues of "France and Colonies." One of the advantages of stamp collecting is that it induces a familiarity with contemporaneous history; and it may indeed be said that the postage stamps of a decade form a microcosm of its most important events. The aspirations of the several great nations towards a colonial empire is the great feature, and the great danger, of the expiring century, and Philately has formed an imperishable index thereof in the guise of the issues of the newer colonial empires.

The expiring season has not as yet been marked by the appearance of any very important work on Philately, but it is to be hoped and expected that before the summer heats drive us all away from town and stamps, the work on our own stamps—if not another one also of first-class importance—may have appeared. The Catalogue is always with us, and is rapidly becoming a Philatelic encyclopædia, owing to the collaboration of so many of the leading labourers in the Philatelic field. The well-being and activity of Philatelic bodies has, however, been fully maintained latterly; and neither herein or in the financial side of collecting do we see any ill omen for the future. Clouds will pass across the landscape and shadows *apparently* rest; but they pass, and the sun still shining behind them at length emerges, and sends us once more on our way with renewed confidence.

In our humble opinion the event fraught with the most vital effect upon Philately—*in this country*—has been the continued decadence of the auctions. We have so frequently alluded hereto that we need do no more than reiterate and emphasise our view that the interests of the collector—as of the auctioneer—demand that some attempt shall be made to keep up the standard. The veriest tyro in Philately can see that the auctions have latterly become a "shoot" for the unloading of rubbish and rejections—not for collections. These former have been, and are, improperly described, are generally sold for what they are worth—not what they purport to be in print—and serve to alarm and debar the sober and consistent collector alike from purchasing his stamps of the dealer or selling them at the auction.

The Stamps of New South Wales.

SOME MORE INTERESTING RECORDS ABOUT THE "SYDNEY VIEWS."

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

WHEN Dr. Andrew Houison compiled his *History of the Post Office and of the Issue of Postage Stamps in New South Wales*, he had very little time at his disposal in which to search for and arrange the available official records relating to the early issues of the colony. On the 24th of February, 1890, he obtained the necessary permission to prepare the work, and before the end of the following month it was printed! It is not a matter for surprise, therefore, that the records published are not as complete as could be wished; nevertheless, the work is a most remarkable evidence of Dr. Houison's energy and ability to achieve much in a very short space of time.

A little while ago I was fortunate enough to find several old letter-books in the Postal Department which had evaded discovery in Dr. Houison's necessarily hurried search. These contain copies of the letters written from the Department, and supply several of the missing links in the chain of evidence regarding not only the Sydney Views, but also the later issues.

On the 17th April, 1849, the Postmaster-General (Mr. James Raymond) wrote to the Colonial Secretary respecting an Act of Council for establishing an uniform rate of postage in the Colony. Several paragraphs are sufficiently related to the subsequent issue of stamps to justify quotation. He wrote:—

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd December last, forwarding one from the Honourable the Attorney-General, and directing me to furnish the details of a measure for establishing an uniform rate of postage in the Colony.

"2. In obedience to your instructions, I have accordingly copied from the Imperial Acts of Parliament the clauses which I think might be made applicable to this Colony.

"3. With regard to the rates of postage to be adopted, it appears to me that, referring to the alteration proposed in the weight from a quarter to half an ounce to assimilate to the English scale, an uniform rate of 4d. would be a very great reduction (the average rate at present being 8d.); but considering the number of unclaimed and undelivered letters, it may be a question whether a 3d. rate to be prepaid, otherwise to be liable to double postage, would not be more beneficial to the public, and yield an equal revenue.

"4. In proposing this rate I have assumed that, as in England, the privilege of franking will be abolished, and although I cannot but anticipate some falling off in the revenue, yet looking to the extent of this privilege, and the evasion of

postage to which the present high rates tend, I have every reason to hope that it will be only temporary.

"5. It will be observed that I have copied the clauses respecting stamps, considering that if they can be adopted it will be advantageous to the public, as I am aware of many instances where servants have destroyed letters entrusted to them for posting in order to retain the postage.

"11. In conclusion, I have only to observe that, although I have not proposed any charge for newspapers, yet referring to the fact that in the United Kingdom they are subjected to a stamp duty as well as postage in some instances, and that in the United States, and, I believe, in most other nations, they are liable to postage, I cannot but consider some small rate should be imposed to defray the expense to which the Treasury is subjected, for it must be obvious that besides the additional labour occasioned by their sorting and delivery, the contracts for the conveyance of the inland mails would be much lower, as they would in many instances be sent on horseback but for the number and weight of the newspapers."

It is interesting to note that the proposed Postage Act was under consideration as early as December, 1848. The Postmaster-General's recommendations were subsequently embodied in a Bill which, upon motion for second reading in the Legislative Council, was referred to a Select Committee (9th August, 1849). The Report of the Committee was tabled on the 12th September following, and most of the points of interest regarding postage stamps contained therein are included in Dr. Houison's book.

The Act was passed at the latter end of 1849, and active preparations were entered into for producing the necessary postage stamps.

One of the principal engravers then resident in Sydney was Mr. Robert Clayton, of Castlereagh Street. This gentleman had given evidence before the Select Committee on the Postage Bill, and had also tendered for a printing-press, dies, and plates for stamps for the sum of £36. He averred that he could produce any number of impressions on a plate, identical in detail, from one die. Unfortunately, however, the results of his system did not meet with the approval of the Postmaster-General, as will be seen later on.

On the 12th October, 1849, Mr. Raymond submitted for the approval of the Colonial Secretary certain forms required under the new Postage Act, observing that it was proposed to omit the columns for free letters and to substitute columns for stamps and for newspapers. With respect to the distribution of stamps, he proposed to forward them, as in England, to every country office for sale, debiting them with the amount, and allowing credit in the monthly account for any remaining on hand at the termination of the month.

With reference to the proposed arrangements for payment of postage on official correspondence, the Auditor-General in conjunction with the Postmaster-General wrote to the Colonial Secretary on the 15th November, 1849:—

"Sir,—In attention to your instructions that we should propose some arrangement in respect of the payment of postage on Official correspondence under the new Postage Act, we do ourselves the honor to report that the most desirable method appears to us to be for all Public Departments to adopt Postage Stamps which might

be supplied by the Post Office upon requisition, and charged for in a monthly or quarterly account, a form of which we beg to submit.

"2. By the adoption of this system, all letters from the several Public Officers in the Interior who should procure stamps in like manner from the country Postmasters would be prepaid, and the general adoption of stamps by the Government would tend in a great measure to induce private individuals to resort to these stamps in corresponding on their own affairs with Public Departments.

"3. Should any letters be posted unpaid the postage can of course be included in the same account with the stamps, but parties being aware of the penalty for non-prepayment, we think the letters so posted will not be very numerous.

"4. The adoption of stamps will facilitate the business of the Post Office, and moreover relieve Public Officers from the necessity of attaching their signatures to the letters as an authority for the postage being charged against their Departments.

"5. The stamps would be entrusted to an officer in each Department, who would be responsible that they were used only for Official letters, and it may be considered necessary that they should be accounted for by a quarterly account in a form similar to the enclosed marked No. 2, or by any more eligible form which in practice may suggest itself."

On the following day Mr. Raymond submitted to the Colonial Secretary a draft of the proposed Regulations for guidance of the Post Office Department under the Postage Act, 13 Vict., No. 38, and stated that "the preparation of the dies and other arrangements for providing Postage Stamps are in progress, and having conferred with the Auditor-General and Colonial Storekeeper as directed in your communication, the mode of sale and the poundage to be allowed thereon has been agreed upon, and is inserted in the Regulations for the approval of His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council."

In anticipation of the stamps being soon ready, a requisition for an iron safe "for the custody of the dies and stamps" was forwarded to the Colonial Storekeeper on the 15th November.

In the meantime Mr. Clayton seems to have been at work producing stamps by his own method, when a proposal from Mr. Ham,* of Port Phillip, to provide the stamps was submitted to Mr. Raymond. There appears to have been a previous communication from Mr. Ham on the subject, but I cannot trace it. In returning the letter from His Honour the Superintendent of Port Phillip, forwarding "a further proposal from Mr. Ham to supply the stamps required under the new Postage Act," Mr. Raymond wrote to the Colonial Secretary (29th November, 1849):—

"2. I do myself the honor to report that finding the stamps prepared by Mr. Clayton were of so inferior a description it was determined to get three copper plates engraved, and the work being in progress I fear it is now too late to make any alteration as it is considered necessary that the Stamps should be struck off and a supply be at the several country Post Offices before the commencement of the new year.

"3. As to the Stamps being forged I think the best security will be their little value and the number of persons who should be entrusted with their sale, but in England the paper used is, I understand, the great safeguard against forgery.

"4. From the specimen of Mr. Ham's engraving which I have seen I regret that

* The engraver of the first Victorian stamps.

circumstances do not admit of his offer being accepted, as the work would, I have no doubt, be more satisfactorily executed, but referring to the instructions contained in your letter of the 20th October as to the early distribution of the Stamps, I see no other course now left but to carry out the arrangements in progress."

Writing to the Colonial Secretary on the 13th December, 1849, *little more than a fortnight before the stamps were to come into use*, Mr. Raymond again refers to the failure of Clayton's undertaking, and gives further interesting particulars. He says:—

"SIR,—I do myself the honor to report that the sample of Postage Stamps submitted by Mr. Clayton having been disapproved of by the Board appointed under your letter of 20th October last, it was considered that as he had failed in his undertaking, the arrangements entered into with him for providing the Postage Stamps were at an end.

"2. Under these circumstances, it was determined to get three copper plates engraved, and as the same are now nearly completed, it is necessary to make arrangements for printing the Stamps.

"A printing-press has accordingly been purchased under the inspection of the Colonial Storekeeper, and several Printers having offered their services, I desired them to send in written Tenders which would be submitted.

"I therefore do myself the honor to enclose a schedule of those received, and from the enquiries I have made, I am led to believe that the individual named in the margin [Charles Kay], whose offer is the lowest, is an eligible party to perform the work."

On the same day Mr. Raymond wrote to the Colonial Secretary, reporting on a letter from a Mr. Harris soliciting tender for printing stamps, that "arrangements have been made for engraving the plates, but a tender for the printing has been received from Mr. Harris and submitted with others this day."

It was necessary to expedite matters, and on the following day the Postmaster-General wrote to Mr. Charles Kay, Union Street, Sydney, "I have received the sanction of His Excellency the Governor to accept your tender for printing and gumming the Postage Stamps required for this Department at the rate of three pounds fifteen shillings for every one thousand sheets containing 100 stamps on each."

The tenders of the following printers were declined:—

Mr. Alonzo Grocott, Elizabeth Street.
Mr. Robert Clayton, Castlereagh Street.
Mr. William Harris, at Mr. Blunt's, Bridge Street.
Mr. Hugh Carruthers, Engraver.
Mr. H. C. Jervis, Pitt Street.

Dr. Houison illustrates some of Clayton's essays, of which two appear to be printed direct from copper plates, and the others from lithographic transfers. It would seem, therefore, that his method of reproduction was simply that of lithography. Doubtless the inferior appearance of the lithographed stamps as compared with impressions taken direct from the plate caused the Postmaster-General to reject the whole plan, and adopt

the one of procuring the separate engraved plates referred to in his letter of the 13th December.

It is curious, however, to note that in accepting Kay's tender for printing, Mr. Raymond should have mentioned one hundred stamps as the number to each sheet. Perhaps that number was originally intended (more particularly as Clayton could produce one hundred lithographic transfers almost as easily as twenty-five), and the short time at the engravers' disposal compelled them to restrict their plates to a smaller number of impressions. At any rate, we can be thankful that there were not one hundred impressions on each plate of the "Views." Separately engraved, retouched, and on all the kinds of paper then in ordinary use, the number of minor varieties would have run into thousands!

The arrangements made for printing the stamps under the direct supervision of the Postmaster-General, the Auditor-General, and the Colonial Storekeeper, as might have been anticipated, had very soon to be altered, and authority obtained for deputing the supervision to subordinate officers. On the 19th December, 1849, Mr. Raymond wrote to the Colonial Secretary:—

"SIR,—Having reference to the arrangement proposed in your letter of 20th October for forming a Board consisting of the Auditor-General, the Colonial Storekeeper, with myself to superintend the printing of the Post Office Stamps, I do myself the honor to report that Mr. Lithgow states the duties of his own Department will not admit of giving his personal attendance, but proposes to send a representative in the person of Mr. Ferguson, one of his clerks, under whose inspection I am proceeding with the work, as nothing but the most prompt exertion will enable me to have a supply ready by the 1st January. Mr. Buchanan proposes to adopt the same course unless some other arrangement should be considered more advisable."

There being so few working days remaining before the stamps were required for issue, it can easily be understood that the printer would be working incessantly, and that the supervisors would therefore have no time to perform their ordinary duties if they strictly carried out the original arrangements; hence it became absolutely necessary to appoint deputy-supervisors.

That the printing went on satisfactorily from that date may be assumed, as there is no doubt that the stamps were ready for issue on the 1st January, 1850.

The next recorded item is one of the most interesting in the history of the "Views," and although it has been published before, I must insert it here in order to make this paper complete. Fortunately it is brief and to the point:—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
"*21st Dec.*, 1849.

"SIR,—I do myself the honor to submit the undermentioned Accounts for Copper Plate Engravings of the Postage Stamps, and request you will obtain authority for my including them in Abstract.

"2. The Amount can be paid out of the sum voted for this Department for the current year, a balance of £5,800 remaining unexpended; but in explanation of

difference in price, I beg to state that I was obliged to employ separate engravers, the Plates being urgently required, and that I made the best arrangement I could under the circumstances.

"Robert Clayton for furnishing a Copper Plate containing 25 engravings of the Penny Postage Stamp, Ten pounds.

"John Carmichael for furnishing a Copper Plate containing 24 engravings of the Twopenny Postage Stamp, Twelve pounds twelve shillings.

"H. C. Jervis for furnishing a Copper Plate containing 25 engravings of the Threepenny Postage Stamp, Seven pounds.

"Charles Kay for providing articles required in printing Postage Stamps, Five pounds eleven shillings and ninepence.

"Amounting in all to Thirty-five pounds three shillings and ninepence.

"I have, &c.,

"The Honorable the Colonial Secretary." "JAS. RAYMOND.

Looking at this account at the present day, one can only marvel at the small sums charged for the engravings. The work was very good of its kind, especially in the case of the 2d., and yet these elaborate designs were engraved on copper at the rate of 10s. 6d. each; while for the 3d. little more than 5s. 6d. was charged!

Kay's items were doubtless small necessary articles—blankets, paper, and other requisites. They could hardly have included a printing-press, as assumed by Dr. Houison, because the total sum is so small, and the Postmaster-General's letter of the 13th December mentions the purchase of a printing-press under the inspection of the Colonial Storekeeper, which was included in a subsequent contingent account, the cost being £20.

Within a month of commencing the printing of the Sydney Views, Mr. Raymond was forced to conclude that the appliances and means of production available in the Colony were totally inadequate to the requirements of the Department. As early as the 5th January, 1850, he wrote to the Colonial Secretary, "Much difficulty has been experienced in providing the Postage Stamps authorised to be issued. It is not my wish to imply that there are not mechanics in the Colony capable of engraving the Stamps, but there seems a difficulty in multiplying the Dies upon a Steel Plate for want of the requisite machinery, and under these circumstances it appears to me that it will be advisable to obtain from England three Steel Plates containing at least 100 impressions of each stamp."

The history of those plates "to be obtained from England," what delays took place, and what temporary arrangements were resorted to, forms very interesting reading, which I hope in due course to publish. In the meantime, to continue the history of the "Views," I find on the 23rd January, 1850, the Postmaster-General wrote to the Colonial Secretary, reporting on a letter from the Colonial Storekeeper, who complained that he was inconvenienced even by having to depute one of his clerks to supervise the printing of the stamps. Under date 23rd January, 1850, Mr. Raymond wrote:—

"SIR,—In returning to you the accompanying letter from the Colonial Storekeeper, complaining of the inconvenience experienced in his Department by the continued employment of one of his clerks in attending the printing of Postage Stamps and desiring me to state when the required number will be printed,

"2. I do myself the honor to report that it is out of my power to estimate the number of Stamps likely to be required, as one hundred and thirty thousand have now been printed, and it is only within the last few days that there has been a sufficient supply to meet the demand.

"3. It appears to me, however, that an arrangement something similar to that at Melbourne might be beneficially adopted here, namely to entrust one party to superintend the printing, who should sign a joint certificate with the Printer of the number struck off, then hand them over to this Department, obtaining my receipt and forwarding receipt and certificate to the Audit Office. The Plates to be deposited in an iron chest, the key of which to remain in his possession.

"4. Some such alteration is moreover necessary, as the Printer complains the hours he is allowed to work do not enable him to earn enough to maintain himself, and that in tendering he contemplated upon working eight or ten hours, when he would print as many in two days as he does now in a week.

"5. If therefore the gentleman now deputed by the Auditor-General to attend at this Office should be considered sufficient to superintend the printing, and that by paying him extra—say at the rate of one shilling per hour for every hour he may be employed beyond the usual Office hours, a sufficient number could be printed in two or three days each week, the arrangement would, I think, be the most economical and more convenient for all parties."

On the 25th April, 1850, the Postmaster-General wrote to the Colonial Secretary, submitting certain contingent accounts for approval, and requesting that the sanction of His Excellency the Governor might be obtained to his including them in the contingent account. This is one of the most important and interesting records found, in that it establishes the fact that after all Jervis, and not Carmichael, as assumed by Dr. Houison, retouched the 2d. plate. The items are as follows:—

"Hugh Carruthers for repairing and supplying Stamps, &c., Thirty-seven pounds thirteen shillings.

"J. C. Thornthwaite for supplying Stamps, &c., Six pounds eighteen shillings.

"(Note: These two items refer to obliterating stamps for various post offices.)

"H. C. Jervis for re-etching and repairing the plate for printing Twopenny Postage Stamps, Six pounds.

"J. S. Norrie for supplying gum for gumming Post Office Stamps, Six pounds eighteen shillings.

"Charles Chapman for supplying colours for printing Postage Stamps, &c., Eighteen pounds eight shillings."

The date upon which these contingent accounts were submitted for approval does not, unfortunately, give any clue to the actual date upon which the "re-etching" or the "repairing" of the 2d. plate were effected. From the dated copies referred to in *Oceania*, it is evident that the so-called retouch of Plate I.* was made in February, 1850, the plate having become so worn during six weeks' employment that the finer lines had entirely disappeared. From examination of a number of impressions from Plate I., I have long held the opinion that the plate was several times operated upon,

* For the sake of convenience I refer to the various *stages* of the plate as I., II., or III., with "retouches," as generally accepted.

possibly in the evenings or intervals of use ; for instance, while the 1d. or 3d. plates were in the press. The same "plate number" may be found with more or less signs of tinkering or retouching, of such a character as to preclude the supposition that they were merely slight repairs, which in their turn had disappeared through the wearing of the plate.

The terms used, which were probably copied verbatim from Jervis's account, point to more than one operation on the part of the engraver, when considered in conjunction with the terms used in subsequent accounts. I have, therefore, no hesitation in taking the above-quoted account to refer to the several temporary scratchings at the plate, and also to the *re*-etching or entire renewing of the designs on the plate, which resulted in altering the character and appearance of the stamps in such a marked manner as to have caused the late Mr. Tapling to think they were from an entirely new plate.

In replying to a letter from the Colonial Secretary with reference to certain inquiries from the New Zealand Government about the production of postage stamps, Mr. Raymond wrote (29th November, 1850), "The plates, being on copper, are objectionable, as they require to be renewed, and the impression thus becomes altered." From this it is evident that Mr. Raymond was fully alive to the disadvantages attached to the copper-plate system.

Although specimens of the stage of the 2d. plate, known as Plate III., have been found with date October, 1850, it was not until the 24th of January, 1851, that another batch of contingent accounts, including repairs to the plates, was submitted for approval.

These accounts were :—

"H. C. Jervis, Account for repairing and renewing Plate for Twopenny Postage Stamps, Six pounds.

"do. do. One Penny Postage Stamps, Six pounds five shillings.

"Charles Chapman, Account for colours and materials supplied for printing Postage Stamps, Twenty-two pounds fifteen shillings.

"Dawson and Thompson, account for articles supplied for printing Postage Stamps, Three pounds 1/9.

"John Row, account for furnishing gum for Postage Stamps, Six pounds 17/11."

Although the repair which produced the stage known as Plate III. was neither as radical as that producing Plate II. nor that of the 1d. plate, Jervis put in the same charge of 5s. per "head" all round ; and, finally, for the two last repairs he made the same charge. His accounts are included in a batch submitted on the 11th June, 1851, rather more than a month before the 2d. laureated plate was submitted for approval.

The accounts were :—

"H. C. Jervis, Account for repairing 'Twopenny' Postage Stamp Plate, Six Pounds.

"H. C. Jervis, Account for repairing 'Twopenny' Postage Stamp Plate, Six Pounds.

"William Ford, Account for paper supplied to Stamp Department, Two pounds twelve shillings and sixpence.

"William Ford, Account for paper supplied to Stamp Department, Nine pounds twelve shillings and sixpence.

"Edward Youngman & Co., Account for gum supplied to Stamp Department, Two pounds ten shillings.

"Charles Scott, Account for Articles supplied for use of Stamp Department, Nineteen shillings and threepence.

"Charles Chapman, Account for colours, &c., supplied for Postage Stamps, Twenty-six pounds four shillings."

We have, therefore, the fullest evidence that there was one "renewal" of the 1d. plate and four operations, variously described as "re-etching and re-pairing" (1), "repairing and renewing" (1), and "repairing" (2), while there is no mention of repairs to the 3d. plate. Upon this point the memorandum of the Postmaster-General, dated 30th November, 1851, that the "present plate (3d.) . . . though in use for nearly two years, has never been repaired," supplies convincing evidence that there are no missing "contingent accounts" with regard to that plate.

It is a matter of no little satisfaction to find at this late date that the conclusions of the late Mr. Tapling and Mr. Philbrick as to the number of plates (or states of the plate) are fully borne out by actual official records.

With regard to the number of stamps printed I have not yet been able to procure full information, but several interesting items have come to light bearing upon the subject. While I found copies of letters "transmitting returns of the Postage Stamps printed and issued," dating from 11th February, 1850, up to the 23rd January, 1853, the returns themselves, unfortunately, were not copied.

The letter from the Postmaster-General to the Colonial Secretary, dated 23rd January, 1850, previously quoted, gives 130,000 of all values as printed up to that date, and states that it was only within the preceding few days that there had been a sufficient supply to meet the demand. This statement must not be taken to imply that at least 130,000 per month were required, because the demand for the first month of issue was necessarily great, in order that all offices throughout the Colony might be furnished with a supply sufficient to last for some time. In the letter regarding the inquiries by the New Zealand Government, also previously referred to, Mr. Raymond gives the following "return of the number of Postage Stamps issued to the Postmaster-General for sale between 1 January and 31 October, 1850:—

Designation.		Number.		Value.
One Penny	...	242,900	...	£971 12 0
Two Penny	...	384,576	...	£3,076 12 1
Three Penny	...	69,600	...	£835 4 0
Total	...	697,076	...	£4,883 8 1"

The value is computed at the wholesale rate, viz., 8s. per 100 at 1d., 16s. per 100 at 2d., and 24s. per 100 at 3d.

The evidence of Mr. John Curwen Boyd, one of the Inspectors of Stamps, given before the Board of Inquiry into the working of the Post Office, and quoted *in extenso* by Dr. Houison, contains a statement that 73,914 stamps were printed in January, and 86,096 in February, 1851. There was, doubtless, some little difference between the monthly average

printed and *issued*, and it is therefore difficult to arrive at any definite conclusion as to the average monthly increase in the issue. I have, however, ventured to make a rough estimate, taking 70,000 as the probable month's issue in October, 1850, and 4000 as the average increase per month. From these figures (which I admit are not very satisfactory), I arrive at an estimate of the total number of each value issued up to the date of supersession by the laureated types.

The estimate is:—

1d., 720,000	. .	superseded 20th December, 1851.
2d., 815,000	. .	,, 24th July, 1851.
3d., 375,000	. .	,, 1st December, 1852.

Although the total numbers may eventually be found to have been somewhat greater, I do not think the difference will be very large. My estimate is larger in the aggregate than Dr. Houison's, who, however, had only the numbers printed in January and February, 1851, to go upon. He estimated the issue for the six months ended 30th June, 1851, at 1d., 151,163; 2d., 302,326; and 3d., 46,511. For the same period I estimate the issue of 1d. at 193,200; 2d., 301,600; and 3d., 55,200. Dr. Houison gives the proportion in which the denominations were issued at two twopenny to one penny, and six and a half twopenny to one threepenny. The proportion shown in the ten months' issue quoted above is 3½ 1d., 5½ 2d., and 1 3d. in every ten stamps.

The subject is an interesting one, but further indulgence in speculation may weary my readers. It is also just possible that I may trace more complete records at a later date. In the meantime I hope to publish some new and captivating records regarding the laureated series.

Report Presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society, London,

FOR THE SEASON 1898-99.

By J. A. TILLEARD, Honorary Secretary.



IN this the last of our meetings for the season 1898-99 it is, as usual, my duty and pleasure to report the result of the past year's doings of the Society, and I am happy to think that the members may fairly congratulate themselves on the position in which the affairs of the Society stand at the expiration of the season, which is brought to a close with to-night's meeting.

Since the date of my last report six new members have been elected, viz., Messrs. J. W. Mercer, H. Barber, J. E. Heginbottom, G. Owen Wheeler, O. Gillett, and C. R. Aldrich.

On the other hand, we have to deplore the loss by death of Captain Northey, Colonel Chermside, Mr. Pearson Hill, and Mr. J. Siewert. The most prominent of these are, perhaps, Mr. Siewert and Mr. Pearson Hill; and in regard to the last-named it must be a matter of especial regret to a Philatelic Society that death should be the cause of the removal from the list of its members of a name so closely associated with the introduction of postage stamps.

Our roll of membership has been further reduced by the resignations of the Rev. N. Borton, Miss Trellis, Mrs. Raahange, Sir H. Bunbury, and Messrs. H. Champion, G. Stein, D. C. R. Greathead, W. S. Hardy, B. P. Rodd, E. Shorthouse, E. T. Sturgis, J. C. Potter, J. N. Mostyn, T. Dormer, B. Crowder, E. Collett, C. Hart, and M. E. Hughes-Hughes, so that our total members now stand at 274.

In consequence of a regrettable incident, which has been the subject of discussion this evening, in regard to a member who has thought it consistent with his membership to seek to disparage the work of the Society in the columns of a Philatelic journal, and has referred to an imaginary and exaggerated number of resignations in the past season as a proof of the accuracy of his criticism, I think it right to say that all the members above referred to have given private reasons for their retirement in no way connected with the work of the Society, and in most cases they have also expressed regret at having to resign their membership.

In the course of the season there have been seventeen meetings in all, as against sixteen in the previous year. These have been held fortnightly, in accordance with a resolution passed at the first meeting; and the average attendance of members has been seventeen, a slight decrease on the average for the season 1897–98.

Papers have been read on the following subjects: by the Vice-President, "The 1876 Issue of Spain," and "Condition"; by Mr. E. D. Bacon, "The supposed Bermuda Stamp of 1849 to 1855"; by Mr. R. Frentzel, "The Emperor Maximilian and the Issue of Postage Stamps during his Reign"; by Mr. Ehrenbach, "The Issues of Uruguay from 1866 to 1872"; by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, "Behind the Scenes," and "A Proposal for a Catalogue for Collectors"; by Mr. R. Meyer, "Speculative Issues"; by Mr. T. W. Hall, "Notes on the Later Issues of the Argentine Republic"; by Mr. Gordon Smith, "A Reference List of the Stamps of Curaçoa"; and notes on the First Danish Stamp were also communicated by our President, H.R.H. the Duke of York.

The papers have mostly been accompanied by an interesting display of the stamps to which they related.

There have also been special displays of "Roumania" and "Finland" by the Vice-President; "Hong Kong," by Mr. Hausburg; "Buenos Ayres," by Mr. Ehrenbach; "Servia," by Mr. Oldfield; "Mexico," by Mr. Frentzel; and "Persia," by Mr. Forbes, on the introduction of Mr. Oldfield; and on each occasion notes or papers dealing with the history of the stamps shown were read at the meetings.

The displays have again proved an interesting and attractive feature of the season, and I do not think that their value and importance can be

over-estimated. Now that the preparation of formal papers is by no means so easy as at the time when the serious study of our pursuit was confined to the few, and when Philatelic literature was very limited in extent, the occasions of displays are most useful for making known the results of original research and for comparing notes. The *vivâ voce* discussions and exchange of ideas and experiences cannot fail to have a stimulating effect, and notable progress in knowledge can often be traced to the seed sown at meetings for displays, and afterwards developed by individual workers.

The accounts submitted by our Honorary Treasurer show a continued improvement in the finances of the Society, and the reading of the accounts and the report of the Auditors has, I feel sure, been a source of gratification to all of us. In view of the sound financial position in which we find ourselves, I venture to suggest that the time has come when an annual sum should be devoted to the purposes of the Society's library. I think that members will agree that it is highly important that our library should be brought to the highest state of perfection which our means will permit, and I trust that a liberal grant may be made with this object.

In consequence of the illness of the surviving author and from other causes, the publication of the work on the stamps of Great Britain has been further delayed. The printing is, however, now very nearly complete, and before the end of the present month the book will be in the hands of subscribers. Owing to the great expense incurred on this work, it has been found impracticable to proceed with the publication of the Society's own researches. The funds at our disposal are not sufficient to justify the preparation of more than one book at a time, although an effort would no doubt have been made to complete the "African Colonies," had it been possible to foresee the difficulties which have caused so long delay over the "British Isles."

The Publication Committee is, however, now proceeding with the remainder of the African book, and I hope this may be issued before the termination of the present year.

In further connection with the subject of publications, I regret to find, from correspondence which I have received during the past year, that there still exists among some of our members resident in the country or abroad a feeling that, as they cannot attend the meetings and have the advantages which they consider the London members possess, they are entitled to a substantial return for their subscriptions. I had hoped that membership of our Society was regarded from a higher standpoint than that of individual benefit, and that it would not now have been necessary to deal with such a suggestion. Some years ago our late Secretary, Mr. Douglas Garth, was continually asked the question, "What benefit do I individually reap by being a member of the London Society?" and I venture to repeat his own words on the subject, as I feel that they cannot be improved upon, and are worthy of being recorded on our minutes. In the course of his reply, Mr. Garth said:—

"I feel strongly that no such incentive should be necessary to anyone who desires to associate himself with a society formed to promote the science and pursuit in which I am assuming that he really takes pride and interest. Does any purely scientific society profess to offer its members any intrinsic or pecuniary advantages?

Does it not rather simply invite co-operation in advancing and developing the science or knowledge of the particular subject, whether of interest to a class of individuals or to the community at large? Does it not seek to achieve this object by mutual intercourse and exchange of ideas, theories, and opinions, by combining the results of individual labour, and by sharing any necessary expenditure, the necessity and limit of such expenditure being regulated by common vote?

"Our increased subscription of one guinea per annum is, I submit, within the means of most of our country friends who seriously embark upon the pursuit, and I strongly urge that it should be tendered by our members not as a *quid pro quo*, but as a contributing agent in maintaining the London Society in its position as the leading authority of the world upon Philatelic subjects.

"I consider that far more 'touch' between the London and country members than at present exists is possible, and would be most desirable, and that our country members might, by writing short papers to be read at our meetings, by regularly communicating new facts and theories which come under their notice, and by asking in return for information and advice, materially assist our deliberations, reap real advantage to themselves, and find more pride and satisfaction in their otherwise perhaps unremunerative membership of the London Society."

I commend these words to your consideration, and I feel sure that if the suggestions contained in the concluding sentence were more generally borne in mind and acted upon by our country and foreign members the work of the Society would be considerably improved, and its sphere of usefulness greatly extended.

I shall, I trust, be excused for referring to a certain feeling of unrest in regard to the future of Philately, which has been manifested of late in Philatelic circles. I have heard it said that Philately is on the decline, and the fall in prices and other signs are pointed to as proving that this is so. I do not believe it for one single moment. The pursuit has taken too firm a hold, and possesses too great fascinations for its followers, to be easily shaken. The number of serious and intelligent collectors is continually on the increase, and the activity of societies at home and abroad is alone sufficient to show that there is in reality no retrograde movement.

It is a source of great gratification to our Society to observe the progress which has been made, and the good work which is being done by many of the provincial and colonial societies, and we recognise and appreciate to the fullest extent the great assistance which they give in the furtherance of the cause to which we are devoted.

In this respect I would especially refer to the labours of the Manchester Society in organising the International Philatelic Exhibition, which will shortly be held in Manchester. I am sure I shall only be expressing the feelings of all our members in offering our heartiest congratulations to the Manchester Society on its great enterprise, with our best wishes that its efforts to increase the popularity of Philately may be crowned with the fullest success.

List of Members of the Philatelic Society, London.

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

Council for the Year 1899–1900.

President—H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G.

Vice-President—M. P. Castle.

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

W. B. Avery. | R. Ehrenbach. | T. Wickham Jones.
E. D. Bacon. | E. B. Evans. | R. Pearce.
W. Dorning Beckton. | T. W. Hall. | Gordon Smith.

J. H. Abbott.
E. R. Ackerman.
Major J. G. Adamson.
C. R. Aldrich.
Dr. W. H. Allchin.
P. J. Anderson.
J. M. Andreini.
W. Armistead.
W. B. Avery.
F. W. Ayer.
E. D. Bacon.
G. J. Bailey.
H. Barber.
W. Barnard.
A. R. Barrett.
G. B. Barrington.
A. T. Bate.
Mrs. C. A. Baynes.
R. H. Beamish.
W. D. Beckton.
W. Beckwith.
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David Benjamin.
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C. N. Biggs.
Rev. G. S. Bird.
W. W. Blest.
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Dr. A. Boswell.
F. Breitfuss.
Dr. T. J. W. Burgess.
F. F. Burghard.
M. Burnett.
Lieut.-Col St. L. Burrowes.
M. P. Castle, J.P.
S. M. Castle.
A. W. Chambers.
J. H. Chapman.
W. L. Chew.
Captain Chichester.
G. Churcher.
Sir Jas. R. Andrew Clark, Bart
H. R. G. Clarke.
H. Clotz.
F. O. Conant.
M. W. K. Connolly.
M. S. Cooke.
Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart.
Surgeon E. Cooper, R.N.
Captain F. Cooper, R.A.
C. B. Corwin.
W. Cowland.
A. B. Creeke, jun.
T. H. R. Crowle.
C. Dack.
C. J. Daun.
E. S. Davidson.
A. A. Davis.
H. F. Deane.
H. E. Deats.
Dr. E. Diena.
T. P. Dorman.
A. G. E. Driver.
H. J. Duveen.
G. L. Edwards.
R. Ehrenbach.
E. A. Elliott.
D. Ellis.
A. C. Emerson.
J. D. Enys.
J. H. Escolme.
Major Evans.
T. D. F. Evans.
P. Fabri.
Philipp La Renotiére.
H. Ferrier-Kerr.
O. Frith.
Rev. T. S. Fleming.
C. E. Fox.
H. Fraenkel.
F. R. Fraser.
R. Frentzel.
W. Gaddum.
D. Garth.
L. Gibb.
C. Gibbons.
E. S. Gibbons.
G. F. H. Gibson.
H. J. Gillespie.
J. W. Gillespie.
O. Gillett.
Thos. Girtin.
A. A. Good.
J. T. Green.
H. Grey.
A. G. Griffith.
T. W. Hall.
J. H. Hallett.
Surgn.-Major G. F. A Harris.
W. Harrison.
J. J. Haupt.
L. L. R. Hausburg.
Surgn.-Major A. W. Haviland.
E. Hawkins.
J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.
W. Herrick.
Dr. H. Hetley.
David H. Hill.
F. C. Hill.
J. O. Hobby.
A. Holland.
A. L. Holman.
Rev. W. H. Holman.
F. E. Horton.
Dr. A. Houison.
H. P. Hudleston.
M. E. Hughes-Hughes.
A. F. Basset-Hull.
G. J. Hynes.
W. E. Image.
G. F. Jackson.
D. M. Jacobs.
W. E. Jeff.
Sir H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G.
Mrs. C. M. Jervis.
J. F. Jones.
T. Wickham Jones.
J. E. Joselin.
W. R. Joynt.
Dr. F. Kalckhoff.
Dr. J. N. Keynes.
J. L. Kilbon.
D. A. King.
T. W. Kitt.
H. J. Knowles.
B. D. Knox.
C. P. Krauth.
H. Kropf.
C. J. Lambert.
J. S. Lambert.
J. G. Langton.
C. F. Larmour.
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.
C. E. McNaughtan.
Dr. F. Mallman.
J. N. Marsden.
Mrs. Marshall.
C. F. D. Marshall.
W. Matthews.
Major A. B. Maxwell.
T. Maycock.
G. F. Melbourn.
J. W. Mercer.
R. Meyer.
Dr. G. Michelsen.
H. M. Millington.
J. B. Moens.
Major C. J. Everitt Mumby.
Capt. W. J. Myers.
E. J. Nankivell.
B. W. Neave.
Surgeon-Major A. G. E. Newland.
G. B. T. Nicholl.
J. A. Nix.
A. Odell.
H. R. Oldfield.
J. S. O'Meara.
Capt. St. G. Ord.
A. A. Osborn.
F. E. Owen.
Lieut. B. Oxenfyud.
J. V. Painter.
W. R. Palmer.
H. G. Palliser.
Prince Doria Pamphilij.
A. D. Park.
A. Passer.
Dr. A. G. Paterson.
W. Patterson.
R. Pearce.
W. E. Peebles.
C. Pereira.
Miss Feyl de Pfeil.
O. Pfenninger.
Judge Philbrick, Q.C.
W. Pimm.
H. Quare.
D. A. Quiggin.
Lieut. A. R. Raby, R.N.
The Earl of Ranfurly.
F. Ransom.
A. W. Rawcliffe.
Rev. G. H. Raynor.
Rev. P. E. Raynor.
J. H. Redman.
Baron A. de Reuterskiöld.
J. S. Rich.
Vernon Roberts.
J. S. Robertson.
L. Rodet.
A. Rosenberg.
G. B. Routledge.
Major R. H. Sadler.
E. T. Sandars.
F. N. Schiller.
W. Schwabacher.
E. S. Schwabe.
Lieut. L. Schwarz.
W. Scott.
E. H. Selby.
Prince Boris Shahoffscoi.
W. Silk, jun.
A. B. Slater, jun.
Gordon Smith.
J. E. Sparrow.
A. H. Stamford.
W. M. Stenart.
A. Steudell.
R. T. Stevens.
C. Stewart-Wilson.
W. C. Stone.
Sir Edward Sullivan, Bart.
Lieut.-Col. H. A. Tapp.
Dr. R. S. Taylor.
A. J. Taylor.
Mrs. Tebay.
W. Thorne.
J. A. Tilleard.
J. G. Tolhurst.
J. S. P. Tompsett.
G. L. Toppan.
R. J. Torrie.
C. J. Tyas.
Rev. W. N. Usher.
E. D. E. Van-Weenan, J.P.
Dr. C. W. Viner.
J. Walker.
E. L. Waterlow.
T. Martin Wears.
Consul E. F. Weber.
L. S. Wells.
F. West.
A. E. L. Westaway.
W. A. S. Westoby.
Mrs. Weston.
G. O. Wheeler.
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.

Occasional Notes.

MR. H. MARTYN GOOCH.

THE announcement of Mr. Gooch's retirement, we are assured, will be received with general regret by the readers of this journal. Mr. Gooch entered the service of the London Philatelic Society nearly seven years since—viz., on September 1st, 1892—but a few months after the occupancy by the Society of their present domicile at Effingham House. The *London Philatelist* had only been initiated in January of the same year, and Mr. Gooch's assistance was at once enlisted in the new venture—be it said with continuous and increasing success. Although as a boy he had dabbled in stamps, Mr. Gooch had practically no knowledge of the serious side of stamp-collecting, and it is, therefore, the more to his credit that he rapidly attained such a sound general acquaintance with Philately as to enable him to write with comparative facility on any point connected therewith. His abilities have been amply displayed in various departments of this journal, and the Editor, while fully testifying his gratification at Mr. Gooch's literary success, cannot but sincerely regret that his valuable co-operation is no longer available. Mr. Gooch's retirement is purely on his own initiative, and as he will have ample leisure it is to be hoped that his talents, as evidenced in the case of the recently-issued Standard Catalogue of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., will still be available for the benefit of Philatelic readers generally.

Mr. Gooch's successor, both as regards his duties to the London Philatelic Society and to the *London Philatelist*, is Mr. A. Churchill Emerson, a gentleman who for very many years past was a member of the Society. Mr. Emerson, who is widely known both to collectors and dealers, has been associated with stamps almost as long as anyone in this country, and we are confident that he will have the help and sympathy of all classes in Philately in entering upon his new duties.

THE MANCHESTER PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

WITHIN a few hours from the time that this issue will be in our readers' hands the Manchester Exhibition will have opened its doors, *i.e.* on Thursday, June 29th. The latest advices that we have received testify to the Herculean labours devolving upon the devoted band of Philatelists, led by Mr. Dorning Beckton, who are turning night into day in their efforts to have the many hundreds of show-cases duly displayed and their contents duly catalogued before the opening day. It is, however, abundantly clear already, from the volume and quality of the exhibits received, that the Exhibition is going to be a great success. It is also evident that there will be a great reunion of Philatelists from all parts of Europe, and as there will be various entertainments, excursions, and amusements available beyond the

Exhibition itself, it is sincerely to be hoped that no collector or "collectress" within 500 miles of Manchester will neglect to avail him or herself of the chance of a lifetime in seeing such a grand display.

THE REPRINTED U. S. PERIODICALS.

MUCH has been already written *pro* and *con* in the American Philatelic press, and we gather that the true inwardness of the question in the mind of the real and true collector is that the transaction redounds but little either to the credit of the United States postal authorities or to the advantage of Philately. In the eyes of the average general collector they are handsome and attractive stamps—and these two qualifications frequently in this world outweigh that of origin—and they will sell, but they are assuredly "unnecessary and speculative." In defending his action in the matter, Mr. J. M. Bartels gives some additional information as to the issue of these reprints, which we venture to borrow from the columns of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* for May 27th last.

Mr. Bartels says that at the commencement

"no intimation was given of the fact that there were not enough on hand to make up any number of sets that might be decided upon, neither did the possibility of a shortage enter the mind of anyone. A large quantity of stamps had been returned from postmasters throughout the country, and it was believed that this stock would be used in addition to the supply still on hand at the Bureau. However, upon closer examination of the stamps returned, and after a decision had been reached, it was found that the condition of this stock was extremely poor, many of the sheets stuck together and the stamps torn. The assorting of a lot of this kind would have been an endless job, and, rather than do so, the Department gave an order to the Bureau to count out 50,000 sets of the stock on hand and to print sufficient more of any denomination that might be found short in completing the required number. Not until after the stamps had been placed on sale was it known to any of us that the stock returned by postmasters had not been included in the 50,000 sets.

"Had this decision been reached some time last June, or prior to the issue becoming obsolete, and this lot been printed just the same and for the very same purpose, namely solely for sale to collectors, the stamps would have been precisely the same as they are to-day, showing similar unavoidable variations in shades, gum, etc. No one could possibly have called them reprints in the Philatelic sense of the word; they would have been *bonâ-fide* originals, even if printed expressly for collectors."

There is a delightful ingenuousness about this last bit of special pleading! "If"—what a tiresome preposition it is—the stamps had been issued or prepared for issue in June last they would obviously now have been remainders. As they were, however, printed not for the needs of those who use the stamps, but to make a profit to the United States Post Office, after their supersession, they are, and will remain, reprints for all time, issued under circumstances that are certainly no credit to one of the Great Powers of the world.

A REFERENCE LIST OF U. S. REVENUE STAMPS.

MR. H. E. DEATS has sent us a prospectus of an important work on this subject, the joint results of himself, Mr. G. L. Toppan, and Mr. A. Holland, acting as a Committee of the Boston Philatelic Society, these gentlemen being also members of the London Philatelic Society. Mr. Deats states that he "began work on it nearly six years ago, obtaining all the private records of Butler & Carpenter and Joseph R. Carpenter, who were the first contractors for Revenue stamps under the Act of 1862," and adds that "our work is now about finished, over 700 pages of type-written copy being ready for the printer." The work will, it is evident, be a standard authority on these stamps, and will hence be a requisite in every Philatelic library. We add a few excerpts from the prospectus, which will afford an indication of the labour involved:—

"The work, as its title indicates, is designed to be more than a bare reference list, or catalogue, of the various emissions of the Revenue stamps of the United States. It aims not only to be a reliable and complete catalogue, but to give a full and detailed description of each stamp—its history, so far as it has been possible to ascertain it, and such other data as have been deemed to be of general interest. The scope of the work, which was conceived in May, 1896, has been gradually increased as the authors discovered new material, until now the book will comprise upwards of 400 pages royal octavo.

"A good idea of the scope of the work may be obtained by the following synopsis of its chapters, or divisions:—1. Contracts for the engraving and printing of the stamps. 2. Paper. 3. Perforation. 4. Colour. 5. Rulings of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. 6. General notes. 7. Counterfeits. 8. Each stamp considered under its own title and denomination.

"Under this last heading all data concerning each separate stamp have been systematically condensed. It includes:—1. A full description of the stamp. 2. The date of its first printing. 3. The date of its first delivery. 4. Plate numbers. 5. The number of stamps per sheet. 6. The total number of the stamp issued. 7. Such general notes as are of interest.

"The above refers especially to the first issue; but the same general arrangement has been retained throughout the entire work, modified or elaborated, of course, as circumstances seemed to warrant. In the second and subsequent issues of documentary, proprietary, and the private die stamps, the above information is supplemented by the date of the approval of the die by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and, of course, by the number issued on *each kind* of paper. The general information will be found to be very full and interesting; for example—in the case of the $500 stamp of the second issue, we are enabled to state not only the exact number issued, but *just who purchased each copy and the date*. Especial attention has been paid to the chapters upon paper and perforation, and, while we do not claim that the subjects have been exhausted, we do claim that, so far as the official records throw any light upon the subjects, no more can be ascertained.

"It may not, perhaps, be generally known that this is the first Philatelic work to be undertaken and carried to a successful conclusion by any society in the United States; such, however, is the fact, and, naturally, the step is rather in the nature of an experiment. We trust that it may prove a successful one, and that the collectors of the United States will signify their approval of the undertaking by favouring us with their subscriptions for the work. As the Society has not undertaken to publish it

with an intention of filling its treasury from the proceeds of its sale, we are enabled to announce a price which will place it within the reach of all, viz., $3 per copy, bound in paper covers. It will be published on or about September 15th. Subscriptions should be addressed to Mr. Geo. L. Toppan, 1, Richmond Court, Beacon Street, Brookline, Mass."

A CATALOGUE FOR COLLECTORS.

IN the last issue of this journal was published a short paper recently read by Mr. E. J. Nankivell before the London Philatelic Society, in which he argues in favour of the issue of a sort of Philatelic encyclopædia, under the above title, by the "Premier Society"! The columns of the *London Philatelist* are perforce open to all well-meaning collectors, but the insertion of articles or opinions by no means presupposes editorial agreement therewith. Mr. Nankivell is a skilled and experienced journalist, and always invests his subject-matter with a pleasant gloss that helps to make its perusal attractive; but we are confident that he would not arrogate to himself the same capacity and experience in Philately that he possesses in other matters. His objective has always been Transvaal, nor are we aware that he has ever made a general collection or won his spurs as a Philatelic author in the preparation of a paper relating to any issue of stamps, outside those of the country of the great Oom Paul! When, therefore, our friend fires off a short article, on which the ink is evidently hardly dry, and expects the London Society as a body to immediately adopt it, he reckons somewhat without his host. In the course of remarks made hereon in a recent number of the *American Journal of Philately*—which to us are assuredly somewhat premature, and would have been better inserted in this journal, where they would have been open to refutation—it appears that Mr. Nankivell resents the non-adoption of his suggestion. Our friend's *rôle* has always been that of the friendly critic, although frequently the adjective has been more prominent than the noun, but he has never displayed any great constructive policy, so far as shown by his published utterances. In an off-hand, spare-half-hour manner he suggests that the London Society should settle down to a labour of Sisyphus in the preparation of "a catalogue that shall deal exhaustively with every country . . . alike for the purposes of the beginner, the advanced collector, and the specialist"! "This may seem a large order," says Mr. Nankivell. We suggest to him that everything must have a beginning, and that if there is one country on which the last word can be written, it should be the one that he has been so assiduously and successfully studying and collecting for these many years past.

Mr. Nankivell has, however, recently issued a little magazine entitled *The Transvaal Collectors' Quarterly*, and in his "First Words" we read: "Having collected and studied the stamps of Transvaal for the past twenty years"; "There is much, however, which we desire to have cleared up"; "For some years we have been accumulating material, but we have no intention of venturing upon its publication until we are able to write much more definitely than we can at present," etc., etc. There are other countries on which more information is required besides the South African Republic

before they can be "dealt exhaustively with," even by "a large committee of twenty leading members" of the London Philatelic Society, even under its "elected chairman," or energetic secretary, honorary posts either of which our friend could doubtless ably and cheerfully fill!

The preparation of such a stupendous Philatelic work as an *exhaustive* catalogue of all varieties of issued stamps as advocated by Mr. Nankivell would involve an expense for illustrations and printing of thousands of pounds, would take the undivided time of many leading writers for several years, and would require to be rewritten and revised before it was half issued. It would have a limited sale, owing to its purely scientific aspect, its immense bulk (which would probably extend to several large quarto volumes), owing to the heavy cost of production and consequently high sale price—possibly £5 to £10—and lastly owing to the natural absence of all pricing in a scientific work. It would be caviare to the multitude for these reasons, and would "sigh to find its warmest welcome" in the libraries of Philatelic societies. The catalogue that is to be final has so far appeared in very few instances, as applicable to any single country, much less to the world, as Mr. Nankivell so modestly suggests. Even Poland, Ionian Islands, or Fernando Poo, would require some collation of facts before the "last word" on all their issues, history, and obliterations could be indited.

Our experience of, and connection with, Philately has extended over nearly a generation, but we venture to assert that no proposition to any Philatelic society has yet been made so enormous in its scope, so impracticable in its suggestions, or so ill-considered and presumptive as to its authorship as Mr. E. J. Nankivell's "Catalogue for Collectors."

CESSION OF FURTHER SPANISH COLONIES.

GERMANY and Colonies is evidently to be a cry of the future in Philatelic circles. The remarkable interest and attitude taken by the German naval forces in the late Americo-Spanish War have been much commented upon, even if they have not elicited general approval. (See Captain Younghusband's *Round About the Philippines.*) It was evident that the German Emperor was thirsting for further colonial extension at the expense of either combatant, and it is, therefore, not surprising to hear that their colonising aspirations have now been partly assuaged by the cession to them, against a monetary payment by the Spanish Government, of the Carolines, the Pelew Islands, and the Ladrones or Mariana Island (except Guam).

The Caroline Islands, a group in the Western Pacific, were discovered by Portuguese navigators in the early part of the sixteenth century, and were formally annexed by Spain in 1686. Fourteen years ago the rights of Spain to the possession of the group were challenged by Germany, which about the same time had appropriated the Marshall Islands, to the east of the Carolines; but the dispute was submitted to the arbitration of the Pope, who decided in favour of the Spanish Government. Most of the islands and islets in the group are uninhabited coral atolls; the remainder having a population of twenty-two thousand, including a number of Japanese and

*

Chinese colonists. From a few of the more fertile islands, copra, or dried cocoanut, is exported in large quantities, most of the trade being in German hands.

The Pelew, or Palau Islands, are a smaller group, situated to the west of the Carolines, and between them and the Philippines, and have a population variously estimated between five and ten thousand, mostly Malays. Six of the islands are inhabited. The soil is fertile, and the climate healthy. The chief exports are copra, tortoise-shell, and mother-of-pearl. The Pelews were discovered by the Spaniards in 1543.

The Mariana, or Ladrones, "Thieves' Islands," lie to the north of the Caroline group, and were discovered by Magellan in 1521. Guam, the largest island in the group, with a population of about nine thousand, was ceded by Spain to the United States last year. The population of the remaining islands barely exceeds one thousand, but some of them are said to be fertile, producing rice, maize, cotton, sugar, tobacco, and indigo. The United States, doubtless for naval purposes, have taken the largest plum out of the Ladrones pudding, but as the group consists of twenty islands there is still an opening for the German emigrant, who, by the way, generally goes to the United States, or else to the British Colonies, where government is a little less paternal and there is no *Militär-pflicht*. The German Post Office has already surcharged its current stamp for the Marshall Islands group previously referred to, of which the population is about equal to that of the Pelew Islands in quantity and *quality*, so we imagine it will not be long before we have diagonal surcharges over the Imperial Eagle for all three new groups. If it were Portugal, there would be twenty for the component islets of the Ladrones! Poor Spain is thus bereft of all its colonies except Fernando Po, which has suddenly discovered that it is really quite an important place (compared to the foregoing), having a population of no less than thirty-five thousand, and hence requiring a long and elaborate list of new issues. The making of colonies—not islands with surcharged stamps, wild birds, and a few untamed natives—is akin to making a stamp-collection: both require a gradual and careful building-up to have any real value, and in neither cases do numbers count for much!

PHILATELY IN THE TRANSVAAL.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the "Rules of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg (South African Republic), founded May 1st, 1899," from the Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. P. Turner, P.O. Box 917, Johannesburg). It will be seen elsewhere that this last accession to the body Philatelic has been most successfully founded, and it would seem that in the midst of so large, wealthy, and cosmopolitan a society as that of Johannesburg Philately is likely to take strong root. The rules seem assuredly well drafted and adapted for the local aims of the Society; those especially affecting the Departments of Sales and Exchanges and Auctions denote an intention on the part of the Executive to make the Society really a live one, which consummation we most devoutly desire.

THE LATE DR. VON STEPHAN.

THE eminent services contributed by this statesman, not only to the postal system of the Fatherland, but of the whole world, have recently met with due recognition in the capital of the German Empire. In the Dome Hall of the Postal Museum at Berlin a statue of Dr. von Stephan has been erected.

At the inaugural ceremony speeches were made which fully recognised the great service rendered not only to Germany, but the whole of the civilized world, by the late Dr. von Stephan in the development of the Postal Service initiated by him, and his title to the gratitude of posterity as the "Creator of the Universal Postal Union" was generally acknowledged.

MR. WESTOBY'S "STAMPS OF EUROPE."

THE tenth portion of this work has now been issued, similar in quantity and quality with the previous instalments. The principal countries now dealt with are Roumania, which affords Mr. Westoby another opportunity to indulge in a political retrospect that is at once interesting, succinct, and vivacious, and Russia, for whose delicately-executed stamps the author expresses great appreciation. Although satisfied as to the real postal requirements of the great majority of the Russian local stamps, Mr. Westoby wisely, in our view, omits them from his work. The postal issues of Wenden-Livonia and the Russian Levant are, however, included, as they should be, both by reason of their extended use (thirty-seven and thirty-five years respectively) and the special Imperial recognition that they have always been accorded. The second issue (1865) of the latter, the 5 kop., brown and blue, and the 20 kop., blue and red, in virtue of their sixty-three varieties of type each, are really the Sydney Views of Europe, and although they are scarce stamps, there should have been no difficulty in procuring copies for illustration, the omission of which is to be deplored. Romagna, Eastern Roumelia, and San Marino form the balance of the present instalment.

THE GERMAN PHILATELIC CONGRESS, 1899.

THIS well-known gathering—the *Philatelisten Tag*, to use its universal Continental name—will be held at Dresden on the 21st to the 25th of July next. The choice of the beautiful capital of Saxony for the eleventh celebration of this festival should induce a larger following of visitors, for whose delectation a very enjoyable and full programme of instruction and amusement has been announced. Under the auspices of the Bavarian Philatelic Society, there is also to be an important meeting of collectors, with festal arrangements, at Munich, from the 15th to the 17th of July. It is to be hoped that some of our readers may be enabled to assist at these enjoyable functions during their summer vacation.

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.—Imperial Penny Postage is responsible for the addition of a new value—2d.—to the stamps of the small 1892 type. We learn from the *M. J.* that the colours of this stamp are the same as the colours of the 2s. 6d. value, which, with the 10d. stamp, is to be withdrawn from use. The plate of the Jubilee issue is to be destroyed, and already some of the values in this type are exhausted.

Adhesive. 2d., blue-black and orange.

GIBRALTAR.—*Morocco Agencies.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the 25 c. value with the London overprint, which can be added to the list given last month.

Adhesive. 25 c. blue; surcharge black.

INDIA.—*Duttia.*—From the same source we have received a new setting of the Duttia labels in which the inscriptions "Duttia-State-Postage" are in sans serif type instead of Roman. The stamps are also rouletted horizontally on black lines. The seal of the Maharajah is still necessary to render the stamps valid for postal use, hence this appears in blue on each stamp.

Adhesives. ½ a., black on *green*; surcharge blue.
1 a. ,, ,, *white* ,, ,,
2 a. ,, ,, *yellow* ,, ,,
4 a. ,, ,, *rose* ,, ,,

NEW ZEALAND.—Mr. L. A Sanderson writes to the *Australian Philatelist*:—

"The colonial printing of the new issue will be started during the first week of April at the Government Printing Office, Wellington. The issue is to be printed on 'Small Star N. Z.' paper, and I regret to say that the 11 perforating machine is to be used until worn out, when the finer perforations will be re-adopted. All the plates, but the altered ones of ½d., 1d., 2d., and 4d., have arrived in the colony."

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Negri Sembilan.*—Mr. G. Fraser Melbourne has shown us some blocks of the provisional stamps alluded to last month, which include an additional surcharge of "Four cents" on the 5 c., blue, of the 1892 type. The 3 c. stamp described in our list as of this type should be the type of 1895. We think also that the 4 c. on 5 c., black and carmine, is a mistake (?).

Adhesive. 4 c. on 5 c., blue (1892 type); surch. black.

Pahang.—The news is only too true; the "Four Cents" surcharging business is being made the most of. The 8 c. stamp of Perak has been brought into use here surcharged in black "Pahang—Four cents" in two lines.

Adhesive. 4 c. on 8 c., lilac and ultramarine.

Perak.—The 8 c. value has been surcharged "Four cents," and *Le T.-P.* announces the issue of a 15 c. value of the tiger's head type.

Adhesives. 4 c. on 8 c., lilac and ultramarine.
15 c., green and orange.

TASMANIA.—A new value—10d.—has been issued in the London type. The figures of value are on a white ground. Wmk. "Tas," perf. 14.

Adhesive. 10d., lake and deep green.

EUROPE.

GERMAN COLONIES.—We gather some further interesting information on the surcharged issues for the various German Colonies from the *P. Monthly and World.*

China.—The new "China" series of surcharged German stamps dates from January, 1898, for the values of 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf. The 3 pf. postage stamp was not issued at first, and only since January of this year a small quantity of 3 pf. stamps was sent to Shanghai and Tsintan. This value can only be employed in sending circulars or newspapers between the two cities just mentioned.

German New Guinea.—The catalogues mention six values; only four of these have ever been issued, the 5, 10, 20, and 50 pf.

Marshall Islands.—There is but one Post Office on the Marshall Islands Archipelago, Jaluit. This explains why 3 and 25 pf. stamps are entirely superfluous. As a matter of fact, only the 10 and 20 pf. stamps have ever been used, and it is not known definitely whether the 5 and 50 pf. have ever reached the islands.

German S. W. Africa.—The present issue with the surcharge "Sudwestafrika" in one word includes a 10, 20, and 50 pf. These are the only values of the surcharged series at present in use.

It will be noticed that some of the information given above varies from that given in our May issue, and it would appear that both lists of the values in use in the various colonies need confirmation.

HUNGARY.—From the same source we learn that of the current Hungarian stamps on the "Crown" paper, the 8 kr., 1 and 3 florins values remain to be issued, there being a large stock of these three values on the "kr." paper still available.

NORWAY.—We are indebted to Mr. F. H. Dethloff for specimens of the 2 öre value, the last to be issued in the redrawn type, "Norge" in Roman instead of sans serif capitals. The entire sheet is inscribed in the lower right-hand corner "1898–1899," and the perforation is that first used for this issue on the 3, 10, and 20 öre.

Adhesive. 2 öre, brown, *perf.* $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

ROUMANIA.—Changes of colours, to take place on June 1st, are announced for the 5, 15, 20, and 25 bani values. The new colours are given as—

Adhesives. 5 b., green.
15 b., violet.
20 b., rose.
25 b., blue.

A new series of Postage Due stamps is announced to appear on the 1st July. The values are to be 2, 6, 10, 30, 50, 60, and 90 bani.

AMERICA.

BOGOTA.—The Bogota local has been issued with a new perforation, $13\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 12.

Adhesive. ½ c., black, *perf.* $12\frac{1}{2}$.

ECUADOR.—Some new stamps of the portraiture type, a change from the everlasting "Arms" series, have been issued. The stamps, which are of large size, represent the following personages:

1 centavo, Vargas Torres, killed at Cuença in 1887.

2 centavos, Abdon Calderon, a hero of the battle of Pichincha.

5 centavos, Juan Montalvo, Liberal writer.

We take the above details from *Le T.-P.* The stamps are bi-coloured, and perf. 14.

Adhesives. 1 c., lilac-blue and black.
2 c., lilac and black.
5 c., red ,,

NICARAGUA.—The new stamps chronicled on page 82 include the 5 pesos value.

During the late revolution communication between Bluefields and the capital of the Republic was interrupted, and stamps having run short (extraordinary coincidence), a certain number of envelopes were impressed with the seal of the Treasury Department in violet, this being further overprinted with the Arms of the Republic in black. These curiosities were mercifully limited to three varieties.

Adhesive. 5 pesos, light blue.
Official Adhesive. 5 ,, ,,
Envelopes. 5 c., violet and black on *white.*
10 c. ,, ,, ,,
20 c. ,, ,, ,,

SALVADOR.—The 5 c. value of the 1898 type has arrived with the inexplicable surcharge "Transitio Territorial." There is also the usual set of new stamps dated 1899, also various unpaid letter and other surcharged "Oficial" labels. No doubt the full list will be available shortly, and if not too enigmatical or speculative, we will attempt to quote in condensed form.

UNITED STATES.—*Guam.*—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* reports the overprinting of the 1, 2, and 5 c. values of the United States stamps for use in Guam, an island of 5500 inhabitants, in Oceania. The surcharge, which is in large type, is placed horizontally across the stamps just below the centre. The following quantities have been despatched under the care of Captain

Leary, who left New York for Guam on May 6th last :—

Adhesives. 1 c., green ; surcharge black, 10,020.
2 c., carmine ,, ,, 30,000.
5 c., blue ,, ,, 5,000.

URUGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a new type of the 5 milesimos stamp, of the same size as the low value "centavos" adhesives. The centre is occupied by a statue of some local genius. The 5 c. stamp has been printed in blue.

Adhesives. 5 mil., blue.
5 c. ,,

VENEZUELA.—*Le T.-P.* adds other values of the new issue to the 25 c. quoted last month ; we also chronicle the registration stamp.

Adhesives. 5 c., green.
10 c., brick-red.
50 c., grey.
1 bolivar, green.
2 ,, yellow.
Registration Stamp. 25 c., yellow-brown.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the provisional Special Delivery stamp, being the U.S.A. label overprinted in red "CUBA—10 c.—de PESO."

Adhesive. 10 c., blue ; surch. red.

FERNANDO POO.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a provisional stamp which has been issued to meet the apparent stamp famine in Fernando Poo. For the purpose the large fiscal stamp (imperf.) has been surcharged "FERNANDO POO, 1899—HABILITADO PARA CORREOS—15 CENT DE PESO," in black. We hear also that the same stamp has been surcharged "FERNANDO POO, 1899—CORREOS—10 CENT DE PESO," the "CORREOS" in red and the remainder of the surcharge in black.

Adhesives. 10 c., in red and black, on 15 c., green.
15 c., in black ,, ,,

HAWAII.—We append formal chronicle of the colour changes referred to on page 84.

Adhesives. 1 c., green.
5 c., blue.
10 c., brown.

PORTO RICO.—Orders have been given for some additional surcharged stamps, including three values of the postage due series.

Adhesive. 8 c., purple, surch. black, 25,000.
Postage Due. 1 c., carmine ,, ,, 25,000.
2 c. ,, ,, ,, 25,000.
10 c. ,, ,, ,, 5,000.

PORTUGAL.—*Lorenzo Marques.*—The provisionals alluded to on page 111 were created by surcharging the fiscal stamps of Mozambique. The surcharge consists of the words "Correio—de—Lourenzo Marques" and new value within a frame, set so that the surcharge appears twice on each stamp. The following values have been operated on :—

Adhesives. 5 r. on half 10 r., green and black.
25 r. ,, ,, ,,
50 r. on half 30 r., green and red.
50 r. ,, 800 r. ,, brown.

PERSIA.—The surcharges applied to the current stamps consist of small pieces of ornamental type without any definite shape, varying on each value. The overprint is in violet. All values from 1 sh. to 50 krans have been treated to this disfigurement.

SAMOA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the one shilling label with the "surcharged 2½d." overprint, as applied to the 1d. stamp previously chronicled. Native troubles seem quieting down in Samoa; we wish Philatelic troubles showed some signs of abatement!

Adhesives. 2½d. on 1s., rose ; surch. red.

TRANSVAAL.—The *Phil. Monthly* again blossoms forth into prophecy :—

"The union of the Transvaal Republic and the Orange Free State is about to be realised, and one of its first consequences will be the withdrawal of the current postage stamps of these two countries and the creation of a new series for the new federation, which will probably adopt the name of 'United Republic of South Africa.'"

The *M.J.* reproduces the following cutting from a local paper :—

"Arrangements have been made whereby stamps in future will be printed in the Republic. One kind of stamp will be issued available for both postal and revenue purposes, ranging from halfpenny to shilling. They will be the same size as at present, bearing an impression of the President. Stamps above those values will be of the same size as the present revenue stamp, and will bear the impression of the coat of arms of the Republic."

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Johannesburg Philatelic Society.

President—J. N. Van Alphen, Esq.
Hon. Secretary—Mr. H. P. Turner.

A meeting of the members of the recently-formed Philatelic Society of Johannesburg was held on Tuesday evening at the Society's Room, Reliance Buildings, 51, Kerk Street, opposite the Grand National Hotel.

After reading the minutes of the last meeting the members proceeded to complete the list of officers by election of a Chairman. The Society was eminently successful in obtaining the patronage of the Postmaster-General (Mr. J. Van Alphen), who accepted the Hon. Presidentship. The following gentlemen were elected: Hon. Vice-Presidents, Messrs. A. Van H. Fulleken, R. Lilienfeld, and Gustav Sonn; Chairman, Mr. H. F. Thompson; Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. Neuburger; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. P. Turner; Hon. Assistant Secretary, Mr. A. M. Phillips; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. P. Cohen; Hon. Librarian, Mr. A. J. Cohen; Supt. of Exchange, Mr. H. P. Turner; Members of Executive Committee, Messrs. L. J. Mosely, C. Berger, S. H. Webb, and Adolph Sonn.

Although the intention of forming a society originated but a few weeks ago its inception has met with great success, the membership already numbering fifty. The Society intends to make the exchange packet one of its chief features, having decided to have three distinct circuits, namely, a local packet, a South African packet (for distribution all over South Africa), a foreign packet (for distribution abroad). It was decided to hold fortnightly meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month, at the above rooms. Publishers are requested to send copies of Philatelic literature with a view to subscription thereto. The Secretary will be pleased to hear from other societies in South Africa or abroad desirous of collaborating with this one. Those desirous of joining will please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, H. P. Turner, P.O. Box 917, Johannesburg, S.A.R.

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. A. Churchill Emerson (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. A. Churchill Emerson, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.

RAILWAY LETTER FEE STAMPS.

Dear Sir,—Permit me to thank Mr. Dendy Marshall for his letter. I look upon the railway companies as "part of the machinery of the Post Office" in the conveyance of the ordinary mails; but, in the matter of Railway Letters, as "machinery connected with the P.O.," which is not exactly the same.

As to the status of the Penny Postage Stamps on these letters, it seems to me that in claiming the sole right of conveyance of letters, the Post Office is also under an obligation to convey every letter with regard to which the required conditions have been fulfilled,

A penny stamp being affixed, the P.O. has a right to convey, and the sender has a right to demand the conveyance of the letter. Some alteration in the mode of conveyance being desired, the authorities say, "Relieve us from the whole, or a part, of our obligations, and we will grant you the privilege of paying someone else to do the work!" Does this alter the status of the stamp? It is certain that it has the usual status up to the time of placing the letter in the hands of the railway company, and also franks the letter over any part of the journey (if any) in which it is forwarded in the ordinary manner.

The fact that the letter may not come into the hands of the P.O. at all somewhat complicates matters, but appears to be an exceptional case which cannot affect the general status of the postage stamp. At the same time, it would be interesting to have the opinion of other members on this curious question.

I remain, yours sincerely,
Ernest A. Elliott.

NEW ZEALAND PERFORATIONS.

Dear Sir,—I should like to supplement your reply to Mr. Ernest A. Elliott's letter, in your issue for February, in reference to the ½d., black, New Zealand. I was living in Wellington at the time the issue came out. Stamps were printed at the Government Printing Office there. On April 1st, 1895, the first sixty sheets were offered to the public, pin-perforated 12½ by the old machine; as this was found to produce ragged work, the perforation was altered to 10 (after having been three weeks in use).

I should add that the new machine was in use at the time, so the old machine was used temporarily, as the stamps were urgently required, and only sixty sheets were issued, as mentioned above, and, as far as I can remember, a few of the panes were bought up locally.

Yours truly, W. P. Cohen.

Johannesburg, Box 68, P.O.

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.*

COLLECTORS of fiscal stamps will be interested in learning the prices realised upon four lots of the Chapman Collection of U.S. Revenues sold recently in New York City. This is a class of stamps little known in our country, but evidently highly popular with our cousins. Revenue, $2.50, claret and black, head inverted, unused, £26; Proprietary, $5, unused, £55; Fleming Bros.' Liver Pill, 1 c., black, £12; Jos. Swain, 6 c., orange, few tears, £20.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale on June 6th and 7th included:—Madrid, 3 c., bronze, heavily cancelled, £8 10s.; Ceylon, 1885, CA, "Five Cents" on 4 c., lilac-rose, unused strip of three, £6 10s.; Puttialla, Service, 1887, with surcharge in red, the error "Puttilla," unused, £4 15s.; Mauritius, Post Paid, 2d., blue, early state, £7; Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine, unused (no gum and small margins), £10; ditto, half of 1s., orange, used as 6d., on entire letter, £12. Among a nice collection of U.S.A. issues we note the following realisations:—1861, 1 c., dark blue, *première gravure*, unused (no gum), £10; 5 c., mustard, unused, £7; 90 c., blue, an unused pair, £5; Nevis, lithographed, 4d., orange-yellow, unused, £5; St. Vincent, wmk. "Star," 5s., rose, unused (part gum), £10 15s.; Pacific Steam Navigation Company, 1 real, blue on bleuté, £5 15s.; Western Australia, first issue, 2d., brown on red, unused, £8.

* * *

THE SCOTT STAMP AND COIN COMPANY announce the new edition of their catalogue to appear early in October next. Some innovations are announced, both in the general arrangement of the varieties listed as well as the all-important question of prices. On the latter point the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. say: "It will be our earnest endeavour to have the quotations reflect the actual value of stamps, based not only upon the supplies which are upon the market, but also upon the demand which, in the case of a popular country, may place the value of one stamp far above that of a specimen of another country which is far rarer than the stamp first referred to, but which forms part of a series in which no particular interest is taken. While in our judgment, as we have already expressed it in these columns, the reductions made in the English Colonials by the leading dealer in England have in many cases been far too drastic, we feel compelled to accept English authority upon the value of English and British Colonial stamps, as the market for these stamps is dominated by English dealers and collectors, and not on this side of the water. In many cases we shall feel that the quotations are not a fair reflection of the comparative value of the stamps, but prefer, on the whole, to accept the foreign notations and leave it for future editions to correct such errors as may have crept in. The prices of many of the commoner kinds of foreign stamps will be reduced to correspond more closely to the rates at which these stamps can be purchased at wholesale, and the same will apply to the common and medium varieties of the stamps of the United States, many of which were unduly boomed by speculators and collectors a few years ago.

"We, of course, must take into consideration the fact that the present season has been marked by the largest addition to the stamp-collecting fraternity that any season has ever shown, and the effect of this is bound to be apparent in an increased demand for stamps during the approaching season. As soon as this demand materialises it will be seen that the supplies of many desirable stamps cannot keep pace with the demand for them, and that a closer approach to catalogue quotations will have to be maintained by dealers than has been the practice during the past two or three years."

The two following sentences, which embody the opinion of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. as to the available quantity of unused United States stamps in fine condition, have the ring of honest conviction founded on experience. The same remarks would equally apply if the words "United States" were deleted, and the name of many another country substituted as regards the *fine stamps* on offer in this country. Stage processions of diseased stocks at the auctions do not make fine copies less valuable.

"As to the unused stamps of the United States, we shall not allow ourselves to be led astray by the low prices obtained at auction for the straggling specimens which have appeared from time to time, the majority of which were not in extra fine condition, and the prices realised for which can form no true basis for an estimate of value. A search among dealers' stocks for fine specimens of the United States would soon prove to anyone how scarce these stamps really are, and we feel certain that it will take but a few months to prove to the collecting fraternity that our ideas on this subject are correct, and that those who think that these stamps have been wildly overpriced are in error."

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER sold on May 25th and following day a collection, by order of the deceased owner's executors, the sale including a "collection" of German States, unused, containing but a few notable rarities, and the vast majority in the poorest condition. The one ewe lamb of these Germans was the Prussian Eagle, 2 s. gr., Prussian blue, an unused horizontal strip of 3, £16; Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf., £10; Uganda, 1st issue, 30, 50, and 60 cowries, black, and 5 and 10 cowries, violet, unused, £10 5s.; Fiji, 1874–75, "2d.," in red, on 6 c., green, with plain V.R., an unused block of 4, £9 10s.

The same firm at their sale on June 9th sold the following, among other lots': Great Britain, 1d., red, Archer roulette, unused, £3; Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf., £10; Cape of Good Hope, triangular, 1s., emerald-green, an unused pair, £9; ditto, a pair of the dark green, unused, £7 10s.; Canada, 10d., blue, unused, £6 5s; Nevis, lithographed, 6d., grey, £5; St. Vincent, 1s., indigo-blue, unused, £3 9s.; 1s., brown, unused, £4 17s. 6d.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VIII. JULY, 1899. No. 91.

After the Battle.

PHILATELY does not seem to be such a sanguinary pursuit as to justify the above title! The preparations for a great conflict of opposing bodies, whether of men in earnest or stamps in play, are guided by similar instincts. For months or years previous to the scene of battle recruits are sought and ranks are strengthened, while the quality of each individual unit is steadily improved until the moment arrives to face the enemy. It is then that the generals—or the judges—arise and bring the opposing forces into play, and ere long the lately-conflicting forces are left to count the cost of victory or defeat.

It is "here that we come in," to use Mr. H. Labouchere's classic Parliamentary phrase. We have many of us been engaged in the friendly strife, or rather competition, at Manchester, and while fully recognising the advantages accruing from Philatelic exhibitions, we are fairly justified in seeing if there are not some finger-posts to be erected to guide us on to our next goal. We have elsewhere alluded to some of the advantages, but it cannot be too strongly impressed upon those who wish to see Philately *permanent*, that the publicity, the competition, the example of true Philatelic work, and the display of the rarest and most beautiful stamps are most potent factors alike in strengthening the present and recruiting the coming race of stamp collectors. It behoves everyone, therefore, who is not wrapped up in an isolated and selfish abstraction to lend a hand from time to time in the giving of this publicity and stability to the pursuit.

It being conceded that such exhibitions are recurrent necessities, it is as well to discuss any features that seem to require further amelioration. There can be no doubt that the prizes given at Manchester, especially those generously presented by outside donors, were frequently far in excess of the competition, and also that in several instances medals were awarded two

or three times over for the same exhibit. This seems a waste of good metal, and it is open to question if the possession of one gold medal does not confer as much honour on the recipient as would a couple more in the same class. In the first London Exhibition, 1890, not more than one medal could be taken in each class; there were no special medals, the grand-prize winner was *ipso facto* debarred from holding any other, and there were only five gold and thirteen silver medals awarded. The Exhibition Committee of 1890 included several Philatelic long-heads, and it is assuredly debatable whether their treatment of the awards was not nearer the "counsel of perfection" than that of the Exhibition of 1899, with eighteen gold and sixty-nine silver medals!

The handicapping of the winner of the grand prize or of gold medals at the London or Manchester Exhibitions should also be seriously considered, especially where competition is renewed with the same entry. There are difficulties in the way of this, and it will be suggested that the operation of such a rule would keep away valuable exhibits and the few collectors and specialists up to exhibition form in some countries. We venture to think, however, that exhibitors would find a way out of both these difficulties.

It is also open to discussion whether the exact allocation of the medals to each and every class is advisable until the nature of the competition is in some way assured. In the present instance the distribution, owing to the lack of this information, was most uneven; good exhibits in some classes went unrewarded amid the general shower of awards and special medals which were, in accordance with the donors' instructions, in several instances necessarily awarded either without competition or without merit. Again, the proportion of medals awarded to literature and albums, which want stimulating in the interests alike of the trade and the amateur, should be more liberal and the judging thereof should be entrusted to special experts. These classes come last at exhibitions, and there is then always a disinclination to go through the laborious examination of each exhibit, without which a judicial award can hardly be decreed.

There is also a lack of *fin de siècle* enterprise in the classification of the exhibits. "One hundred rare stamps" smacks a little of the schoolboy's "doing your dags," and has no Philatelic pretence whatever. The selection of twenty-five or fifty of the rarest—*i.e.* the most difficult to find, not the most valuable—stamps of the country in competition would be of more interest. These stamps could be unused or used, and a competition on these lines, say, for Germany, Italy, Australia, West Indies, United States, Great Britain, United States of Colombia, and so on, would at least have the merit of promulgating the true and relative estimation of rare stamps. Philately proper appeals equally to the rich and the unrich; and both in the class that we have referred to and to others, it is palpable that there is a tendency to over-estimate and over-display monetary value to the neglect of the more scientific and painstaking side of the pursuit. The faculty of taking infinite pains is given to a far greater number than is the power for "heaping up riches," and Philately, like statesmanship, should mean the greatest good to the greatest number.

The Manchester Philatelic Exhibition.

THE members of the Executive Committee of the Manchester Philatelic Society can fairly claim, like Cæsar, that they came, they saw, and they conquered. In the early days of the promotion of the undertaking there were not wanting sceptics and anticipators of poor results; but their forebodings have remained absolutely unverified, and the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition of 1899 must be hailed as a remarkable success, ranking in all respects with the very few exhibitions of really first-class importance that have been its predecessors. We can conscientiously claim a fair knowledge hereon, derived in the vast majority of cases from personal inspections of all the leading Philatelic Exhibitions held in Europe and America during the past decade; and while yielding due respect to the many important displays that have been held on the Continent, we hold that only three truly first-rank Philatelic Exhibitions have hitherto been held, *i.e.* London, 1890, London, 1897, and Manchester, 1899. We are well aware that comparisons are invidious, but in order to fairly bring home to our readers the great task of and the conspicuous success achieved by the Manchester Society, the standard of previous exhibitions should be examined. The requisites of a first-class Philatelic Exhibition are, that it shall not be mainly confined to one class (generally the stamps of the country where it takes place), but shall be representative in quantity and quality of the principal stamp-issuing countries of the world, shall be held in an important centre, and attract due publicity and attendance. In all these respects Manchester must be pronounced to have attained absolute success, and must assuredly, therefore, be hailed as being in the forefront of the Philatelic Exhibitions of the nineteenth century.

In one conspicuous respect Manchester has created a precedent. The most important stamp exhibitions of the world have hitherto been confined to capital cities, and it has remained for Manchester, in true Lancashire fashion, to demonstrate that a provincial city is capable to produce a truly International Philatelic Exhibition. All those who have been associated in the work of preparation are aware of the months of continuous labour and thought required, and the highest recognition is therefore due to the labourers on whom the task has devolved. First and foremost must be named the President of the Manchester Society and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Exhibition, Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, to whom, we believe, the inception of the idea is due, and who has been the absolute leader of the undertaking ever since. It is no detraction from the merits of others who have worked when we say that without Mr. Beckton there would have been no Manchester Exhibition, and that it is to his great power of organisation, Philatelic knowledge, and general abilities that the special gold medal of public opinion and appreciation must be awarded.

Second only to Mr. Beckton comes the Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. F. H. Gibson, who has thrown an amount of energy into the Exhibition that has been fully appreciated by all his co-workers, while by his unfailing good-humour and courtesy he has established himself as a prime favourite all round. The demands made upon Mr. Gibson's valuable time (as indeed of his chairman's) during the past few weeks have been practically unceasing, and he has fairly earned the gratitude of all ranks. Mr. Ernest Petri, as Hon. Treasurer, and Messrs. J. H. Abbott, C. H. Coote, G. B. Duerst, O. Gillett, W. Grunewald, A. H. Harrison, W. W. Munn, and Vernon Roberts, among the members of the Executive Committee, may also be especially mentioned as having, by frequent and ungrudging effort, very materially contributed to the success achieved by the Exhibition.

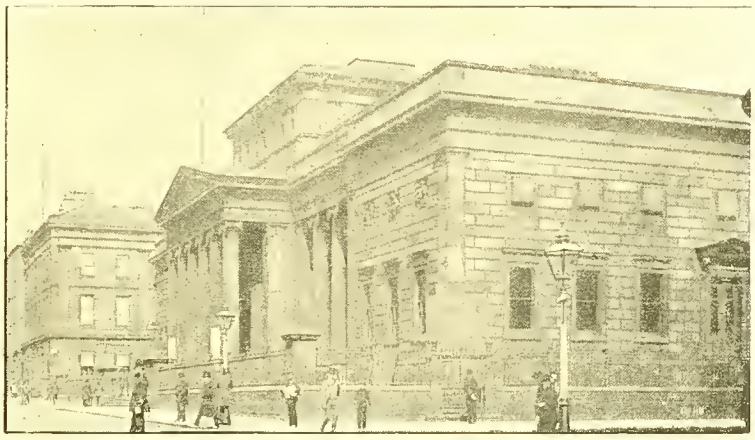
An especially gratifying feature of the Exhibition has been the regular attendance of the public, and the great publicity afforded to Philately through the means of social functions and the press. Judging from the impressions of daily visitors, it would seem that the attendance of the general public was highly satisfactory. Beyond this, ladies with their albums in hand and schoolboys galore were constant features at the Art Gallery, and we believe that, including season ticket holders, exhibitors, etc., nearly a thousand people passed the turnstiles on the closing day of the show, all of which is for the future good of stamp collecting.

The assemblage of Philatelists, collectors, and dealers was naturally very large, and the informal reunions that were held nightly at the Grand Hotel frequently reached imposing dimensions, and generally lasted into the "wee small hours of the morn." Among the many well-known names of visitors might be mentioned—although this list by no means pretends to be inclusive—from France, Messrs. J. Bernichon,* Th. Lemaire; from Germany, Messrs. E. Stock, Ph. Kosack, and A. Beddig; from Italy, Dr. E. Diena* and Mr. C. Fino (President of the Philatelic Society of Lombardy); from Russia, Mr. F. Breitfuss*; from Denmark, Dr. Vedel; from India, Mr. Wilmot Corfield; and from the United States, Mr. E. Carpenter. In addition to the full force of the Manchester members might be named as being present: Messrs. T. H. Maycock, R. Frentzel, L. L. R. Hausburg, W. T. Willett, T. W. Hall, S. M. Castle, C. F. D. Marshall, F. Reichenheim, Thos. Beckton, Harold White, H. T. Barrett, M. P. Castle,* E. D. Bacon,* Major E. B. Evans,* Dr. C. W. Viner, and Barons A. and P. de Worms. Among the leading members of the trade present were Messrs. M. Giwelb, W. H. Peckitt, C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.), W. T. Wilson, T. K. Skipwith, S. C. Shipton, William Brown, P. L. Pemberton, Thomas Ridpath, and others.

The Executive Committee were very fortunate in obtaining the grant by the municipal authorities of Manchester of the Art Gallery, the magnificent rooms of which were placed at their disposal at a merely nominal cost. The London Exhibitions have always been faced with the stern necessity of paying a very large sum for this purpose, and the action of the Manchester powers that be affords a sharp and pleasing contrast to Metropolitan methods. The Art Gallery is a large and imposing edifice,

* Judges.

as will be seen by the accompanying illustration, situate in the centre of the city facing Princess Street, where it intervenes between the important thoroughfares of Portland and Mosley Streets. The entrance-hall is of fine proportions, extending to the roof, and with a massive stone staircase communicating right and left with galleries that give access to the suites of rooms. That on the left was occupied by an exhibition of pictures in oil, the property of the Manchester Corporation, and being always open, formed a great source of interest to the visitors to the Philatelic Section. The pictures exhibited contain many magnificent and well-known works of great artists, such as Millais, Leighton, Turner, Landseer, and are



THE ART GALLERY.

thoroughly representative of the best traditions of English art.[1] The rooms devoted to the stamps were, as previously indicated, in the opposite wing of the building, and consisted of four large rooms communicating with each other. In the first and part of the second room on entering were displayed the British and Colonial stamps, the other exhibits of countries in Class II. occupying the remainder of the gallery upstairs, with the exception of the rare stamp exhibit and a couple of dealers' show-cases, which were displayed in Room 4.

The remainder of the exhibits, collections in books, envelopes, post cards, literature, albums, etc., were displayed in a large room on the ground-floor. The lighting of the gallery from lofty top-lights gave general satisfaction, and as the sun in Manchester was not infrequently affected by local atmospheric conditions, no harm can have occurred to the exhibits. Every precaution hereon was, however, taken by the Committee, the sky-lights being whitened and special slips of paper provided to protect the more delicate specimens. The Gallery, including spacious reception-rooms and a tea-room on the ground-floor, would be indeed difficult to surpass as a *locale* for an exhibition of stamps. The only drawback was the lack of seats, or of places to put them in, so that visitors were continually on the move — a method of procedure that all visitors to picture galleries will recognise as especially tiring. So great, however, was the quantity of

stamps shown, that the Committee could but barely leave room for the visitors to pass each other between the rows of exhibits. The show-cases were supplied by Messrs. Scott Brothers, of Gravel Lane, Salford, and were somewhat similar to those used at London, but their construction was more simple and their cost far less. The frames, almost square in shape and about four feet across, were placed in two rows on a slanting framework. This dual row system naturally enabled more stamps to be shown, but the top line of sheets was rather skied, and the lowest one involved acrobatic performances for its proper inspection. The frames were of soft wood japanned, and the backs of the cases of stout millboard (specially made), secured by two thin battens fastening together each upright pair of frames. On the score of lightness and expense these frames have many advantages, and if Messrs. Scott intend to keep them in stock, one of the greatest difficulties in the path of the Philatelic Exhibitions will have been materially diminished.

The stamps, needless to say, once in the frames were duly sealed, and in all other respects every precaution in the nature of watchmen and insurance seems to have been taken, while the Committee, as in London, divided themselves into watches during the whole time that the Exhibition was open to the public. The medals, which have been illustrated in the *London Philatelist*, met with unstinted approval, being handsome in design and lavish in the material employed. Nor can it be truthfully urged that they were deficient in number! The catalogue in octavo size (far more convenient than the quarto form at the last London Exhibition), with an appropriate introduction, a history of the Manchester Philatelic Society, and a plan of the rooms, was excellently printed and appropriately bound. Full descriptions of the principal stamps shown were included, and copies can be supplied by the Hon. Sec. of the Manchester Society.

THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY AND OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

The opening ceremony took place on Thursday, June 29th, at 3.30 p.m., in one of the large reception-rooms on the ground-floor of the Art Gallery, and the spacious room was crowded to its utmost capacity, the fair sex being well represented.

The chief part was taken by Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P. Mr. W. D. Beckton (as the President of the Manchester Philatelic Society) occupied the chair, and there were also on the platform the Lord Mayor (Mr. W. H. Vaudrey), the Lady Mayoress, Mr. H. O. Harley (the Postmaster at Manchester), the Hon. Sec., Mr. G. F. H. Gibson, Mr. Ernest Petri, and Mr. G. B. Duerst, members of the Executive Committee.

The Chairman, in introducing and welcoming Mr. Henniker Heaton, said the Exhibition was intended to commemorate the inauguration of an Imperial system of penny postage, and alluded to Mr. Henniker Heaton's efforts in this direction.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., in declaring the Exhibition open, primarily expressed acknowledgments for the help he had received from Manchester

in carrying out the reform to which he had devoted so much of his life. It had been wittily said that the task of his life had been that of sticking the British Empire together with a postage stamp! For that reason, probably, he had been honoured by the invitation to open this important Exhibition. They were well aware that the invention of the postage stamp made penny postage successful in England. Without this simple invention he trembled to think of the enormous difficulties there would now be in the way of the Postmaster-General and of the people in dealing with penny letters. Every one of the 2,000,000,000 letters posted in the United Kingdom annually would have to be handed to the local postmaster with a penny coin for each. Postage stamps had saved empires, kingdoms, principalities, and colonies (!). These sovereignties, kingdoms, etc., were certainly small, and he blushed to say that the profits from a new issue of stamps had sometimes put in funds everybody—from the king to the policeman. He knew one colony in which the new issue of postage stamps saved it not only from bankruptcy, but made it rich. Great Britain had more than fifty colonies, and it was only fair to say that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had set his face sternly against this method of raising money. At the same time, it was the sorrow of his postage-stamp life that the Postmaster-General could not see his way to introduce an Imperial stamp to celebrate the introduction of penny postage throughout the empire on Christmas Day of last year. Of the date when the mania for stamp collecting set in he had no exact record, but there was a tradition that in 1854 a few people began to awake to the value of the pursuit. To-day the stamp maniacs were twenty times more numerous than his own class—the bibliomaniacs.

We cannot think Mr. Henniker Heaton's employment of the words "mania" and "maniacs" was felicitous, and many of his subsequent and lengthened remarks (which we omit) were characterised by lack of taste and an entirely misdirected view of the purest and best aspects of Philately. It is only fair to Mr. Heaton to state that the whole of his remarks more directly applying to Philately (?) were read from notes, and were obviously written for him by someone who can assuredly not be congratulated upon his financial analysis of stamp collecting.

The Lord Mayor proposed, and Mr. H. O. Harley, the Postmaster of Manchester, seconded, in appropriate terms, a vote of thanks to Mr. Henniker Heaton, and after a somewhat protracted opening ceremony a prompt retreat was beaten to the far cooler atmosphere of the Tea-rooms.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mr. W. H. Vaudrey, kindly invited the judges and other gentlemen "to meet Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P.," on the evening of the opening day at the Town Hall.

All the guests evinced their appreciation of this municipal courtesy, their enjoyment of which was enhanced by the graceful presence of the Lady Mayoress, who by her charm of manner promptly became a *personâ gratissima* with all. Needless to say, the repast was worthy of the traditions of Manchester, and the post-prandial orations were, though limited, of an interesting nature.

On Friday the 30th, on the occasion of the visit to Manchester of the

Incorporated Society of Head Masters, a Reception was held at the Town Hall, and the Lord Mayor kindly sent tickets to many of the prominent Philatelists attending the Exhibition. The privilege was seized by many members, and afforded those who came from abroad some indication of the importance of the great municipalities of this country. The entire building of the magnificent Town Hall of Manchester—probably the most imposing in the kingdom, and erected at a cost of £1,300,000—was thrown open, and the magnificence of the principal halls must have been a revelation to most visitors. Entertainments both for mind and body were naturally provided, but the inspection of the building and its gay throngs of gowns, uniforms, and frocks constituted the abiding charm of the function.

The dinner given by the Manchester Philatelic Society to the Judges and the Executive Committee was held at the Grand Hotel on Saturday, July 1st, and was marked by a very large attendance, over sixty gentlemen being present. After due discussion of the various courses, inclusive of a "Pouding Philatelique," the Chairman, Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, after the loyal toasts, proposed "The Judges," which was responded to by Messrs. M. P. Castle and F. Breitfuss, the former reading out the result of the Judges' labours, which had been completed but shortly before the dinner, and stating that it was hence open to final corrections (these were fortunately but relatively unimportant). Major Evans proposed "The Executive" in felicitous terms, and Mr. G. F. H. Gibson made a peculiarly happy and witty response thereto. The remaining toasts were "The Visitors," proposed by Mr. G. B. Duerst and responded to by Baron P. de Worms, and "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. M. P. Castle—accorded musical honours and an especially hearty reception by all present.

On Tuesday, the 4th July, a Conversazione was given by the Manchester Philatelic Society at the Art Gallery, both the picture and stamp galleries being thrown open and the proceedings enlivened by the music of an excellent orchestra. In the lower suite refreshments were served, and in the large reception-room Mr. Harrison Hill gave a humorous recital, *à la* Corney Grain, with conspicuous ability, the principal feature of which was a sketch, specially written by Mr. Harrison Hill for the evening, *A Trip to Philatelia by the Ocean Penny Post, being some account of a voyage on the good ship "Penny Stamp" (Captain Dorning Beckton), A1, from Salford Docks to Philatelia. What we saw, whom we saw, and what they said.*

This clever and witty sketch, brilliantly illustrated by an appropriate musical accompaniment, abounded in local and Philatelic allusions which were received with delighted applause, and reflected great credit on its ingenious composers. The compliments paid to Dr. Viner, as the *doyen* of Philately, who was present, the pleasantries as to the "burly form of Captain Beckton," "the white cliffs of Salford," or the "fishing village of Liverpool, situate at the mouth of the Manchester Ship Canal," met with due appreciation at the hands of a very large audience, inclusive of a strong contingent of the fair sex. The unanimous verdict of all present was that the Conversazione had in every way been a very pleasant and hugely successful entertainment. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, several of the consuls and other local notabilities were present.

On Sunday, the 2nd, Mr. W. D. Beckton most hospitably entertained some of the judges and other gentlemen at Daisy Bank, and a thoroughly enjoyable day was spent among the charming surroundings of Swinton Park. Beyond this there were numerous displays of hospitality extended to the visitors by members of the Executive, and it may truthfully be said that no means were spared to make the week thoroughly enjoyable.

THE EXHIBITS.

As previously stated, there can be no second opinion as to the aggregate importance of the Philatelic exhibits, the total value of which would probably be on a practically equal footing with the most important exhibitions yet held. The British and Colonial exhibits were especially fine, and the rare stamps, though not so numerous as at London, were fully equal in importance. The American exhibits were perhaps ahead of London, but those of Europe, although excellent, were less strongly represented than in the Metropolis. Taken as a whole, the display was most gratifying, and the general average of selection of specimens, neatness of mounting, and scientific arrangement denoted what great progress has been made in Philately of recent years. The great volume of the exhibits precludes more than a brief reference to the more prominent, full particulars of which will be found in the official catalogue, the order of which we have roughly followed in reviewing the several classes.

CLASS I.—GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. H. J. WHITE.*—This magnificent specialised collection is so well known, and its merits so universally recognised, that no lengthened description is required.

* Mr. White and many others also showed in the London Exhibition of 1897, and an account of their exhibits will be found in the *London Philatelist* for that year, pages 185 to 218. The asterisk following an exhibit denotes that it was also shown in London, but for convenience of reference we append a list of the principal exhibitors who exposed the same countries in London and Manchester.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS, UNUSED.

White, H. J. Selby, Edgar H. Willett, W. T.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Cashmere.—Hancock, Major F. H.
Queensland.—Hadlow, W.
Ceylon.—De Worms, Baron A.
British Guiana.—Duveen, H. J.
Trinidad.—Ransom, F.
South Australia Departmentals.—Harrison, W.
Canada, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island.—Duveen, H. J.
Nevis.—Willett, W. T.
St. Vincent and St. Lucia.—Pimm, W.
British Central, East, and South Africa.—Levy, Eliot.
Grenada and Jamaica.—Hausburg, Leslie L. R.
Gambia and Gold Coast. — De Worms, Baron A.
St. Helena.—De Worms, Baron A.
Lagos and Sierra Leone. — De Worms, Baron A.

EUROPE.

Spain.—Jackson, Geo. F.
Switzerland.—Avery, W. B.
Naples.—Castle, M. P.
Tuscany.—Petri, Ernest.
Hanover.—Castle, M. P.
Norway.—Buckley, Hubert. Harrison, A. H.
Portugal.—Marsden, J. N.

ASIA AND AFRICA.

Japan.—Jones, T. Wickham.
Afghanistan.—Hancock, Major.
Philippine Islands. — Reuterskiold, Baron A. de.
Azores and Madeira.—Marsden, J. N.

AMERICA.

Mexico.—Frentzel, R.
Hawaii.—Avery, W. B.
Confederate States.—Avery, W. B.
Cuba and Porto Rico.—Davidson, Edw. S.

The judges' award of the Special Gold Medal of the Exhibition found no dissentient voice. Mr. White's octagonals (eighty in number), his fourpennies, including a strip of 3 4d., medium garter on blue, and his twopennies have all been strengthened by blocks, pairs, or shades, since last shown. Other additions are: 4d., large garter, and 6d., Plate 1, on "blue" paper; and the three following rarities—used: 6d., Plate 13, pale brown, 10d., watermark Emblems, and 2s., Plate 3, entire sheet of latter imperf., brown, etc., all of which found a never-ceasing circle of admirers.

Mr. W. T. Willett.*—Absolutely superb condition is the dominant note in the exhibition, which is not overloaded, though containing many superb things; *e.g.* some 50 octagonals, including large blocks, with strips, each of 3, of the 2d., large crown, perf. 16, Plate 6, and of the 4d., medium garter on *bleuté*.

Mr. E. H. Selby's* English stamps are exquisitely mounted, the accompanying descriptions being faultless in their execution. A brilliant block of 6 of the first 2d., 27 octagonals, and some fine fourpennies are but a few among the many gems displayed.

Mr. J. E. Heginbotham showed a large collection in the class for used English.

Cashmere.—Mr. D. P. Masson.—This collection throughout is interspersed with copious notes, and evidently forms the basis upon which Mr. Masson has constructed his celebrated papers demolishing the 1st type of the circular issue. It exhibits an amount of research that had no superior in the Exhibition, and the gold medal given by the Manchester Philatelic Society could not have found a more worthy recipient. The circular issue was extensively displayed on original colours, those used in Scrinagar being separated from those used in Jammu. The old rectangular Scrinagar issues include seven specimens ½ a., single die, on entire, complete sheets of the other values, as well as a very large number used on entire, and ½ a., blue, used on entire at Jammu, 1 a. cut in two used as ½ a. on entire, fancy reprints and missing die. The Jammu issue was also similarly shown, the red oil-colour being represented by a whole sheet unused and numerous specimens on entire, and two of the reds used in Cashmere. The circular reissue (1869-76) in shades unused, also on entire, the 1878 and subsequent issues in entire and reconstructed sheets were also present.

Major Hancock* also showed an interesting lot of this country.

Queensland. — Mr. W. Hadlow.* — The finest thing here was a strip of 3 of the 2d. of Issue I., imperforate, unused, but the collection, which is well known, embraces many fine stamps.

Ceylon.—Baron A. de Worms.*—This collection is as universally known as it is admired, both for its completeness and for the beauty of its specimens. It seemed difficult when last shown to see where it could be improved, but its owner has since added many fine shades and blocks. It was well rewarded by three gold medals, and was held to rank in importance only second to Mr. White's Great Britain.

Lieutenant G. Dumont, Mr. Harvey Clarke, and Mr. F. W. Lake also showed strong exhibits of Ceylon, notably the former, which included many extremely fine stamps and unused specimens.

New South Wales.—Mr. Harvey Clarke.—Noticeable stamps, unused, in this exhibit were Sydney Views, 1d., Plate 1, 8; Plate 2, 2 on laid paper, 2 singles and a pair on wove, 4 on bluish, and the variety "no clouds" on laid; 2d., Plate 1, 4, showing stages of wear of the plate; Plate 2, 6, including variety "CREVIT" omitted;

Plate 3, 3, including variety fan with 6 segments; first retouch, 6, including a vertical pair; second retouch, 3; 3d., 6. Amongst the unwatermarked laureated were 14 copies of the 1d., and 3 on laid paper; 15 of the 2d., 3 of the 2d., with stars in corners; 9 of the 3d., including error "WACES"; 4 of the 6d., Plate 1, 3 of Plate 2, and 6 of the 8d. Many of these "Sydneys" were of the finest possible quality, and they constituted one of *the* attractions of the Exhibition.

New Zealand.—Mr. H. J. DUVEEN.—These included a brilliant 1s. on thin paper, unused, and many other varieties, *e.g.* London print, white paper, the three values; *bleuté* paper, 2d. and 1s. Colonial print, blue paper, 1d., 2; 2d., 3; 1s., 2; and a bisected 1s. used as 6d. on entire; 1856 issue, no watermark, 1d., 4; 2d., 4; 6d., 8; 1s., 4; pelure paper, the four values imperf., the perforated pelures being shown used. The 1863 issue, watermark Star, imperf., a fine range of shades of the various values, including blocks, and the following values rouletted: 1d., 2d., 3d., 1s.; watermark NZ, four values imperf., and the 2d., 6d., and 1s., perf.; 1872 issue, watermark NZ, 2d.; watermark Lozenges, 2d.

Western Australia.—Mr. E. H. SELBY.—All issues represented by used and unused, including 4d., first issue, with narrow centre; 2d., imperf., on red, unused; 6d., sage-green, imperf., unused, and 3 copies of 2d., used; rough perf., pair of 2d., used; and 1s., green, unused; 4d., compound perf., 3 copies, unused. A small collection, but choice.

Victoria.—Mr. H. J. DUVEEN.—An attempt was here made to show this, perhaps, most difficult of all colonial countries, unused, there being very few used specimens included in this exhibit. All the following are unused unless otherwise stated:—1850, 1d., 13, showing different printings; 2d., fine border, coarse background, and coarse background and border, 6; 3d., 13 specimens in different printings; 3d., perf., 3; rouletted, 1d., used; 3d., 2, used; 1852 issue, engraved, 4; lithographed, 6; 1854 issue, 6d., rouletted and serpentine perf.; 1858, 1s., imperf. and perf. 12, 2; 6d., black; 1856 issue, 1d., 4 pairs; the registered and too-late stamps; 1857-63, Star, imperf., 1d., 3; 4d., 5; rouletted, 1d., 2; perf. 12, 1; no watermark, imperf., 1d., 2d., 2; 4d., rouletted, 1d., 2; 2d., 4d., perf. 12, 1d., 2; 4d., watermark, value in words, perf. 12, 1d., 2d., 2; watermark numeral, 2d., 4; also 2d., watermark "THREEPENCE"; 1861, 3d., on laid; and 6d., orange. Two used specimens of the latter are also shown, as well as 3d., mauve, imperf.; 1868, 5s., blue on yellow, 2 unused and 2 used.

South Australia.—Mr. M. Z. KUTTNER.—This large and interesting collection betrays a considerable amount of work and study, but it is overloaded by the numbers of used specimens that are practically identical. There are, however, many fine things, notably the imperforate strip of 6d. of the first issue. Unused include—First issue, London print, 1d., 6d., 2 and strip of 5, 1d., 2d., 6d. and 1s., violet (cancelled). Colonial print, 2d., 2 pairs and block of 6, and 3 singles, 6d. The rouletted issues include many shades of blocks of 6 and 4, the Prussian blue 6d., 1s., yellow, etc. The subsequent issues, both rouletted by perforated and the latter alone, embrace many of the really scarce stamps of this country, and there was also shown a large collection of the O.S. stamp, "some 1100 to 1200 specimens in all" (!) and a strong lot of the Departmental stamps, used.

Mr. W. W. HARRISON* also showed his well-known and beautiful collection of Departmentals, all unused.

Fiji was shown by Mr. W. B. Avery.

Cape of Good Hope.—Mr. VERNON ROBERTS.—The penchant of this exhibitor for the triangulars is one of long standing, but such a grand display—almost too redundant—was hardly expected, the triangular stamps being represented unused and used, with upwards of 180 "wood blocks," including a grand block of 4 and 4 single copies of the 1d., unused, and in the 4d. a pair and 4 singles also unused. The used "wood blocks" included several pairs of both values, a block of 4 1d., 2 specimens of the error 1d., blue, and a pair with the 4d. *se tenant*, 1 of the 4d., red, 3 of the 4d. with straight lines in the right-hand corner, and a pair of the greenish blue shade. Over 600 copies of the engraved triangles, unused, were shown, including large blocks of the various values. The rectangular series were represented by ranges of shades, unused, and the collection as a whole is extremely strong.

Mauritius.—Mr. H. J. DUVEEN.—The 1d. of 1848, 4 unused specimens, several used, including a reconstructed sheet; 2d., 2 unused, 4 used, and a reconstructed sheet (1 missing); worn plate, 6 of the 1d., unused; whilst of the 2d. 3 specimens are shown unused, 1 being from the plate in a very early state. Large fillet, fine reconstructed sheet. 1859 issue 1d., 6; 2d., 3; and specimens used. The 4d. of 1854 unused and used. 1876, ½d., in red, on 9d., 2; and the various stamps with values in cents. A good collection of this now very difficult country, but with gaps still to be filled.

Of the remaining African exhibits, Gambia and Gold Coast of Mr. V. Roberts were a fine lot, including many entire sheets, as were also Baron A. de Worms'.* The latter also showed his fine collection of Lagos and Sierra Leone* and St. Helena.* The British Central, East, and South Africa* of Mr. Eliot Levy were extremely strong. Messrs Hesketh and Richardson also exhibited.

British North American Colonies.—Mr. H. J. DUVEEN.*—All these colonies were shown by Mr. Duveen, and were, as has already been demonstrated, a beautiful selection—the Newfoundlands, the shillings of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the 6d. and 12d., Canada, all unused, being exceedingly and deservedly admired.

British Guiana.—Mr. H. J. DUVEEN.*—In this exhibit the rare stamps of the early issues were shown as follows: Circular, 2 c., rose (pair on original), 4 c., 8 c., (together on original), and 4 c. on pelure and 12 c., both on entires; also 12 c. (three specimens, including one on sugar paper) and 4 c. and 8 c. The pair of 2 c., rose, was perforce the second great rarity of the Exhibition, and Mr. Duveen's Guianas embraced many rare stamps in all the subsequent issues.

St. Vincent.—Mr. H. J. DUVEEN.—A practically complete collection of this country, unused. 1s., slate, small perf. 10, compound perf., 3; 1s., deep blue, 8; 1s., brown, 4; 1s., carmine, 11; the 4d. value in both colours and many specimens; 5s., Star, 8; 1d. on 6d., 3; ½d. on 6d., 9; 1d. on 6d., 3; 4d. on 1s., 4. These stamps are all shown in several specimens used. Wmk. C A, 4d., 6.

Mr. WILLIAM PIMM.—A good collection, including unused 1863, 1½d., 12; 1866, 4d., 3; 1s., slate (a pair); provisional 1d. on 6d., used; 1866, 4d., 6; 1s., blue, 4. Of the 4d., yellow, there are three copies, and of the 1s., brown, a pair and two singles, and the provisional 1d. on both halves of the 6d.

Grenada.—Mr. L. L. R. HAUSBURG.*—Fine as are Mr. Hausburg's stamps, they were closely approached by his competitor herein.

Mr. J. WRAY MERCER, whose very complete collection of these stamps, unused and used, was displayed in various shades, including the 1d. on 1½d., double

surcharge, 2; surcharge inverted, a large number of pairs and blocks showing different settings; 4d. on 2s., strip of 3, centre stamp upright D; a pair of the second setting showing error corrected; a number of entire sheets, including surcharged values; also the various errors of the 1s. and the ½d. values, etc.

Nevis.—Mr. W. T. Willett.*—A superb assemblage of these charming stamps, with sheets of the types including many of the rarest varieties.

Messrs. W. Pimm and F. E. Empson also exhibited this country.

Trinidad.—Mr. F. Ransom.*—The three Lady McLeods and the powerful array of the lithographs were powerful factors here.

India.—Mr. C. Stewart Wilson.—This was a beautiful collection, as might be expected from so well-known a Philatelist; and it may here be said that this remark applies equally to the exhibit of Mr. Larmour, and indeed to all those plucky collectors who sent their treasures all the way from "India's coral strand." This exhibit was composed almost entirely of unused specimens, including a large number of blocks from corners of the sheets, showing marginal inscriptions and plate numbers. In the first issue were a pair of the ½ a., red, 9½ arches, also a pair of the ½ a., red, 8 arches, three entire sheets of the ½ a., blue, illustrating the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd transfers, and one entire sheet of the 1 a., red, and blocks of all values, the 1 a., red, pin-perforated, used on part of entire. A practically complete collection of the official stamps, including a block of 4 unused and 10 used of the ½ a., lilac, a pair 2 a., lilac, black surcharge, and the 2 a., lilac, used, and 4 a., lilac, unused. A large number of proofs, essays, reprints, colour trials, and oddities.

Mr. C. F. Larmour.—This exhibit consisted for the most part of used specimens; but amongst the unused were the following: Entire sheets of the 1st issue, ½ a., 1 a., and 2 a., also blocks showing corner margins of the same stamps. The ½ a., 9½ arches, is represented by a single specimen. Amongst the used, first issue, 1 a., red, perf., on part of entire, pairs of 4 a. with and without dividing-lines. The De La Rue issue 2 a., green, on part of entire, the various service stamps, principally unused, and containing amongst the long series the 4 a. and a set of the reprints.

Both the foregoing gentlemen also sent interesting and exhaustive representations of the issues of the British Indian stamps surcharged for use in the native states.

Barbados.—Mr. E. H. Selby.—A pretty collection, both unused and used, including amongst unused specimens of rare shade, ½d. on white, imperf., 6d., and 1s.; pair and 2 singles, pin-perf. ½d. The unwatermarked, perforated, all values, unused; blocks of ½d. and 1d. and 6d.; pairs of 4d. and 1s. Large Star, rough perf., 6d.: Small Star, rough perf., 4d. and 6d.; ditto, clean-cut perf., 1d., pair and 2 singles; 6d. and 1s.; pair ditto; compound perf., ½d., and pair and single 4d., etc. All the other issues are represented by shades in pairs and singles.

Mr. H. M. Hepworth.—A collection of unused and used, which included among the former first issue ½d., green, block of 4; 1d., blue, pair; 4d., red on *bleuté*, pair. The clean-cut perf. were represented by 1 unused and 3 used ½d., green, and 4 used 1d., blue. The rough perf. series were fully represented, unused, in singles and pairs. The 5s. value in 2 specimens, unused, and of the provisional 1d. on half 5s., 2 copies, etc.

Hong Kong and Jamaica.—Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg.*—A superb lot of both countries, the Hong Kong especially, to which many stamps have been added since their last public appearance.

The remaining West Indian Islands were also well represented by Mr. J. H Thackrah, J. S. Heginbottom, J. L. Van Dieten, jun., T. W. Hall, H. Grey, and others.

Amongst other meritorious exhibits we may cite:—Malta and Gibraltar, Mr. G. F. H. Gibson; Ionian Islands (obliterations on entire), Mr. E. J. Mertsanof; and Cyprus, Mr. J. C. North; a very fine lot that was deservedly recompensed.

EUROPE.

France.—Mr. W. Grunewald.—The stamps were shown mostly unused, including some used, in numerous shades of all values; and contain, in addition, a large number of blocks and pairs, and 21 *tête-bêche* pairs, these including 1849 10 c., 20 c., 25 c., and 1 fr.; Empire, 80 c., imperf., perf., 80 c., unused and used; laureated, 4 c., and the various Second Republic. The 1849 Republic included 1 fr., vermilion, 3; 1 fr., carmine, block of 4, pair, and 4 singles; 15 c., block of 4 and single. Presidency: Pair 10 c., 25 c., 2 blocks of 4. Empire: A strip of 20 c., blue on blue paper; 40 c., block of 4 and 4 singles; 80 c., 4 pairs; 1 fr., block of 4 and 3 singles, all unused. This was an excellent exhibit—good specimens and well displayed; and its reward of the gold medal in its class met with general approval.

Lieut. G. Dumont also exposed a fine collection of unused French, which, however, suffered by its very late arrival.

Roumania with Moldo-Wallachia.—Mr. W. Dorning Beckton.—Moldavia: First issue, 54 paras, unused, and 27 p., 54 p., and 108 p., used. Second issue, the 3 values on 5 different papers, unused and used, in single specimens and blocks, including *tête-bêche*. The subsequent issues up to 1890 in shades, unused, and the different "types" of all values are shown, unused, in blocks or reconstructed blocks, and are fully described, including entire sheets, and evincing much Philatelic study. A close runner-up for the gold medal.

Mr. C. H. Coote.—A sound collection of this country.

Mr. G. B. Duerst.†—A practically complete collection, mainly used, containing all the known varieties of paper, type, and perforations.

Greece.—Mrs. Baynes.†—A remarkably choice collection, practically complete, and reflecting great credit upon its fair owner.

Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro.—Mr. Herbert R. Oldfield.—1886 issue, complete sheets of both values, varying papers and shades, and 4 specimens of the error, October, 1866, Vienna print, small perf., shades, and a strip of 3 of the 40 p. All issues are strong in this well-known Servian collection.

Mr. J. H. Abbott.—An excellent and studied exhibit of the same countries, inclusive also of Eastern Roumelia, and notably strong in the Bulgarian Lions.

Norway.—Messrs. A. H. Harrison* and H. Buckley* again contended, and despite the superior Philatelic display of the former, the fine stamps of Mr. Buckley gained the day—by a narrow margin.

Switzerland.—Mr. W. B. Avery.*—As is well known, Mr. Avery's Swiss include a block of 6 double Genevas, unused, and many other grand stamps. There are, however, notable gaps in the unused portions.

Mr. L. Einstein also showed a choice collection of Swiss, including some nice blocks of the silk thread issue, unused.

Russia, Finland, etc.—M. Giwelb.*—A good display, especially of Finland, but the competition in this class was too strong for the exhibit, which also was marred by one or two reprints.

† A dagger indicates that the exhibit was shown in London, but not displayed in full, in the collection class.

Modena and Tuscany.—Messrs. PETRI* and O. GILLETT competed here, but the remarkably well arranged and Philatelically complete Modenas of M. Petri secured the gold medal, and well deserved it. The Tuscans in both cases included the usual rarities in used condition, those of M. Petri being the stronger.

Naples.*—Mr. M. P. CASTLE.—Not for competition.

Spain was represented by Lieut. G. Dumont, who showed the early issues unused, and also by Messrs. G. B. Jackson and J. Cooper. **Portugal,** by Mr. J. N. Marsden,* included some fine unused stamps, as the 50 and 100 r. Dona Maria, the 5 r. straight hair, etc. Mrs. Bridson also competed.

Baden, Hanover,* Oldenburg, Prussia, and Saxony.—Mr. M. P. CASTLE.—All unused, and not for competition.

ASIA AND AFRICA.

Japan.—T. WICKHAM JONES.*—A powerful and practically complete collection, with numerous sheets.

Afghanistan.*—Major HANCOCK.—A strong lot of these interesting stamps.

Transvaal.—H. MARKS.—Not a very large collection, but very sound and comprehensive, and including the 1d., "Transvral" error, unused.

Portuguese Indies.—Mr. C. F. LARMOUR.—An unusually interesting assemblage of these stamps, mainly used, and containing many scarce things not usually seen in Europe.

Philippine Islands.—Baron A. DE REUTERSKIÖLD.*—The *magnum opus* of the exhibitor in reconstructing the two varieties of each plate of the first issue has progressed since this exhibit was last seen.

Egypt, by Mr. J. H. Abbott, **Persia,** by Mr. C. W. Forbes, and the **Portuguese Colonies,** by Mr. J. N. Marsden,* were all in their way good exhibits, displaying Philatelic ability and research.

AMERICA.

Mexico.—Mr. R. FRENTZEL.†—A collection well known to members of the London Society, containing many thousands of specimens with many rarities, inclusive of Campeche, Chiapas, and Guadalajara. Owing to its bulk, it could only be partially displayed, despite its Philatelic interest.

Mr. W. T. WILSON'S exhibit of Mexicans was exceedingly choice, almost all unused, scientifically arranged, and embracing the scarcest varieties, including most of the scarce local issues.

Colombian Republic.—Mr. H. R. OLDFIELD.—A remarkably strong (amalgamated) collection, worthily taking the gold medal of its class. All the various issues were shown in numerous shades, unused, including 1859, 10 c., *tête-bêche;* 1860, errors of colour or proofs, 5 c., *tête-bêche,* and a complete sheet of 20 c., showing error (5 c.) and *tête-bêche* pair; 1862, all values, the 20 c. being represented by two singles unused and a pair used, and 50 c.; 1863, both types of the 50 c.; 1865, on thick and thin paper, various types.

Antioquia, 1868, 2½ c., 1 unused and 7 used; 5 c., 3 unused and 6 used; 10 c., 5 used.

Tolimas in sheets and rich throughout.

United States.—Mr. S. M. Castle.†—A very extensive display, generally conceded to be one of the three most important and finest exhibits displayed. It consists of the general issues only, without local, periodical, unpaid letter, or postmasters' stamps, with the exception of those of New York and Providence. The stamps were practically all unused and in perfect condition, and the Philatelic ability displayed was of a high order. The 10 c. of 1847, the 5 c. imperf., and the 5 c. mustard were shown in a profusion of shades, while the A B C set of reprints (of great rarity), the 1869 series with centre inverted—the 30 c. being notably fine—with numerous other rarities, were greatly admired.

Confederate States.—Mr. W. B. Avery.*—A practically complete collection of these rare stamps, inclusive of many extreme rarities, and of great value.

Argentine (Confederation and Republic).—Mr. T. W. Hall.—One of the best exhibits shown, whether for completeness or substantial work, and in every way worthy of Mr. Hall's reputation. Of the Republic the collection was exceptionally strong in the issues of 1862 and 1864. Both types of the 5 c. of 1862 were shown in many shades, blocks, pairs, and strips, unused, including an entire sheet of the 5 c., rose, of 1862, without accent, the broad and narrow "c" types of the 5 c. (the former with and without accent), both used and unused.

Hawaii, by Mr. W. B. Avery,* contained the rare 5 c. and 2 of the 13 c. of the first issue, but the later issues were weak. **Hayti** and **Ecuador,** by Mr. J. H. Abbott, was a meritorious display, as was also **Brazil,** by Mr. E. T. Roberts, while the other countries found worthy exponents.

The sections for the less advanced specialist, were well contested, producing no less than eighteen competitors, the most deserving, perhaps, being Mr. F. A. von Sobbe and Mr. J. E. Heginbotham.

CLASS III.—COLLECTIONS OF RARE STAMPS.

Mr. Vernon Roberts came worthily first here with his 2 1d. "Post Office" on original, the most valuable "piece" in the Exhibition. He also showed a superb lot of Queenslands, no finer than which have ever been shown, and many of the finest colonials, unused, too numerous to mention.

Mr. Lachlan Gibb.—From Montreal Mr. Gibb sent 6 specimens of the 12d. Canada on laid paper, including pairs of unused and used; pairs, unused, of ½d., 6d., 7½d., and 10d.; South Australia, 3d., blue, without surcharge—an *extreme* rarity; Cape, error; Natal, 1s., curved red surcharge (also extremely rare), etc. etc. A good second, and a very interesting selection.

Mr. A. S. Tomson's was an extremely fine exhibit also, the page of Barbados, 1d., provisional, on 5s., with 7 pairs and a strip, being without a rival; British North America, fine, etc.

Prince Doria Pamphilj sent three exhibits in this class, especially strong in the Italian states, embracing the usual and several unusual varieties, while his colonial and general exhibits contained quite a lot of gems.

Mr. P. Kosack showed the set of first issue Moldavia (the only 81 p. in the show!); Reunion, 15 and 30, very fine; Saxony, error; Hawaii, 13 c.; Colombian Republic, 20 c. and 50 c., red, error, *se tenant;* Canada, 12d.; and many other "scarcities."

Messrs. J. N. Marsden and D. M. de Heer also sent valuable exhibits, in the former being the 5s., 10s., £1, and £5, Anchor, of Great Britain, all unused, on bluish paper.

The 2nd Division, though of minor interest, was also well contested.

CLASS IV.—COLLECTIONS IN ALBUMS.

Mr. A. H. Jefferis romped in here with a very rich collection, in nine volumes, of choice colonials, mostly unused, Mr. Garson worthily competing. In Division II. (under 10,000) Mr. Reichenheim* outpaced his competitors; and in Division III. (under 5000) Messrs. C. H. Coote, C. S. Milner, and Mrs. Vaudrey (Lady Mayoress of Manchester) were prize-winners.

Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall was easily first in the Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

In the specialised collections in albums, Mr. H. R. Oldfield took the first prize with Bolivia* (but it was surely too important to have been exhibited thus!), Mr. W. B. Thornhill being second with his fine lot of Shanghai. Other good exhibits were Belgium, by Count d'Assche; Servia, by Mr. Baynes; Great Britain, by Mr. J. S. Higgins, jun.; and Roumania, by Mrs. Hetley. In the group collections, Mr. W. Dorning Beckton (West Indies) and Mrs. Hetley (Australia) were both excellent.

Post cards, envelopes, unfortunately, as usual, were scantily contested, and the remaining classes do not here call for especial comment, although embracing many praiseworthy exhibits—notably in the literature and album classes. The medals available for the two latter classes (VIII. and IX.) were, however, scant compared with others, and Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' exhibit of literature could have been worthily accorded a silver medal. In Class XI., Major E. B. Evans' extremely interesting exhibit of Mulreadyana (non-competitive) and the colour charts illustrated by stamps shaded off, of Messrs. B. W. Warhurst and Mr. W. Jones, found many appreciators. We append the official list of prize-winners, which will supplement the information not given in our preceding remarks.

LIST OF AWARDS.

Class I.—*Division* 1.—Gold Medal, Harold J. White. Silver Medal, W. T. Willett. Bronze Medal, Edgar H. Selby.

Division 2.—No competition.

Division 3.—Silver Medal, J. E. Heginbottom. Bronze Medal, Wm. Brown and S. C. Skipton.

Class II.—*Division* 1.—A.—Gold Medal, Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon. Silver Medal, Harvey R. G. Clarke, for New South Wales. Silver Medal, H. J. Duveen, for British Guiana.

B.—Gold Medal, Vernon Roberts, for Cape of Good Hope. Silver Medal, H. J. Duveen, for Newfoundland. Silver Medal, C. Stewart Wilson, for India. Bronze Medal, F. Ransom, for Trinidad.

C.—Silver Medal, Edgar H. Selby, for Barbados. Silver Medal, W. T. Willett, for Nevis. Bronze Medal, H. M. Hepworth, for Barbados.

D.—Silver Medal, Leslie L. R. Hausberg, for Grenada. Bronze Medal, J. W. Mercer, for Grenada. Bronze Medal, J. C. North, for Cyprus.

E.—Silver Medal, Leslie L. R. Hausberg, for Jamaica and Hong Kong. Bronze Medal, Vernon Roberts, for Gambia and Gold Coast. Bronze Medal, Baron A. de Worms, for Lagos and Sierra Leone. Extra Bronze Medal, G. Fred. H. Gibson, for Gibraltar and Malta.

Division 2.—A.—Gold Medal, W. Grunewald, for France and Monaco. Silver Medal, W. B. Avery, for Switzerland. Silver Medal, W. Dorning Beckton, for Roumania with Moldo-Wallachia. Bronze Medal, L. Einstein, for Switzerland. Extra Bronze Medal, Lieutenant Georges Dumont, for France and Spain.

B.—Gold Medal, Ernest Petri, for Modena and Tuscany. Silver Medal, Oswald Gillett, for Modena and Tuscany.

C.—Silver Medal, J. H. Abbott, for Servia, Bulgaria, Southern Bulgaria, and Eastern Roumelia. Silver Medal, Herbert R. Oldfield, for Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro. Bronze Medal, G. B. Duerst, for Roumania.

D.—Silver Medal, Hubert Buckley, for Norway. Silver Medal, J. N. Marsden, for Portugal. Bronze Medal, A. H. Harrison, for Norway.

Division 3.—A.—Gold Medal, T. Wickham Jones, for Japan. Silver Medal, Major Hancock, for Afghanistan. Extra Silver

Medal, C. F. Larmour, for Portuguese Indies. Extra Silver Medal, Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, for Philippine Islands. Extra Bronze Medal, Hyman Marks, for Transvaal.

B.—Silver Medal, J. N. Marsden, for Azores and Madeira. Bronze Medal, J. H. Abbott, for Egypt and Suez Canal.

C.—No award.

Division 4.—A.—Gold Medal, Herbert R. Oldfield, for Colombian Republic and States. Silver Medal, R. Frentzel, for Mexico. Silver Medal, W. T. Wilson, for Mexico. Bronze Medal, Evan T. Roberts, for Brazil.

B.—Gold Medal, Stanley M. Castle, for United States. Silver Medal, W. B. Avery, for Confederate States.

C.—Silver Medal, T. W. Hall, for Argentine Confederation and Republic. Bronze Medal, Edw. S. Davidson, for Cuba and Porto Rico. Bronze Medal, T. W. Hall, for Corrientes and Cordova, Curaçao and Surinam.

Division 5.—A.—Bronze Medal, F. A. von Sobbe, for Greece, Germany, and Italy.

B.—Bronze Medal, F. J. Beazley, for Gambia, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone.

C.—Bronze Medal, J. E. Heginbottom, for Ceylon, Queensland, and Victoria.

D.—Bronze Medal, J. E. Heginbottom, for Barbados, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia.

E.—Bronze Medal, D. M. de Heer, for Peru, Argentine, and Curaçao.

Class III.—*Division* 1.—Gold Medal, Vernon Roberts. Silver Medal, Lachlan Gibb. Extra Silver Medal, Prince Doria Pamphilj. Extra Silver Medal, Ph. Kosack. Extra Silver Medal, A. S. Tomson.

Division 2.—Silver Medal, J. H. Abbott. Bronze Medal, F. W. Lake.

Class IV.—*Division* 1.—Gold Medal, A. H. Jefferis. Silver Medal, D. S. Garson.

Division 2.—Silver Medal, Franz Reichenheim. Bronze Medal, Lawrence M. Harris.

Division 3.—Bronze Medal, C. H. Coote. Bronze Medal, C. S. Milner.

Division 4.—Bronze Medal, C. F. Dendy Marshall.

Division 5.—Silver Medal, H. R. Oldfield, for Bolivia. Bronze Medal, W. B. Thornhill, for Shanghai.

Division 6.—No competition.

Division 7.—Silver Medal, W. Dorning Beckton, for West Indies. Extra Silver Medal, Mrs. Hetley, for Australia.

Class V.—*Division* 1.—Silver Medal, Oliver Firth, for Registration Envelopes of Great Britain. Silver Medal, Th. Lemaire.

Division 2.—No competition.

Class VI.—*Division* 1.—Silver Medal, T. Ridpath, for Belgium, Roumania, Mexico, Spain, and Colonies. Bronze Medal, W. Brown and S. C. Skipton, for Mexico and Belgium.

Division 2.—Bronze Medal, J. L. Van Dieten, for Ceylon, Gibraltar, Turks Island, and Virgin Islands.

Class VII.—Silver Medal and Diploma, Bradbury, Wilkinson, & Co. Silver Medal and Diploma, Compania Sud Americana de Billetes de Banco.

Class VIII.—*Division* 1.—Bronze Medal and Diploma, Hugo Krötzsch. Bronze Medal and Diploma, Société Française de Timbrologie.

Division 2.—Bronze Medal and Diploma, Berliner Philatelisten Club. Bronze Medal and Diploma, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. Extra Bronze Medal, Bright & Son. Extra Bronze Medal, Philatelic Society of India. Extra Bronze Medal, Sociedad Filatelica Santiago, Chili.

Class IX.—*Division* 1.—Bronze Medal and Diploma, Richard Dalton. Bronze Medal and Diploma, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Division 2.—Bronze Medal and Diploma, Paul Kohl. Bronze Medal and Diploma, W. T. Wilson.

Class X.—Diploma, Army and Navy Co-operative Society, London. Diploma, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Class XI.—Bronze Medal, M. W. Jones. Bronze Medal, B. W. Warhurst.

The Extra Medals mentioned in the above list are given at the recommendation of the Judges.

SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL,

Being the Grand Prize of the Exhibition, Harold J. White, for Great Britain.

SPECIAL MEDALS.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—One Gold and one Silver Medal for the best two exhibits in Class 11. shown by Philatel-

ists resident out of the British Isles.—Gold Medal, D. P. Masson, for Cashmere. Silver Medal, Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, for Philippine Islands. One Silver Medal to the Society whose members figure most numerously in the list of Exhibitors. London Philatelic Society.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.—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. Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon. One Silver Medal for the best Special or General Collection shown by a lady. Mrs. Baynes, for Greece.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Indian Stamps, including the surcharged British Indian Issues used in Native States. C. Stewart Wilson.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits from residents in Yorkshire.—Silver Medal, T. K. Skipwith, for Seychelles and Uganda. Bronze Medal, Eugene Egly, for 50 Rare Stamps.

HERTS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a member of the Herts Philatelic Society in Class II. H. R. Oldfield, for Colombia.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Leeds Philatelic Society. H. M. Hepworth, for Barbados.

LIVERPOOL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best exhibits from Liverpool and District (*i.e.* within a radius of 15 miles).—Silver Medal, F. A. von Sobbe, for Greece, Germany, and Italy. Bronze Medal, C. S. Milner, for collection under 5000.

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. R. Frentzel.

NEDERLANDSCHE VEREENIGING VAN POSTZEGELVERZAMELAARS, AMSTERDAM.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a native of Holland. H. M. de Heer, for 50 Rare Stamps.

SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE TIMBROLOGIE, PARIS.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit of the Stamps of France or French Colonies. W. Grunewald.

SOCIETA FILATELICA LOMBARDA, MILAN.—One Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit of Italian States in Class II. E. Petri, for Modena and Tuscany.

Mr. W. DORNING BECKTON (President of the Manchester Philatelic Society).—One Gold Medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those which have gained a Silver Medal in the open competition in Class II. H. J. Duveen, for British Guiana.

One Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those which have gained a Bronze Medal in the open competition in Class II. G. B. Duerst, for Roumania.

Mr. H. A. STAMFORD (President of the Bradford Philatelic Society).—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Bradford Philatelic Society. Oliver Firth, for Great Britain Registration Envelopes.

Mr. W. T. WILSON (President of the Birmingham Philatelic Society).—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits shown by members of the Birmingham Philatelic Society. — Silver Medal, Stanley M. Castle, for United States. Bronze Medal, W. Hadlow, for Queensland.

Mr. J. H. ABBOTT.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Scotland. R. S. Richardson, for Cape of Good Hope, Newfoundland, and Canada.

One Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Ireland. Hugh Higginson, for collection under 5000.

Mr. THOMAS BECKTON. — One Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society failing to obtain a medal in the open competition. John Cooper, for general collection.

One Silver Medal for the best exhibit in Class II., Division 5. F. A. von Sobbe, for Greece, Germany, and Italy.

M. JULES BERNICHON.—One Gold Medal for the best collection of French *tête-bêche* shown either alone in Class III., or forming part of an exhibit of France in Class II. W. Grunewald.

Messrs. BRIGHT & SON. — One Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Holland in Class II. No competition.

Mr. WILLIAM BROWN.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two collections of stamps issued since 1890, and shown in Class IV., Division 3. Silver Medal, C. S. Milner. Bronze Medal, Hugh Higginson.

Messrs. BUTLER BROS. — One Bronze Medal for the best collection of not less than 2000 varieties shown by a boy or girl under 16 and attending school. J. S. Higgins, jun.

Mr. GEORGE H. CALLF. — One Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Sydney Views. Harvey R. G. Clarke.

Mr. G. B. DUERST.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits shown by an exhibitor resident within a radius of 20 miles of the Manchester Royal Exchange, and not a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society. Silver Medal, A. H. Jefferis. Bronze Medal, A. R. Stelling, for general collection.

Messrs. STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.—One Gold and one Silver Medal for the best two collections of Australian stamps. Gold Medal, Harvey R. G. Clarke. Silver Medal, M. Z. Kuttner.

One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two collections shown by youths under 21 in Class IV., in an album of English manufacture. Silver Medal, J. S. Higgins, jun. Bronze Medal, A. R. Stelling.

Mr. G. FRED. H. GIBSON.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits in Classes I. or II., shown by members of a Provincial Philatelic Society (Manchester excluded). Silver Medal, Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon. Bronze Medal, Stanley M. Castle, for United States.

Mr. ARTHUR H. HARRISON.—One Silver Medal for the best collection of either Sweden, Norway, or Denmark and Iceland, shown in Class II., Division 2, D, by an exhibitor resident in any of these countries. Hubert Buckley.

Mr. J. E. HEGINBOTTOM. — One Gold Medal for the best exhibit of West Indies. W. Dorning Beckton.

One Silver Medal for the best exhibit in Class IV., shown by an exhibitor under 21. J. S. Higgins, jun.

Mr. D. OSTARA.—One Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit of Adhesives on entire shown in Class IV. No competition.

Mr. W. H. PECKITT.—One Gold and one Silver Medal for the two most meritorious exhibits, regard being paid primarily to the question of condition, in Class III. Gold Medal, Vernon Roberts. Silver Medal, Lachlan Gibb.

One Gold and one Silver Medal for the two most meritorious exhibits in Class I. Gold Medal, H. J. White. Silver Medal, W. T. Willett.

Mr. ERNEST PETRI.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits shown by a lady resident within a radius of 15 miles from the Manchester Royal Exchange. Silver Medal, Mrs. Harrison. Bronze Medal, Mrs. Vaudrey.

Mr. VERNON ROBERTS.—One Gold Medal for the best exhibit shown in Class II., Division 1. Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon.

One Silver Medal for the best exhibit of St. Lucia. W. Pimm.

One Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Wales. J. R. Jones.

Mr. ADOLF ROSENBERG.—One Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a German resident in Germany. L. Einstein.

Mr. ERNST STOCK.—One Gold and one Silver Medal for the best two exhibits of unused German States, regard being paid to the pristine beauty of the specimens shown as well as to their rarity. Silver Medal, F. A. von Sobbe.

Messrs. WINCH BROS. — One Bronze Medal for the best and most accurate Colour Chart, consisting of genuine Government postal issues, with colours named—Seebecks, Reprints, Locals, and Forgeries being excluded. B. W. Warhurst.

Occasional Notes.

DEFERRED ARTICLES.

WE do not think that too heavy a meal is good for Philatelic digestion, and we fancy that—for midsummer reading, when the average Philatelist finds other and less sedentary occupations—the present number, with its necessarily lengthened epitome of the proceedings at the great Manchester Exhibition, will be found amply sufficient. We therefore hold over several matters of interest, correspondence, reviews, etc., appealing to the indulgence of those readers directly interested therein.

NOTICE BY THE EXPERT COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

WE are requested to give notice that the Expert Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, will be unable to examine any stamps during the month of August. After that period all specimens should be sent to the Committee, or to Mr. A. Churchill Emerson, at Effingham House, Arundel Street, W.C.

A HAPPY RELEASE.

THE *Metropolitan Philatelist* reports that the 6 c., $3, $4, and $5 Columbians have been called in, and are all to be destroyed. The stock given is as follows:—

48,400	6 c.	3,357	$4.
2,937	$3.	4,506	$5.

Enough—at the rate used since October 1st, 1896—to last until the year 2000. There is still a considerable stock of Omahas to work off.

FINE OLD JAMAICA—STAMPS.

THE Government remainders of certain values of stamps of the island of Jamaica are for sale, but we very much doubt if the Crown Agents for the Colonies will succeed in getting an offer of *face value*. It appears that the Crown Agents for the Colonies are instructed by the Government of Jamaica to dispose of the following stamps (the stamps are printed on "Crown and CC" paper), etc. The face values are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
2s. Stamps	856	12	0
1s. ,,	7	5	0
3d. Post Cards	149	3	3
1d. ,,	6	5	0
1½d. ,,	0	9	0

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 GUIANA.—We have before us another provisional—the 5 c., brown and green, Jubilee issue, surcharged "TWO Cents" in one line. When kindly sending this stamp, Messrs. Bright & Son wrote to say there was one error in the sheet, the second stamp from the left side of the seventh row having a comma after cents instead of full stop.

Adhesive. 2 c. on 5 c., brown and green; surcharge black.

CANADA.—A correspondent informs the *M. J.* that the surcharged provisionals referred to by us on pages 108 and 133 were not the first instance of the use of the scissors at Port Hood, an envelope emanating from that office, and bearing the half of a 2 c. stamp divided diagonally, having been found with the date July 27th, 1898. (We have met with, cut either vertically or diagonally, 2 c. and 6 c. of the 1868 issue, and the 2 c., green, 1868–76, on entire, or pieces of entire, having been used beyond doubt to prepay postage and meet an emergency.)

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* expects new stamps of the values of 15 c., 20 c., 50 c., $1, $2, $3, and $5 of the numeral type will shortly be issued to be used by publishers to pay the postage on newspapers in bulk. We trust our numerous Canadian friends will favour us with an early copy or copies.

CEYLON.—The present state of Philatelic matters on the island is becoming alarming. The recent dole of new values is followed by news from Ipswich that a new 12 c. stamp will be issued for the double Imperial postage. Further, the new 75 c. stamp is surcharged "On Service," the 8 c., 28 c., Rs. 1.12 and Rs. 2.50 values are to be withdrawn from use as soon as the present stock is exhausted, and even the lately-issued provisional stamps, Rs. 1.50 and Rs. 2.25, are to be replaced shortly by an entirely new design.

The outbreak is serious. We trust prompt measures will be taken to suppress any spread of infection.

COOK ISLANDS.—The 1d., blue, with the head of the Queen, is stated to have been surcharged "One Half Penny," in three lines in black. The surcharge appears to be indistinct, and scarcely noticeable when the stamp has been postmarked.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—The ½d., 2½d., and 6d. stamps are coming in slightly paler shades.

GOLD COAST.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the 2½d. and 2s. in the new Colonial type, which, although catalogued, have only lately been issued.

Adhesives. 2½d., lilac and blue, perf. 14, C A.
2s., green and carmine ,, ,,

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND.—In our January issue of this year, page 22, we mentioned the appearance of a stamp apparently intended for pigeon post, but which we accepted "with all reserve." From an official communication with which we have been favoured, and which follows, the "stamp" would appear to be entirely mythical.

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, WELLINGTON,
"*May* 31*st*, 1899

"SIR, — Referring to a paragraph which appeared on page 22 of your issue of January last under the heading 'Great Barrier Island,' I think it right to call your attention to the fact that the stamp referred to as bearing the words 'Great Barrier Island, special post, one shilling,' has never been used for any postal purpose, and after searching inquiry by the Department I am unable to ascertain that it has even been used for franking letters carried by private ships or pigeons between Great Barrier Island and the mainland. The carrying of letters, or the use of stamps purporting in any way to be postage stamps, without the authority of the Government, would render the offender liable to punishment under the Post Office Acts.

"I have the honour to be, sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"H. YOUNG, *Secretary*.

"M. P. CASTLE, Esq.,
"Editor *London Philatelist*,
"Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C."

MAURITIUS.—We thank Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for sight of two surcharged stamps for this colony. The 36 c. Jubilee has been overprinted "15 Cents" in blue in two lines, with the original value barred out; and the 18 c., "Arms" type 1895–98, has been surcharged "6 Cents" in red in two lines.

Adhesives.

15 c., in blue, on 36 c., brown and blue.
6 c., in red, on 18 c., green and ultramarine.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—We have to thank Surgeon E. Cooper for sending us a specimen of the new 5 c. stamp. This handsome stamp has a full-face portrait of H.R.H. the Duke of York, K.G.

The *A. P.* mentions that the 2 cents, with portrait of the Prince of Wales, has been changed in colour to conform to the Postal Union regulations.

Adhesives. 2 c., vermilion.
5 cents, blue; perf. 12.

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.—It would appear that the long-talked-of cession of the administration of the Niger Company's territory to the Crown is to be immediately effected, and consequently we anticipate a change in the current adhesives. The country will be purchased, subject to parliamentary approval, at the agreed sum of £865,000. Three Governments will be formed—the Government of Lagos, the Government of Southern Nigeria (which will include the lower portion of the Niger Company's territories, and the whole of the Niger Coast Protectorate), and the third Government is that of Northern Nigeria. If the present stamps are changed, a handsome series of labels will become obsolete, which many will regret.

NORTH BORNEO.—This country, with Labuan, is an old offender in unnecessary stamps. We are now informed that on the occasion of entering the Imperial Penny Postage ranks a provisional 4 c. stamp will be issued. As Labuan generally dances to the music of North Borneo, no doubt the provisional will be issued concurrently in both places.

QUEENSLAND.—A specimen of the 2½d., red on blue type, 1890–94, but with figures in all corners, has come to hand per Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive.

2½d., purple on blue; wmk. Crown & Q; perf. 12½.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—To conform to the Postal Union requirements of uniformity in colours, the ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps are to change their colours respectively to green, red, and dark blue, and a new halfpenny stamp is promised, probably in a larger and more useful size than the one to be superseded. It is intended to exhaust the existing stock before issuing the new colours. It is probable that alterations will be made in some of the higher values to avoid confusion in colours.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Pahang*.—The 50 c. stamp of Perak has been seen surcharged "Pahang."

Adhesive. 50 c., lilac and black.

Selangor.—The *M. J.* has received a $10 stamp of the type of the other values, with the name and value in purple.

Adhesive. $10, green and purple; wmk. Crown CC.

VICTORIA.—The ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps of this colony are also to change their colours in accordance with the Postal Union requirements, viz., green, red, and dark blue respectively, and it is almost certain that the higher values will be changed in colour to prevent confusion.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.—The current 10 c. is now printed in carmine to conform to the Postal Union regulations.

Adhesive. 10 centimes, carmine.

GERMANY.—From the *Berliner Tageblatt* we learn that a new series of stamps for the

various German colonies is contemplated, including values of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 marks! The design is to rival the Columbian series of the United States, and the stamps will of course be "made in Germany." Lithography is to be adopted, and the Imperial Printing Bureau has been commissioned with the task of production.

HOLLAND.—Mr. J. B. Robert has been kind enough to advise us as to the forthcoming changes in the Dutch stamps, to which attention has been so frequently directed of late. It would appear that the 1 gulden of the new (1898) type has really and justifiably found favour, that the 2 gulden 50 c. is already set up in this type, while the 5 gulden is shortly to follow. The lower values—½ to 50 cents—are to be issued in a "new" type on August 1st, post cards and envelopes following suit, but the letter cards remain unchanged, owing to the considerable quantity still in stock.

LUXEMBURG. — The prolific "Official" surcharges are to be added to by a new method of production. The word "Official"—Officiel—which has hitherto been overprinted in black type, is now *perforated* diagonally across the stamps. The entire series of adhesives, from 1 centime to 5 francs, has been issued so maltreated.

ROUMANIA.—To the list of new colours mentioned in our last we have to add :

Adhesive. 10 b, red.

SAN MARINO.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 5 c., 10 c., and 25 c. values printed in the Postal Union colours, and it appears that a *bon occasion* has been taken full advantage of to add to the collectible varieties of San Marino by changing the colours of the higher values also. The adopted list of new colours follows :

Adhesives. 2 c., cherry.
5 c., green.
10 c., rose.
20 c., violet.
25 c., dark blue.
30 c., yellow.
40 c., brown.
45 c., grass-green.
65 c., carmine.
2 lire, brown and yellow.
5 ,, brown and green.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—From the *Weekly Stamp News* we learn that the current stamps are appearing with a peculiar perforation, the holes very large and wide apart, gauging 5½ to 6! The following values are announced with this perforation :

Adhesives. 10 r., rose and blue.
100 r., carmine and black.
200 r., orange and black.
300 r., green and black.

With the recent "Jornaes" provisionals, this country is closing the nineteenth century with a good show of novelties. Is it endeavouring to rival Mexico?

ECUADOR.—The surcharger, according to the *M. J.*, is at work, two values of Type 30 (Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue) having been received overprinted in two lines of sans serif capitals in black.

Adhesives. 1 c. on 5 c., orange.
5 c. on 10 c., brown.

PERU.—From various sources we hear of two high value postage stamps, similar in design to the 1895 Jubilee issue.

Adhesives. 5 soles, orange-red.
10 ,, blue-green.

SALVADOR.—In addition to the 5 c. value of 1898 issue surcharged "Transito Territorial," referred to in our last, the *A. J. of Ph.* mentions the 1 c., 10 c., 12 c., and 13 c., also surcharged in this manner.

URUGUAY.—The *M. J.* chronicles the three Commemorative Stamps (Nos. 230 to 232 in Gibbons' Catalogue), surcharged "Provisorio, 1897," further overprinted "Official" in black.

Official Stamps. 1 c., claret.
5 c., pale blue.
10 c., lake.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, the new Cuban stamps referred to in our January number were to be ready for shipment on July 18th.

The following are the quantities given of each value ordered, and note has been made of the number of 3 centavos, which is considered far in excess of the requirements.

1 centavo	. . .	10,000,000
2 centavos	. . .	15,000,000
3 ,,	. . .	6,000,000
5 ,,	. . .	6,000,000
10 ,,	. . .	1,000,000
10 ,,	(Special Delivery).	500,000

FERNANDO POO.—Not content with the numerous late surcharges, we shall doubtless be inundated with the usual crop of varieties ; indeed, the *M. J.* has seen blocks of the 5 c. on 20 c., indigo, showing in one case one, and in the other two, *tête-bêche*

pairs, and moreover neatly postmarked in the centre of the block, so as not to disfigure the stamps more than necessary.

FRENCH COLONIES.—*Djibouti.*—*Le C. de T.-P.* announces that the 4 c. stamp (1894 type) has been surcharged 0·40 for the prepayment of the postage on letters to France. These provisionals have been created to the number of 15,000.

Adhesive. 0·40 on 4 c., blue and brown.

HAWAII.—The new 2 c., rose, of the Postal Union colours has reached us per Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive. 2 c., rose, no wmk.; perf. 12.

JAPAN.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new 1½ sen postal card which was issued on May 25th.

Post Card. 1½ sen, pale blue.

PERSIA.—The curious surcharges referred to in our June number are not, it is said, used indiscriminately, but are pretty fairly divided between the sixteen values of the 1898 issue. Errors of impression, we may take it, are almost certain to follow, and we confess to a considerable scepticism as to the necessity for their existence.

SARAWAK.—The *M. J.* expects a change in the stamps of this country before long, and mentions high values of $2, $5, and $10, similar to the current $1, with the values in blue, violet, and carmine respectively. These stamps have hitherto done service as fiscals only, but will most probably in future be sold for postal duty, if only to prepay ½ oz. letters.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—From the *M. J.* we take the following:—"We have further news of the expected new issue from a correspondent, who states that the values under one shilling are to be available for both postage and revenue purposes, and are to bear an impersonation of the President. The higher values are to be the same size as the current fiscals, and are to be adorned with the Arms of the Republic. All are to be printed in Pretoria, and surcharging will thus be rendered unnecessary."

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 1899-1900.

President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.
Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.
Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.
Hon. Assistant Secretary—H. R. OLDFIELD.
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.	R. PEARCE.

GORDON SMITH.

THE fifteenth meeting of the season 1898-99 was held at Effingham House on Friday, May 12th, 1899, at 7.45 p.m., when the following members were present, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, T. W. Hall, W. Silk, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, A. B. Creeke, F. E. Owen, W. Schwabacher, H. G. Palliser, A. R. Barrett, and J. A. Tilleard. The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary reported the receipt from Mr. H. M. Gooch, for the Society's library, of an interleaved copy of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s new catalogue, which was directed to be acknowledged with thanks. Mr. Bacon read a letter from Mr. Bellamy asking for permission to see a communication from the late Mr. Tiffany to the Society in 1888, on the subject of an Index of Philatelic Literature, and the Secretary was authorised to send a copy of the letter to Mr. Bellamy. The Treasurer presented his balance-sheet for the past financial year, and on the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, Messrs. A. W. Chambers and T. Maycock were appointed auditors to verify the accounts, and to report at the Annual General Meeting. Mr. Oldfield then gave a display of his very fine and perfect collection of the stamps of Servia, and read a paper on the subject, giving a history of the stamps, with full explanations of the different printings and the errors and varieties to be found in the several issues. The members attending the meeting were much interested in the information contained in the paper, the subject being one which has not been previously dealt with in the deliberations of the Society, and Mr. Oldfield is to be congratulated on the very fine collection which he has been able to acquire in the short time during which he has been studying the Servian stamps. On the motion of Mr. Creeke, seconded by Mr. Hall, the hearty thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Oldfield for the display and for his valuable papers. Mr. Creeke showed an unused strip of three of the 1d. Government parcels stamps with the overprint inverted.

THE sixteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, May 26th, 1899, at 7.45 p.m., the members in attendance being Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, W. Silk, W. Schwabacher, G. Fraser-Melbourn, E. J. Nankivell, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, and C. N. Biggs. The Vice-President occupied the chair, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Gordon Smith read a paper entitled "A Reference List of the Stamps of Curaçao," giving a history of their production, with the dates of issue and a full description of the stamps and the varieties of paper, perforation, and other matters of interest, as well as an explanation of the varieties and settings of the unpaid letter stamps. Mr. Hall, Mr. Meyer, and Mr. Fraser-Melbourn showed their collections of the Curaçao stamps, and several of the points referred to by Mr. Gordon Smith were discussed at some length. On the motion of Mr. Ehrenbach, seconded by Mr. Fraser-Melbourn, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Gordon Smith for his interesting paper.

THE seventeenth meeting of the season, being the Annual General Meeting, was held at Effingham House on Friday, June 9th, 1899, at 7.45 p.m. The following members were present, viz.: Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, T. Wickham Jones, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, A. W. Chambers, Gordon Smith, A. B. Crecke, W. Schwabacher, R. Pearce, and J. A. Tilleard. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary read a letter received from Mr. Bellamy explaining the progress he had made with his Index of Philatelic Literature. Mr. A. W. Chambers presented the report of the Auditors, and read and explained the balance-sheet and accounts of the Honorary Treasurer for the year ending 31st March last, and, on the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved that the accounts be received and adopted, and a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. C. N. Biggs (the Treasurer) and to Messrs. A. W. Chambers and T. Maycock (the Auditors) for their valuable services. The Secretary then read his report on the work of the Society and the events of the past season, and it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Oldfield, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, that the report be adopted and published in the *London Philatelist*, the thanks of the Society being voted to the Secretary for his services. The question of the Annual Dinner of the Society was considered, and it was resolved that this should be held in October next, Messrs. T. Wickham Jones, C. N. Biggs, and H. R. Oldfield being appointed a committee for making and carrying out all necessary arrangements. The meeting then proceeded to the consideration of the appointment of the Officers and Council for the ensuing season, when the following members were duly elected to serve:—President, H.R.H. the Duke of York, K.G.; Vice-President, M. P. Castle; Honorary Secretary, J. A. Tilleard; Honorary Assistant Secretary (on the retirement of Mr. R. Pearce, to whom the thanks of the Society were voted for his services), Mr. H. R. Oldfield; Honorary Treasurer, C. N. Biggs; Honorary Librarian, T. Maycock; and as ordinary members of the Council, Messrs. W. B. Avery, E. D. Bacon, W. D. Beckton, R. Ehrenbach, E. B. Evans, T. W. Hall, T. Wickham Jones, R. Pearce, and Gordon Smith. In accordance with a suggestion contained in the report of the Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer was directed to pay to the Hon. Librarian the sum of £20, to be applied for the purposes of the Society's library.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. LLOYD.
Vice-President—F. E. ELLISON.

A MEETING of this Society was held on April 20th, and another on May 4th, the Vice-President in the chair. It was determined that no exchange packet should be sent out after the one for this month until the end of September. Mr. Cartwright read a letter he had received from J. Henniker Heaton, Esq., M.P., acknowledging the receipt of the congratulatory resolution sent him by this Society on the success of his labours on behalf of Ocean 1d. Postage, and in which he said, "I beg to tender you my most grateful thanks for your congratulations on the termination of the struggle which has ended in victory for cheap Imperial communication. While the world lasts never again shall we be troubled by that awkward, incomprehensible, and irritating 'twopence halfpenny for postage.'" "Italy and its States" was the subject for the evening, but Mr. Cartwright's was the only collection displayed.

THE last meeting of the present season was held on May 18th, the President occupying the chair. Some new members having been elected, and also some others proposed, a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Society, London, was read announcing the presentation of a set of the *London Philatelist*, from volume iii. to date, for the Society's library, and it was then unanimously resolved that "hearty thanks be sent to the Philatelic Society, London, for their generous donation to the Society's library." The programme for next season, commencing on October 5th, was then arranged, and the following countries were selected for discussion and display, viz.: South Australia, British Guiana, Austria and States, Great Britain, Brazil, Hong Kong, and Straits Settlements. The annual general meeting was fixed for January 4th, 1900. Messrs. Lloyd, Dalton, and Reynolds then exhibited their stamps of the Leeward Islands, those of Nevis and St. Vincent and the Virgin Isles being very much admired, containing as they did many exceptionally fine specimens. The meetings during the season have been well attended, but it is much to be desired that members would occasionally read papers on some subject of general interest in connection with Philately, and more especially for the benefit of the younger and less-experienced members. Intending members should send in their requests to the Hon. Secretary before the first meeting of next season on October 5th. Copies of the Society's rules will be sent on application.

The Collectors' Club, New York.

351, Fourth Avenue.

Fortieth meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, May 8th, 1899. Called to order at 8.15 p.m. by President Thorne, the following governors being present: Messrs. Bruner, Calman, Luff, Scott, Stebbins, and the Secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. D. H. Bacon, which was laid on the table, and the resignation of Mr. F. A. Perozo, which was accepted with regret. The Secretary also read some correspondence from Mr. Henry C. Lawrence, who had been obliged through ill-health to travel abroad. His resignation was accepted with regret, and his gift to the Club of his share of stock was accepted with thanks, and with the Governors' best wishes for the restoration of his health. The Treasurer read his report, which was accepted, showing a cash balance of $401.82 in bank. The Chairman of House Committee read his report, which was accepted. The reinstatement of Mr. McCoy S. King as a subscribing member was accepted. Adjourned at 8.55 p.m.

Forty-first meeting of the Board of Governors, held at the Club House, June 12th, 1899. Present, Messrs. Bruner, Calman, Perrin, Scott, and the Secretary. Vice-President Bruner called the meeting to order at 8.15 p.m., when the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The Secretary read letters from Messrs. Deats, Tilleard, and Luff. The thanks of the Governors were extended to the Philatelic Society, London, for gift of the *London Philatelist*, and to Mr. Stanley M. Castle for gift of McWhirter's etching, "The Vanguard," which was ordered to be appropriately framed and hung. The Treasurer's report was received, showing balance of $356.85 in bank. The Chairman of the House Committee presented his report, which was accepted. Adjourned at 8.45 p.m.

J. M. Andreini, *Secretary*.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

Sufficient sheets were received to make up three June packets, valued in the aggregate at £1564 13s. 11d. January sheets have been returned and accounts duly settled. It should be borne in mind that medium stamps in really good condition find a ready sale at reasonable prices, and rare varieties in mint condition are snapped up, often at catalogue rates. Packets will be circulated throughout the holiday season, but members leaving home are requested to notify the Secretary of their absence to prevent delay. The following applications for membership have been accepted during the past month:—F. Lasham (Guildford), M. Heslop (London), F. B. Nicholson (London), Mrs. Dicksee (London), A. G. Cardew (Kilkhampton), A. V. Whitehead (Chesterfield), W. Laird Clowes (Davos Platz), Mrs. Bedingfield (Shoeburyness), and W. S. Webb (Halesworth). Rules and full information to be obtained on application to the Secretary. References indispensable.

H. A. Sladf, *Secretary*.

Ingleside, St. Albans.

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 SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO., LTD., make the following enigmatical announcement, for the explanation of which we must be content to wait until the dawn of the twentieth century: "We have something really remarkable in store for next January, and no harm can be done by giving early information of the impending event. We shall not publish the name of the owner at present; but the sale will far surpass any auction ever held, and will present many stamps never before brought under the hammer. The sale will be absolute and without reserve, and every stamp will be sold for whatever it will bring. The United States portion includes almost every postmaster's provisional and every carrier stamp, and, of course, all regular issues. This section alone should realise $25,000. The entire collection should sell for not less than $60,000 to $70,000" (£14,000).

* * *

FROM later advices we note the promised auction sale of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., to be held in January next, will consist of the collection of Mr. Frederick William Hunter, the purchaser of the 2 c., rose, British Guiana, in the De Coppet sale for $1010. The sale is to be without reserve, and collectors are assured by the auctioneers that the competition will be a fair one, and that they will not be confronted by a lot of reserve bids which will make it impossible for them to obtain fine articles at a reasonable figure.

* * *

IF report be true, a find of New Zealand stamps has lately taken place at Wellington, although we need scarcely assure our readers that the numbers of rouletted, pelure, "N Z," and other ordinary varieties included in the "find" are not likely to cripple the market!

* * *

THERE was quite a conclave of influential members of the trade at Manchester foregathered from many parts of Europe. As usual during exhibition times the collector is hardly "on the feed," owing, perhaps, to his appetite being philatelically glutted by the sight of so much, but the dealers managed to effect quite a number of important transactions, largely between themselves. Several, as Messrs. Lemaire, Stock, Kosack, Phillips, Peckitt, Wilson, and Giwelb, had large and choice selections.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale of June 27th and 28th included Winterthur, 2½ r., a superb vertical pair, on small piece of original, in brilliant condition, £7 1s.; Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf., medium, £8; Spain, 1853, 2 reales, £5; Newfoundland, half of 1s., orange, used as 6d. on entire, £10; U.S.A., Justice, 90 c., penmarked, £3 18s.; Nevis, perf. 15, 1d., litho., retouched, with lines on hill, used, £3 5s.; St. Vincent, 1s., blue, unused, £3; 1s., brown, unused, £5; One penny on 6d., yellow-green, unused, £2 14s.; New Zealand, pelure paper, imperf., 2d., lilac-blue, unused, but no gum, £7 15s.; Victoria, 1st issue, 1d., rose, a block of five showing both types, slightly cut into, unused, £9; 5s., blue and yellow, unused, but off centre, £7.

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Reprints.

PHILATELY is distinctly the gainer by the publication of the work on Reprints which we have elsewhere referred to, and Mr. E. D. Bacon has once more deserved well of the whole community in giving us further evidence of his infinite capacity for taking pains. The question of Reprints had never been really thoroughly "tackled," although M. Moens has wisely included *réimpressions* in his catalogue for many years past, while Dr. Kalckhoff and M. Piet Lataudrie, a few years since, produced excellent monographs hereon.

The path of Philately would doubtless have been somewhat smoother had no such things as Reprints ever existed; but, like other troubles sent for our good, they have their distinct use and advantage. The true definition and distinction of the narrow line that sometimes almost imperceptibly divides the original from the reprint, has not only called forth the best faculties of the collector—in stamps as in other hobbies—but has added the zest of difficulties to overcome, that must inevitably render more keen the edge of our interest. In olden days the true knowledge of the difference between original and reprint in such countries as Wurtemberg, France, or Natal was considered—and justly—to represent the highest flight of Philatelic science. It is perhaps fortunate for the average collector that there are but few countries where the relative divergences are so slight as in the above cases. It may be, however, now conscientiously affirmed, with the aid of Mr. Bacon's book, that the difficulties that beset the path of the collector of unused, are less formidable than those facing the man who takes nought but used specimens.

There are three "lions in the path" of the inexperienced collector, be he generalist or specialist. The first is common to both used and unused, *i.e.* the difficulty of determining the genuineness of surcharges. The second

is the question of deciding between a reprint and an original, applying perforce to unused only; and the third is the ability to differentiate between legitimate and forged obliterations—which latter may also occasionally be found attached to Reprints—in the endeavour to render them originals. In the light of the writer's experience, both as a collector and member of expert committees, the last named division—*i.e.* the expertising of obliterations—has always presented the greatest difficulties, and has necessitated the most frequent resort to the leading specialists or connoisseurs in the country whence the stamps respectively originated. The danger to the collector of used stamps is fortunately practically nil until he comes into contact with those specimens that are rarer used than unused. In the instances of the German and Italian States and others, the number of these is considerable, and some of these stamps are of distinct rarity when postmarked, while in order to cope with the numerous forgeries of these postmarks it has been found necessary to reproduce in facsimile all the different obliterations of certain countries. The march of Philatelic science has therefore kept pace with *MM. les faussaires;* but the absolute certainty of the authenticity of a postmark still remains one of the knottiest points within the four corners of Philately.

Everything points to continued favour among the more prominent Philatelists as to the future of the cult of the mint unused; therefore the appearance of such an aid in their classification as *Reprints* cannot but have a good moral effect. The specialist in unused of the future must assuredly include the various Reprints that have been issued by the Governments. It will be found that this is by no means so easy as is imagined, some Reprints being of great scarcity, but the value and interest of the whole collection will assuredly be heightened by their inclusion. As with engravings, time will not fail to add a value thereto, and the day will yet be when the Reprint proper will be considered as an integral and valuable factor in the complete specialist collection.

The Stamps of Tuscany upon Wove Paper: are they Proofs or Reprints?

By Dr. EMILIO DIENA.

THERE has always been some doubt concerning the true character of the stamps of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany printed upon wove paper. In No. 30, June, 1865, of the *Timbre-Poste*, M. Moens considers them to be "essays in the true and conscientious meaning of the word, that is to say, proof copies taken from the original dies of the stamps." And he added, "They were not reprints, seeing that the plates have been broken."

Dr. Legrand, in his essay upon "Reprints," *Timbrophile,* No. 36, October, 1867, did not even try to solve the question; but on reading his remarks, it is apparent that he was inclined to consider the stamps as reprints. He says, in effect, "The reprint is upon white wove paper, and the absence of all watermark is thus enough to distinguish it."

It is curious to note that in the second edition of his catalogue, 1868, and in the following editions, M. Moens classifies the stamps in question as being reprints, and in the last edition he fixes their date in 1864. Again, in his interesting study "The Stamps of Tuscany," which appeared in the *Timbre-Poste* of 1877, M. Moens once more considers the stamps in question as being reprints, of which he gives the varieties, but he adds the following note: "It has been affirmed that there have not been any reprints, but that the stamps were only 'trial printings,' as the dies having been destroyed any reprinting was rendered impossible."

It is important to remark that the above note was not reproduced in the edition, published in pamphlet form, of the study referred to in 1878, and this is calculated to show that the most accepted opinion in those days was that the stamps were reprints. This opinion has prevailed up to the present, although, I repeat, doubts on this point have been held by many Philatelists.

I am not aware that this question has been treated by the English Philatelic press.* In certain numbers of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine,* 1865, there appeared an advertisement of a Signor F. Caldelli, of Florence, in which sets of fourteen "essays" of Tuscany were offered at 14*s.* the set. It will thus be seen that at the time when these stamps appeared in the Philatelic world, 1864 or 1865, they were considered in Italy to be essays, and at that epoch not much distinction was made between essays and proofs.

The Philatelic literature of Germany and Italy is dumb on this point, with the exception that Dr. Moschkau, in his *Handbook for Collectors of Essays,* 1875, considers the impressions upon wove paper as essays.

Having thus stated the generally accepted opinions, I will seek to present what I think is the solution of this ancient Philatelic problem.

Last year I was asked by one of my friends if I had ever known of the existence of a false stamp of Tuscany having served to frank letters; and I replied that such a forgery was entirely unknown to me. My friend then added that he knew of some copies of the 6 crazie, dark blue, not very fine, on white wove paper, which he held to be nothing less than false stamps made to defraud the postal authorities. My desire to examine the copies in question having been satisfied, I easily recognised that they were nothing but proof impressions, or rather impressions *de mise en train,* and I soon discovered that the soft white wove paper was identical with that of the *soi-disant* reprints. My friend was speedily convinced, and having begged him to make search at the source from whence he had obtained these stamps (of the 6 crazie) which he had shown to me, I was fortunate enough later on

* In Mr. E. D. Bacon's work on Reprints—reviewed in the present number—on page 145 reference is made to these "reprints," and it should be mentioned that Dr. Diena having kindly placed the information contained in this interesting paper at Mr. Bacon's disposal, the MS. was forwarded to that gentleman with the consent of the Editor of this journal.

to receive, through his instrumentality, certain official documents, which confirmed my opinion.

The papers in question consist of certain official letters of 1859. One letter, dated March 18th, from the Director of the Post Office at Lucca, informs the General Directorate of the Tuscan Posts at Florence that one Ranieri Sorbi, a tobacco seller, stamp dealer, etc., at Pescia, in the province of Lucca, had seized certain stamps (6 crazie), which had been offered to him, and which were supposed to be false.

The authorities of the Tuscan Posts at first seemed to share the opinion of the Director of the Posts at Lucca, and it promptly gave notice of the fact to the Tribunal at Lucca.

The Governmental Delegation of Pescia replied that a search had been made at the house of the said Ranieri Sorbi, and that no suspected stamps had been found. It was added that a young man employed at the Livini Paper Mills at Pescia had presented to the Signor Sorbi's wife nine specimens of the 6 crazie stamps; that Madame Sorbi had accepted them, and shown them to her husband. The latter deeming the stamps false, he in his turn showed them to an employee of the local post office. The young man who presented the stamps was interrogated, and declared that he had found them at the paper works in a heap of paper rubbish destined to be reduced to pulp.

On a renewed search being made by the authorities of the Tuscan Posts, it was discovered that on December 11th, 1858, fifteen bundles of paper rubbish had been sent to the Livini Paper Mills at Pescia, destined to be reduced to pulp. These bundles contained "principally waste paper of 1856," among which there were found "some proof impressions of stamps, for the most part torn, which had fallen on the floor, and which had been found in the room occupied by the hand-press that was used in printing the stamps."

The perusal of the documents in question, and the examination of the proofs of the 6 crazie, of which I have just spoken, and especially of the paper, leave no further doubt in my mind that the so-called reprinted stamps of 1864 were nothing less than printer's proofs.

Some months ago another correspondent had the kindness to submit to me an obliterated copy of the 4 crazie, green, printed on the same soft, machine-made, white paper, without watermark, very different from the hand-made, watermarked material of the true stamps. The specimen bore a black obliteration consisting of the capital letters S^A F^A in an oval, an abbreviation of "Strada Ferrata," *i.e.* railway. Among the proofs which I possess there are some copies which are exactly the same shade as this used 4 crazie. Being convinced of the perfect genuineness of the obliteration of the specimen in question, there is no doubt in my mind that certain proofs of the Tuscan stamps upon wove paper have been used for franking letters—in other words, that they may either have been stolen by a dishonest employee, or that some sheets may have slipped by mistake among the sheets of watermarked paper. The suggestion of the appropriation of certain specimens seems, however, to me the more likely. I remember also some ten years ago to have heard mention of an obliterated copy of the 6 crazie

on wove paper, which perhaps had the same origin. It is also probable that the 6 crazie upon pelure paper (without watermark?) noted by M. Moens in the two last editions of his catalogue is of the same character.* In order to arrive at a better decision in this matter, I have tried to examine as large a number as possible of the proofs in question, and have seen some rather large portions of sheets showing a small outside frame-line similar to the outer line which is to be seen upon the sheets of stamps now printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. I have also found copies with several impressions on the reverse side, which proves that they are "printer's proofs."

Moreover, in the work by M. Moens already alluded to, two proofs with impressions on both sides of the 1 quattrino are cited.

I now append a full list of these proofs :—

A. *Printed upon soft, white, machine-made paper.*

1 quattrino, black.
1 ,, black, with several impressions on the reverse.
1 soldo, orange, pale and dark, pale yellow.
2 soldi, brick-red.
1 crazia, red, pale red, red-brown.
2 crazie, pale blue, greenish blue.
4 ,, green, pale blue-green, very light green.
6 ,, blue, dull blue, slate-blue.
9 ,, violet-brown, grey-brown, pale grey-brown.
9 ,, wine-red, very coarse, thick printing.

B. *Black impression upon papers varying in thickness and colour.*

2 crazie, yellow, violet-rose, green.
2 ,, on thick, bluish paper.
2 ,, on solferino-red, with reverse white.

M. Moens catalogues these latter (B) as essays, but in my opinion they all emanate from the same source, and are of the same character.

The 60 crazie, which has not been noted by M. Moens nor by other writers, is not known to me. The 2 soldi is rare, even as an essay, especially as certain rascals have bought all that they came across, in order to sell them as real stamps after they had given a more or less bluish tint to the paper, further embellished it with a false watermark (obtained by scratching the paper), and furnished the stamps with false obliterations. At the same time other values underwent this "treatment," and the fact may be recalled that some years ago the Philatelic press announced, as coming from Genoa and Leghorn, certain specimens of the 9 crazie, pale lilac on white, with a *soi-disant* watermark (crossed lines), similarly made by scratching the paper; these stamps were fastened down on old letters, from which the original stamps had been removed.

M. Moens also announces as having been reprinted, the Newspaper Tax stamp of 2 soldi, black (inscription in a double circle), the white paper of which, although it is not identical with that of the proofs of the Lion type, has a great resemblance to it.

* We have specimens of the 6 crazie on paper so thin as to be practically the equivalent of pelure —with watermark of crossed lines—which would probably be the variety alluded to by M. Moens.—Ed.

I incline to the belief that, even in this case, we are in the presence of a proof—certainly much rarer than the true newspaper stamp printed on thin straw paper (almost pelure).

There still remains the question—Are there any reprints of Tuscany? For it is logical to affirm that if those stamps with which I have previously been occupied are to be considered as proofs of original impressions, in my opinion it cannot be concluded from this fact that reprints do not exist. I must remark that the affirmation published in 1865 concerning the destruction of the "original plates" is in my opinion very likely to be true, but at the same time it would have been more exact to speak of original blocks.

We have a confirmation of this fact when later (in 1866, according to M. Moens), in order to reprint the stamps of 2 soldi, 60 crazie, and also the 3 lire, the two original *dies* were without doubt used (Lion type and Savoy Cross type); but as the different lower labels containing the indication of the values (which were movable) could not be found, it was necessary to engrave them afresh, and this posthumous and fraudulent work was such a pitiful failure, that it is very easy to recognise the stamps in question by their lower inscriptions (leaving on one side for the moment the differences of colour and printing), and they are thus partly reprints and partly imitations.

Although the collector ought to be very careful in buying the stamps of Tuscany, by reason of the excellent imitations thereof, and especially those made of late years, the three reprints mentioned above, which I have only very rarely found in some old collections, are not at all dangerous. The 2 soldi and the 60 crazie are printed in a shade which is much too brown, on original *bleuté* paper (watermark crowns in the sheet), and the impression is very coarse and thick. As to the 3 lire, printed on white paper with the same watermark, in a bright yellow shade, I need waste no time in describing it, as it is easily recognised, even by a beginner.

These three "reprinted" stamps seem to have been struck singly by the aid of a hand-press. If the blocks of them had been found, the printing would have been done in groups, and would have been a greater success. I myself believe that they were printed from the original dies, which were in tempered steel, from information gathered in a letter sent on November 17, 1851, by the Superintendent-General of the Tuscan Posts to the Director-General of the Posts of the Duchy of Modena.

Thus we have no true reprints of Tuscany, and the three to which I have just alluded seem to have been made in very small quantities.

What became of the two original dies, after they had been used for this secret printing? No one has yet been able to inform me.

Philatelic Notes.

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE early issues of this colony fully maintain their interest in the eyes of collectors, one of the especial features of which is the wide variety—not to say peculiarities—found with regard to the gumming of the stamps. This gum is described in *Oceania* as brownish, but it will be found ranging from fairly whitish to practically black, in layers or streaks, and, as is well known in the case of the first fourpenny value, the paper absorbed this mucilage, with the result that varieties of paper can be found in every imaginable shade between white and brown. The *Monthly Circular's* correspondent in Western Australia tells us that "the reason why the gum on the lithographed stamps issued prior to 1860 is so free from all uniformity is that the stamps were issued ungummed; but for the convenience of the public a gum bottle was kept at the stamp window of the General Post Office and other post offices so that persons might gum the stamps for themselves." The informant of their correspondent was one of the highest Post Office officials at the time that the stamps were in use, which lends additional support to this very probable explanation. The statement that "the lithographic stone of 240 transfers of the 6d. bronze is still in the Post Office, but that this is the only one that is now in existence," is also a very interesting piece of information, although of a regrettable nature. The sheet of the twopenny octagonal would, if reprinted, be of great value in clearing up the long-debated question as to the number of types; and even as regards the fourpenny there remains something to be discovered, as we have recently seen varieties of the lithograph that were foreign to our previous experience.

LOMBARDY: ISSUE 1850 *AND* 1862.

WE have been favoured by the receipt from Dr. E. Diena of two remarkably interesting but dangerous forgeries of this country's old issues. The first is the 15 centes., red, of the first issue of 1850, Type II., and Dr. Diena writes that he has also seen a like forgery of the 45 c. in Type I. The paper and colour of the impression are remarkably good, and might deceive the most wary. The gum, however, *is* gum, and not cement, such as we look for in Austria's ancient days, and the details of the design vary when compared with the original, the stamp moreover, being too long. The relatively rare 10 soldi of the issue of 1862, Eagle type, perf. 14, is the other specimen submitted by our correspondent as being probably manufactured out of the envelope stamp of the same denomination. This supposition is borne out by the colour of the impression, which is more heavily

struck and is duller in tone than the normal copies, and by the perforation, which not only bears an appearance of *après coup*, but gauges approximately 14½ instead of 14. Both stamps, however, are clever enough to require watching by any intending purchaser.

DISCOVERIES.

PORTUGUESE INDIA. Our excellent contemporary, the *Philatelic Journal of India*, is responsible for the following interesting information, from which it would seem that two more varieties are added to the records of Portuguese India. From the illustrations that accompany the text in the *P. J. I.* there would seem to be no doubt as to the authenticity of these stamps. The 10 c. *tête-bêche* is postmarked "Bombay, May 15, '73."

"Mr. A. J. H. Smith has inherited his father's—the late Major Adam Smith's—genius for ferreting out odd stamps. This time he sends us the stamps figured below.

"The single stamp is the 10 reis, green, crown issue with a *double* surcharge, viz., 1½ and 6 reis.

"It bears the Nova Goa postmark of 10th (?) November, and (on the portion not reproduced) the Barkur postmark of 16th idem, but no year is given.

"The pair shown is an unsevered *tête-bêche* pair of the 10 reis, black, of the 1872 issue on laid paper.

"Neither of these stamps appears to have been chronicled so far. Mr. Smith informs us that there can be no doubt of the genuineness of the stamps. He bought a whole bundle of Portuguese Indian stamps on originals from a person who was quite ignorant of their value, and found these two among the lot."

Occasional Notes.

MESSRS. HASTINGS WRIGHT AND CREEKE'S WORK ON THE BRITISH STAMPS.

THE appearance of this long-anticipated volume will be heartily welcomed by all hands, as by the time these lines are before our readers' eyes a large proportion of the edition will have been issued. We regret that the late arrival of the work in question precludes—for the present—more than a friendly advice to our readers to secure copies before the limited issue is exhausted. The "British Isles" will be a classic in Philatelic literature, and we can but now briefly assure collectors that the late Mr. Hastings Wright and Mr. A. B. Creeke, jun., have produced a work of commanding interest.

"POST OFFICE" MAURITIUS BY THE SCORE.

LEST any of our readers, being owners hereof, should take alarm by this heading, we hasten to say that "the score" is the *first* score, which has just been completed, and we may add that present appearances do not indicate any immediate apprehensions as to the completion

of the second score. M. Lemaire of Paris showed at Manchester a very fine specimen of the one penny on original letter bearing as postmarks, in both cases, capitals within oblong frames, "PENNY POST" in the upper left of the envelope, and "PAID" across the stamp in the right corner. The only address is "H——, Esq., Jun."

From M. Moens' recent summary of these stamps there now exist of

The one penny	12
The twopenny	8
	20

Mathematically, therefore, the twopenny is half as rare again as the one penny, but future discoveries may yet alter this ratio.

With perhaps two exceptions all of these are in Great Britain or France. Cannot Germany or the United States "pluck up" and buy one while they remain cheap?

MR. HENNIKER HEATON, M.P.

AT a Special Meeting of the Common Council, in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, held on July 20th, the Lord Mayor presiding, Mr. John Henniker Heaton, M.P. for Canterbury, was presented with the Freedom of the City in recognition of the important public services rendered by the hon. gentleman in and out of the House of Commons in successfully promoting postal reforms. The City Chamberlain (Sir Richmond Cotton) in presenting the Freedom to Mr. Heaton, the documents being contained in a gold box, offered him in the name of the Court congratulations on those public services which the City of London had that day recognised, and said it would be interesting to Mr. Heaton to be reminded that twenty years ago an exactly similar honour was bestowed by the Corporation on that great postal reformer, Sir Rowland Hill, in acknowledgment of the social and commercial benefits the country had derived from the adoption, in 1840, of his system of uniform penny postage in the United Kingdom. Although it might be that Imperial Penny Postage had not yet been universally adopted, it was certain that the few remaining colonies and dependencies who were still outside the scheme would give it their speedy adhesion when they saw the advantage and comfort which it had produced, not only in the mother country, but in all those parts of the empire where it was in operation.

The casket in which the formal documents connected with the present tation of the freedom were contained was of solid gold, oblong in shape, and surmounted by the City arms, with projections at each end sustaining well-modelled figures representative of Britannia and Canada. The sides are divided into panels bearing coats of arms, an inscription, and representations of a mail coach, a mail train, an old-type sailing vessel, and a modern steamer, all delicately presented in enamel. Underneath the panels are productions in enamel of representative postage stamps of Great Britain, India, Canada, British Guiana, Trinidad, and Barbados. The pedal, of ebony, bears a gold ribbon inscribed with the names of the various places which are included in the penny postage system.

CORRESPONDING RARITIES.

THE great auk's egg of Philately is the "Post Office," without any possible shadow of doubt. It is interesting, therefore, to compare their estimation in the eyes of their respective fanciers, an opportunity which is afforded by the recent sales of both species of the "rare birds." It appears that an egg was sold on July 20th for 300 guineas by Mr. J. C. Stevens, the auctioneer, who then stated that in 1834 Comte Raoul de Beracé bought it from the owner of a St. Malo fishing smack.

"The Count's collection was purchased by Baron d'Hamonville, and the egg sold was one of four great auk eggs belonging to the Baron. There were 71 recorded eggs of the great auk, 29 of them being in museums and 42 in private hands; 52 were in British collections. The first egg which the Baron sent over fetched a record price, at the time, of 300 guineas; the second one only fetched 180 guineas. There was a spirited competition for the egg. The bidding started at 100 guineas, and quickly rose by tens and twenties till it reached the high price of 300 guineas, at which figure it was secured by Mr. T. G. Middlebrook, Edinburgh Castle Museum, Regent's Park."

It appears that there exist seventy-one specimens of the great auk's egg, and that recent prices attained, therefore average about £300. Of the "Post Office" there are now just twenty, and at latest figures they would seem to average about £1000 apiece, which would bring the proportionate appraisement of value according to known specimens practically on a par. The eggs are over three times as numerous as the stamps, and attain rather less than a third of the price. The unknown quantity is that of the number of purchasers, but these should be in the ratio of one hundred to one as regards the collectors of stamps.

EGYPTOLOGY!

HERE is an opportunity for the benevolent to purchase some 300,000 *used* Egyptian stamps for the benefit of the funds of the Postal Benevolent (Egyptian?) Society.

The cost of packing and postage would have to be taken into consideration in such a choice lot.

The following letter was addressed to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.:—

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that this Administration will sell, for the benefit of the funds of the Postal Benevolent Society, *obliterated* Egyptian postage stamps, taken off correspondence and parcels despatch notes, which have been destroyed after the prescribed delay. The approximate quantity of stamps to be sold is as follows:—

"Stamps of	10 piastres	10,000
,,	5 ,,	95,000
,,	2 ,, Issue 1893	38,000
,,	2 ,, ,, 1879	2,300
,,	1 piastre	120,000
,,	5 Milliemes	35,000
	Total	300,300

"Offers may be made for the whole lot or for part. In the latter case the price per 1000 must be given for each variety. The prices will be for stamps delivered in Alexandria only, in the present condition, and not packed. Packing and postage to be at buyer's cost. Terms, cash to be paid on delivery of stamps. Offers must be sent in sealed envelopes, with the mention, 'Offer for Obliterated Stamps.'"

GERMAN IMPERIAL POSTAGES.

THE daily papers have variously made recent announcements hereon. Following the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage in England, the German Government has, since the beginning of this month, reduced the postage on letters to all the German Colonies and Protectorates, as well as to all German warships at sea, to the German inland rate.

The reduction goes very much further than that effected in the British Empire, for not only do all letters up to 15 grammes go for 10 pfennig, or half an ounce for not quite 1¼d., but letters above that weight, up to 250 grammes, go for 20 pfennig, or, in other words, at a rate of 2½d. for over half a pound. It is, therefore, now possible to send for 2½d. a letter from here to German New Guinea which, even under the present reduced rates, would cost 1s. 4d. if sent from England to India. The sample post rate to the German Colonies has also been reduced to 10 pfennig for 250 grammes. Of course, there is no likelihood of these rates paying for a very long time to come. But the reforms show the great weight which the German Government assigns to German colonial development and to the desirability of binding German citizens more closely to the home country, and the rapidity, thoroughness, and uniformity with which that Government carries out any scheme on which it has decided.

THE LATE MR. NICHOLAS F. SEEBECK.

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr. Nicholas F. Seebeck at the comparatively early age of 42 years. Mr. Seebeck's name has long been familiar to Philatelists all the world over. In 1889 he made his famous ten years' contracts with the various Central American Governments by which he was to supply them with a new set of stamps every year, taking the yearly remainders for his pay.

Both as a stamp dealer and stamp printer for many years, Mr. Seebeck conducted his business on the highest principles of honourable dealing; but it would be idle to say that his *stamps* have been held in high favour by stamp collectors and dealers alike; indeed, much of the interest in Central Americans was lost when Mr. Seebeck's labels and their nature became known.

THE DESTRUCTION OF OBSOLETE DIES.

THE question of the decent interment of "dies" when their earthly mission is accomplished is one that must always interest collectors, and we reproduce therefore the following notes by E. D. V. W., initials that will readily be recognised as those of a capable writer in the *Australian Philatelist.*

"Our correspondent E. D. V. W. refers to the recent distribution of the dies of the obsolete Queensland stamps, and expresses the opinion that such a method of dealing with dies no longer required for active service will meet with the approval of all earnest Philatelists. Doubtless differences of opinion on the subject will be found to exist, at least the practice does not appear to commend itself to everyone, and yet there seems no reason why obsolete dies and plates should be retained except for the production of reprints or for provisional re-use in case of any accident happening to those in use. Both of these expedients are open to serious objections on purely commercial grounds, in that they invariably tend to lower the market value of originals of the stamps; but this view naturally does not generally influence the minds of the postal authorities, except in rare instances. To be in a position to accede to the frequent demands of other postal administrations for 'specimens' is considered of greater moment than to tacitly contribute to the piling up of 'unearned increment' in the value of original stamps in the hands of the Philatelic and, possibly, Philistine public. However, there can be little doubt that the majority of collectors will heave a sigh of relief that the haunting fear of further Queensland reprints is finally and effectually dissipated."

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER'S STAMP COLLECTION.

MR. W. R. LANE JOYNT has forwarded the following interesting information hereon:—

"I have much pleasure in informing you that a large portion of the Duke of Leinster's stamp collection is now arranged, and on view in the Central Hall of the Science and Art Museum in the city of Dublin. The countries exhibited are those which through the generosity either of their Governments or of private collectors have had the issues subsequent to 1880 added, and are consequently more or less complete. These are Canada, Ceylon, Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Malta, Gibraltar, Western Australia, India, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Austria, Baden, Bremen, France, Holland, Hamburg, Hanover, Italy, Denmark, Thurn and Taxis, German Confederation, and Germany. The exhibit is contained in a case of upright sliding panels, each panel holding two sheets of stamps, placed back and back, and protected by glass. When closed the case is air-tight.

"Owing to the Duke's collection containing only stamps issued prior to 1880, Col. Plunkett, Director of the Museum, forwarded a request to the Governments of all stamp-issuing countries for sets of the current and any obsolete issues procurable. His appeal has been most generously responded to. The Governments of India, France, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Austria, Russia, and Japan have forwarded valuable collections of both current and obsolete issues, and several of them have added proofs and Government reprints of stamps long out of issue. Complete unused sets of the current issues have already been received from almost every one of the British colonies, as well as from the following countries: Argentine Republic, Hungary, Hayti, Egypt, Soudan, Greece, Liberia, Mexico, Montenegro, Servia, Spain, Switzerland, Roumania. Many other consignments will, I am sure, arrive in due course.

"The notices which you were good enough to insert in your journal have also brought many offers of help and donations from collectors, and on behalf of the Museum I have to thank the following gentlemen for stamps forwarded for the collection:—

"T. W. Hall, over 600 stamps of various South American States.

"Major E. B. Evans, stamps of Mauritius.

"J. C. Ph. v. Kinschot, pairs of first issue of Holland.

"J. N. Mostyn, Brazil.

"Col. Plunkett, Argentine.

"T. W. Jenkins, unused West Australian, Cape, and others.

"J. W. Dorman, a valuable lot of early British Guiana.

"William Hadlow, forged 1s. English, Plate 5, used with a 3d. on portion of telegram.

"Rev. William Bell, South Australia and Tasmania.

"W. M. K. Connollys, a fine lot of early Western Australia.

"Mr. William Brown has presented a copy of the *British Empire Stamp Album*, which I have used for Colonial marginal references, and by kind permission of Mr. Westoby I have added to the European countries many interesting notes from his *Adhesive Stamps of Europe*, so as to render the exhibit useful to others than advanced collectors, as well as attractive to the general public. The collection has aroused a great deal of interest amongst Philatelists here, and will, I am certain, be the means of bringing them more into touch with each other.

"A second case similar to the present one will soon be ready. These two cases will be kept filled, and permanently exhibited, changes being made in the stamps on view when considered advisable. Each case will be capable of holding between three and four thousand stamps. I trust that any of the *London Philatelist* readers who may visit Dublin will make a point of seeing the Museum and the Duke of Leinster's collection. If every visitor will only aid by filling in a blank or two from his duplicates, the toll will not be felt, and the result will be extremely satisfactory."

FEDERATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

THE *Australian Philatelist* for June gives an interesting article on Federation, which now seems certain to become an accomplished fact within, perhaps, eighteen months from the present time; and it is confidently anticipated that the first Federal Parliament will meet about January 1st, 1901. Our contemporary writes:—

"The opening of this new chapter in the history of Australia will be one of paramount importance to all Philatelists, in that it will be marked by one uniform issue of postage stamps for the whole Commonwealth. The Postal and Telegraphic Services are amongst the first destined to be taken over by the Federal Government, and already rumours of great changes and concessions are rife.

"The Postmaster-General of New South Wales (the Hon. Varney Parkes), in speaking recently of the possibilities under the new Constitution, referred to the question of penny postage, intercolonial and imperial, as being one of the probable results of the union. Such a step would involve other changes, the reduction of the letter-card rate, for instance."

It may be taken for granted that the occasion will be considered one calling for the exercise of great care in selecting designs for the new issue of stamps. The question of what will become of the *remainders* of the separate colonial issues is a most interesting one. Will they be destroyed?

THE COST OF OUR STAMPS.

A STOCK of 6,000,000 stamps or so is always kept at Somerset House ready for issue. The cost of manufacture is £30 0*s.* 11*d.* per million stamps; paper costing £5 14*s.* 5*d.*; printing and gumming, £22 1*s.* 9*d.*; perforating, £1 8*s.* 1*d.*; wages, 16*s.* 8*d.* When to this amount is added the necessary poundage and commission on sale, which amounts to £45 2*s.* 4*d.*, it will be seen that the total cost to the country of this large number of stamps is only £75 3*s.* 3*d.* per million. This information is given on the authority of *Tit-Bits*. It is to be regretted that the outlay per million is not more, with handsomer results!

Reviews.

MR. BACON'S BOOK ON REPRINTS.*



HERE is hardly a single remark applied by us (under the head of Reviews) to the local stamps of which the exact converse would not be due in the case of the Reprints. These stamps are for the main part of great interest, and definite information thereon was much needed. The present volume is worthy alike of Mr. Bacon's great reputation as a Philatelic author and the publishing firm's world-wide name. The introduction should be carefully studied, as Mr. Bacon therein differentiates the varieties of Reprints. The term "Reprints" is almost as generic in its application as is that of "Stamps," and embraces almost as many grades of merit. The officially reissued stamps of the United States or the French Republic, with their full franking privileges, are as wide asunder as the poles from the impressions made by dealers from "improved" dies of long obsolete issues. One is a governmental reissue of a postage stamp, the other is a forgery. There are many intermediary steps, and the whole question of Reprints is most interesting, while their collection and study involve some of the most absorbing and scientific points in Philately. The great increase in the collection of unused stamps is alone a sufficient excuse for the issue of such a work as Mr. Bacon's, for no one who thus collects can afford to dispense with it. We are confident that when the average collector learns the relative fewness of the reprints and the comparative facility with which—now aided by our trusty guide—they can be detected, he could feel at once an increased appreciation of his stamps with a greater security as to their origin. It is interesting to learn that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have made a very fine and indeed almost complete collection of Reprints, and that it is therefrom that Mr. Bacon has transcribed a large portion of his labours. We are strongly of opinion that collectors who specialise in unused stamps

* *Reprints of Postal Adhesive Stamps.* By E. D. BACON (No. 6 of the Philatelic Handbooks). Stanley Gibbons, Limited, 391, Strand, W.C.

should follow Messrs. Gibbons' good example, and that their *spécialité* would greatly gain by the juxtaposition of unused originals and reprints.

Mr. Bacon is not the first in the field, as Dr. F. Kalchhoff published and Mr. H. Hilckes translated in 1892 a work on Reprints, while M. Piet-Lataudrie followed suit in 1894; but our author has gone further afield, and his monograph is practically exhaustive, excepting as regards the United and Confederate States, full information on which was not forthcoming. Among the more interesting countries we might mention Afghanistan, Austria, India, Jummoo, Kashmir, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, and United States. In Heligoland, Bergedorf, the author's acknowledgments to M. J. B. Moens are tendered, as also in the case of the Italian States to Dr. E. Diena. The information as to the reprint of the four and six rappen Zurich stamps will be news to many, though it has been known to an inner circle for some years. With regard to Roumania we fully share Mr. Bacon's view, that there are no reprints before the issue of 1876. With reference to our remarks on local stamps elsewhere, it is significant that there are twenty reprints of the Local Russians, a number that will probably be extended in due course "by especial desire"! In some instances we hardly agree with Mr. Bacon's colour-definition, and we think it would be advantageous on the score of lucidity if *the* most striking difference between original and reprint were printed so as to catch the eye. For instance in France, where colours of originals and reprints are given, it would be better to print in parallel columns, with the reprint colour-deviations in italics. We felicitate author, publisher, and reader upon the appearance of this excellent, able, and useful book. It throws light upon the dark places of Philately, and as so frequently occurs, the dangers that the shadows conceal are not so fearsome as our imagination would suggest.

STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE, PART III.*

The "local stamps of the world" are not generally appreciated by collectors, nor are they fortunately very numerous, hence their exclusion from the main portion of the catalogue (or album) is cordially approved. It remains to be seen whether locals will not be still further relegated to back seats by this separation from the official issues. This catalogue of Messrs. Gibbons contains 122 pages, of which Scandinavia occupies 16, United States 15, Russia 74 pages, and with 4 pages devoted to Railway Letter stamps, leaving but the minute balance of 12 pages for the "local stamps of the world"! Is it worth while to issue a catalogue for this class? The United States locals are of interest, but appeal nowadays to no one beyond a very limited class in the States, and the same remark applies to the Russian locals, which alone constitute three-fifths of the book. The former had a distinct legal sanction, and the use of the latter in supplementing the Imperial Posts is well known, though we fail to see why Bogorodsk—with all its world-wide importance—should have required 150 varieties of stamps. Its probable local-postal requirements were one stamp of 5 kop.

* *Priced Catalogue of the Local Postage Stamps of the World*, Part III. STANLEY GIBBONS, 391, Strand, W.C.

and another of 10 kop. for its single and double delivery rate to the nearest Imperial Post. In the Scandinavian locals there are a few grains of Philatelic varieties in the sacks full of financial chaff. The Chinese locals need no abuse. On the other hand, the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., the *Lady McLeod*, and one or two other stamps, are unnecessarily degraded by inclusion herein. The broad facts remain—that local stamps, having been issued without due control, have not the status of a regular issue; that these local privileges have almost invariably been greatly abused in the creation of speculative and unnecessary issues; and that, in the multiplicity of other and more genuine varieties, the modern collector lets local stamps severely alone. Under these circumstances, and giving due credit to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for the excellent way in which Part III. is issued, we should imagine that it will have but a limited sale. In the permanent interests of the publishing firm the question must arise if the game is worth the candle.

A COLOUR DICTIONARY.*

The question of the true definition of component elements or shades of colours is one that has long interested the stamp world, that has evoked several attempts on both sides of the Atlantic, and has been generally regarded as being incapable of being treated at once on a scientific and a practical basis. The author of this little work has at least the merit of endeavouring to attain the latter result, for, as demonstrated at the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, he had worked with his stamps, and had carefully graded the varying tones or depths of the more important colours. Carefully as this was effected, the bystanders' agreement thereon was by no means unanimous, while it is certain that anything like lengthened exposure would reduce the lilacs more grey, and the reds alike more "sad." The scientific portion of the *Colour Dictionary* is extremely so, and has a distinct encyclopædic flavour, nor do we think that the average collector will linger long upon either the molecule or the oscillation and amplitude of the light waves. Beyond this the letterpress gives a description of the leading colours with appropriate instances thereof, and an alphabetical list of colour names.

We do not, however, consider that the other and practical part is helped either by jumping the letterpress from pages 12 to 37—between which are interposed forty colour illustrations—or by printing the text upon variously coloured papers. The real practical value of Mr. Warhurst's book undoubtedly consists in the frontispiece plate of primary and secondary colours, which is admirably rendered, and the aforementioned forty gradations of colour, which are at once very effectively and truthfully presented—even including the much-debated ultramarine. It is possible, however, that the browns—yellow to olive—may not be universally acceptable. Mr. Warhurst's book is assuredly the best contribution that has yet appeared on this vexed question.

* *A Colour Dictionary.* By B. W. WARHURST. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, 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.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—Mr. A. H. Stamford has favoured us with a curiosity in the shape of a post card of this country, which appears, as far as we can make out, not to have been chronicled. The 1d. red-brown card of the Cape of Good Hope, No. 2 in Gibbons, has been overprinted

BRITISH BECHUANALAND. BRITISH BECHUANALAND.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND. BECHUANALAND. BRITISH

and used, and posted in Mochudi, April 16th, 1899.

Mr. Stamford's correspondent wrote him as follows: "On the 16th ultimo (April), *en route* to Buluwayo, I posted you a Cape 1d. post card, surcharged correctly, and in error reversed, 'BRITISH BECHUANALAND.'

"This is the only one of its kind, and being posted at Mochudi, an office in the Protectorate, I trust it will find a place in your collection."

It is not quite clear whether this is the only specimen known, or whether any others were found and destroyed. We shall be glad of any information our readers may be able to give on the subject.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a specimen of the 2d., brown, type 1899, with numerals in upper corners only.

Adhesive. 2d., brown; perf. 14½.

CANADA.—The current 3 c., rose-carmine, is to be surcharged "2 Cents." The overprint is to cover the old value without interfering with the beauty of the stamp.

The surcharging is to be done from an engraved plate, so no varieties can be expected.

The 5 c., blue, with numerals in the lower corners, is stated to be now in circulation.

Adhesives. 2 cents on 3 c., rose-carmine.
5 cents, blue; numerals in lower corners.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The *M. J.* chronicles a new variety of the 1d. on 1½d. card. It has a period after the word "Penny," and the usual three bars below. It is the card of 1896 that is thus surcharged.

INDIA.—*Alwar.*—The *M. J.* has received a vertical pair of the ¼ anna stamps from a new stone. The impressions are much further apart than before, the thick line of shading down the left side is absent, and the whole design appears to have been retouched to some extent. The stamps are also pin-perf.

Adhesive. ¼ a., slate-blue; pin-perf. about 12.

Cochin.—The *M. J.* writes: "We have received sheets of the current ½ and 1 puttan, printed apparently from the same blocks as before, but without the inscription at the top of the sheet, giving the currency as 'Puthen.' Possibly it is this discrepancy in the spelling that has led to the suppression of the marginal inscription. We may add that the vagaries of perforation which distinguish the first edition seem to have been dispensed with also. Two new envelopes have likewise reached us, each impressed (typographically) with a stamp of oval shape, and of a design of similar style to the central portions of the current adhesives: figures denoting the value in the centre, 'COCHIN ANCHAL' in the upper part of the

inner oval band, and the value in words at the top of an outer band, in each case with the equivalent in native characters below. The envelopes have 'COCHIN GOVERNMENT' embossed across the flap."

Envelopes.
½ p., green, on white laid; 120×95 mm.
2 p., purple ,, ,,

Gwalior.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a specimen of the new 3 pies stamp lately issued for India and illustrated on page 80, surcharged "GWALIOR," and the equivalent in native characters in two lines.

Adhesive. 3 pies, rose; perf. 14.

Sirmoor.—From the *M. J.* we note the issue of a post card for this State. There is a 3 pies stamp, with portrait of the present Rajah in the right upper corner, a Coat of Arms with supporters, and an Elephant for a crest in the upper centre, with scrolls inscribed "SIRMOR—STATE," and the usual instruction on a label; the whole surrounded by a Greek-pattern frame, with the name of the firm outside it below. The name of the State is spelt with one "O" only.

Post Card. 3 pies, green on cream; 140×90 mm.

JAMAICA.—It is reported that this island is about to join, or has joined, the Penny Ocean Postage system, and a new set of stamps of varied designs is expected. Considering the size and importance of this island, and also that for nearly forty years it has used stamps with little change in design and almost free from surcharges, the new issue will probably be welcomed.

MAURITIUS.—On page 195 we chronicled a 6 c., in red, on 18 c., green and ultramarine. Mr. A. H. Stamford has kindly sent us a specimen with inverted surcharge, postmarked Mauritius, June 15th, 1899, and used on a *Service* envelope.

Our correspondent is informed that only sixty specimens had been issued in this condition, and that if any further sheets were discovered they would be at once suppressed.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—We have received the ½d. wrapper in green, the new colour of the ½d. adhesive.

Wrapper. ½d., blue-green.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Negri Sembilan.*—The surcharge "Four Cents" on the 8 c. stamp, mentioned on page 110, is stated to be in *dark green*, not in *black* as described. The doubly surcharged variety is stated to be in *red* and in *dark green*.

Perak.—The issue of the "Four Cents" on 8 c., mentioned on page 168, has been denied.

ZANZIBAR.—From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have received a set of the new issue with portrait of the present Sultan.

We give illustrations herewith. The colours, designs, and values are similar in every way to the 1897 issue, the only alteration being in the portrait.





EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—*Bosnia.*—We cull the following from the *M. J.*:—

"Mr. W. Brown has discovered that there are two types of the numerals on the ½ and 2 nov., as well as on the 15 nov. In the second type of the '1/2' the figures '1' are further away from the upper outlines of the ovals than in the earlier variety, and the fraction lines differ also in slope.

"The second type of the 2 nov. has numerals with straight foot instead of curved."

Adhesives. ½ nov., black, variety.
2 ,, yellow ,,

CRETE.—Several of our contemporaries chronicle a new issue for this island. The *M. J.* writes:—

"A correspondent sends us two curious labels with a double-headed eagle in the centre and inscriptions in Greek, which are stated to have been issued by the Russian authorities in this island. They appear to be handstamped upon white wove paper, ruled in pencil for their reception, one with figures '1' in the corners in *green*, and the other with figures '2' in *black*. *La Revue Ph. F.* states that these labels formed the first of three issues which have already

taken place at Rethymno within the last few weeks. They were authenticated by means of a circular handstamp bearing the Arms of Russia and inscriptions in Russian impressed in *blue*, so as to partially cover a block of four stamps. We had taken this to be an obliteration, and wondered, in our simplicity, at the original gum being still intact.

"The second issue is stated to have consisted of a 1 piastre stamp, in *blue*, of similar design to the above.

"The third emission is described as being more carefully produced. The design shows a trident (borrowed from Britannia?) surrounded by a scroll bearing inscriptions in Greek, and with numerals in circles at the corners. This again was disfigured with a circular handstamp in *blue*, but of smaller size than that applied to the two previous issues."

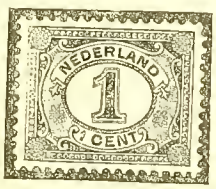
It remains to be seen if this is really a postal issue.

Adhesives. 1 (pias.), green and blue; *first type.*
2 (,,), black ,, ,,
1 (,,), blue ,, ,,
1 (,,), rose ,, *second type.*
2 (,,), blue ,, ,,

HOLLAND.—To Mr. J. B. Robert, of Balistraat 57, The Hague, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. we are indebted for specimens of a very interesting and handsome issue for this country.

We give illustrations of two of the types, viz. :—

First type, consisting of four values.
½ c., 1 c., 2 c., and 2½ cent.



Second type, ten values.
3 c. 5 c., 7½ c., 10 c., 12½ c., 15 c., 20 c., 22½ c., 25 c., and 50 c. (the last three values bicoloured).



Third type, similar in every way to the 1 guilden Coronation issue, 1898.
2½ and 5 guilden.

There are also single and reply post cards. 2½ c., in green, Type 1 to right, Arms to left, "Briefkaart" at top, "AAN" and three lines for address, printed on green tinted card. 5 c., in rose, Type 2 to right, Arms to left; four lines of inscription and three lines for address, on rose tinted card. The reply cards (not to hand) are stated to be like the single cards, with the usual inscriptions of the old issues.

Envelopes.—There are two values, both Type 2; 5 c. and 12½ c. on white paper.

The colours of this dainty set of stamps are very delicate, and it is difficult to describe some of them; doubtless, however, most of our readers will be soon familiar therewith.

Mr. Robert's letter covering the specimens sent will be sufficiently interesting to reproduce here. This gentleman writes :—

"I have the pleasure to send you the complete new set of stamps, ½ c. to 5 guildens (except the 1 guilden already issued), envelopes and post cards of Holland which will be issued on August 1st, but not sold to the public before the remainders are exhausted. As it is allowed to sell these stamps to *foreigners* demanding them, it will be seen that the sets are practically to be sold to any persons asking for them. If the issues up to 1897 inclusive are not exhausted on January 1st, 1900, no other issue than the present will be sold, as on that date all the old issues before 1898 will be withdrawn, and be no more available for postage.

"I may add that I am at the service of all the members of your esteemed society, and will send the new issue at face value, plus postage and registration (12½ c. + 10 c. = 22½ c.) for a single letter."

Adhesive. ½ c., lilac Type 1.
1 c., rose ,,
2 c., brown ,,
2½ c., green ,,
3 c., orange Type 2.
5 c., pink ,,
7½ c., brown ,,
10 c., slate ,,
12½ c., blue ,,
15 c., bistre-brown ,,
20 c., green ,,
22½ c., brown and green (bicoloured); Type 2.
25 c., rose and blue ,, ,,
50 c., olive-green and claret ,, ,,
2 guilden, lilac (shades); Type 3.
5 ,, maroon ,,

Envelopes. 5 c., carmine-rose on white; Type 2.
12½ c., blue ,, ,,

Post Cards. Single and reply.
2½ c., green on green card; Type 1.
5 c., rose on rose card; Type 2.

ITALY.—*Eritrea.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co have sent us specimens of the 1 c. and 2 c., 1895–97 issue, overprinted in one line, "COLONIA ERITREA."

Adhesives.
1 c., brown; "Colonia Eritrea" in black.
2 c., red-brown ,, ,,

ROUMANIA.—Of the new colours of the 1893–96 issue we have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 5 and 15 bani.

Adhesives. 5 bani, emerald-green.
15 ,, black.

SAN MARINO.—In our last number we gave a list of changes in colours. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly point out that we were in error, and that only the 5 c., 10 c., and 25 c. have changed their hues. *Tant mieux!*

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—From several sources we hear that wrappers with the new type for envelopes (Head of Liberty) have been issued, and it is rumoured that there will soon be a new set of adhesives, with a head of Liberty in the centre.

Wrappers. ½ c., carmine on buff.
1 c., dark blue ,,
2 c., grey-blue ,,
4 c., dark green ,,

BRAZIL.—The Government, probably with an eye to profit, have surcharged the remainders, or some of them, of the 1890 postal issue, "1899" and value in two lines.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the following varieties:—

Adhesives.

100 reis on	50 reis,	green;	magenta surcharge.		
300 ,,	200 ,,	violet	,,		
500 ,,	300 ,,	grey-lilac	,,	(2 shades).	
700 ,,	500 ,,	olive-green	,,		
1000 ,,	700 ,,	brown	,,	(2 shades).	
2000 ,,	1000 ,,	olive-yellow	,,		

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* adds:—

50 reis on 20 reis, green.

CHILI.—The following is a cutting taken from the *Philatelic Monthly and World* of July:—

"The Republic of Chile proposes to have a new issue of postage stamps at an early date. The features of Christopher Columbus will no longer be used, although if they had kept on using his portrait on their stamps the Chilians could have had a semi-centennial celebration of that event three years hence. For fully forty-seven years the Columbus head was an integral part of the Chilean types. What were the reasons for this sudden change of policy transpires from a report published in a Chilean daily the other day. It appears that the authorities discovered very clever counterfeits of the 1, 2, and 5 centavos postage stamps, and immediately afterwards these three values were withdrawn from circulation. New stamps of these denominations will be issued as quickly as practicable, as these values are the ones most used. In the meantime revenue stamps are being used in place of the postage stamps retired, as is usual in Chile, where no surcharges have been issued so far."

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—*Antioquia.*—A provisional 2 c. card was issued recently for this province. The *M. J.* describes this card as follows:—

"The provisional card seems to be an elaborate type-set affair, with a fancy border, a stamp with the Arms of the Republic, and divers interesting inscriptions, all in *black*. It was further adorned with an oval hand-stamp in *violet* ink."

Post Card. 2 c., black and violet.

ECUADOR.—In our last number we announced two surcharged stamps for this country, but it appears that the 1 cent. is on 2 c., orange, and not on the 5 c. value.

To the portraiture type lately issued must be added two other values, viz., 10 c. and 50 c.

Adhesive.

1 cent. on 2 cent., vermilion. Type No. 30, S. G., Ltd.
10 cent., black and mauve, with portrait.
50 ,, ,, pink ,,

NICARAGUA.—It would appear that in future we are to have a crop, not of Seebecks, but of Asenjos, for Nicaragua, and probably Salvador, Honduras, etc.

The *Philatelic Monthly and World* gives the gist of a contract made between the Government of Nicaragua and Doctor Maximo Asenjo. This interesting information is now given for the benefit of our readers:—

"We have received the *Diario Oficial* of Nicaragua, dated Managua, June 10, 1899. This contains a contract between the Government of Nicaragua and Doctor Maximo Asenjo, which resembles in some respects the so-called Seebeck Contracts.

"It is made for the term of ten years, during which the Doctor agrees to furnish stamps without cost to the number of 3,400,000 every year. There are to be thirteen postage stamps, from 1 c. to 5 p., ten Official stamps, from 1 c. to 5 p., seven Unpaid Letter, from 1 c. to 50 c., eight Telegraph stamps, from 10 c. to 3 pesos. Also cards, 2 c., 4 c., 6 c., 12 c., stamped envelopes, 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 30 c., 50 c., and bands, 2 c., 4 c. The Government is to supply the design, and the workmanship must be of the best quality. The 3 c., 6 c., and 15 c. stamps must be of the Postal Union colours. Each year 1000 stamps will be issued to commemorate some historical event, and they shall be current for one day only. Each year the Doctor is to receive 50,000 complete sets of all varieties *cancelled*. This contract may be transferred to any other person or company, and it is said that these stamps will probably be made in Germany. The contract is dated May 11, 1899."

Prodigious!

URUGUAY.—A portion or the whole of the 1890 issue has been re-issued in fresh colours or shades. At present we have seen the 1 c. and 2 c., kindly sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and the *Briefmarken Journal* gives the 10 c., type 1897, altered in colour to violet.

Adhesives. 1 c., green, type 1890.
2 c., orange-vermilion, type 1890.
10 c., violet, type 1897.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of July 15th it will be at least two or three weeks before the first shipment (promised by July 18th) of the new Cuban stamps can be made.

It appears the question of paper had been raised, and now it is announced that a special kind will be prepared for these stamps. The watermark will be U.S.—C, each letter supposed to occupy the space of one stamp, also allowing one for the dash.

This paper will now have to be made, so it is probable that the stamps cannot be ready before the first week in August.

FRENCH COLONIES.—*Indo-China.*—The *M. J.* has seen a very curious pair of the 75 c. of the current type, having the name inverted on one of the stamps, and it is possible that a similar error may exist in other values.

Zanzibar.—The ½ anna is now overprinted on the 5 c. yellow-green French stamp, and the 1½ anna overprint on 15 cent. blue, comes in a carmine shade in place of vermilion. Specimens of both values have been received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives.

½ anna on 5 c., yellow-green ; surcharge in carmine.
1½ ,, on 15 c., blue ,, ,,

HAWAII.—In addition to the different changes in colour recorded from time to time, we have now to add :—

Adhesives. 50 c., violet.
$1, blue.

HAYTI.—The 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. of the 1898 issue have had their colours changed to green, red, and blue respectively, and some of the other values will probably have new colours to prevent confusion.

PERSIA.—To account for the necessity of the late type-surcharged Persians, the *Philatelic Monthly* states that a heavy robbery of stamps from the Post Office caused the Postmaster at once to withdraw from circulation all the current stamps, and order the reserve stocks to be surcharged with different ornaments. This surcharge is so badly printed as to be scarcely legible. A new set is to be printed in the printing office at Teheran as quickly as possible.

RUSSIAN CHINA.—On page 136 we announced a set of surcharged stamps shortly to be issued for use in Russian China. From the *Philatelic Monthly* and other journals we note the following values will for the present comprise the set :—

Adhesives.

1 kopek, yellow ; surcharge blue.
2 kopeks, light green ; surcharge red.
3 ,, carmine ,, dark blue.
5 ,, purple ,, ,,
7 ,, blue ,, red.
10 ,, blue ,, ,,

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. A. CHURCHILL EMERSON (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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RAILWAY LETTER FEE LABELS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—Is the evidence of the Post Office Department itself of any value in deciding the status of these tokens?

If so, they are decidedly not stamps. In the *Post Office Guide* we read (p. 33): "Postage *Stamps* of the following values are now issued by the Post Office" . . . (list of values). Again (p. 44), referring to Railway Letters: "The sender must affix to the cover, in the same way as to an ordinary post letter, a *postage stamp* (or stamps) of the value of 1d., which should, on

acceptance of the letter, be obliterated by the railway servant, and must in addition pay to such servant the sum of 2d. in cash—no more, and no less. The railway servant will affix and obliterate an *adhesive label* issued by the railway company."

There seems to be no doubt in the mind of the Post Office that they are labels, and not stamps.

Yours truly,

P. E. RAYNOR.

SENDING STAMPS TO INDIA!

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

SIR,—A great deal has been written on the subject of approval consignments of stamps sent to India by post being charged customs duty on the full value, but we venture to think our experience in one particular case puts in the shade anything else yet recorded. On October 27th, 1898, we sent a small book of stamps, value £22 12s. 8d., by registered letter addressed to a collector in India. The letter was opened in India by the Customs officers, and our customer was informed he could have it on payment of seventeen rupees (£1 2s. 8d.) for duty. He declined to pay unless he could first see the contents of the letter, whereupon he was told that he would have to sign the receipt for the letter before he could be allowed to inspect its contents. This he did, and after examination, finding he would not be likely to buy enough to justify payment of duty on all, he refused to pay, and handed the letter and contents intact back to the postman.

Some time subsequently our customer, to his surprise, received a letter from the Postal Authorities informing him that as he had signed the receipt, it was an acknowledgment of taking delivery of the cover, and that he must pay the £1 2s. 8d. duty, or they would proceed against him for it, and stop all his letters until it was paid! The local postmaster advised him to pay under protest and leave the cover and contents with him, to be forwarded to the Postmaster-General. This was done, but no further communication was received by our customer up to the time of his leaving India in March. We then took the matter up, and wrote three times to the Postmaster-General of Bengal. The only replies we got were: first, a formal acknowledgment of receipt of our letter; and second, a request for an exact copy of the receipt we obtained for the registered letter.

Finally, on May 27th, exactly seven months after the letter left here, the book was returned to the addressee, who was then in England, and who at once sent it on to us. The duty paid under protest has not been repaid, notwithstanding the fact that the stamps never left the custody of the Post Office whilst in India, and no delivery took place. The foregoing is a plain statement of facts and needs no comment from us. We no longer send approval consignments to India except to customers who agree in writing to take all risks, and to pay any duty that may be demanded.

Yours faithfully,

WHITFIELD KING & Co.

THE ARRANGEMENT OF A GENERAL COLLECTION.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—As a general collector in need of new albums, I have read with interest the following remark in your review of a recently issued catalogue: "In the very near future there will be no fresh general collector other than he who uses the printed album," and I take it from this that you are of opinion that a printed (and spaced) album is the best for the general collector, and if so, thoroughly agree with you, going indeed a considerable step further, and holding that it is the only kind of satisfactory album possible for the general collector.

It is to my mind eminently undesirable to attempt the arrangement of a large *general* collection in *blank* albums. I have searched long, but unsuccessfully, for really efficient printed albums. The defects of those to be met with are very obvious, and on pointing them out I have always been referred to the *plain* album as the only one possible for a collector in my position. I have grown somewhat weary of this, just as a man would weary of being offered a motor car whenever he expressed a wish for a bicycle, and am now writing to ask your advice as to where I can get a really suitable printed album for a fairly large *general* collection.

I know at present of only one that can be seriously accepted as reasonably permanent and satisfactory—the *Imperial Album* of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. The *Imperial*, however, as now appearing, should be regarded as furnishing the very minimum of information and accommodation *essential* to the general collector. It is a unique and scientific work, and not merely a disappointing toy make-believe, as are so many so-called "albums." Its shortcomings are, however, very apparent. Spaces for the British plate numbers, for the various varieties of the U.S. issues, distinguishable by "secret" marks and other interesting features, and for dozens of other stamps beloved of the generalist, and by no means to be considered the quarry of the specialist only, would add enormously to its value in the eyes of all, except perhaps the extremely juvenile collector.

I am fully aware that in raising the album question once more I am laying myself open to the usual retort that the question is an insoluble one, or that I have no right to expect publishers to issue albums to meet my own personal and particular wishes; but in spite of this, I feel acutely that the need of more advanced spaced and catalogued albums than any now on the market is a very real one to the advanced "generalist," and even, though in a lesser degree, to the beginner also, for the collector of only a few weeks' standing is often as keen on the unearthing of non-standard varieties as is the veteran of years of philatelic garnering, and that it would not be difficult by the rearrangement of existing albums to largely meet that need.

In the course of recent correspondence with a well-known Philatelist whose services to Philately the world over are justly recognised as of the highest character, I am told that I and, I presume, other advanced *general* collectors, are not really "general collectors" at all, but "specialists of all countries," just as he (my correspondent) is a "specialist of, shall I say, the continent of Greenland," and that therefore, being a "specialist," I should not think of adopting any album with "fixed limits."

Without wishing to be philatelically autobiographical, I may mention that I collect everything in the way of stamps of an adhesive character. I also specialise in, that is, I devote special attention to three favourite countries, and for these three countries I am satisfied to use blank albums. If, however, I accept my correspondent's

definition, I am also a specialist in all the other countries as well.

There is but little in a name though after all, and if I am really a "specialist" in all the adhesives of all the world, because I do not close my eyes and my pockets to the charms of 99 per cent. of stamps that may be fairly easily obtained, as do many "specialists" of more limited ideas, why, be it so; but there remains the fact, that leaving out of the question the demands of my three favourite countries (*a*) in which I specialise, and taking into consideration all the other countries of all the world (*b*) in which I am told I also specialise, I am still on the look-out for printed albums, providing far more fully than do any existing printed albums, for class *b* of my own or any other collectors' collections.

May I throw out a few hints for improvements that would be acceptable to me and doubtless to many others?

The *Imperial Album* on its present lines should continue to appear, but avowedly for beginners only.

An extended album should be introduced for advanced generalists—a glorified *Imperial*. It might, pending the selection of a better name, be dubbed the "Sub-celestial."

The "Sub-celestial" album would incorporate a combination of all the good points of the *Imperial Albums*, Mr. Skipton's excellent *British Empire Albums*, and Mr. Westoby's *Adhesive Stamps of Europe*; that is to say, its size, shape, quality of paper, order of countries, and general design would be those of Mr. Skipton's albums; its information and illustrations would be as accurate and up-to-date as those of the *Imperial*, but fuller, so as to include all the information that Mr. Westoby gives (or would give if his work were extended to the whole of the world), together with much else in addition of an informative nature. It should be placed on sale *unbound*.

At least one blank *quadrillé* lined leaf should be provided at the end of each country, thus enabling the individual collector to insert, before binding, as many more blank leaves as he wished without upsetting the general scheme of the work—a most important improvement, and one that would readily admit of the collection, were it so wished, of strips, pairs, shades, fiscals, or any other items of interest not otherwise listed in the right sequence, and to any extent.

As each collector is bound to digress from the provisions of any listed albums, and each specialist digresses in different forms with regard to the whole world, a completely catalogued album to suit all is an impossibility, but there is no reason why, so far as it is possible, it should not be provided, and the opportunity given to each individual collector to follow on from that point on his own lines.

It is in the hope that your influence may be exerted to extend the usefulness of the printed album as an institution that I am writing this letter, and that early next year the collecting world may be provided with albums offering accommodation for all stamps issued to the end of the century which any reasonably-minded generalist may wish to acquire.

By the "advanced generalist" an increase in the cost of the work would never be grudged; his needs would largely be met by the insertion of blank paper in the right places, and it is the generalist who is after all the preserver of Philately as a practical pursuit.

The beginner in stamps is only too well looked after by "album" (?) publishers. Cheap and inefficient album productions do more probably to drive him out of Philately altogether than all the other incidentals to the hobby. The "specialist" in a few countries is independent of printed albums, but the advanced "generalist" has never yet, so far as I know, been sufficiently catered for or appreciated.

He is absolutely out of it at exhibitions. At London, Birmingham, Calcutta, and Manchester I noticed he was literally nowhere. Dealers provide him with beautiful catalogues of listed stamps; he buys many of those stamps, and the dealers gravely tell him they cannot let him have a listed album in which to place them. Why should this be so? He it is that through strenuous years of faithful effort keeps Philately alive more than do either the beginner or the advanced "specialist," but circumstances all combine to make him feel his own unexalted position in comparison with that of the boy dabbler in stamps or the collector who loftily ignores the vast majority of stamps as "drawing-room stuff" of little imaginable interest to anyone. The all-round general collector is in sad danger of prematurely dying out; he is well worth reviving, and the issue of albums really suited to his necessities would, I believe, prove the best possible tonic for him and be of lasting service, if not ultimately of vital importance, to Philately as a lasting pursuit.

I much regret, though I am not surprised, to see that Mr. Nankivell's proposal for a general catalogue for collectors by collectors has been rejected by the London Society. I believe that such a standard catalogue is the greatest need of collectors to-day, though I can well understand the reluctance of the London Society to undertake its production; but after the catalogue, the next thing that the Philatelic world stands most in need of is a really efficient series of printed albums for the "general collector," or for what may be termed by some, "a specialist of all countries." I enclose my card.

August 1st, 1899 "GENERALIST."

OUR correspondent, who is a well known and able Philatelist, will find the realisation of his wishes difficult. We should be glad to hear the views hereon of the publishers of the *Imperial* and other albums, though we hold personally that the number of varieties is now so great, and is so rapidly increasing, that the future general collector will be expected to take only primary differences. It was rather in this sense that our sentence quoted by "Generalist" should be read, *i.e.* that the volume of varieties would inevitably prevent all future general collection on specialists' lines.—ED.

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.*

WE are informed that the auction prospects for the ensuing season are good, and that the leading firms will have some fine lots for disposal. The well-known collection of Mr. Emil Tamsen, which is especially strong in its African portions, is to be dispersed at auction, the first part, including a very fine collection of the stamps of the Cape and Transvaal, being fixed for October 26th and 27th. If the stamps of the latter could excite as much interest as their policy, it would gladden the hearts of the Nankivellian school, but Transvaal stamp issues, like their politics, although very interesting, are also rather involved, not to say tortuous.

* * *

THE tendency to boom up a country's stamps is not healthy, for the pace is generally too fast, and more or less of a collapse ensues. In the case of French stamps there has been a colossal and deserved rise of late years; but critics across the Channel have not been wanting who have pointed out that because the rise was "wanted" in the case of old issues, there were not equal grounds for it in the case of later ones. The old Republic and Empire series (unused) have nearly all become absorbed, but it is open to question whether the issues of the last few years had developed a like amount of scarcity. The stamps from 1876 to date, with the *figurines* undoubtedly contain some specimens difficult to find, either in relation to the two minutely different dies, or the precise shade; but when £200 has been paid for a block of these stamps and they are being offered to collectors at £60 per block of four, one can only gasp. It would appear that the group of the 25 c., ultramarine, Type I., exhibited at Manchester, has been sold for the above sum, and can be acquired by our readers at the "ridiculously low figure" of £15 apiece.

* * *

THE good example announced in the following paragraph, which Messrs. J. W. Scott and Co. have published in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* is one that will be received by collectors with wild rejoicings, and one that we shall be glad to see copied by advertisers in the *London Philatelist!*

"The J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., beg to announce to their customers that when requested they will give a certificate with every stamp sold for $1 or more, guaranteeing to repurchase at any time at ninety per cent. of purchase price. As this guarantee goes with the stamp, it will hold good after any number of transfers. Moreover, as it is only binding on the sellers, when a stamp increases in value the buyer reaps all the advantage, whereas should a stamp depreciate in price it would unfailingly be returned under the ninety per cent. agreement, thus absolutely limiting a collector's loss to ten per cent., and giving him all the profits on an advance in price."

Whether "after any number of transfers" the condition would not, like the guarantee, "go with the stamp," is a moot point. The guarantee would also "irk" the vendor in the case of some of the West Indian stamps—Nevis to wit, or the unused remainders of the Perkins-Bacon "find" at the prices of ten years since! "Methinks thou dost protest too much," and that there must be some drawbacks to a system that apparently gives all the advantages to the purchaser. It is not thus in these degenerate islands. To indulge in Hibernian metaphor, if there is no skeleton in the cupboard, we hope the idea may come home to roost!

* * *

BUSINESS would seem to be brisk in California, according to *Mekeel's Weekly*, viz.:—

"One of the heaviest transactions in stamps ever consummated in San Francisco took place last week, when a private collection passed into the hands of W. Sellschopp in exchange for $5000 in gold coin. The name of the vendor was not made public, in deference to his wishes. Aside from the amount involved, the deal excited more than usual interest on account of the remarkable showing the collection made in the stamps of Hawaii and of Australia and New Zealand. Among the Hawaiians were no less than seventy-five fine copies of the numerals. Among these was a 2 c. on greyish paper, printed on both sides. It is a remarkably fine copy, and is on the original envelope."

* * *

"EVERY nerve is being strained and every device is being adopted by the local collectors and dealers to obtain the stamps of Guam. All kinds of influence is being called into play—social, commercial, and political," says *Mekeel's Weekly*. The postal requirements of Guam not being large, there would seem to be a good opening for a "corner."

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The Pictorial Post Card.

DURING a recent extended sojourn on the Continent, we were occasionally in a position to make observation or inquiries as to matters affecting Philately. Trivial as it may seem to many, the most important matter that attracted our notice was the extraordinary rage for pictorial post cards. A half-way house between a Liebig picture and a postage stamp, they have apparently come to stay, and have quickly acquired almost universal favour. The decrees of fashion are strange, but none the less has it become "the thing" in many parts of Europe, especially Germany, to collect these picture cards.

The ladies are necessarily in the fashion, and have become enthusiastic collectors, some of them having already thousands of different varieties. Lucky collectors with an objective where no card can be speculative or unnecessary, and where finality cannot be attained! Fortunate dealers—and we hear of instances of stamp merchants forsaking the old love for the new—where all their "goods" are made for the benefit of the dealers, and where no collector could possibly expect to recoup any portion of his outlay! Compared with stamps, such a condition of things is indeed celestial!

There is good in everything, and the especial points in these picture cards are that they are generally artistic or, at least, pretty; they serve to advertise the beauty or interest of the neighbourhood whence they emanate, and as they are mostly transmitted from a distance or a foreign country, they thereby have an additional interest to their owners as travellers.

It is in this last item that pictorial cards may atone to Philately for any of its votaries who may be temporarily lured away. The greatest interest or favour is attached to cards that are connected with a distant land or

any important event,* such as the journey of the German Emperor to the East, the Russian fêtes in France, the sending of cards on the border-lines of countries such as on Lake Constance (where four or five countries converge), or the despatch of cards from every place visited by a friend who is on his travels. It is obvious that the collection of such objects must familiarise their recipients with foreign cards and stamps, and it is to be reasonably anticipated that many a future Philatelic recruit will be found lurking in the ranks of the vast army of pictorial card collectors.

The somewhat depressed state of Philately in Germany a year or so since was partially assigned to this growing taste for collecting cards, but we very much doubt if any really earnest stamp collector gave up the substance of Philately for the shadow of picture cards. Strong, healthy people do not usually forswear the butcher and worship the confectioner, nor have we any fear that the real, true, scientific spirit of collecting, as embodied in Philately, will be weakened by this or any other new fashion.

The Stamps of Japan from 1876.

By L. W. FULCHER.

AS far as I am aware no one has hitherto attempted to draw up a reference list of the stamps of Japan issued since 1876, *i.e.* since the process of engraving the stamps on copper plates was given up for the more expeditious and less expensive one of production from electrotypes. The following attempt is the result of four years' work, and is entirely drawn up from a study of the stamps themselves, of which I have examined many hundreds of specimens. From my experience of these stamps I cannot expect that it is complete or final, but I hope that it will serve as a basis for their future classification. I have endeavoured to keep down the number of varieties as much as possible, and I feel sure that any future modifications of this list will be in the direction of expansion rather than of condensation.

I have just a few preliminary words to say as regards (1) paper, (2) perforations.

(1) From 1876–1883 there appears to have been no attempt to secure uniformity as regards paper. The paper used varies considerably in thickness and in texture, but, as far as my experience goes, is always wove. I find it impossible to catalogue the different varieties, and I have therefore contented myself, with one exception, with dividing it into (1) thick, and (2) medium to thin. It seems impossible to draw a line between medium and thin, while very thick papers are readily distinguishable. Though I

* During the celebration of the Goethe fête in August at Frankfort-a-M., appropriate pictorial cards were sold in countless thousands, and huge stocks were absolutely sold out.

have ignored the texture of the paper in general, there is one variety, the exception alluded to above, which is so conspicuous that it is certainly worthy of special mention. This is a thin bluish white surfaced paper. It seems to have been in use about 1878. After 1883 the paper becomes more uniform, and may be described as a medium white wove paper.

(2) As regards the perforations, I may say that I have not come to the conclusions below without much labour, although I am aware my arrangement is open to question. I have endeavoured to make the matter as simple as possible, and I hope that collectors will at any rate find it useful in arranging their stamps of this country. Of some of the values I have measured the perforations on all four sides of over one thousand copies, and nearly all the rest of several hundreds. I at first tabulated the results; but finally, after careful comparison, I think all the essential perforations, *i.e.* those representing different machines, may be arranged under nine groups.

1876 (or earlier) to 1883.	I.	Perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$, large holes.
	II.	(1) Perf. 9 } Small holes. (2) Perf. 11 }
	III.	Perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$.
	IV.	Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$–12.
	V.	Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.
1883–1888.	VI.	Perf. 11 } Large holes.
	VII.	Perf. 9 }
1888.	VIII.	(1) Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$. (2) Perf. 13.
1893.	IX.	Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$–12.

I believe that these each represent the average perforations due to one machine, except in the cases of II. and VIII., where I have grouped two perforations together for consideration which appear below. I should also mention that these groups give rise to a number of compound perforations, such as I. with II. and V., II. with IV., and VIII. (2) with IX. All the perforations vary considerably, except III., which, however, only occurs on a few stamps, and is rare. I propose to offer a few remarks on each group.

I. Perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$. Large holes, 1 mm. in diameter. This, I think, must have been intended for the normal perforation of the issues from 1876–1883, as it was the first to appear, and is found on all the stamps except the 12 sen, rose. I have not seen or heard of a copy of this stamp with this perforation, but I know of no reason why it should not turn up. I find big blocks of these stamps hard to get, but by measurement of the lines of perforations on a sheet of the 1 sen, red-brown, in my possession I obtained a gauge of 9.6 to 9.9, and from a block of 50 of the 1 sen, black, and some of smaller blocks, 9.3 to 9.8. Single stamps will be found to gauge 9, $9\frac{1}{2}$, 10, or any combination of these, but I think the above measurements show that in all probability there is but one machine, especially when we take into consideration the extreme variability of the paper on which these stamps are printed. I think it, then, only legitimate to regard all these perforations as due to one machine. There is a little

overlapping in this case with VII., but in practice this will not be found troublesome, as the shades of the stamps will, as a rule, readily distinguish the two, since VII. appeared so much later in point of time and the colours of these stamps with perf. VII. are distinctive.

In the list below, then, "perf. 9½" includes 9, 9½, 10, 9 × 9½, 9½ × 9, 9½ × 10, 10 × 9½, etc.

II. There is a small-holed perforation, holes ½ mm. in diameter and irregularly placed, which is common in the lower value. If these are measured it will be found that the vast majority gauge either 9 or 11, or a combination of the two, but also occasionally 9½, 10, 10½, and 11½ may be met with, usually in combination with 9 or 11, but sometimes alone. I have seen a sheet of the ½ sen, grey, of 1874 with this perf. 11, but in no place would it gauge as low as 9, so I am forced to conclude that there are at least two machines. Since they are similar in appearance I have grouped them together. It is possible that anything up to 10 may be found on the 9 machine, and from the appearance of single stamps extremely likely that 10½ and 11½ are on the 11 machine; therefore, for the purpose of this list, I propose to call "perf. 9" anything up to 10, and everything over that "perf. 11." This perforation frequently fails to penetrate the paper, especially when the latter is thick, and then it often looks very like a pin-perforation. I cannot satisfy myself that a true pin-perforation exists on any of the postage stamps of Japan.

III. Perf. 10½. I have nothing particular to say about this. It is clean-cut, and the holes appear of the same character as those of group II., but possibly slightly larger.

IV. Perf. 11½–12. The earlier stamps may be found 11½ all round, 12 all round, or 12 with one or more sides 11½. I think these varieties must be due to one machine, and different from that which follows, as the tendency of V. is in the other direction. I have never seen a block or even a pair of stamps with this perforation. There is no confusion to be feared between this perforation and IX., as they do not appear on the same stamps.

V. Perf. 12½. This is an old machine, which has evidently been much used on the earlier engraved stamps. It has a tendency to 13, but not commonly.

VI. Perf. 11. Large holes, irregular, close together, varying from 10½ to 11½. It seems as if this were from an old machine occasionally pressed into service at busy times. The 2 sen, purple, occurs with this perforation, and therefore it must have been used before January 1st, 1883, when this stamp was superseded. Nearly a whole set of the stamps in the first colours exists with this perforation, and they are tolerably rare, particularly so unused.

This perforation, then, includes such varieties as 10½ × 11, 11 × 10½, 11 × 11½, 11½ × 11.

VII. Perf. 9. Large holes. This is a well-known perforation. It is mentioned in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue. It degenerates to 8½ and even 8. The stamps with this perforation are usually in very deep bright colours, on a smooth white medium wove paper, and hence conspicuous.

"Perf. 9, large holes," then, includes the varieties 8 × 8½, 8½ × 9, 9 × 8½, etc.

VIII. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ was chronicled by Mr. E. D. Bacon in the *Philatelic Record*, vol. x. p. 209, and at the same time he mentions that some values occur perf. 13. I have not been able to find big blocks of stamps with this gauge, but quite recently there has been a perforation in use which gauges 13 (it occurs, for example, on the "War Stamps"), with a tendency to $12\frac{1}{2}$; in fact, some of them gauge $12\frac{1}{2}$ all round, and only in two cases—the 3 sen, lilac-rose, and the 20 sen, *orange-red*—have I found $13\frac{1}{2}$ on quite recent stamps. Again, the earlier stamps occasionally gauge 14 on one or more sides, though I have never found one 14 all round. Stamps may also be found $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$. Hence I am inclined to think that there are really two machines, one gauging from 13 to 14 and the other from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$. Since these perforations are so closely allied I group them together, especially as all the stamps found with $13\frac{1}{2}$ are found with 13, except in the case of the 6 sen, yellow-buff. This stamp I have not found 13. If it is not forthcoming, it will be further evidence that the $13\frac{1}{2}$ machine is different from the 13 machine, as this stamp was only in use from February to the 10th March, 1888. The earlier stamps are also met with with a blind perforation or torn with a jagged edge, not measurable, which appears to be $13\frac{1}{2}$.

In the list below, then, "perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$" includes the varieties $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$; and "perf. 13," $12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

IX. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 is the current perforation. Stamps perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ can be collected if desired.

For convenience of reference I tabulate these perforations, their commoner variations, and the compounds found. In the list which follows I give the stamps according to date of issue, and then classify them by perforations, to which I always attach the same letter as in this table.

I. A. Perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$, large holes. Variations, 9, $9\frac{1}{2}$, 10, $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9$, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$, $10 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$, etc.

II. B. Perf. 9, small holes. Variations, $9\frac{1}{2}$, 10, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$, etc.
C. Perf. 11, small holes. Variations, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, $11 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, etc.
D. Compound perf. 9×11, 11×9, small holes.
E. Compound of A and B, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9$, $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$.
F. Compound of A and C, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, $11 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$.

III. G. Perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$.

IV. H. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$–12. Variations, $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, 12.
I. Compound of B and H, 9×12, 12×9.
J. Compound of C and H, 11×12, 12×11.

V. K. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$. Variations, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
L. Compound of A and K, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$.

VI. M. Perf. 11, large holes. Variations, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, $11 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, etc.

VII. N. Perf. 9, large holes. Variations, $8\frac{1}{2}$, $8 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 9$, $9 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, etc.

VIII. O. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$. Variations, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$,
P. Perf. 13. Variations, $12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, } $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

IX. Q. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$–12. Variations, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.
R. Compound of P and Q, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, $13 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

REFERENCE LIST.

1876–77.

1. A. *Perf.* 9½, *large holes.*

(1) Very thick paper.

1 sen, black.
2 „ yellowish drab.
2 „ greyish drab.
2 „ deep bronze-green.
2 „ bronze-green
2 „ pale bronze-green

(2) Thick paper.

4 sen, bluish green.
4 „ yellowish green.
10 „ pale chalky blue.
20 „ blue.

(3) Medium to thin paper, many kinds.

5 rin, slate.
5 „ grey.
5 „ brownish grey.
1 sen, black.
1 „ grey-black.
2 „ yellowish drab.
2 „ greyish drab.
2 „ deep bronze-green.
2 „ bronze-green.
2 „ pale bronze-green.
4 „ pale green.
4 „ green.
4 „ yellowish green.
4 „ blue-green.
5 „ dark-brown (soft woolly paper).
5 „ brown.
6 „ buff.
8 „ deep purple-brown (soft woolly paper).
8 „ deep purple-brown (smooth paper).
8 „ purple-brown.
10 „ blue.
10 „ dull blue.
10 „ pale blue.
10 „ pale chalky blue.
10 „ sky-blue.
15 „ pale chalky green.
20 „ blue.
20 „ deep blue.
30 „ dull violet.
45 „ carmine-rose.

(4) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, deep black.
2 „ bronze-green.
4 „ pale green.
4 „ blue-green.
5 „ brown.

2. B. *Perf.* 9, *small holes.*

(1) Thick paper.

2 sen, greyish drab.
10 „ sky-blue.

(2) Medium paper.

1 sen, black.
2 „ greyish drab.
2 „ bronze-green.
10 „ blue.

3. C. *Perf.* 11, *small holes.*

(1) Thick paper.

5 rin, slate-grey.
1 sen, black.
2 „ greyish drab.
2 „ bronze-green.
4 „ deep blue-green.*
5 „ brown.
10 „ blue.

(2) Medium paper.

1 sen, black.
1 „ grey-black.
2 „ greyish drab.
2 „ bronze-green.
2 „ pale bronze-green.

(3) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, deep black.
2 „ bronze-green.
4 „ green.

4. D. *Perf. compound of* B *and* C.

(*a*) 9 × 11, (*b*) 11 × 9.

(1) Thick paper.

1 sen, black (*a*).
2 „ greyish drab (*a*) (*b*).
2 „ bronze-green (*a*) (*b*).
4 „ blue-green* (*a*) (*b*).

(2) Medium paper.

1 sen, black (*a*) (*b*).
2 „ greyish drab (*a*) (*b*).
4 „ blue-green* (*b*).

5. E. *Perf. compound of* A *and* B.

(*a*) 9½ (*large*) × 9 (*small*).
(*b*) 9 (*small*) × 9½ (*large*).

Medium to thin paper.

5 rin, slate-grey.
1 sen, black.
2 „ greyish drab.

* The 4 sen, blue-green, with perforations C and D contains a very soluble yellow pigment, which is rapidly removed when the stamp is wetted. Hence used copies are usually blue.

6. F. *Perf. compound of* A *and* C.
(*a*) 9½ (*large*) × 11 (*small*).
(*b*) 11 (*small*) × 9½ (*large*).
(1) Thick paper.
1 sen, black (*a*).
(2) Medium to thin paper.
1 sen, black (*a*) (*b*).
2 „ greyish drab (*a*) (*b*).
5 „ brown (*b*).
12 „ pale rose (*b*).
15 „ pale chalky green (*b*).

7. G. *Perf.* 10½.
(1) Medium paper.
1 sen, black.
(2) Thin, bluish white paper.
1 sen, black.
2 „ bronze-green.

8. H. *Perf.* 11½ *to* 12.
(1) Medium to thin paper.
5 rin, grey.
1 sen, black.
2 „ drab.
2 „ bronze-green.
2 „ pale bronze-green.
(2) Thin, bluish white paper.
1 sen, black.
4 „ green.

9. I. *Perf. compound of* B *and* H.
(*a*) 9 × 12, (*b*) 12 × 9.
(1) Thick paper.
2 sen, pale bronze-green (*a*).
2 „ bronze-green (*b*).
(2) Medium paper.
2 sen, pale bronze-green (*b*).

10. J. *Perf. compound of* C *and* H.
(*a*) 11 × 12, (*b*) 12 × 11.
(1) Thick paper.
1 sen, black (*a*).
2 „ pale bronze-green (*a*) (*b*).

11. K. *Perf.* 12½ (*inclining to* B).
(1) Medium to thin paper.
1 sen, black.
1 „ grey-black.
2 „ deep bronze-green.
2 „ bronze-green.
2 „ pale bronze-green.
4 „ green.
5 „ brown.
8 „ purple-brown.
10 „ pale chalky blue.
(2) Thin, bluish white paper.
1 sen, black.
2 „ bronze-green.
5 „ brown.

12. L. *Perf. compound of* A *and* K.
(*a*) 9½ × 12½, (*b*) 12½ × 9½.
(1) Medium to thin paper.
1 sen, deep black (*a*) (*b*).
2 „ bronze-green (*a*) (*b*).
5 „ brown (*a*).
8 „ purple-brown (*b*).
(4) Thin, bluish white paper.
1 sen, deep black (*a*).
2 „ bronze-green (*a*).

JUNE, 1879.

1. A. *Perf.* 9½, *large holes.*
(1) Medium woolly paper.
3 sen, orange.
3 „ deep orange.
50 „ carmine.
(2) Medium smooth paper.
3 sen, dull salmon.
50 „ carmine.
50 „ scarlet.
(3) Thin, bluish white paper.
3 sen, salmon-pink.
3 „ yellow.
50 „ carmine.

2. C. *Perf.* 11, *small holes.*
Thin, bluish white paper.
3 sen, salmon-pink.
50 „ carmine-rose.
50 „ carmine.

NOVEMBER, 1879.

1. A. *Perf.* 9½, *large holes.*
(1) Thick paper.
1 sen, red-brown (deep to pale).
2 „ purple.
(2) Medium to thin paper.
1 sen, red-brown (deep to pale).
1 „ light red.
2 „ purple (deep to pale).
2 „ blue-purple (deep to pale).
2 „ red-purple (deep to pale).

2. B. *Perf.* 9, *small holes.*
Medium paper.
1 sen, red-brown.
2 „ purple.

3. G. *Perf.* 10½.

Medium paper.

2 sen, red-purple.

4. H. *Perf.* 11½ to 12.

Medium paper.

1 sen, deep red-brown.
2 „ purple.
2 „ lilac.

5. K. *Perf.* 12½.

Medium paper.

1 sen, deep red-brown.
1 „ light red.
2 „ blue-purple.
2 „ red-purple.

6. L. *Perf. compound of* A *and* K, 9½ × 12½.

Medium paper.

2 sen, purple.

7. M. *Perf.* 11, *large holes.*

2 sen, bluish purple.

1 JANUARY, 1883.

1. A. *Perf.* 9½, *large holes.*

Medium paper.

1 sen, pale blue-green.
1 „ blue-green.
1 „ green.
1 „ bright green.
1 „ dark green.
2 „ carmine.
2 „ carmine-rose.
2 „ rose.
2 „ scarlet.
4 „ dull blue.
5 „ grey-blue.
5 „ slate-blue.
5 „ ultramarine.
5 „ greenish blue.

2. G. *Perf.* 10½.

Medium paper.

1 sen, green.
2 „ rose.
5 „ blue.

3. H. *Perf.* 11½ to 12.

Medium paper.

1 sen, blue-green.
2 „ pale rose.

1883–1888.

1. M. *Perf.* 11, *large holes.*

Medium paper.

5 rin, grey.
1 sen, green.
1 „ bluish green.
2 „ carmine-rose.
2 „ rose.
4 „ green.
5 „ dull blue.
5 „ ultramarine.
6 „ orange.
8 „ purple-brown.
10 „ pale blue.
15 „ green.
15 „ yellow-green.
20 „ deep blue.
30 „ (?).
50 „ pale scarlet.

I have not seen a copy of the 30 sen with this perforation, but I have heard of its existence, which is highly probable.

1885 (?).

1. N. *Perf.* 9 *large holes.*

5 rin, slate.
5 „ grey.
1 sen, blue-green.
1 „ pale blue-green.
1 „ bright green.
1 „ green.
2 „ carmine.
2 „ carmine-rose.
2 „ rose.
2 „ scarlet.
4 „ pale blue-green.
5 „ dull blue.
5 „ grey-blue.
5 „ slate-blue.
5 „ ultramarine.
5 „ greenish blue.
5 „ light blue.
6 „ deep orange.
8 „ deep purple-brown.
8 „ pale purple-brown.
10 „ pale blue.
10 „ deep blue.
12 „ deep rose.
15 „ deep green.
15 „ green.
15 „ pale yellow-green.
20 „ blue.
20 „ deep blue.
30 „ bright lilac.
30 „ bright mauve.
45 „ carmine.
50 „ carmine-rose.
50 „ scarlet.

FEBRUARY, 1888.

O. *Perf.* 13½. Medium to thin paper.
P. *Perf.* 13. „ „

5 rin, slate.
5 „ grey.
5 „ brownish grey.
1 sen, dark green.
1 „ green.
1 „ pale green.
1 „ yellowish green.
2 „ carmine.
2 „ carmine-rose.
2 „ scarlet.
4 „ pale blue-green.
4 „ blue-green.
5 „ sky-blue.
5 „ blue.
5 „ light blue.
6 „ yellow-buff.
8 „ deep purple-brown.
10 „ pale blue.
10 „ blue.
15 „ dull green.
20 „ dark blue.
50 „ carmine-rose

I have not seen the 6 sen perf. 13.

MARCH, 1888.

Perf. as last.

4 sen, deep olive-brown.
4 „ pale olive-brown.
4 „ bistre.
8 „ lilac.
8 „ bright lilac.
8 „ deep plum.
8 „ lavender.
10 „ brown-ochre.
15 „ dull mauve.
15 „ violet.
20 „ orange (aniline).
20 „ orange-yellow (aniline).
20 „ orange-red (1895).
25 „ emerald-green.
50 „ chocolate.
50 „ chestnut.
1 yen, carmine.

1892. *Perf. as last.*

3 sen, pale lilac-rose.

1893. Q. *Perf.* 11½-12.

Medium wove paper.

5 rin, deep grey.
5 „ olive-grey.
1 sen, green.
1 „ pale green.
1 „ olive-green (1897).
2 „ carmine.
2 „ scarlet.
3 „ pale lilac-rose.
3 „ bright lilac-rose.
4 „ pale olive-brown.
4 „ deep bistre.
5 „ light blue.
8 „ lilac.
8 „ lavender.
10 „ brown-ochre.
15 „ bright violet.
20 „ orange-red.
25 „ emerald-green.
50 „ chestnut.
1 yen, carmine.

189(?).

R. *Perf. compound of* P *and* Q.

(*a*) 11½ *or* 12 × 13, (*b*) 13 × 11½ *or* 12.

4 sen, pale olive-brown (*a*).
15 „ violet (*b*).
50 „ chestnut (*a*).

Possibly a full set occurs with this compound perforation.

1894. SILVER WEDDING STAMPS.

(*a*) *Perf.* 13 (P), (*b*) *Perf.* 11½ *or* 12 (Q).

2 sen, carmine (*a*) (*b*).
5 „ blue (*a*) (*b*).

1896. COMMEMORATIVE WAR STAMPS.

(*a*) *Perf.* 13 (P), (*b*) *Perf.* 11½ *or* 12 (Q), (*c*) *Perf. compound* 13 × 11½ *or* 12 (R).

Portrait of Prince Ketashirakawa.
2 sen, carmine (*b*).

Portrait of Prince Arisugawa.
2 sen, carmine (*a*) (*b*) (*c*).

Portrait of Prince Ketashiragawa.
2 sen, violet-blue (*a*) (*b*) (*c*).

Portrait of Prince Arisugawa.
5 sen, violet-blue (*a*) (*b*) (*c*).

I have not paid much attention to these Commemorative Stamps.

Philatelic Notes.

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

THE 5 P. BLACK OF ROUMANIA (1858).

AT a congress of collectors held at Munich between the 14th and 16th of July a paper was read by Herr Wilhelm Krapp, of Vienna, which may be taken as the last word on this subject. We mean the latest utterance, as, judging from the lack of direct evidence on the subject and the conflicting opinions held by leading Philatelists in different countries, it may yet be a considerable time before this wandering ghost of a reprint is laid to rest. As is now generally well known, this 5 paras is found with and without a slight break in the outer frame at the bottom left-hand side. By general consent and comparison, no used copy of the former has yet been found, and the stamp with the incomplete frame is therefore held by some Philatelists, now including Herr Krapp, as a reprint. We cannot subscribe, however, to this doctrine, and our view is shared by many others in this and the neighbouring country. Beyond the fact that he is the fortunate possessor of several used copies of the unbroken frame, we do not see that Mr. Krapp has advanced any material argument in favour of his contention, and we must await developments. This question has been much debated during the past year, and if we have refrained from alluding hereto in these columns it has been rather with the idea of avoiding a discussion that seemed for the present incapable of being decided. In Mr. Bacon's excellent book on reprints recently published he does not acknowledge any reprints with regard to Roumania, and we have as yet no *evidence* that any stamp has so far been reprinted in that country. We incline to the belief that, as in the neighbouring kingdom of Servia, remainders are sold and waste sheets, etc., allowed to leak out—*voilà tout!*

NEW VARIETIES IN UNITED STATES STAMPS.

THE *American Journal of Philately* has an interesting note under the above heading, and we think we cannot do better than reproduce it here:—

"Mr. H. F. Colman has shown us two varieties of the 1882 issue, which, so far as we are aware, have not hitherto been listed, at least not as stamps. These varieties are of the re-engraved types of the 1 and 3 cents. Like some of the stamps of the Continental Bank Note Co., they are printed on double paper, a very thin surface paper backed by a thicker and stouter paper. The peculiarity of these varieties is that, before printing, eight small round holes, arranged in a circle, were punched out of the surface paper. These groups of holes were arranged at intervals corresponding to the size of the stamps, so that a group should fall on each stamp. After printing, the appearance was that of the ordinary stamps, but, of course, the ink had

passed through the holes, and portions of the design were thus printed on the backing paper. Any attempt to erase a cancellation would result in tearing the thin paper, while the application of water would cause the stamp to separate into two parts, one showing a circle of small holes and the other a blank surface with a circle of coloured dots. Mr. Coleman has a letter from the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, which says, in regard to these stamps :—'In 1882 or '83 there was an issue of one cent and three cent stamps on double paper, like the samples submitted, after designs by two persons named Douglas and Steele. Quite a number of these stamps were issued on this paper, but upon trial, the Department did not consider it advisable to permanently adopt the plan, and the issue of that kind of stamps was discontinued.' From the foregoing it would appear that these stamps were in actual use, and, therefore, are entitled to a place in catalogues and collections."

Occasional Notes.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

WE are informed by Mr. E. D. Bacon that another change was made, on the eleventh of this month, with regard to the stamps displayed. Those now on view are the issues of Austria from 1867 onwards, and those of Switzerland as far as the unpaid letter stamps. In the Cantonal issues of Switzerland the Museum collection is very strong, the late Mr. Tapling being one of the earliest Philatelists to complete the typing of the plates. The gem of this exhibit is the unsevered unused strip of five types of the 4 rappen, Zurich, which, we believe, was formerly acquired for something under £20!

PRESENTATIONS TO THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

ERITREA.—An unused specimen of each of the stamps issued in January, 1893 :—1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 25 c., 40 c., 45 c., 60 c., 1 l., and 5 l.; and the same of the stamps issued 1895–98, with the exception of the 20 c., which is used :—5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 25 c., 45 c.—Dr. E. Diena.

GERMAN COLONIES.—Complete set of 41 unused stamps of the German Empire surcharged for use in China, Kamerun, Togo, German East Africa, German South-West Africa, and German New Guinea.—Mr. Adolf Rosenberg.

GREAT BRITAIN.—An almost complete collection of the Railway Letter Fee stamps, containing 140 varieties, mostly unused.—Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen.

ITALY.—An unused specimen of the 1 l., and a used specimen of the 10 l. Unpaid letter stamps of 1892-95; also an unused specimen of the 2 l., for use in foreign post offices, issue 1874.—Dr. E. Diena.

JAPAN.—A used specimen of the 1875 6 sen, orange, Plate 22.—Dr. G. T. Bishop.

Ten unused specimens of the stamps issued in 1896 and 1899.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

LABUAN.—A used specimen of the 1896 one dollar, blue, with the surcharge "LABUAN" in taller and thinner capitals than usual.—Messrs. John Boulton & Co.

MEXICO.—Seven specimens of the Eagle series, with surcharged numbers not previously in the collection.—Mr. S. Chapman.

An unused specimen of the half real Eagle issue, without surcharge, of a shade not previously in the collection. Also an unused copy of the 6 cent., Plate II., 1868 issue, surcharged "Mexico 1-72," and also "Cuantitlan." —Mr. W. T. Wilson.

NEW ZEALAND.—An unused horizontal pair of the current 2d., imperforate vertically.—Mr. A. T. Bate.

ROMAN STATES.—A specimen of the half 2 baj., issue 1852, used as a 1 baj., postmarked, on piece of an envelope.—Dr. E. Diena.

RUSSIA.—A used specimen of the 8 kop., issue July, 1875, with vertical laid lines. A sheet of the watermarked paper used for the envelopes of 1848, and a sheet of the watermarked paper used for the envelopes of 1859. Two unused specimens of the 7 kop. envelope-letter-sheets of St. Petersburg, issued in 1898, one with stamp of the same type as the adhesive and the other with stamp of the type used for envelopes.—Mr. F. Breitfuss.

VENEZUELA.—An unused specimen of the 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., 1 bolivar, and pair 50 c., *tête-bêche* of the Commemorative Issue of July, 1896.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

WENDEN.—A pair of the reprints of the issue of June, 1870, and a specimen of the reprint of the issue of 1875.—Mr. Albert Scheindling.

OFFICIALS DEALING IN STAMPS.

IN the interest of collectors we think it best to publish the annexed letter, because we believe strongly that postal officials should be entirely prohibited from dealing in stamps in any way. If such transactions are allowed, it will be easy for a postmaster, or treasurer, to instruct a printer to carefully produce a few errors (!!) of one sort or another, buy these all up himself, and try to make a large sum by the opportunities afforded by his official position.

The two previous sentences are not our words, but those of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in their own *Journal*. They are assuredly the re-echo of the sentiments of all our readers, and we gladly give Mr. Otterbein Smith the advantage of a little extra publicity.

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GUIANA,
"*5th July*, 1899.

"MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.

"GENTLEMEN,—In our last issue of 10 and 15 cts., Jubilee, surcharged to 2 cts., there were some double and inverted surcharged stamps; 15 cts. were double surcharge 2 cts., 10 cts. were inverted surcharge 2 cts. I am in a position to

guarantee you information as to the exact number of each variety issued; they all pass through my hands to be checked before being issued.

"Samples of these stamps I sent to the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, which he returned to me in due time. The number issued of these varieties is as follows:—

"15 cts., double surcharge 2 cts.	50
10 cts., inverted surcharge 2 cts.	60

"There are also pairs of 15 cts. surcharged 2 cts.; one stamp is a DOUBLE, the other a SINGLE surcharge; the number of these issued is only ten. The small quantity of each of these rarities issued ought to make them exceedingly valuable, especially the pair.

"I am the SOLE POSSESSOR of these rarities, therefore I consider that I am at liberty to fix my own value on them, viz.:—

"15 cts., DOUBLE surcharge	$9.60
10 cts., INVERTED surcharge	$7.20
15 cts., DOUBLE and SINGLE surcharge . . .	$12.00

"I intend to dispose of 20 DOUBLE surcharge, 15 cts.; 10 INVERTED surcharge, 10 cts.; 5 DOUBLE and SINGLE surcharge, 15 cts. (pair).

"If you care to have any of the above I will forward to you by first opportunity.

"I have written and posted along with yours letters to all of the leading stamp firms, offering them these stamps at the prices mentioned, thus giving each a chance to bid for them. Hoping that this will be favourable to you,

"I am, Gentlemen, yours truly,

"B. OTTERBEIN SMITH."

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT ANTWERP.

WE are informed that Antwerp is eager to emulate Manchester by the holding of an Exhibition. The inauguration is to take place at the Vieux Musée, Antwerp, on October the 1st, under the presidency of M. Jan van Ryswijck, the Burgomaster of that ancient city. The exhibits are divided into five classes, inclusive of adhesive stamps, fiscals, "entires," albums, catalogues, books, and journals, and we trust that the worthy Anversois may have a right royal success herein.

THE ELEVENTH PHILATELIC CONGRESS.

THE festival that is now so well known throughout Germany as the *Philatelisten Tag* was this year held at Dresden, a choice of locale that must have been eminently gratifying to all the participants, as no more charming city can be found within the confines of the Fatherland. The records of the proceedings show that the meetings were well attended, that there was some Philately, much talking, and many pleasant outings. The local reception committee seem to have laudably exerted themselves, and with complete success, to render the Dresden *réunion* the equal of any of its ten predecessors.

THE PARCEL POST TO THE UNITED STATES.

IT is with pleasure that we read the announcement of the establishment of a parcel post between Germany and the United States, as we learn that it is only the forerunner of similar arrangements with this country. Large parcels of stamps for the United States can to-day only be sent safely by registered letter post, and the payment of pounds for postage here is no unfrequent occurrence among dealers and collectors. The importance of the matter to Philately is therefore obvious, and we trust that we shall speedily be in a position to announce terms similar to the following, which the *Metropolitan Philatelist* quotes under date of September 2nd:—

"One of the latest improvements in the postal service will go into operation on the first of October. The first parcel post convention between the United States and any country in Europe was accomplished Saturday, when Postmaster-General Smith and the special German envoy, Baron van Mumm, signed a convention between the United States and Germany. It will inaugurate a postal service by means of which articles of merchandise may be exchanged between the two countries, provided the packages do not exceed eleven pounds in weight. The postal rates from the United States are fixed at 12 cents for each pound or fraction of same. The rate in Germany on parcels for the United States is fixed at 2 marks and 40 pfennigs per parcel regardless of weight, but a reduced rate of 1 mark and 60 pfennigs may be adopted for a parcel not exceeding one kilogram. For many years a rate of 12 cents for any parcel not exceeding 10 pounds has been charged anywhere within the empire."

NEW BRITISH POST CARD.

THE Press Association informs us that Mr. Henniker-Heaton, M.P., has received an unofficial communication to the effect that his request for the enlargement of the official inland post card has been granted, and that the change will take effect on November 1st. Two cards—one white and the other buff, equal in size to the English foreign cards, or, roughly, one-seventh larger than the present inland cards—will then be substituted for those at present in use, which Mr. Henniker-Heaton has described as "the smallest, meanest, and dearest in the world."

Messrs. De La Rue & Co. are understood to have made very considerable concessions in the matter, which will result in a large saving to the Post Office. Another point pressed by the hon. member for Canterbury, that inland official post cards should be sold at their face value, has not yet been conceded.

PENNY POSTAGE TO THE CAPE.

THE following notice was issued by the Postmaster-General on August the 29th:—"On and after the 1st of September next the postage to be prepaid on letters from this country for the Cape of Good Hope will be 1d. per half-ounce, instead of 2½d. as at present. The postage on letters for the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, and Rhodesia will continue to be

2½d. per half-ounce. These are now the only British possessions of importance which have not adopted the penny postage scheme."

BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. H. HILCKES & CO., LTD.

WE are usually loath to inflict bankruptcy or police court proceedings upon our readers, as we think that space of a journal devoted to Philately can be occupied with more congenial matter. The failure, however, of this firm involves the apparent discontinuance of a contemporary—the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*—which has always afforded bright, entertaining reading, and, as a rule, has been free from that disposition to suspect enemies in every bush which Mr. H. Hilckes especially favoured. We much regret that Messrs. Hilckes & Co. should have failed, but the *causa causans* was not to be found beyond the precincts of Cheapside. The official proceedings at the Court of Bankruptcy, on August 30th, before the Official Receiver, Mr. Warley, was thus reported in the London papers:—

"HARRY HILCKES & Co. (LIMITED).—Under a winding-up order made against this Company the statutory meetings of creditors and shareholders were now held at the Board of Trade Offices, Lincoln's Inn. The winding-up order was made on the 9th inst., upon the petition of Messrs. Lane and Kirkpatrick, creditors, a provisional order having previously been made, under which the Official Receiver was authorised to take possession of and protect the assets.

"In reporting upon the case, the Chairman said that the Company was incorporated on May 31st, 1894, to take over the business of British and foreign stamp dealers and philatelic publishers, formerly carried on by Messrs. Hilckes, Kirkpatrick & Co., at 64, Cheapside. The capital was originally £5000 in £1 shares, and it was increased on July 24th, 1898, to £10,000 by the addition of £5000 in 6½ per cent. preference shares, but it appeared that there was no record of the fact. The purchase price of the business was £2500, payable as to £500 in cash to Mr. Hilckes, and £2000 by the allotment to him of fully-paid shares. Debentures for £750 were issued, and there was a further debenture claim for £3000, which was in dispute. The statement of affairs was not actually filed, but the unsecured debts were returned at about £1200, and the assets were estimated to realise £2319.

"The Chairman further reported that the Company issued a philatelic magazine named the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, and the goodwill of this publication was said to be of some value. The failure of the Company was attributed to difficulty in promptly realising stock at fair market rates, and the unwillingness of the managers to sacrifice stock at knock-down prices. The Company appeared to have done a considerable business, and the magazine to have had a good circulation; and he (the Assistant Receiver) concluded that the failure was really due to the Company not having sufficient working capital.

"The Official Receiver and Mr. R. J. Ward were respectively nominated to the office of liquidator, and the matter was referred to the Court for decision."

MR. WESTOBY'S "STAMPS OF EUROPE."

THE eleventh portion of this work (published by Mr. L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand) has come to hand, fully maintaining the previous high standard of excellence. Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein will be found to contain the

most interesting monographs on the history both of the countries and their stamp productions. Servia includes the newest researches with regard to the first-issued 1 and 2 paras, and Spain is commenced and continued down to the issues 1867-9. We note that Mr. Westoby still believes in the existence of the 2 reales, blue, of 1851 as an error—a much-vexed theory of bygone days that we thought had long since died from want of support. The issue of 1868 omits mention of the 25 mils. de esc., blue and rose, with frame inverted, and the 10 m. of the same series should be cited as existing *tête-bêche*. With reference to the Habilitado surcharges, Mr. Westoby acknowledges as official only the two types generally known as those of Biscay and Andalusia, attributing the others to the action of small revolutionary bodies. We think this an eminently wise decision, and have ourselves never attempted the collection of all the catalogued varieties of these provisionals. The surcharges are, after all, not of postal significance, and apparently the late M. V. G. de Ysasi and M. Moens are the only two Philatelists that ever existed competent to sit in judgment on these surcharges.

A U.S. APPRECIATION OF SEEBECKISM AND THE S.S.S.S.

THERE are always certain animals who take a delight in kicking a dead lion, nor has there been, in the case of the very suspended animation of the S.S.S.S., any lack thereof or of those good-natured friends who tell us of our faults! Time will, however, eventually justify the principles on which that Society was founded, and it will yet be regretted that a short-sighted policy on the part of the trade prevented its successful operation. The recent death of Mr. N. F. Seebeck has naturally called attention once more to the question of superfluous issues, the more so as it is evident—as mentioned in our last issue—that the evil done has lived after the late Mr. Seebeck, and that the wholesale production of superfluous issues in South America is to be perpetrated. The following comments of "K. Narca" in *Mekeel's Weekly* are very much to the point, and are worthy of careful perusal—the italics being ours:—

"There is a deeper significance than appears on a casual reading in the editorial of the *American Journal of Philately*, treating of the death of Mr. Seebeck and the stamp issues for which he was responsible. In part this editorial says: 'Mr. Seebeck's own experience has shown that no money can be made out of such transactions, the countries concerned being constantly on the increase, and their postal requirements necessitating such a large supply of stamps for their actual postal needs as to wipe out all possible profit on the transaction.'

One very important factor has evidently been overlooked in ascribing the reason for the unprofitableness of so-called Seebeck contracts. This is the falling off in the demand for this class of stamps, caused by the years of agitation over the subject of speculative stamps in general. It would thus appear that the action of the dealers and collectors has borne good fruit, and these contracts could be made still more unprofitable if more dealers were inclined to do honest battle against this form of imposition on the collector. For, after all, the greatest injury is suffered by the collector, though the dealer and Philately also are made to feel the effects of these questionable transactions. Renewed efforts should be made in the light of these

developments to bring about the complete suppression of speculative issues. Collectors should abstain from buying them, but more important still, dealers should refuse to handle them. There are sufficient new issues and attractive ones, without the Seebeck varieties. *The small apparent loss to the dealers would be more than compensated for by the restoration of general confidence and the increased business that would be sure to eventually result.* Where one has expressed admiration for the beauty of the Seebeck issues, half a dozen have expressed disgust for their character and their effect on the future of Philately."

OBLITERATION OF THE POONCH DIES.

THE defacement of a disused die is always interesting and welcome news, and in the present instance the obsequies of the departed die (the *double entendre* is a haphazard one!) were attended with such ceremonial that we gladly avail ourselves of the account given in a recent number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*:—

"Proceedings of a meeting of the members of the Philatelic Society of India residing in Simla, held at Fir Hill, on the 7th July, 1899.

"Present:—C. Stewart-Wilson (President), Captain Godfrey, Major Lukis, Mr. C. T. Jacoby, Mr. Lovell Pigott, and (by invitation) Sardar Devi Singh, Prime Minister of the Poonch State.

"Mr. Stewart-Wilson produced a sealed envelope containing packages sealed with Captain Godfrey's seal. After Captain Godfrey had examined the seals and found them intact, the parcel was opened. It was found to contain the following dies of the obsolete Poonch State postage stamps, viz.:—

¼ anna	1 anna
½ anna	2 annas

and 4 annas

as also the square postal obliterator used by the State before the Poonch postal system was merged in the Imperial Post Office. An impression of each of these dies was then taken in black oil stamping ink, one set of impressions being given to each of the gentlemen present, and four sets being reserved, one for Mr. Masson, Vice-President of the Society, one for Major Evans, one for the Srinagar Museum, and one for the Society itself. The dies and obliterator were then each defaced by having a deep line drawn through them with a file. The quarter anna die had pieces chipped out of two of the edges. Impressions of the defaced dies were then similarly taken, and the dies and the obliterator were handed over to Captain Godfrey in accordance with the letter quoted below from the Raja Sahib of Poonch:—

"'I hereby certify that the five postal dies of Poonch, one each of half anna, one anna, two annas, and four annas of S. 1937, and one of quarter anna of S. 1942, together with one square obliterator, were presented by me to Captain S. H. Godfrey to be disposed of by him as he may wish.

"'(Sd.) BULDEO SINGH, Raja of Poonch.'

"The meeting closed after an unanimous vote of thanks to Raja Buldeo Singh.

"(Sd). C. STEWART-WILSON.	(Sd.) CHARLES T. JACOBY.
,, C. LOVELL PIGOTT.	,, C. P. LUKIS.
,, STEWART H. GODFREY.	,, DEVI SINGH."

Reviews.

THE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH ISLES.*



EVERYTHING comes to him who knows how to wait, and as to the waiting, in the case of the work that we now have the pleasure to peruse, there can be no doubt. Nor has the grumbler been found wanting who is proud to find virtues in all other societies except his own, and in whose eyes the inevitable delays in the preparation of this *magnum opus* presaged "the decline and fall" of the Philatelic Society. As will be gathered from the Preface, written by Mr. Creeke, the nature of the work undertaken and the extremely laborious examination of the various archives, *imprimatur* sheets, books, and papers that have been officially accumulated during the past sixty years, fully occupied the authors' leisure from January, 1894 (after the acceptance of the work by the London Philatelic Society) until the lamented death of one of the joint authors—Mr. Hastings E. Wright—in September, 1897. At that time only the manuscript of the line-engraved stamps and that relating to the 6d. embossed had been completed, the remainder of the work being in various stages of joint elaboration. Beyond this, the question of the illustrations has been a material factor as regards the retarded appearance of this book. The difficulties in the way of the reproduction of British stamps were only removed at a recent date, and a future generation may perhaps appreciate how far the removal of this disability was due to the initiation of the authors and publishers of *The Stamps of the British Isles*. When at length all official difficulties had been smoothed away, the question of the reproduction of the diagrams of the plates, showing the marginal inscriptions and the watermarks, involved a long and laborious process,† while the most cursory glance at the book itself

* *A History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles available for Postal and Telegraph Purposes*, by HASTINGS E. WRIGHT and A. B. CREEKE, jun. Published by the Philatelic Society, London, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.

† Mr. Creeke has kindly given us the following note as to this reproduction, which will assuredly be read with interest:—

"To enable me to prepare the full-size *facsimiles* from which the diagrams were reproduced, I had small blocks of rectangles (from four to sixteen in a block) of various sizes lithographed, and in each rectangle I printed the proper watermark in a grey ink: the blocks similarly 'watermarked' were then carefully cut out and grouped together into the requisite number of panes, being fastened on gummed millboard.

"I also had printed several large sheets showing the marginal inscriptions for most of the values; these were cut up and inserted in their proper places round the pane, or panes, after having had the marginal watermarks impressed thereon. The plate and current numbers, with the guide lines and crosses, etc., were then added, in pen and black ink, the colour of the inscriptions.

"The result of this laborious process was a series of illustrations of entire sheets of stamps, the labels being represented by plain rectangles; and from these the art-process plates were produced. I understand from the makers (Lascelles and Co., Ltd.) that they had great difficulty in making the plates; and, as will be seen from a comparison of diagrams F, M, and U (obtained, as regards the panes, from the self-same *facsimile*), the results are somewhat uncertain, and not always equally satisfactory.

"In showing a diagram for any particular value, I selected one which, with the aid of a short explanation, could be made to do duty for several 'states' in addition to that actually illustrated."

will show that there are many other features that would involve much time in their preparation. We consider, therefore, that the delay in the appearance of this volume has not only been unavoidable on the part of the Philatelic Society, but is amply atoned for by its great scientific and historical value.

For the benefit of our readers it will be requisite to glance at the chief points of interest, but it may at once be emphatically asserted that *The Stamps of the British Isles* is the most important Philatelic work that has yet been issued in this country, or perhaps outside of it. It is indeed a monument of faithful and enduring labour on the part of its authors, especially Mr. A. B. Creeke, on whose shoulders has fallen the bulk of the work, whilst the London Philatelic Society will assuredly stand even higher in general estimation than before, on the publication of such a superb book, written by two of its members.

The British Isles constitutes, with the Introduction, practically 300 pages of royal octavo, similar to the previously issued works of the London Society, with twelve plates of illustrations of the stamps and twenty-six plates of diagrams. The former are produced by photo-mezzotype, and include all types of adhesives available for postal or telegraph purposes. Many of these "fiscal postals," military telegraphs, etc., have never been previously illustrated, and will be found of great benefit to the student, for so accurate are *all* the reproductions that they will be available for all purposes of comparison, and the thanks of all collectors are due to the London Stereoscopic Co. for their excellent work in this respect. Nor should praise be withheld from Messrs. Lascelles and Co., Ltd., of 13, Fitzroy Street, W., for the careful and skilful reproductions of the plates of diagrams. These diagrams give reduced representations of the complete sheets, with the unsevered panes of practically all values and variations of watermark. These latter are accurately reproduced in their respective positions, as are the marginal watermarks and inscriptions and the control and plate numbers; in fact, the entire sheet, as originally completed and issued by the postal authorities, is here faithfully depicted.

It need scarcely be mentioned that this is an entirely new feature in Philatelic literature, and one that will be generally appreciated. Mr. Creeke, to whom this innovation is due, must have had his authorship labours materially increased in the preparation of these diagrams (as explained in the footnote, p. 242), but the work assuredly gains greatly in completeness and Philatelic value by their appearance. The typography, also, reflects great credit upon the printers, Messrs. J. Davy and Sons, of the Dryden Press, Long Acre, embracing, as it does, the illustration in the text of the marginal watermarks, as well as those of the stamps themselves, in addition to the numerous marginal inscriptions of the complete sheets, which are almost *facsimile*. This is again a fresh feature, and one that materially adds to the completeness of the history of a country's stamps.

It has been said that a *complete* collection of stamps would consist of one sheet from each printing of each value! This is obviously a reduction to the impossible, but it may truthfully be urged that Messrs. Wright and Creeke's book gives either a textual or pictorial representation of the

constitution of every separate printing, and that by its aid the exact appearance and limit of variation of every issued specimen might be ascertained.

Another fresh development, and one of great importance, is the elaborate description of the various alterations of the arrangement, or "states," of the plates, and the successful endeavours made to allocate the several plates to their respectively different phases. It will be seen that the authors have endeavoured to state the quantity of the printings from each plate, and—where more than one kind of paper (or watermark) was used, as in the case of the threepence (*e.g.* see p. 81 at foot)—the relative number of impressions struck off on each. The great importance and value of these several innovations can only be appreciated to the fullest extent by examination and comparison with previously issued works on the stamps of this country.

A bright and interesting Introduction by Mr. Gordon Smith briefly recapitulates the postal history of this country, touching with admirable lucidity upon the points of interest, both prior and subsequent to the introduction of "penny" postage, and appropriately includes illustrations of the Docwra penny post, a page in the late Sir (then Mr.) Rowland Hill's diary, and the original sketches for the first 1d. and 2d. stamps. In the preliminary chapter that follows will be found a highly interesting Circular of Sir Rowland Hill in 1858, giving the reason for the "alteration in the system of lettering the corners of postage labels." Division I. deals with the line-engraved stamps, and it is here that the late Mr. Hastings Wright's co-operation is fully displayed, his knowledge of and interest in these *taille douce* productions being very extensive.

From the Issue Book of the Distributor of Stamps, fortunately unearthed by the authors, some interesting figures are given as to the early distribution of the first penny stamp, and it appears that it was on the 1st of May, instead of the 6th, that these stamps were issued to the public. On p. 36 we learn that a temporary recourse was had to the 16-gauge perforation early in 1858, and on p. 38 that any impressions of Plate 69 (the first with letters in all four corners) of the 1d. were destroyed; that 1036 sheets of the 1½d., lilac-rose, were distributed; that the first recorded entry for the 2d. was April 30th, 1840; while of great interest is the Treasury Minute referring to the introduction of the white lines on this value (p. 49).

Section II. deals with the embossed series, and it is a surprise to find that all these stamps were gummed before being struck, the gum on the sixpence being subsequently tinted green, to prevent, as had then happened, the impressions being embossed on the wrong side of the paper, over the gum. The issue of the one shilling is antedated to the 11th September, 1847, while the dates and quantities of the reissued tenpence are quoted. Section III. deals with the surface-printed stamps—Subsection A being those issued prior to 1880—and contains, as in the preceding portions, much novel information, that portion in which the fourpence is dealt with being of absorbing interest. A valuable letter from Mr. Warren De La Rue to Mr. Ormond Hill, in 1859, fully enters upon the *bleuté* question and its causes, while the table of "Paper supplied for and creations of the four-

pence," on p. 90, is of the highest degree of interest, and reveals (see also p. 94) the existence of two "inks" or colours of the medium garter on *ordinary* white paper. The lists of creations of the several values will be found most valuable, and throughout this subsection, terminating with the £1, brown-violet, of 1882, there is scarcely a page upon which some absolutely fresh item of information, or contradiction of an erroneous belief, is not to be found. Subsections B, C, and D deal with all the subsequently issued adhesive stamps, and contain also much that is fresh, *e.g.* that the issue of April 1st, 1884, *perf.* 12, were only waste sheets, and of no Philatelic value, while the reason for the existence of the two plates of the 5d. of this issue is explained. The £5 is antedated from the 1st May to the 21st March, 1882.

Division II. deals with Fiscal Stamps admitted to postal use, and gives succinct information as to which varieties were admissible. The alteration of the watermark of the third issue of the large one penny (middle of 1867) to medium (18 mm.) anchor is also revealed, with much beyond.

Division III. deals with the "Postage Stamps overprinted for use by Government Departments," and includes fresh matter anent the well-known "VR." Many of these overprints are of quite recent creation, and the knowledge here imparted for the first time will be of especial value to the collector, who will find recorded an error hitherto unknown in British stamps —a stamp with inverted overprint, genuinely issued for postal purposes. Division IV. treats of the "Postage Stamps specially surcharged for use in the Ottoman Empire." Division V. descants upon the Telegraph Stamps, wherein we learn that Plate 4 of the one penny of February 1st, 1876, was put to press on the 17th of that month, and that although it is unknown perforated, some 5000 sheets were printed therefrom. It also appears that of 784,000 stamps of the five shillings value, printed on large anchor paper, only 99,556 were issued. Division VI. is that describing the "Telegraph Stamps used by the War Office." And last, but not least, comes an Appendix, which is a veritable mine of knowledge, embodying the authors' records, made from the examination of the *imprimatur* sheets, and tabulating under the head of each plate all the information they had been enabled to acquire.

In the foregoing remarks we have but glanced at a few of the points in this most valuable book, which must inevitably be the future standard work of reference on British stamps. The official information placed at the disposal of the authors gives it an authoritative record that could hardly be otherwise attained, while in all cases the source of information is acknowledged, nor has anything been inserted (unless so stated) on theory alone. The utmost care has been taken by the authors to ensure accuracy, and without claiming infallibility, it may at once be conceded that this work is to be relied upon with regard to statements of fact. It may be urged that a certain official air of "dryness" will be found to pervade the volume, but this is inevitable in view of the constant requisitions that have been made on these sources of information. In fact, Mr. Creeke modestly disclaims the possibility of producing a work of any especial pretension to literary merit, preferring rather, at the risk of repetition, to have clearness and

accuracy of statement. The authors acknowledge their indebtedness to various and distinguished officials; and we in turn are proud to recognise, on behalf of their fellow-members of the London Philatelic Society and of the general body of collectors, our debt of gratitude to the late Mr. Hastings Wright and Mr. Creeke for the magnificent work that they have created. *The Stamps of the British Isles* will always be one of the leading features of a Philatelist's library, and were any evidence needed as to the inherent vitality of the London Society and the great Philatelic abilities possessed by some of its members, it would assuredly be furnished by this volume. We heartily congratulate Mr. Creeke upon the termination of his labours, which would have been at once materially lightened and rendered far more pleasant had Mr. Wright been spared. The greater the labour the greater, however, the honour, and in the name of the members of the London Society we tender to Mr. A. B. Creeke, jun., our thorough appreciation of a work that must alike redound to his honour and reflect an additional lustre upon the Society of which he is a member.

MESSRS. SENF'S 1899 CATALOGUE.*

It is twelve months since the appearance of the yellow Senf, but until we were forcibly reminded of the fact by the appearance of its successor—this time in brilliant magenta—we had fondly imagined that the day was still far off when we should be called upon to review yet another catalogue. In the case of this excellent work the task is fortunately light; the experience of many years has been steadily incorporated by Messrs. Senf in their catalogue until it has become a standard and reliable work, requiring but few emendations and still less criticism. For years past the total of the pages has been approaching four figures, and this year the aggregate has passed the Rubicon, being not less than 1021! It is a proof of the excellence of German paper and printing that, although the catalogue is eminently legible, the whole of this matter is compressed within 1⅛ inch of thickness. The addition of the new issues is largely responsible for the increased bulk, but beyond this several countries have been written up and generally improved. In a few instances there are still openings for "betterment," *e.g.* New Zealand, which assuredly wants rewriting and bringing up to date; while the very redundant list of Postal Fiscals, "unused, penmarked, and used," practically of equal value as a rule, in either of these three assumed conditions, might well be omitted. In Bermuda the one penny, imperforate, of the first issue is still omitted, and in Spain the 25 m., blue and rose, of 1867–8, with frame inverted, is not catalogued. In France the *tête-bêche* stamps should not be relegated to a footnote, but, as accepted rarities of the country, should be priced. The note states that the 15 c., green, of the first Republic is the only value that has not yet been seen. This qualification should, however, apply to the 40 c., orange, and not the 15 c.

There has been a laudable attempt to bring the prices more in line with existing market facts, but in many cases still, the used stamps reveal only

* *Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps.* GEBRUDER SENF, Leipzig.

the price that the dealers will gladly sell them at, and the rarer, unused, the prices they would gladly purchase at! The German States themselves especially point this moral, the prices of the unused Brunswick, Baden, or Wurtemberg being mainly artificial. The same remark still applies to many other countries, such as New South Wales or Great Britain, in the case of the better stamps. In one case—Switzerland—there has been a material rise in the unused, nearly all the Cantonals having been "jumped up," while the 15 cents, Rayon III., has bounded from 120 to 1000 marks. The portion relating to envelopes and post cards has also received editorial attention, notably in the lists of United States. The quotations for many of the German envelopes are held by collectors to be too high—not in accordance with their rarity, but in relation to the demand for them. There is, however, but very little to find fault with in the 1899 catalogue—the illustrations are susceptible of improvement—and it will worthily continue to be the Philatelic guide, philosopher, and friend of the collector throughout Germany, and a large proportion of the globe outside.

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 GUIANA.—We take the following caution from the *M. J.* of last month.

Our readers should exercise great care in accepting specimens of these bisected stamps, should any be offered.

"In the report of one of the meetings of the London Philatelic Society, published in our number for June, the following paragraph appeared:—

"'Mr. A. W. Chambers showed two specimens of an unchronicled provisional of British Guiana on their original envelopes. They consisted of the 4 c., blue, 1860 type, perf. 10, cut diagonally, each half being used for the local rate of 2 cents. One of the envelopes was dated in 1879.'

"We did not make any special mention of this discovery in our 'New Issues and Varieties,' because we have never looked upon bisected stamps as of any very great interest, but we have since received a letter from Mr. F. Gregory, a prominent member of the Philatelic Society of Barbados, from which it appears that some fifty or sixty copies at least of these curiosities have turned up, all, as far as he could ascertain, in one office, and that he regards the few copies that he has seen with very great suspicion. There is an 'embarrassment of riches' in the way of varieties, for in addition to the halves of 4 c., there are halves of 2 c. and 8 c., and thirds of 12 c.! Mr. Gregory is of opinion that a few genuine fragments have been discovered, and that this had led to the manufacture of others. He has been able to examine six copies in all; not one of these was on an entire envelope, and in every case the portion of the envelope where a stamp is more ordinarily placed was missing.

"We hear that prices, which we should

consider extravagant even if the things are genuine, have been given for some of these curiosities by collectors in British Guiana itself; we can only suggest to our readers that they would do well to receive anything of this kind with extreme caution."

BRITISH HONDURAS.—Several of our contemporaries announce the 5 cent postal, surcharged "REVENUE" in small caps., and used postally. The *M. J.* is informed that the 25 c. and 50 c. *postals* have also been similarly surcharged.

Adhesive Fiscal used postally.
5 c., ultramarine, black surcharge.

CANADA.—The surcharged "2 cents" on 3 cents, both the four leaves and figures in bottom corners types, and the 2 cent changed in colour from purple to rose-carmine, appear to be circulating at the same time. Specimens of the 2 cents on 3 cents, both varieties, have been sent us by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and other friends, and the 2 cents in changed colour is also before us. It is expected, in several quarters, that other values, now of little use, will be converted into 2 cents stamps by surcharging.

Adhesives. 2 cents, in black, on 3 c., rose-carmine, maple leaves type.
2 cents, in black, on 3 c., rose-carmine, figures in lower corners type.
2 cents, rose-carmine, type 1898.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND.—We regret that the following notes were unavoidably prevented from appearing in our columns last month. On pages 22, 108, and 134 we acknowledged receipt of specimens of Pigeongram stamps used between Great Barrier Island and the mainland, expressing an opinion on their character as postage stamps, and accepting them only "with all reserve."

On page 195 will be found a letter from the secretary of the General Post Office, Wellington, officially addressed to the editor of the *London Philatelist*, stating that these stamps had "never been used for any *postal* purpose or for franking letters carried by private ships or pigeons between Great Barrier Island and the mainland."

Since the above was written the matter has received considerable attention from our contemporaries, and in several journals interesting articles have appeared.

We reproduce one, "A Novel Postal Service," taken from the *American Journal of Philately* of September:—

"A NOVEL POSTAL SERVICE.

"THE GREAT BARRIER PIGEONGRAM AGENCY.

"The above agency, which has been filling the *rôle* of pigeon mail carriers between the Great Barrier Island and this city for the last three years, having been brought prominently before the public of the colony by the issue of the unique 'pigeongram stamp,' a description of the work performed by their diminutive messengers with the illustrations shown will be perused with interest. The island is sixty miles from Auckland, and will be remembered as the scene of the terrible wreck of the s.s. *Wairarapa*. The delay of four days in getting the news of the wreck in Auckland pointed vividly to the isolation of the residents, who were completely cut off from communication with the mainland after the departure of the weekly steamer.

"Occasionally a basket of 'homers' was sent to the island by Mr. W. Fricker for use in case of emergency, but in 1896 the mining industry at the island getting into full swing caused a large increase in the population. It was at once felt that some quicker means of transit for correspondence was required, and the experiment of Fricker's birds having given satisfactory results, the 'pigeongram service,' which provided a safe and rapid means of transport for messages, was thoroughly established.

"At the outset of the service the birds were worked from the island to Auckland only at the cost of two shillings per message, but after patience and perseverence in training, a good team were got to do the return journey.

"The time taken in transit of a message averages sixty-five to seventy minutes, according to wind and weather.

"The circuit of communication being made complete, caused a large increase in the number of messages, coupled with the discovery that a bird could carry four messages at a time, induced the proprietors to reduce the cost of messages from the island to Auckland to sixpence, and the reverse journey was fixed at one shilling. This increased cost of a message from the city is occasioned by the extra labour entailed in training the birds, and getting them to leave the city on their long water fly.

"The messages are written on tissue paper (quarto size) with carbon leaf, the tissue paper being perforated down each side, and on being folded is sealed with the 'pigeongram stamp,' which secures the privacy of the message. The messages are then wrapped around the pigeon's leg, and covered with a waterproof legging. This protects it from wet in case of bad weather, or from the bird pecking it off during transit.

"To open the message the receiver cuts through the perforation.

"There are just on one hundred birds engaged in the service. At both terminuses the usual trap for homers is used, on entering which the wires fall back and strike an alarm. This notifies an attendant, who removes the messages, and the bird is permitted to enter the main loft.

"Correspondence for transmission to the island is received up to 10 a.m.; from the

island 3 p.m. The early hour from Auckland is occasioned by the fact that the island is often enveloped in fog after midday.

"The agency has been subsidised by the Northern Steamship Company, the mining companies working at the island, and some leading merchants in the city.

"A communication from Dr. Erson to the press on the agency we reproduce, as showing some of the benefits of the service. It is as follows: 'A smart piece of work was performed for me to-day by the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency, Picton Street, Auckland, which I think in the interests of the public should be widely known. On Saturday afternoon I received an important cable for my brother, Dr. Leger Erson, who is at present on a visit to the Great Barrier Island, and wishing to get the cable through and a reply at the earliest possible moment, I placed myself in communication with the Pigeongram Agency, with the result that a bird was despatched to the island with the cablegram at 8 a.m. this morning, and I received my reply in Onehunga at a quarter past eleven a.m.—(Signed) W. R. CLOSE-ERSON, Mayor of Onehunga, July 16, 1899.'

"The agency has received a pleasing recognition of their 'pigeongram stamp' from His Excellency the Governor (the Earl of Ranfurly), specimens of the stamp having been sent to him for insertion in his collection. So pleased was His Excellency with the specimens that he forwarded an order for a supply for the purpose of sending them to some of his friends. That the Pigeongram Service will one of these days be superseded by more frequent steamer or cable communication gives them an interest apart from the fact that this is the only *bonâ fide* pigeongram service known. The sixpenny stamp is coloured in light blue, and the shilling value in light red."

It is only just to state that the contention of the agents for the sale of these pigeongram stamps in this country—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.—is, and has been, that these stamps were used for *pigeon post*, and as *private locals*, and were *bonâ fide* used for the purpose for which they were intended.

Upon consideration of all the evidence to hand, and bearing in mind the probability that the Government would be among the last to hear of such stamps being used, we think a good case has been made out in favour of the use of these stamps as *pigeongram* or *local post* stamps. If the New Zealand Government have stepped in, as seems probable, and have suppressed them by this time, those already used will become more interesting and sought after by amateurs. That communication between Great Barrier Island and New Zealand was regularly effected by means of communication through the agency of carrier pigeons is assured; that the arrangements made in connection therewith were quite straightforward is also attested by the various letters and agreements kindly submitted to us by Messrs. Whitfield King is also certain; and that the latter firm have acted *bonâ fide* needs no assertion in view of their long standing and deserved reputation. We were only concerned in the insertion of the official letter of the New Zealand Government to shed as much light as possible for the information of our readers.

The "conclusion of the whole matter," therefore, is that these labels, even if they were not essential factors in the conveyance of these pigeon letters, were duly used by the proprietors of this private post to denote prepayment of such letters, and that they were therefore private post stamps whose issue was unknown to the Government, and have been (or will be shortly) stopped.

In a letter recently received from Messrs. Whitfield King, accompanied by lengthy illustrated articles from the *St. James's Budget* and the *New Zealand Graphic* of September 15th, they say:—

"This is not the original one, but an imitation, though we believe it has been in existence some time. Mr. Howie's service is the one which first issued stamps, and Mr. Fricker followed suit (with triangular stamps) when he discovered what a demand there was for the stamps from collectors. We are thoroughly convinced of the *bonâ fide* nature of Mr. Howie's stamps, though, as we have always said, they are but private and unauthorised locals; the danger is, however, that if the Government does not step in there will be pigeon posts to and from all the little islets round the coast, whether they are wanted or not. We have already heard that one is proposed to be established at the Hen and Chickens Islands."

The *Australian Philatelist* of July 25th, newly arrived, has also an article hereon, embracing a history of the "post established by Mr. Fricker of the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency," apparently a follower of the agency, whose stamps Messrs. Whitfield King have been selling. Commenting upon Mr. Fricker's extremely advertised locals, our contemporary adds:—

"We have given a good deal of space to this 'pigeongram' business, partly because it is really interesting from a postal point of view, but chiefly to show Philatelists clearly what is the nature of the 'stamps,' which will probably be freely offered to collectors unused, used, and on original message before long. The service—that is,

the only genuine one, please avoid all dangerous imitations — existed for three years before the necessity (?) for stamps was discovered, and then they were only issued 'in self-defence,' because there was a fraudulent claimant for Philatelic favour in the field! There may be a very real demand for rapid and regular communication with Great Barrier Island; but considering that there is at least a fortnightly steam service, and that the carrying for payment of closed letters by any means between points where there is already a Government postal service is expressly forbidden by law, the pigeongram service is *primâ facie* illegal. In the second place, if messages could be carried for three years without stamps, such labels are not necessary now. However, purchasers will no doubt be found for the stamps, which are decidedly pretty, though somewhat large for the purpose; in fact, the two which appear to be necessary for a reply-paid message would be a respectable load for any pigeon without the letter!"

GREAT BRITAIN.—We hear on the very best authority that the current ½d. stamp will return to its original colour, green, and that the 1s., green, will probably be issued bi-coloured.

Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen's Circular gives the following new issues of Railway Letter Fee Stamps:—

South Eastern and Chatham and Dover Joint.—Stamps inscribed "SE and C and D Railways" have been issued, similar, except in shade, to the last issue of the South Eastern Railway, being rouletted and in sheets of 60.

Neath and Brecon.—A new printing has been made for this line, similar to the last, but in a brighter shade of green, very similar to the present North London.

HONG KONG.—*Le Timbre-Poste* states that the $1 on 96 c., black, no longer has the Chinese characters surcharged on it.

Adhesive.
$1 on 96 c., black, without Chinese characters.

INDIA.—The *M. J.* has received a copy of the 2 a. 6 p. envelope of 1893 with the value altered by means of a surcharge consisting of the words "One" across the top of the stamp and "ANNA" across the bottom, in sans-serif capitals.

Envelope. 1 a., in black, on 2 a. 6 p., orange.

INDIA.—*Faridkot.*—From the *M. J.* we gather there has been seen a specimen of the current 1 rupee of India surcharged "Faridkot," with the top of the "E" of "State" broken so as to form an inverted and reversed "F."

MALTA.—The current ½d., 1d., 4d., and 1s. postals have been surcharged "Revenue" in black, and we expect to see specimens postally used, or at least apparently so.

MAURITIUS.—*Le Timbre-Poste* mentions that the 3 cents wrapper of 1895, which was surcharged "4 cents" in 1898, has again received a further surcharge of "3 cents," and so converting it to its original value.

Further, that the post card, 8 cents, rose, of 1897, has been surcharged "6 cents."

Wrappers. 3 cents on 4 cents on 3 cents, green; red and black surcharge.
Post Card. 6 cents on 8 c., rose on buff; black surcharge.

NEW ZEALAND.—The locally printed stamps are gradually making their appearance, and we hear of the 2½d. and 5d. values having been seen.

The colours or shades are stated to be distinctly different from those of the London printing, and unwatermarked paper has been used.

Adhesives. 2½d., blue, *perf.* 11.
5d., reddish brown, *perf.* 11.

QUEENSLAND.—The publishers of the *M. J.* have received the new 1s., Queensland, type of the 5d, but with numerals in all four corners.

Mr. W. Hadlow has kindly shown us an unused copy of the 2d., blue, thin paper, with Crown & Q faintly impressed.

The ½d. and 1d. values of this variety are numbered 160 and 161 in Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue (1899).

Adhesives.
1s., mauve, wmk. Crown and Q; *perf.* 13.
2d., blue, wmk. Crown and Q, faintly impressed on thin paper; *perf.* 12½.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Late arrivals of the 1s. value are coming over in a much darker shade of brown.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Negri Sembilan.*—From various sources we hear that the 5 c., lilac and ochre, of 1896 has been surcharged "Four Cents" in black.

Adhesive. 4 c. on 5 c., lilac and ochre; black surcharge.

VICTORIA.—Messrs. Smyth & Nicolle have kindly sent us specimens of the four stamps altered in colour to meet the Postal Union requirements, anticipated by us on page 195. We are informed the 2d. value was also to have been changed in colour; but this has not been done—so far, at any rate.

Adhesives. ½d., emerald-green, type 1897–97.
1d., rose-red ,, ,,
1½d., 1cd on yellow ,, ,,
2½d., blue ,, ,,

EUROPE.

RUSSIAN CRETE.—*Le Timbre-Poste* for August gives four types and nine values.

The fourth type differs very slightly from the third type, mentioned in this journal, p. 219.

There must be grave doubts whether these numerous varieties are really postal issues.

It is at least significant that during the lengthened occupation of this island by the Russian soldiers nothing was heard of Russian-Cretan issues, but on the return of the troops to Russian soil stamps at once sprang up like mushrooms.

ROUMANIA.—The 5 and 15 bani post cards have changed their colours to green and black respectively.

Post Cards. 5 bani, green on white.
15 ,, black on buff.

AMERICA.

BOLIVIA.—The 1894 issue, both thick and thin paper, is stated to be surcharged in a rectangle "$\frac{\text{E.F.}}{1899}$" (Estado Federal).

Values up to 20 c. have been seen, but doubtless the 50 c. and 100 c. will hardly escape the surcharging.

CHILI.—A new value, 30 cents., carmine, has been announced.

It is stated to be of the regular type, but as all the values are to be changed in colours, or perhaps new designs made out-and-out (see p. 220), the new-comer may not have a very long life—at the least there will be a good opportunity to give it a new coat.

Adhesive. 30 cents., carmine.

HONDURAS. — Several of our contemporaries chronicle two values of the locomotive type, surcharged "Permitase," in black or in purple, but no explanation is yet forthcoming.

Adhesives.

5 c., light blue, surcharged in black, "Permitase."
10 c., blue, surcharged in violet, "Permitase."

ECUADOR.—The *A. J. of P.* announces a provisional envelope for this country.

The envelopes of the 1894 issue are, it is stated, the sufferers.

The surcharge—a fancy design with arms in centre—"Emision Habilitada" at top and "1899-1900" at bottom, is placed on the left of the envelope, and not on the stamp, which is on the right.

Envelope. 5 c., green on white paper; green surcharge.

MEXICO.—*Mekeel's Weekly* announces a new issue for this country to come into circulation on November 1st next.

The descriptions of the 1 c. to 15 c. are not given. The following is the list of values and colours, etc. :—

1 centavo, emerald-green.
2 ,, red.
3 ,, sienna.
5 ,, blue.
10 ,, lilac and orange.
15 ,, rose and blue.
50 ,, violet and black (Falls of Juanacatlan).
1 peso, ultramarine and black (Popocatapetl).
5 ,, carmine and black (Cathedral of Mexico).

With the usual supply of stationery.

NICARAGUA.—*Bluefields.* — A correspondent of the *American Journal of Philately* writes that journal to say that the Post Office Department of Managua appears to be neglecting the post office at Bluefields, as it has failed to send the desired supplies of stamps for a number of months.

It is not surprising, under such circumstances, to hear also that it is not unlikely that a new set of *provisionals* will make its appearance shortly, particularly as a few of the internal towns — so it is stated — are forwarding mail with the simple hand-stamp "Pagado," and that the revenue-stamped paper may be utilised to perform postal service.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

COREA.—It is stated that the set of four stamps issued in 1895 have lately been much better printed, and that they are perforated 12 or 13.

CUBA.—The permanent issue so long expected, and of which we gave a list on pages 84 and 136, has at length arrived, and samples have reached us through Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. There seems to have been a little shuffling of the designs, which we now find to be as follows :—

Adhesives.

1 cent, green; design, statue of Columbus.
2 ,, carmine ,, palm trees.
3 ,, purple ,, allegorical figure of Cuba.
5 ,, blue ,, ocean steamship.
10 ,, brown ,, native ploughing.
10 ,, orange (special delivery); design, messenger on bicycle.

FRENCH COLONIES. — *Mekeel's Weekly* states that it has been decided that the French foreign offices of the postal service (including Levant, Morocco, Zanzibar, China, Cavalle, etc.) shall have a special set of stamps, instead of using surcharged French stamps.

We had fondly hoped that the French issues had ceased from troubling!

Mayotte.—From all round the board comes information of the issue of a 5 francs value of the current Colonial type.

Adhesive. 5 francs, lilac on pale lilac (name in blue).

HAWAII.—It would appear from *Mekeel's Weekly* that the 50 c. and $1 stamps recorded on page 221 are only fiscals after all, and we hope they will not be pressed into the postal service, the fate of so many of their brethren.

SAMOA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us specimens of the usual type printed in the new Postal Union colours.

Adhesives. ½d., green; usual type; perf. 11.
1d., brownish red; usual type; perf. 11.

SARAWAK.—The *M. J.* has received information of two provisionals issued on July 1st, viz. by surcharging the 12 c. and 8 c. of 1871 with a numeral and the word "Cents," in black or red.

These old stamps will come in very handy now that the supply of *various* values has run short.

Adhesives. 2 c., in black, on 12 c., red on lilac-rose.
4 c., in red, on 8 c., blue on blue.

SURINAM.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that new stamps are to be issued for Surinam and other Dutch colonies on January 1st next.

UNITED STATES.—*Cuba.*—The U.S. Postage Due stamps of the values 1, 2, 5, 10 cents are to be surcharged for use in Cuba, and several of our contemporaries give the quantities ordered as 100,000, 100 000, 20,000, and 10,000 respectively. Probably new types will be made later on.

Philippine Islands.—The U.S. postage stamps surcharged "Philippines," mentioned on page 137, have, it is reported, arrived at last.

The word "Philippines" is printed diagonally across the stamp, similar to the Porto Rico surcharge.

In addition to the values hitherto reported, there must be added the 15 cents and 50 cents, of which a supply has been ordered, together with Postage Due stamps of the values 1, 2, 5, 10, and 50 cents, and some stationery.

Porto Rico.—The 1 cent U.S. post card has had the name "Porto Rico" in black impressed upon it.

Post Card. 1 c., black on buff.

PERSIA.—According to the *A. J. P.*, before the new issue referred to on page 221 is issued, the 1898 set, with the exception of the 10 kran, is to be surcharged with the monogram "P P" (Postes Persanes) in fancy letters. But why is the 10 kran allowed to escape the indignity of an overprint?

The stamps of the new type are to be of the same values as the issue of 1898.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society of Victoria.

THE annual meeting of the above Society was held at its rooms, 243, Collins Street, Melbourne, on Tuesday evening the 27th June, 1899, when the President (Mr. W. R. Rundell) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

The President addressed the meeting, and commented upon the satisfactory state of the Society, detailing the work done during the year, and concluded by thanking the office-bearers for their assistance during his term of office.

The annual report and balance-sheet was then the order of the day, and it was unanimously received and adopted.

The President then declared the following gentlemen duly elected for the respective offices for the year 1899-1900, no opposition being forthcoming:—

President—Mr. W. BREITSCHNEIDER.
Vice-President—Mr. C. CHAPMAN.
Hon. Sec., Treasurer, and Exchange Supt.—Mr. D. S. ABRAHAM.
Librarian—Mr. E. A. DEAVILLE.
Committee—Messrs. J. DAVIES, A. S. A. WHELEN, W. DAVIES, and H. WEEDON.
Auditor—Mr. S. E. INNES.

An alteration in the rules as to date of holding the annual meeting was then made, due notice having been given, upon the motion of Mr. D. H. Hill (life hon. president).

The meeting concluded by a vote of thanks to the retiring office-bearers, and then the ordinary monthly meeting was held, at which a competitive exhibition was held of stamps in pairs, blocks, and strips of any country, and it brought some fine exhibits and proved most interesting.

At the next meeting a display will be held of Sydney View stamps.

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

ANNUAL REPORT.

YOUR Committee begs to submit to you the seventh annual report and balance-sheet. The number of members now on the roll is: 44 town, 13 corresponding, and 1 honorary. The balance at the Society's credit is £24 17*s.* 2*d.*, which your Committee thinks very satisfactory. The thanks of the Society are due to Major Outtrim, Deputy Postmaster-General, for his courtesy in allowing all new issues of the countries comprised in the Postal Union received by him to be exhibited at each meeting. A proposal was made during the year to remove the rooms of the Society to

No. 243, Collins Street, Melbourne, which was submitted for your consideration, and approved of by you, and the removal has been found advantageous. The exhibition of collections at the meetings of the Society was continued during the year with success, and was instrumental in improving the attendance. Your Committee has inaugurated a system of competitive exhibitions at the meetings of the Society, which have proved of great interest, and it is to be hoped that every member will endeavour to exhibit at future meetings to further popularise them.

It is pleasing to record that during the year the President (Mr. W. R. Rundell) read a most interesting paper on "The First Postage Stamps of Victoria," which contained much original matter, and was greatly appreciated.

Nine committee meetings were held during the year, at which the attendance was as follows:—Mr. W. R. Rundell (President), 6; Mr. D. H. Hill (Hon. Life President), 4; Mr. A. S. A. Whelen (Vice-President), 7; Mr. C. Chapman (Librarian), 7; Mr. J. Davis, 6; Mr. W. Brettschneider, 8; Mr. O. W. Rosenhain (resigned January, 1899), 0: Mr. A. J. Derrick (resigned October, 1898), 0; Mr. W. Davies (elected November, 1898), 1; Mr. D. S. Abraham (Hon. Secretary), 9. Eleven exchange books were circulated during the year amongst members, containing 478 sheets, valued at £580 13*s.* 4*d.* Fifteen books were returned, from which members removed stamps to the value of £237 4*s.* The Library has been steadily added to by donations and purchases by the Committee, and members are reminded that it is always open for their use. The necessity for prompt payment of their debits, to facilitate the settlement of exchange books, should impress itself upon all members. In conclusion your Committee is pleased to report that the Society maintains its prosperous position, owing greatly to the energy displayed by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. D. S. Abraham), who is untiring in his efforts to advance the interests of the Society.

W. R. RUNDELL, *President.*
D. S. ABRAHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

Receipts and Expenditure for year ending 30th June, 1899.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To cash from 1898	24	12	10	By rent and gas	13	2	6
Subscriptions	22	2	6	Stationery and printing	5	9	0
Commission on exchange books, etc.	12	10	7	Subscriptions to journals, etc.	6	0	6
Sales on exchange sheets	0	13	8	Binding	2	10	0
				Postage and sundries	7	12	11
				Insurance	0	7	6
				Cash in hand	24	17	2
	£59	19	7		£59	19	7

Herts Philatelic Society.

MR. SLADE, the active Honorary Secretary, has submitted to us the first annual report of this now flourishing Society, from which we select the following interesting excerpts, with the devout wish that this new Society may yet prosper exceedingly:—

Honorary President—HAROLD J. WHITE.
Vice-Presidents—ROBERT EHRENBACH. GORDON SMITH, M.A. HERBERT R. OLDFIELD.
Committee—
W. A. BOIS. LOUIS E. BRADBURY. W. G. COOL. GEORGE GAFFE. REV. WALTER JENKS. E. A. MARDON. W. SIMPSON. FREDERICK A. WICKHART.
Counterfeit Expert—REV. R. B. EAREE.
Librarian—G. HAYNES.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—H. A. SLADE, Ingleside, St. Albans.
Headquarters for Monthly Meetings—
ANDERTON'S HOTEL, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

REPORT.

"In congratulating you on the progressive strides made by the Herts Philatelic Society, I am convinced that my first annual report would be incomplete without some reference to the circumstances under which the Society was first called into being. Probably its origin dates from a casual remark made at the St. Albans County Club, that some means might be taken for bringing the collectors of Hertfordshire into closer contact. Some months later (in February, 1897, to be accurate), on the initiative of Mr. Haynes, the question was more seriously mooted, and six gentlemen (Messrs. Gaffe, Haynes, Roskilly. Slade, Rev. Walter Jenks, and Dr. Earl Norman) formed themselves into a committee to see what could be done in the matter. Meetings were held, provisional rules were drawn up, and funds were subscribed to cover initial expenses. The intention of the promoters was the formation of a purely local club that should hold its meetings alternately at the houses of the members of the Committee. The social aspect of the question was to be greatly in evidence, stamps were to be exchanged and discussed, and papers and displays were to be given as far as opportunity allowed.

"But the county was found to be so bare of Philatelists that even this modest scheme fell to the ground. It was felt that more ambitious steps should be taken—that the sphere of membership should be enlarged, and that headquarters should be transferred to the metropolis. The idea was acted on with vigour. Mr. Harold White, who then lived near St. Albans, and who had taken an interest in the movement from the first, was unanimously elected Honorary President; three of the leading lights of Philatelic London consented to take office as Vice-Presidents, and many members of the Suburban accepted my invitation to enrol themselves in the H.P.S. At our first meeting at the Inns of Court Hotel, on October 17th, 1898 (Major Evans in the chair), rules were revised, and it was determined to reorganise the Committee. As members on that date mustered upwards of forty it was resolved that the executive should no longer consist entirely of Herts men, but that metropolitan and other members should be represented on the Board. I but echo the views of my colleagues in bearing testimony to the valuable services of Dr. Earl Norman and Mr. J. H. Roskilly, who, having shared the burden and expense of starting the Society, in view of their numerous engagements, now retired in favour of Messrs. Bois, Bradbury, Cool, Mardon, Simpson, and Wickhart.

"This is the precise history of the Society. From the mediocrity and obscurity of a local club we aim at becoming the biggest and most popular Society in the United Kingdom. Our purpose is the catering for medium collectors and for tyros who can neither afford the expense nor understand the technicalities of the premier Society.

While our muster-roll has mounted from six to seventy-eight within twelve months, we trust that every member will aid us in doing even better in the future than in the past in this direction. We look forward with confidence to make the exchange department a greater success next season, and hope to combine quantity with quality as regards the contributions. While some of the best-known of specialists have been good enough to promise their assistance in the matter of displays, we propose to make a special feature of inducing the rank and file to come forward with their knowledge and collections. Friendly auctions, exchanges, and 'stamp talk' will also find an adequate place reserved for them during the session.

"In conclusion, the Committee desire me to put on record their cordial thanks to the London Philatelic Society for its friendly gifts, assistance, and advice; to the Birmingham Society for the use of its rules; to the *London Philatelist*, *The Monthly Journal*, *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, *The Philatelic Record*, and *Stamps*, for their courtesy in inserting notices of our proceedings; to the gentlemen who have made our meetings so attractive by their interesting displays; and lastly, to all members who have so heartily joined in helping the Society to the success it now enjoys.

"During the 1898–99 session the following meetings were held: Annual Business General Meeting (1), Displays (8), Dinner, Meetings of the Finance Committee, Meetings of the General Committee (12). The attendance of members at the ordinary meetings showed the good average of thirteen, and the interest and enthusiasm displayed left nothing to be desired. The increase of membership in our muster-roll from seven to seventy-eight *in one season* is a remarkable indication of the good work being done by the Society."

Statement of Accounts for year ending 1st October, 1899.

Income.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions towards preliminary expenses, 7 at 10s.	3	10	0	Printing of Rules	1	9	6
Annual Subscriptions, 60 at 5s.	15	0	0	Reprinting	1	4	6
LifeSubscriptions, 6 at 21s., 1 at 11s.	6	17	0	Postages and stationery	2	15	0
Subscriptions for Medals, 8 at 1s. 6d.	0	12	0	Hire of rooms for meetings	4	11	6
				Notices of meetings and posting of same	4	0	4
				22 numbers of *P. J. G. B.*	0	11	0
				Dinner expenses	0	17	6
				Medal for Exhibition	1	0	0
				Balance in hand	9	9	8
	£25	19	0		£25	19	0

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. A. Churchill Emerson (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. A. Churchill Emerson, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.

THE GENERALIST COLLECTOR.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

Dear Sir,—I have read with much interest the letter you publish in your August number of the *London Philatelist* from "Generalist," *re* the "Arrangement of a General Collection," and perhaps as a Philatelist of some twenty-three years' standing, and having a collection of over 23,000 stamps, you will pardon my making a few remarks on this matter, which, after all, is a most interesting one for general collectors.

I am in favour myself of placing a general collection in "blank unbound albums," and hence must take exception to the views expressed by "Generalist." Personally, I do not see why any collection of stamps should be placed in a printed and spaced album, because, for one reason, we have now so many printed catalogues of good repute, which, allowing duly for non-perfection in actual description and actual illustrations, are still, I uphold, sufficient to act as a complete guide for any collector wishing to use plain leaves or cards for his collection.

Another disadvantage of a bound printed album, or, indeed, any bound album, is the fact that inasmuch as pages *will* soil and stamps *will* have to be at times rearranged according to varieties arising or new issues appearing, it follows that such leaves will have to be "removed," which, in this case, must mean either finely cut out or removed, thereby tending to spoil the album, as well as to reduce its original thickness.

Another point: should owner of such an album or albums wish ever to exhibit—and such exhibits have, by rule, to be displayed on blank and loose cards—the exhibitor has to entirely rearrange such exhibits, and afterwards again rearrange them in his own albums, thus not only giving himself useless trouble, but also fingering the stamps, which all tends to mar the specimens.

I certainly am of the opinion that any printed descriptions should be kept entirely apart from the pages of stamps themselves, except, of course, for the very young Philatelist, just commencing; and even in this case I go so far as to advise all I come across to place their stamps in small blank books, leaving them to consult a printed catalogue for their guidance in placing in the specimens.

I know well the cost of blank cards comes somewhat expensive, but if we had printed albums with the necessary "complete" descrip-

tions of the stamps, what an enormous quantity we should require! In my case I call myself a general advanced collector, but having some 20,000 in my general collection, excluding 3000 stamps of a specialist description, it follows I should require more albums of this sort than I have already, which entirely consist of blank movable cards.

"Generalist" says in his letter the advanced "generalist" is absolutely out of it at exhibitions. Well, I may be pardoned for alluding myself to the recent one held in Manchester, when I say that out of the three medals I secured two were gained for my showing certain islands and colonies, in which I describe myself as being an advanced generalist collector, and in both cases, according to the rules, these exhibits had to be placed on blank cards.

Perhaps at this point of my letter I may say that for the silver medal I gained for used English I had to place the whole of those shown on loose cards, and although in this case I am somewhat of a specialist, yet had my English been previously placed in bound books, then I should have given myself endless trouble in rearranging twice; and I may also say here that I arranged them myself without any other aid than the two or three good catalogues now published, which I think is a compliment to the publishers of the latter, in spite of slight errors which must arise at times. Even showing on loose cards, I had to be at considerable outlay, which would have been increased had I been compelled to remove specially for the exhibition from bound albums, etc., as pages never look so clean after taking stamps off them. Then, again, it is a fact many more mounts would have been required, and many more hours' labour.

Again, as an advanced generalist I showed some thirteen albums of my general collection, and although failing to get a medal, still, beyond the charge for space, the previous arrangement of these in my case was *nil*.

I think the fact that the majority of Philatelists who have reached any standard at all do not use printed albums shows that they are not much required. It perhaps saves time to place your stamps in an album which has descriptions of same on each page, but I question if the time spent in placing on blank cards, *plus* the time in arranging according to a good catalogue, is not better spent than time saved in the previous way; for in time, by so acting, one gets accustomed to do "without" a catalogue for many stamps (putting aside prices, which raises another question entirely), and, of course, I am assuming that the true collector does not consider that the illustrations of stamps on his pages are a beauty to his collection. Personally, I should call them a complete disfigurement, but, as "Generalist" says, it is a point which people will differ about, only I write thus, giving my humble view of the question, which happens to be on the other side to that expressed by "Generalist."

One more point. So many issues come out nowadays that it is impossible to keep your illustrations of stamps complete for one who collects these issues. Hence it follows, either a constant change of albums as new illustrations come out, or else a sort of "halfway house," with complete illustrations up to a certain point, and either none for the rest, or else, if the Philatelist be an artist, self-made illustrations.

Apologising for the length of this letter, and enclosing my card,

Yours faithfully,

ERNEST HEGINBOTTOM, B.A.

WOODFIELD, ROCHDALE,
1st September, 1899.

RAILWAY LETTER FEE "LABELS."

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—In this month's *London Philatelist* Mr. Raynor makes a point of the fact that the Post Office differentiate between their own stamps and those of the Railways by referring to the latter as "labels." In reply to the question with which he commences, I submit that the evidence of the Post Office Department *is* what we must be guided by, *as far as it shows the circumstances under which they are used*; but, having taken this into consideration, it is for collectors to weigh the evidence and decide for themselves as to their status. The Post Office is not invariably a miracle of consistency, nor is it the best authority to determine a delicate Philatelic question.

If their nomenclature is worth discussion, I will point out that "stamp" and "label" are terms practically interchangeable, both to collectors and the Post Office Department; for the latter called its own stamps "labels" in the marginal inscriptions on the sheets up to the time of the "Crown 1880" paper, when these inscriptions were discontinued

Yours truly,

C. F. DENDY MARSHALL.

CRAIGNUIR, HASSOCKS,
31st August, 1899.

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 SEASON has opened early this year, as the two leading London auctioneers have sales on the following days of this month:—26th and 27th, Messrs. Puttick and Simpson; and 28th and 29th, Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper. In both cases the lots submitted include a number of fine stamps, and seem especially strong in the standard medium rarities; and it is to be hoped that they will find purchasers at remunerative figures.

* * *

STAMP BUSINESS in the United States, we hear on reliable authority, has been excellent, despite heat waves and Philippine operations. The interest shown in Uncle Sam's new colonial stamps is phenomenal, although the Guam series seems rather slippery to the grasp!

DUTCH AUCTIONS.—These sales (we do not mean by this the inverted system of beginning at the top price and working down so that only one bid can be made, but the auctions in Holland) have likewise commenced early and vigorously. We have received a catalogue of a sale at Rotterdam on October 2nd to 5th, under the auspices of the auctioneers, Messrs. J. L. van Dieten and A. M. van Hoek—both familiar names. It appears to be a private collection, and among the 1200 lots are many scarce stamps. It is naturally somewhat difficult to follow the Dutch descriptions, but among the abbreviations we can understand Z as "Zeldzaam," ZZ as "Zehrzeldzaam," but why ZZZ should be "Curiositeit" passes our power of comprehension!

THE

London Philatelist.

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VIII. OCTOBER, 1899. No. 94.

V.R. Transvaal.

NO stamps occupy a more anomalous position in our catalogues than those of the South African Republic. The Transvaal was undoubtedly a British Colony for several years. Between 1877 and 1881 the stamps were issued, first with the initials of the Queen and the name of the Colony, and subsequently with Her Gracious Majesty's portrait. Despite these facts, they are neither catalogued, regarded, nor collected as British Colonial stamps. Had Mr. Gladstone's Administration foreseen the problem they were going to create for collectors, they would certainly have hesitated in their pusillanimous surrender of the Colony in 1881! And now it would seem as if the problem may be more intricate yet, since the dogs of war are let loose, and the passions of two conflicting races deeply aroused. Although the vast majority of our countrymen bitterly deplore the retrocession of the Transvaal in 1881, we firmly believe that had the Boers granted fair play all round no thought of annexation would have been allowed. The insults to this nation proffered by the South African Republic may, however, wipe out all these good intentions, and as a matter of policy it may yet be deemed necessary to make the Boer a British subject. In which case the Transvaal stamps would assuredly be included (and retrospectively) as British Colonials. In any case, "another injustice has been done to old England," for the issues between 1877 and 1881 are undoubtedly British Colonials, and should be so catalogued. The stamps of Heligoland and the Ionian Islands are justly included as those of British Colonies, but the "occupation" of the Transvaal by this country was as indubitable as that of the forenamed islands, and the stamps fully as worthy of recognition.

We devoutly trust that the war may be short, sharp, and decisive, but in any case it will not pass without leaving its marks upon current Philatelic history. It remains to be seen whether the Orange Free State or the Transvaal will become merged into the great British Empire, or whether the Cape and Natal stamps of next year will be surcharged "P. K. Transvaal."

Condition.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on the 20th January, 1899.*

By M. P. CASTLE.



HAT there are "all sorts and conditions of" stamps as well as men will hardly be gainsaid by the veriest tyro in Philately. It is equally obvious that the consideration of "all sorts" of stamps would open up a vista far beyond the discussion limits of one evening, and that as far as possible our focus of examination must be concentrated upon "condition"—in the singular, as understood in Philatelic parlance—and only lightly touching upon the vast army of "conditions"—in the plural—affecting Philately.

I am aware that I am rapping a drum that has already been freely beaten, and thus it may be difficult to evolve anything novel, but it may still be that, as I have been the recipient of many and various Philatelic confidences, there may be some fresh aspects of the subject to be presented.

There have been many comments in Philatelic journals during the last few months on the question of "condition," and I will content myself with quoting, as examples, these criticisms emanating from different quarters of the globe, *e.g.* America, Europe, and Australia.

The following paragraph is from the pen of Mr. Willard O. Wylie, a well-known Boston writer, in *Mekeel's Journal* of December 22nd last:—

"The condition crank is a *genus homo* that must be known to be fully appreciated. He demands a stamp free from the taint of hinge, with a margin of white on all four sides, not a straight edge, full, original gum, and not a perforation missing. Have you met this man? He must believe that Governments issue stamps, not for postal services, but to beautify stamp collections. I suggest that the condition crank be taxed for his crankiness. Otherwise we shall have a catalogue soon, giving valuations upon stamps in the various combinations of condition referred to above."

* In the course of his paper Mr. Castle handed round for inspection sheets of stamps illustrative of the phases described. These included specimens of postmark collecting, showing entire obliterations, of well-centred postmarks, of stamps having the central device free of postmark, and the reverse of closely-printed stamps of delicate nature, and embossed specimens, and of various degrees of wear of the plate.

In an article on the apathy (*Verdrossenheit*) of the collector in the *Deütsche Briefmarken Zeitung* of December 17th last, Judge Lindenberg (who with the very best intentions has done much to produce this apathy in the Fatherland by *frightening* collectors!), in reviewing the general outlook, incidentally discusses the question of condition as an important factor as regards present Philatelic supply and demand. He writes:—

"I must here express my conviction that the present demands as to the condition of stamps are overdrawn. In unused stamps nowadays it is expected that they shall be of the freshness of their birthday, that the gum shall be original, intact, and void of guarantee initials, cracks, etc.; in used stamps, they must be wide-margined or perfectly perforated, must possess an obliteration either very light or having an especial interest as such, and they must be innocent of all acquaintance with water. Anything short of this is treated as of less value."

It is not within the reach of all, adds Herr Lindenberg, to attain this degree of excellence, and those not richly blessed with the root of all evil must be content with somewhat less perfect specimens. He argues that the cult of the perfect specimen must still further increase the prices of stamps, and then proceeds:—

"Everyone who has compared a modern collection with one made twenty years ago—or even perhaps ten—will appreciate" the altered nature of modern demands as to condition, etc.

An article in the *Australian Philatelist* for November 25th last, in discussing the various causes of market alterations of value, attributes (erroneously, in my view) a portion of the recent decline in certain stamps to the demand for fine or mint copies, but adds that the idea is not new even if its general adoption may be, and proceeds thus: "In recent years, however, the demand for fine or 'mint' copies has been steadily spreading, and the picking out of fine and rejection of poor copies can have but one effect—that is, to destroy the value of any price list that does not discriminate between the different categories." There is much that I cordially agree with in the foregoing comments, but in another case (when I read that the enthusiast after condition is a lunatic, and will never see a tithe of the money returned that he has spent on getting the rarities thus), I frankly confess—and for reasons that must be impersonal (!)—that I dissent entirely.

Of the present widespread and growing demand for fine condition there can be no doubt, and it is only necessary to consider, for a moment, the circumstances that have given rise to it in order to form a fair forecast as to its future aspects. The growth of a new cult is but a slow one, and the earliest disciples generally begin by invoking the derision of those who, later on, become their most enthusiastic followers. The idea of mint condition is old enough, but its application to special or even general collections is modern. With extremely few exceptions the collector or dealer of but a decade or two since was unfamiliar with mint copies of stamps, and even in the very finest and largest collections now extant that have been forming for many years past, it is safe to say that the weeding-out process is one that is in continuous operation. Nothing has opened my

eyes more than the recent inspection of collections—my own as well as others—which in bygone days I regarded as being all that there is to desire. Two causes practically account for this modern appreciation of mint condition. The first is the example set by the more recent school of specialist collector. The present generation of Philatelists seems to have *started* with the idea of strictly limiting their field of energies, but insisting that all there encompassed shall be of the highest quality. In my opinion the late Mr. Hastings E. Wright, whose loss to this Society we all deeply regret, may be considered as the high priest of condition. It had apparently been an article of belief, in the collection of the stamps of Great Britain, that perfection was not attainable, and that one must get as near to the rose as possible, but Mr. Wright presented for our edification the veritable flower itself. His collection of our own stamps was absolutely faultless and "mint." This word, which seems to be generally adopted, was very quickly taken by leading collectors, and does not seem likely to be ousted by the more correct term "post office copy" which is occasionally used in the United States. "Mint" really means flawless, while Post Office copies may not be. Defective centring, edges of sheets, careless severing of the perforations, creases in the sheets, or dirt emanating from printer or distributer, frequently render bran-new stamps undesirable acquisitions to the disciple of the creed immaculate. Mr. Wright's specimens were above and beyond these suspicions, and taking into consideration the difficulties of acquiring safety paper and embossed stamps, I think I am justified in giving Mr. Wright the title of the Pioneer of Perfection. Among modern names, Mr. D. Garth, Baron A. de Worms, Mr. W. T. Willett, M. P. Mirabaud, Mr. J. H. Duveen, Herr E. Stock, Herr A. Willadt, and M. J. B. Moens—without the foresight of the latter we should indeed be badly off for mint copies of the older issues—and, of course, many others may be cited as among the most exigent on this head. The example has spread rapidly through the medium of the Philatelic societies, and the stamp journals and the exhibitions will ere long bring it home to the outside collector and the public generally.

The second cause for the modern demand for condition arises from familiarity with new issues and the acquisition thereof in blocks, etc. The importation of recent issues, in many cases far handsomer than the old ones, has received an enormous impetus of recent years. Through the medium of societies or friends abroad, or through the trade, almost every collector becomes familiarised with the sight of the current issues in immaculate condition. Being so easily and inexpensively acquired, their acquisition in groups or blocks has become the fashion, and the possession of the current issues thus has led to the desire to have the former ones in equally pleasing array. I may say here that there *are* limits to this, and that I consider, with Herr Lindenberg, that the acquisition of blocks is overdone. In olden days pairs, etc., of imperforate stamps only were held desirable, but it is obvious to me that the true value of a perforation cannot be estimated unless the specimen exhibits the entire incisions made by the machine. To the specialist, therefore, at least pairs are indispensable, but "blocks of four" is a modern form of collecting that has enormously

gained ground. There can be no opinion but that a square block of four stamps has a remarkably handsome effect, although there are drawbacks. In the first place they destroy the evenness of the lines, and do not permit the single stamp to rest on the same plane, while in the second place they distinctly tend to kill the single specimens. I am constantly offered very large blocks and even sheets, but there is no excuse for these beyond an exceptional group. On the whole I consider that horizontal pairs of stamps are the most suitable means of expressing the acme of condition in all issues. The familiarity with perfect specimens is bound to spread, and the truer knowledge of what real condition means must inevitably be extended more and more to the old issues. The acquisition of the latter thus, unused, bids fair to be a task of ever-increasing difficulty and expense, and, as Herr Lindenberg says, the many will have to be content with humbler fare.

The essentials to be borne in mind in the acquisition of *unused* specimens are briefly as follows, taking first

UNUSED STAMPS.

DESIGN.

Brilliancy and freshness of colour; sharpness of relief in embossed stamps; state of the plate in engraved stamps; and clearness of impression in those surface-printed.

PAPER.

Entire absence of dirt, crease, or fold; width of margin if imperforate, even centring if perforate.

GUM.

Full and original, never having been moistened or marked; without undue discolouration or stains back or front.

USED STAMPS.

DESIGN AND PAPER.

The same essentials are sought here as in unused.

GUM.

Full gum is, of course, not to be had, but specimens having practically all can be found; where it affects the colour of impression or stains the paper it had better be improved off.

POSTMARKS.

Except in cases of special collections of obliterations, where it is advisable to even keep portions of the original cover to show the entire cancellation, the less additional printer's ink on the stamp the better. The central device of the stamp should not be obscured by the postmark.

Dealing firstly with the last-named subject, I would say that the collectors of obliterations are a class unto themselves, and I can practically leave them out in a paper on "condition," as the more postmark there is, the less remains of the former. I am not concerned, however, to gainsay either the interest or the utility of such a collection, and some collectors justly find as much

interest in getting all the "mill wheels" of Baden, or the hundreds of numerals on the Thurn and Taxis, as do others in obtaining the various cancellations of Switzerland and its cantons. In cases where heavy obliterating dies are used it is obviously impossible to have the whole of the postmark without the stamp being practically spoilt, but in many cases, examples of which I have the pleasure of showing you, the entire obliteration is presented without too great a defacement of the stamp itself. I also add a sheet of *well-centred* postmarks, from which it will be seen that the acquirement of both stamp and cancellation without ruin to the former is not incapable of achievement.*

The collector of used stamps, regardless of special obliterations, has a far easier task. His one object, whether his collection includes used and unused, or only the former, should be to have "a little of" postmark, "but not very much of it," and as far as possible—*i.e.* except in cases of rarities, or especially irritating blanks in his albums—to select copies where the postmark has neither changed the original colour of the stamp nor too much obscured the design. In almost every case the centre of the stamp is the attraction, and as a large proportion bear a portrait, it will therefore be obvious that if specimens can be found *with the centre clear* they gain greatly in appearance. The specimens now submitted will explain my meaning. By the exercise of this rule, and a determination to accept only lightly obliterated copies, a collection may be formed that would satisfy the most exigent Philatelist!

Turning now to the unused stamps. With regard to the gum question a great deal might be said—beyond the due limits of chatty papers of this kind. Original gum is an accepted and practically similar term in English, French, German, and Italian for the adhesive matter applied to the backs of the stamps when manufactured. There is a great deal of blind faith in the matter of O.G.! Great prices are asked for stamps with a most innocent smooth wash of transparent gum that could be applied by anybody, as in the cases of some of the current stamps and some of the older issues of the Colonies and German States. The presence of such a gum, even if unsuspected of doubtful origin, should not, as frequently happens, double the price of the stamp. Beyond this there are large quantities of stamps that are regummed. Notable instances of this are Belgium with watermark L L, which are frequently faked up with a bold, crackly mucilage that looks much fresher than the portrait on the front of the stamp. The discovery of a considerable remainder of French stamps of the First Republic and Empire among the papers of the late M. Hulot, the engraver, that had never been gummed, has led in many instances to their being furnished with a gum that would deceive anyone not having access to considerable quantities of the genuine originally-gummed ones. The substituted gum in this case is whiter, and although well crackled, the cracks are larger, bolder, and cleaner-looking than in the old stamps. I may say here that there are at least two kinds of gumming in the stamps of the Republic beside that

* Mr. Ernest Stock, of Berlin, the well-known dealer, had in response to Mr. Castle's application sent a number of specimens showing well-placed postmarks, which were presented for inspection, with the remark that they bore out Mr. Stock's reputation as a *connoisseur* in condition.

named ; *i.e.* a perfectly smooth and yellowish—that probably came quite late—and thick yellowish gum, unevenly distributed and laid on in broad parallel horizontal lines.

On the other hand, there *are* other gums the presence of which greatly adds to the value of the specimen, as they are incapable of imitation. A well-known instance of this is the case of Hanover, with its pink-rose or red gum, that once moistened stains the stamp ; or the first issue of Brunswick, with pale rose mucilage ; or the first issue of Wurtemberg, with its dry, crackly cement that the Germans call "white of egg" ; or the curious thick compound on the Austrian 1850 series. There is also the original greenish thick gum found on some of the old 1d. and 2d. Great Britain, the first issue of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, etc., that is quite of a marked character, and not reproducible. I have known collectors who prefer a medium clean stamp with O.G. to a brilliant one without, but I think they are wrong. O.G. should really only be accepted *in conjunction with all other points* as the proof of the unused condition of a stamp. In point of fact, a stamp that is not clean or bright is hardly unused at all, but, *au contraire*, is hardly used !

Much has been said and written about cleaned stamps, and I read last month in the German paper an elaborate defence thereof, the main ground being that they were far cheaper, and therefore came within the reach of a large class who could not afford to pay high prices. In the ordinary acceptation of the term "cleaning"—*i.e.* the elimination of dirt, creases, stains, etc.—there can be no possible objection, and I have frequently so "cleaned" stamps. There was, indeed, one historic dealer whose paste in olden days was so tenacious in its clinging that I always used to boil his stamps, and even then the colour would sometimes go before the paste ! The other bacilli *were*, however, settled ! The question of the erasure of a pen obliteration is, however, far removed from this, and in the great majority of cases leaves the stamp "free from postmark," but not "unused." Frequently the colour of the stamp is changed, and sometimes the paper also, which, in having the size eliminated, becomes porous, and drinks, as they say across the Channel. Beyond this it will frequently be found that the steel points of the pen used in obliterating leave faint lines behind which can only be seen by close examination. As examples : Belgium, second issue, L L, enframed, 40 c., dark carmine (which are, however, otherwise unused, having been a remainder sheet cancelled by a horizontal line across each stamp) ; Oldenburg, first issue, etc.

Subject, however, to the colour being undamaged, I think, especially where mint unused are almost unattainable, that these "cleaned" stamps have a distinct collectible value, and should be quoted somewhere about halfway between used and unused, where there is a reasonable divergence of value.

"Perforation" calls for little beyond what I have before said. The value of true centring is patent to all, and the day has past—although it long existed—when no especial notice was taken of the amount of superfluous or deficient paper inside the lines of perforation. As far as possible, every tooth should be present. In some countries—Finland, to wit—the teeth are, alas ! very large, but not firmly rooted !

With regard to the question of paper, I would call attention to the fact that certain stamps are so closely printed that they have practically none of the superfluous paper that we call margin, and assess so highly per millimètre. There are hence frequently stamps passed over by collectors on account of small margins that can exist in no other way, unless they cut into the surrounding specimens. On the other hand, there are certain stamps issued first imperforate, and subsequently perforated, which have such wide margins that the greatest care should be exercised in their selection.

As there are possibly some of our members who are not fully acquainted herewith, I have drawn out a list, premising that it is necessarily not inclusive, and is capable of many additions :—

STAMPS PRINTED CLOSELY.	STAMPS PRINTED WIDE APART, AND SUBSEQUENTLY THUS ISSUED, PERFORATED.
Great Britain, 6d., Oct.	Azores, 1st issue.
Baden, 1st issue.	Madeira „ „
Buenos Ayres, 1st issue.	Portugal, value in curve.
Papal States, ½, 1, 3, 4, 8 baj., and all centes. as to outside border-lines of design.	Bremen, 3 g. and 5 s.g.
Thurn and Taxis, early issue.	Luxemburg, 40 c., vermilion (rouletted).
Switzerland. Silk Thread issue.	Hamburg, 1st issue.
Geneva, small eagle.	Transvaal, 1883, 1d. black, and 3d. red.
Basle.	
New South Wales, 3d. and 6d., laureated.	
Tuscany, Savoy Cross.	
Victoria, 1st issue, 2nd printing.	
ditto, 1/-, 1854–61.	
Wurtemberg, 2nd issue.	
Dominican Republic.	
United States, 1 c. and 3 c., imperf. ; ditto, perf.	

I now come to the last and important item—Design. As I have said in the synopsis of points to be aimed at in securing condition, brilliancy and freshness of colour are prime necessities in all classes of stamps. This means that the original colours shall not be faded or deteriorated in any way, of which I submit examples. It is notorious that many of the delicately printed stamps of recent creation lose their "bloom" once they have become acquainted with water. The sun is a dire enemy to this latter class, as may be seen in the cases of lilac, violet, or grey stamps that have been exposed in shop windows, or even in Philatelic exhibitions.

Stamps printed from engraved dies—a numerous class—are fortunately gifted with a less delicate constitution, and can better stand the effects of the cold tub where absolutely called for by the presence of what has been called matter in the wrong place. There is, however, in this class—as distinguished from the type-printed stamps—ample room for the discrimination of the advanced or fastidious collector in the selection of fine, sharp, truly-inked specimens as against those taken from worn plates. Notable instances hereof can be seen in the stamps of our own country. In the

case of engraved stamps, where all the types are different, there is even greater scope for discrimination. The expense of the reproduction of such plates in olden days naturally led to a longer use of the original dies, with the result that in the early issues of such countries as Mauritius or New South Wales the greatest differences are to be found in the impressions from the self-same plate. In the first-named country, I may say *en passant*, these variations have always been appreciated in the Philatelic market, though to a less degree than nowadays; but in the case of the Sydney Views collectors are only just waking up to the differences in rarity between "first impressions" and worn plates. This feature is thoroughly accentuated in the cognate collection of engravings, and I may here appropriately quote the paragraph following from an article that I have recently read (*Pearson's Magazine*, January, 1899):—

"The most valuable engravings in the world are the four impressions which alone exist of Rembrandt's 'Man's Portrait Leaning on a Sabre,' in the original state. The fourth of these was sold at the Holford Sale, July 11th, 1893, for the record sum of £2000. Rembrandt's original plate was cut down, first to an octagonal oval, in which state the impressions fetched only £26, and then to an oval, when the price dropped so low as £2 10*s*.

"The next valuable engraving is, perhaps, what is always known as Rembrandt's 'Hundred Guilder' print. The name arises from the fact that Rembrandt valued the work so highly that he charged 100 guilders, about £8 10*s*., for every impression. This exceedingly rare and valuable print represents 'Christ Healing the Sick,' and is considered to be the artist's *chef d'œuvre*, 'being highly finished, the characters full of expression.' The example, in its first state on Japan paper, was bought for no less than £1750. The plate was modified, and an example in its second state on Japan paper fetched £290, while in its fourth state, having been retouched by Captain Baillie, an impression became worth only £1 13*s*."

Stamps are not the same "cattle" as old engravings, nor perhaps so rare as first-impression Rembrandts. They are, however, but sixty years old, and it may well be that in future years first impressions of really rare stamps in perfect, unused condition, and with their bloom undisturbed, may attain a value that the present generation hardly dreams of.

Another class of stamps that are especially difficult to find perfect are those embossed, *e.g.* Gambia, Great Britain octagonals, and certain issues of Portugal, Austria, Wurtemberg, Switzerland, Bavaria, etc. The great *desideratum* is the relief or sharpness of the raised portion of the impression, the differences in which will be clearly seen from specimens now shown. The chances against the existence of an embossed stamp with its raised white centre in unsullied condition, after a life of half a century, are certainly remote; hence the scorning of "catalogue values" when the opportunity of acquiring such a copy presents itself. Included in this hypersensitive class may be such stamps as the 4d. Great Britain on the safety paper, which flakes off almost at a breath, and the early pale colours of such countries as Brunswick, Austria, and Lombardy, printed in the most delicate tints, with much of the paper uncovered by the design, and in the case of Austria with a cement that seemed especially contrived to crack and warp the paper.

I fear that I have rambled along at undue length in endeavouring to point out some of the pitfalls that beset seekers after mint condition, but in view of the attacks that are often made upon those of us who pay for our fancy in this direction, I have thought it well to vindicate our sanity, or to proclaim the method of our madness. It is obvious that the rare stamps already are—and the medium stamps in the future will be—"caviare to the multitude" in mint condition, and that, should the collectors thereof materially increase, there would not be enough to go round. The prices demanded, however, will tend to slacken the enthusiasm of the mint collector in the next and near century, when he is not an oil king or a Bonanza miner. Fortunately Philately is so many-sided that methods of collecting—full of interest and charm—will always be found suitable for the tastes and pockets of every conceivable collector. Condition, however, appeals to all, and from the schoolboy upwards every Philatelist can materially enhance the beauty and attractive power of his collection by the exercise of discernment and taste in selecting his specimens.

Philatelic Notes.

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

THE ZURICH STAMPS.

THE existence of specimens of these old-world stamps with and without the horizontally or vertically placed lines has been known to collectors since very early days, and the absence of the former has been accounted for in various ways. In most cases undoubtedly the non-appearance of these red lines is due, in the first instance, to faint impressions and subsequent exposure to the light. In certain instances, however, specimens have been long known that clearly had never received any coloured printing, such being accompanied by a worn appearance of the impression, and on a fresh-looking and rather smoother and thicker paper than is the case with the normal stamps. As the hypothesis that the plates were not in existence was generally accepted, it was difficult, despite the appearance of these stamps, to give credence to the fact of their being reprints. The investigations made of late years into the Swiss stamps (which we sincerely trust *will* soon be made public) have, however, resulted in shedding full light upon these varieties. Thanks to Baron A. de Reuterskiold, we are informed that in response to a request by the French Legation at Berne, in September, 1862, four sheets from each (still existing) stone, or 400 labels of each of the 4 and 6 rappen, were struck off, the stones being subsequently defaced. The impressions were very defective, owing to the bad condition of the lithographic stones, and of the 4 rappen only Types I., II., and III. could be utilised. It would appear, therefore, that

these Zurich reprints are both interesting and rare, having already a nearly thirty years' existence, and having been produced on a more limited scale than the "Post Office" Mauritius. As we have on previous occasions remarked in this journal, there are many reprints of a degree of interest far surpassing many actually issued stamps, and the appreciation of legitimately issued Reprints will some day be one that will astonish collectors. We may add that Mr. E. D. Bacon truly diagnosed these Zurich Reprints in his recent excellent book; but as the correctness of his statement was doubted in several quarters we appealed to M. de Reuterskiöld in order to substantiate the real facts, of which a select circle had been long aware.

YET ANOTHER "POST OFFICE."

In the *London Philatelist* of last year, on pages 169 and 269, will be found the record of the discoveries of three 1d. "Post Office" Mauritius, and it would appear now that the preponderance of the existing copies of the 1d., *i.e.* twelve to eight of the 2d., is to be lessened! A correspondent of the *Echo de la Timbrologie* in the island of Mauritius announces (and the statement has not been without apparent corroboration here) that another specimen of the 2d., blue, has been discovered. It would appear that a number of old letters had for many years since been accumulated by a *ci-devant* "slave" (? coolie), who was in the habit of collecting every old bit of paper belonging to his "masters" that he could lay his hands on. These letters, with quite a number of old stamps, were acquired by an English missionary, who was rash enough to pay 20 francs for the lot, and cute enough to promptly send the "Post Office" to London. Oh, most sapient missionary! A good deal comes to London town in the stamp line, and rumour also assigns among late arrivals a very fine set of the first four Hawaiians, also missionary stamps. Blessed are the missionaries of Philately!

Occasional Notes.

DEATH OF MR. ERNEST PETRI.

The totally unexpected announcement of the decease of Mr. Petri comes as a sad shock to his fellow-members of the Manchester Philatelic Society, and to many of those who recently visited the Philatelic Exhibition in that city. It appears that Mr. Petri underwent an operation of a delicate nature some three weeks since, in consequence of which considerable debility ensued; he had, however, somewhat regained this lost ground, but on the 14th of this month he suffered an alarming relapse, and passed away on the evening of that day.

We need hardly say that general sympathy with Mr. Petri's relatives will be felt in Philatelic circles at this sad loss — doubly sad in view of his

comparatively few years—while it will be especially felt by the members of the Manchester Society, of which body Mr. Petri was a Vice-President. His labours in connection with the Manchester Exhibition are too recent to require more than mention; the very important duties of Treasurer having been most efficiently carried out by him. Mr. Petri was an earnest and scientific collector, the countries that he especially affected being the Italian States. His exhibits at Manchester of Modena and Tuscany were of a high order of interest, and it may safely be said that the stamps of the former Duchy have never yet been exhibited in any country with such completeness and thorough display of Philatelic knowledge. It is deeply to be regretted that we should have lost such an able and promising Philatelist.

OFFICIALS DEALING IN STAMPS.

IN our last number we published a letter from Mr. Otterbein Smith, of British Guiana, to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., offering to sell some errors (?) of the lately surcharged British Guiana postage stamps. It is well known that Mr. Smith also approached Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. (and doubtless many more) with the same object in view, and it was with much satisfaction we heard from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., unfortunately just too late for our last issue, that they immediately took the matter up in a manner perhaps hardly anticipated by Mr. Smith, and wrote to the Colonial Office.

The following is a copy of the reply from Downing Street:—

"Downing Street,
"*20th Sept.*, 1899.

"Gentlemen,—With reference to the letter from this department of the 26th of July last, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that he has received a report from the Governor of British Guiana on the subject of Mr. B. Otterbein Smith's offer to sell to you certain misprints of British Guiana stamps.

"It appears from his report that Mr. Smith made use of knowledge gained by him in his employment in the Colonial Post Office to purchase these stamps, that he has been reprimanded and required to give up all the misprinted stamps still in his possession, and that the stamps have been destroyed.

"I am, gentlemen,
"Your obedient Servant,
"Messrs. Whitfield King & Co." (Signed) "C. P. Lucas.

Prompt action of the Colonial Office and all concerned on this side would soon tend to reduce (if not clear entirely) the shoals of unnecessary *errors* so constantly thrust upon our notice.

CHANGES AMONG OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

THE average life of a philatelic journal would represent a remarkably short period compared to other journalistic effort, and with few exceptions it cannot be gainsaid that they sink into oblivion "unwept, unhonoured, and unsung." An honourable exception to this rule is, however, the *Philatelic Record*, which we much regret to say has not appeared

for the past few months, and we are now relieved to hear that, in this case, suspended animation and not decease accounts for the unwonted silence. It is twenty years last February since the *Record* first appeared, and until the formation of the *London Philatelist* it was ever intimately associated with the London Philatelic Society, was continuously edited by members thereof, and contains within its pages records of good work done, and reminiscences of old friends and well-known Philatelists, that must surely render its pages a source of joy for ever. So intimate was its connection with the London Society that nothing but a misguided obstinacy, worthy of Oom Paul, on the part of its new proprietors, prevented the continuance of this old and intimate association. We understand that the *Record* has recently been purchased from Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, by a syndicate, and that its former editor, Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, will resume his functions.

In the place of the defunct *Fortnightly*, and closely resembling it in shape and style, has appeared the first number of the *Stamp Collectors' Guardian*, which promises to deal trenchantly with the various abuses connected with the financial aspect of Philately, and gives an amount of bright and entertaining matter in its initial issue that, if continued, should ensure its success.

Finally, Mr. William Brown, of Salisbury, announces that the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* will be taken over by the new amalgamated firm—Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Pemberton, of 202, High Holborn—in December next. The title of the *P. J. G. B. Advertiser* will be changed to *Brown's Advertiser*, and retained by that gentleman.

THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

THE fourteenth annual meeting of this representative body of our Transatlantic cousins was held at Detroit on the 12th and following days of last month. We note with pleasure that Mr. Geo. L. Toppan has been raised from the position of Vice-President to that of President of the American Philatelic Association. Mr. Toppan, who is personally known to many collectors in this country, is a member of the Philatelic Society of London, and is widely known and respected, alike for his social virtues and for his abilities as a Philatelist. In some departments, notably that of the Envelope and Revenue stamps of the United States, Mr. Toppan has climbed the top rung of the ladder, and we are confident that his election to so important a post as President of the A. P. A. will much gratify his many friends on both sides of the Atlantic. Business was inaugurated by an outspoken and sensible harangue by Mr. G. L. Toppan, and very appropriate to the good of Philatelists everywhere is the following paragraph :—

"The year just past has been a notable one, Philatelically. Probably the most interesting and important event to American Philatelists has been the issuance by our own Government of the various surcharged stamps for use in Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. They have been fully provided for, too much so indeed, and we are forced to see Uncle Sam play an unwilling part in the manufacture and sale of many varieties of stamped envelopes which, while they are perfectly good for

postage at any time, as their sponsors claim, were nevertheless entirely unnecessary, and in some cases, at least, were never intended to perform postal duty. It is an unfortunate and much to be regretted state of affairs, that those claiming to be true Philatelists allow themselves to be influenced by mercenary motives, and become blind to the best interests of our hobby, and for the sake of a few extra dollars flood the already overburdened market with a lot of stuff which, purporting to be legitimate, is in reality about on a par with the issues of Chinese treaty ports and others of their ilk."

The more serious work of the Convention appears to have been properly sandwiched between outings and junketings, and at the close of the third day all separated, after a "real good time," in the hope of meeting next year at Niagara.

The question of securing a permanent journalistic organ for the A. P. A. formed the staple article of discussion on the last day, and a resolution was moved by "Mr. Aldrich, providing for the appointment by the president of a committee to consider the advisability of re-establishing the *American Philatelist*. Many of the members seemed to think it would be greatly to the benefit of the Society, and to Philately in general, if this could be done, and the hope was expressed that it might be possible to have a magazine of the character of the *London Philatelist*."

MR. WESTOBY'S STAMPS OF EUROPE.

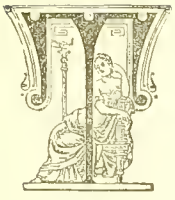
FOLLOWING quickly upon the heels of the last part comes Part XII. of this work, finishing the history of the stamps of Spain and including the issues of Sweden and the earlier cantonal issues of Switzerland. As might be expected, Mr. Westoby is well worth studying, especially in the last-cited country, where he wisely refrains from attempting to describe the legion of forgeries, but *per contra* gives graphic descriptions of the designs which, aided by the representations of the stamps (these, however, might be better; *e.g.* the double Geneva illustration is composed of two halves, which naturally do not meet exactly, and might hence mislead), should enable the class of collectors for whom he mainly writes to separate the sheep from the goats. Mr. Westoby states that the stamp of the transition period—known as the Vaud—was printed in sheets of ten, and on the alteration by hand of the 4 c. to 5 c., ten varieties of the numeral were created. We were under the impression that M. A. de Reuterskiöld and M. P. Mirabaud had nearly completed the sheet of *one hundred stamps*, and that the former gentleman has an unsevered block of forty-eight stamps, showing varying numerals in each specimen!

DEATH OF MR. WESTOBY.

SINCE the foregoing paragraph was written, and while this journal was at press, we have heard with the greatest regret of the death of Mr. Westoby.

Reviews.

"THE STAMP KING."*



THE very last words in this book, in a note by the translator, state that "some little incongruities are to be expected," and we cannot but express our fullest concurrence with this opinion. That a young heiress of sixty million dollars should fling herself from the deck of a liner into the Atlantic, in order to supplant a rival collector in the acquisition of an Indian local stamp, *is* absolutely and undeniably incongruous! It is, however, not from a logical aspect that *The Stamp King* should be considered, but rather with that proneness to be amused without question of inherent probabilities which characterises the playgoer. The situations are often funny or grotesque, the characters bright and attractive, nor is the spectator's enjoyment lessened by the knowledge that he is hardly likely to see a replica of the scenes in real life. It is in this spirit only that it is fair to criticise *The Stamp King*, and it may at once be said that it is amusing in the extreme and cannot fail to greatly entertain all its readers, although naturally the particular sources of such entertainment will vary according to predilections. The gist of the story is that two young millionaires have each a perfect and complete collection (lucky mortals!), but their self-complacency therein is rudely disturbed by the sudden issue of two stamps by the Maharajah of Bramahpootra. The male millionaire promptly and naturally annexes one, and in order to have everything (unlike any other fair living collector!) sets out to acquire the other copy. His fair competitor, Miss Betty Scot, however, "bets her bottom dollar" that she will be there too, and the adventures of the pair of Philatelists on two continents are certainly of an astounding order. In the end the stamp is acquired, the two collections are amalgamated, and their owners "live happily together ever after." Fiction and Philately do not blend well. Although the book is the most ambitious attempt yet made in this direction, we question whether the literature of either branch is enriched hereby.

The only two *raisons d'être* of *The Stamp King* are to endeavour to popularise stamp collection with the outside public, a consummation most devoutly to be wished, and to advertise M. Maury—we mean "M. Moulineau, of 6, Boulevard Montmartre, Paris"—to the widest possible extent. With the existing Anglophobia across the Channel, *The Philatelic Emperor* of 2886, Strand, would hardly be translated into French for the benefit of our neighbours! We have to heartily congratulate Miss Edith Phillips, the translator, upon the accuracy and excellence of her handiwork. The phrasing by no means conveys the perception that the work was written in a foreign tongue, and Miss Phillips is to be highly commended for her fluent and polished rendering. *The Stamp King*, we should add, is both superbly illustrated and beautifully printed, and will assuredly command a wide circle of readers.

* *The Stamp King*, by G. DE BEAUREGARD and H. DE GORSSE, translated from the French by Miss EDITH C. PHILLIPS. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, 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.

CANADA.—The surcharged 2 c. on 3 c., both maple-leaf and numeral issues, are stated to be out of date.

It has not taken the Canadians very long to absorb the nine millions or so reported to have been surcharged.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—The *Australian Philatelist* announces a stamped envelope recently issued, the stamp being of the ordinary De La Rue design, type-printed.

Envelope. 1d., rose on white.

GIBRALTAR.—*Morocco Agencies.*—To the list of stamps with London overprint, given on pages 134 and 168, must be added the 2 pesetas.

Adhesive. 2 pesetas, black and carmine.

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us hereon, enclosing a specimen of the new "stamp" or "pigeongram label," which is the true definition, and the following communication received by them:—

"The new permanent stamp has now been issued. It is exactly the same in design and colour as the last, but the word 'Pigeongram' appears instead of 'Special Post.'

"We also enclose specimen of Marotiri stamp. This is the 'Hen and Chickens' Islands we wrote you about. A pigeongram service has been established there for the sole use and benefit of some copper mines, the proprietors of which have subsidised the service.

"We do not think there are any inhabitants except the men employed at the copper mines and the pigeongram agent."

"*Re* Original Great Barrier Island Pigeongram Service.*

"We are in receipt of your letter of the 28th July last, enclosing extracts from the *London Philatelist* for July, 1899, containing copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Post Office Department, Wellington, New Zealand.

"In reply, we beg to state: 1st. That the 'circumstantial account of the pigeon-post service,' to use your own words, furnished by us is absolutely correct in every particular.

"2nd. That we never asserted that this pigeon service was carried on, or even sanctioned, by the Government of this colony. On the contrary, we distinctly stated in our letter to you that 'this pigeon service is a matter of private enterprise, and is not subsidised by the Government.'

"3rd. Messages have been regularly and continually carried from the Great Barrier to Auckland by pigeons for upwards of two years past in connection with the Original Great Barrier Pigeongram Service. The charge for each message is 1s., which is paid by delivering to the agent at the Great Barrier of the proprietor of the service one of the stamps in question, which is thereupon affixed to the paper on which the message is written, and serves to attach the paper to the bird's leg without string or cotton.

"We beg to enclose herewith a letter signed by some well-known business men in this city, each of whom has received messages from the Great Barrier by this service; and we may add that any person to whom a message is delivered by this service signs a receipt for the same.

"We therefore, for your further satisfaction, send two books containing fifty receipts, each duly signed in this connection by persons resident in Auckland.

"We also forward you a photograph of the loft, the home of the birds used in carrying on the service.

"If the Post Office Department had made the 'searching inquiry' alleged by its Secretary to have been made, they would have

* Messrs. Calder and Goldwater do not breathe the words "Post" or "Stamp"!

been able without difficulty to place themselves in possession of the foregoing facts. With regard to the concluding paragraph of the letter of the Secretary to the Department, we may say that the Chief Postmaster in this city some little time ago took exception to the use of the words 'Special Post' on the stamps in question, and the proprietor thereupon at once discontinued the use of those words, which accordingly do not appear on the new issue now in use.

"The stamps used in this service do not purport to be postage stamps in the sense of being issued by the Government of this colony, and the mere carrying of letters by pigeons, or the use of stamps as aforesaid, is in no way an infringement of the Post Office Acts.

"We may also state that next week's issue of the *Auckland Weekly News*, a paper having a large circulation in this colony, will contain a full description of the service, with photographs of the birds and loft. We will forward you copies by the first opportunity.

"Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "CALDER & GOLDWATER,
"*Solicitors.*"

"P.S.—We are only sending a few signatures to the letter above referred to, but could send more did time permit.—C. & G."

On page 195 we printed a letter from the General Post Office, Wellington, New Zealand, *re* Great Barrier Island stamps, and we regret to find we misread the signature, giving it as "H. Young," whereas it should have been "W. Gray." It might, however, have been anything!

We must apologise to our readers for allotting so much space to these "stamps," and hope that the foregoing communications may be the last hereon.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Various paragraphs foreshadowing alterations have appeared in the daily papers, *e.g.*:—

"The new stamps which are to be issued on New Year's Day will show no alteration in the head of the Queen. As regards colour, the halfpenny stamp is to be green, the penny stamp red, and the twopence-halfpenny blue. The shilling stamp will probably remain as at present. It is Her Majesty's own desire that the design shall not be altered."

Although, as previously stated in the *London Philatelist*, an official *démenti* has been given to our inquiry as to these changes, it was palpable that this country would be compelled to fall in line with others in conforming to the regulations as to colour accepted by the Postal Union Convention; it is to be regretted that the opportunity has not been seized to issue a more handsome set. We are informed from an excellent source that the daily papers are a little too previous, and that nothing is *definitely* settled as yet. The ½d. will, however, probably be of a deep shade of green, and the 1d. in a very bright Venetian red. The 2d. will possibly be printed in deeper shades, and the 1s. in dark green on white or perhaps pale green paper. It would seem to us unadvisable to have the ½d. and 1s. both in green, even if varying much in depth of colour.

We hear that a supply of Army Telegraph Stamps is being sent out to the Transvaal.

INDIA.—*Alwar.*—On page 217 we chronicled a ¼ anna stamp from a new stone, and we now read the following in our contemporary the *M. J.*:—

"We have examined a sheet of the perforated ¼ anna, and find that it contains 60 stamps, in ten horizontal rows of six.

"There are small crosses in the centre of the top and bottom margins (as guides for perforating?), and the paper is watermarked 'W. S. & Co.' in script letters, in a zigzag frame in the middle of the sheet. The stamps appear to us to be lithographed."

Hyderabad.—Forgeries of the current type are stated to be about, and the following warning in the *M. J.* is timely:—

"Mr. Shavakshah sends us a specimen of the 1 a., current type, bearing what he tells us is a forgery of the *Sarkari* surcharge in black. The principal point of difference between this and any of the types of the genuine surcharges seems to be that, whereas in the genuine the third character has a large open loop below, the forgery has a solid lump there, not so large as the loop would be if filled up with ink. We understand that this forgery exists on all the values, and that specimens are to be met with bearing genuine obliterations and on pieces of paper."

Puttialla.—According to the *M. J.* the recently issued 3 pies stamp of India has been surcharged "Patiala State" in two lines in black.

It is further very satisfactory to hear that, so far, no *errors* have been found beyond a few broken letters or defective impressions here and there.

Adhesive. 3 pies, carmine; black surcharge.

LABUAN.—North Borneo (see page 195) was expected to issue a provisional 4 c. stamp on the occasion of entering the Imperial Penny Postage ranks, and Labuan to follow suit.

Several of our contemporaries give lists of provisionals as follows :—

Adhesives.

4 cents on 5 c.,	green and black	(1897).
4 ,, 6 c.,	red and black	(1897).
4 ,, 8 c.,	rose and black	(1897).
4 ,, 12 c.,	orange and black	(1898).
4 ,, 18 c.,	brown and black	(1898).
4 ,, 24 c.,	lilac and blue	(1897).
4 ,, 25 c.,	green	(1896).
4 ,, 50 c.,	red-brown	(1896).
4 ,, $1,	blue	(1896).

NORTH BORNEO.—Mr. A. H. Stamford kindly writes us hereon :—

"Referring to your note in the July *L. P.* in reference to North Borneo, in which you mention the proposed issue on the occasion of North Borneo and Labuan—old offenders—entering the Imperial Penny Postage ranks, of a provisional 4 c. stamp, I was under the impression that this rumour had been contradicted. I find, however, from a letter received this morning (October 13th, 1899) from a friend in Labuan, that not only has *one* provisional 4 c. stamp been issued, but that in the case of North Borneo six different 4 c. surcharged stamps have come out, and in the case of Labuan no less than nine different values have been surcharged 4 c. My friend, in sending me these fifteen stamps—he was only able to get two sets—writes as follows: 'You will notice that there is a big gap in the values of the North Borneo stamps, viz., 5 c. to 25 c. It appears that three intermediate values were surcharged, but some enterprising individual, presumably in the Singapore Post Office, opened the packet (a brown-paper one!) and abstracted the whole of the three missing values! So far there is no trace of them. Before the date of issue of these surcharges, the postmaster received, under cover, a large parcel of envelopes from someone in London stamped with the new surcharges, to be posted back to London from Sandakan. As, however, the stamps were not at that time issued in Sandakan, he very properly confiscated the lot. This shows, however, that the British North Borneo Company were selling the stamps in London before they were issued here, or else that they were forgeries. Those that were sent out were all sold in Sandakan in about two hours, and although I arranged with the doctor here to share some sets with him, and his application was received in good time, for some reason or other it was overlooked and he never got the stamps. With some difficulty I have succeeded in getting a set for you and one for myself. Dealers in Hongkong are offering 40 c. each for the low values and $1 each for the 4 c. on $10. Two sheets of the Labuan surcharge had a double surcharge 4 c. I know who bought them, and will endeavour to obtain one for you.'

"I thought the above extracts would probably interest you and perhaps the readers of the *L. P.* generally. The following is a full list of the surcharged stamps sent me, and which I shall be happy to forward you for inspection if you would like to see them :—

"North Borneo.	Labuan.
4 c. on 5 c.	4 c. on 5 c.
,, 25 c.	,, 6 c.
,, 50 c.	,, 8 c.
,, $2.	,, 12 c.
,, $5.	,, 18 c.
,, $10.	,, 24 c.
	,, 25 c.
	,, 50 c.
	,, $1."

NEW ZEALAND. — The locally printed stamps of the set manufactured in London are, one by one, making their appearance, and the following contribution of Mr. L. A. Sanderson to the *Australian Philatelist* of August will be interesting reading :—

"The colonial prints of the 2½d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 2s., and 5s. values of the recent issue printed in London were issued in Wellington on June 8th. They have been printed at the Government printing office in Wellington, on unwatermarked paper, and perforated 11.

"The perforations are rough, done with a treadle-machine. The stock of unwatermarked paper is now exhausted, and the printers are waiting for a fresh supply, which, it is understood, will be watermarked. The altered plates of the ½d., 1d., 2d., and 4d. values have arrived in Wellington; the designs of these have been enlarged. The ½d. is to appear in green, the 1d. and 4d. values are to be transposed, the 4d. being the design and colour of the present 1d. value, and the 1d. value is to be that of the present 4d. A few of the present 4d. and 9d. values have been printed locally on unwatermarked paper, but have not yet been issued."

It is further stated that, in addition to the perforation 11, which is not found in the English printings, the paper is of a different quality. The English paper is rather thin, surfaced, and a marginal piece, held to the light, will show very fine diagonal crossed lines. The local prints are on paper of the ordinary plain wove quality, unsurfaced, and thicker than the English. The shades of the stamps, it is stated, also differ from the English printings. To the values we have previously chronicled we now add :—

Adhesives.	6d., yellow-green	; no wmk. ;	perf. 11.
	8d., deep blue	,,	,,
	2s., blue-green	,,	,,
	5s., vermilion	,,	,,

QUEENSLAND.—The 6d. of the 1897–98 type, figures in all four corners, is now coming over in a yellowish green shade.

SARAWAK.—Last month we announced two provisionals for this State, and the *M. J.* now informs us that "in each sheet of 100 stamps the word 'CENTS' on the eighth stamp in the top row, and on the first in the fourth row, has a smaller letter

's' than the others, it being the 'lower-case' letter of the same fount."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 1d. value, printed in the Postal Union colour, has appeared, and the ½d. and 2½d. stamps are expected very shortly.

Adhesive. 1d., rose, current type.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Changes in colour appear to have taken place here, and the *Australian Philatelist* announces the 4 c. reissued in its old colour—rose, and the 5 c. has gone back to a plum shade.

Adhesives. 4 c., rose, current type; CA and Crown.
5 c., plum ,, ,,

Pahang and *Perak.*—Federation notwithstanding, a new 4 c. has been issued for *each* of these States.

Adhesive.
4 cents, lilac and rose, tiger's head type; Crown CA.

TASMANIA.—The new set of stamps anticipated by us on page 135 is expected, we hear, to be ready about the end of the current year.

VICTORIA.—Besides the four new colours of the ½d., 1d., 1½d., and 2½d. values mentioned on page 250, must be added a 5d. value and some stationery listed by the *M. J.* as follows:—

Adhesive. 5d., reddish chocolate.
Envelopes. ½d., emerald-green, on white laid paper.
1d., rose-red ,,
2d., mauve ,,
Wrappers. ½d., emerald-green, white wove paper.
1d., rose ,,

ZANZIBAR.—*Le Timbre-Poste* gives a list of the stationery which has made its appearance with the new stamps illustrated on page 218.

Envelopes. 2½ annas, ultramarine on white.
(Reg.) 2 annas, brown-red ,,
Post Cards. Single and double.
½ anna, yellow-green on buff.
1 anna, rose ,,
Wrappers. ½ anna, yellow-green on manilla.
1 anna, rose ,,

EUROPE.

BELGIUM.—The 10 c. *Sunday Stamp* has changed its colour to carmine, or Postal Union colour; the 5 c. and 25 c., green and blue respectively, will therefore need no change. *Adhesive.* 10 c., carmine.

CRETE (RUSSIAN).—The stamps described on pages 218 and 251 Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. consider Rettimo locals, and express doubt about their being good for postage to all parts of the island, if indeed any were used for postage at all. We have had no doubt about these stamps from the beginning, and are confident that they are absolutely speculative, entirely unnecessary, and totally valueless.

FINLAND.—On page 110 we notified expected changes, and that the Finnish stamps in penni would be retained for correspondence in the country and abroad, and the Russian stamps with circles for Russia only. It is now reported that from June 1st next the ordinary Russian stamps will alone be used in Finland.

ROUMANIA.—Of the recent changes in colours of some of the stamps of this country we find we have omitted to notify a provisional wrapper; viz.:—

Wrapper. 1 bani, in red, on 1½ bani, black.

SAN MARINO.—According to the *Revue Philatélique Belge* the list of varieties given by us on page 196 are now the only stamps admissible for *foreign* correspondence, and all the other values are declared obsolete, and no longer of use for franking purposes.

The following is stated to be an official list of the different issues and quantities of the Republic of San Marino:—

Year 1877.	Copies.
2 cent., green,	100,000.
10 ,, blue,	50,000
20 ,, vermilion,	300,000.
30 ,, brown,	25,000.
40 ,, violet,	25,000.
Year 1891.	
5 cent. yellow,	60,000.
25 ,, claret,	40,000.
Year 1892.	
5 c. on 30 c., brown,	10,000.
5 c. on 10 c., blue,	20,000.
10 c. on 20 c., vermilion,	40,000.
10 c. on 10 c. on 20 c., vermilion,	40,000.
5 c., olive-green,	100,000.
30 c., orange,	25,000.
40 c., brown,	25,000.
45 c., yellow-green,	25,000.
1 lira, red & yellow,	5000.

Year 1894.	Copies.
2 cent., blue,	100,000.
10 ,, blue-green,	20,000.
15 ,, lake,	20,000.
65 ,, chestnut,	15,000.
2 lire, brown & buff,	10,000.
5 ,, lake & blue,	5000.
Year 1895.	
2 cent., rose-lake,	200,000.
20 ,, lilac,	40,000.
1 lira, blue,	5000.
Year 1899 (February).	
2 c., brown,	50,000.
5 c., yellow,	50,000.
Year 1899 (June).	
5 cent., green,	100,000.
10 ,, carmine,	100,000.
25 ,, blue,	50,000.

SPAIN.—A change has been made in the colours of the 5 and 10 centimos, viz., to blue-green and red respectively, and this will probably necessitate changes in the colours of the 2 and 20 centimos before very long.

Adhesives. 5 centimos, blue-green.
10 ,, red.

SWITZERLAND.—The 5 cent. wrapper has appeared with the stamp in the colour of the adhesive of like value.

Wrapper. 5 c., green on buff.

AMERICA.

BOLIVIA.—A new set of stamps with the portrait of Don Antonio José de Sucre has been seen, and the *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles the following values:—

Adhesives. 1 centavo, blue.
2 centavos, carmine.
5 ,, green.
10 ,, orange.
20 ,, pink.
50 ,, colour not given.
100 ,, ,, ,,

BRAZIL.—Having, apparently, exhausted the supply of adhesives for surcharging, the Government is turning its attention to the envelope stamps, and it would appear that nothing comes amiss in the shape of a stamp to surcharge so long as the revenue can be made to benefit. From the *M. J.* we take the following :—

"The adhesives having all been overprinted, the turn of the envelopes has come. We have the 100 reis of current type, with letters of 'REIS' close together, surcharged '200,' in *deep blue*, upon the figures '100.' We have also received the 50 reis stamp, Type 39, perf. about 6, and with the whole impression in practically the same colour.

Adhesive. 50 r., deep blue ; *perf.* 6.
Envelope. 200 on 100 r., red on *wove* ; 130 × 105 mm.

"Our correspondent at Rio de Janeiro says that it was absurd to suppose that the 50 reis Journal stamps, which were surcharged with a handstamp, were reprints, as the stamps were manufactured in the United States, and no fresh supply was obtained ; they were simply broken and damaged sheets, as stated in April. The apparent differences in the type of the surcharge, he thinks, are due to the fact that the later one was done singly, with raised type, and the earlier was lithographed in entire sheets, with transfers from type of the same nature as that used in the handstamp, the transfers being not quite so clear and sharp as the type."

It appears that the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the country is to be celebrated (!) next year by the issue of four "speculative and unnecessary stamps."

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—A new value of the same design as the other values recently issued, viz., 20 c., brown on brownish, has appeared.

Adhesive. 20 c., brown on brownish.

Santander.—Le Timbre-Poste states that a new 10 c. stamp has been issued here, the design consisting of the Arms with fresh surroundings.

Adhesive. 10 centavos, blue.

ECUADOR.—To the list of new issues given on page 220 we find we have to add an officially-sealed stamp of the usual oblong shape ; design, Arms to the right in circle, and the inscription "Servicio de Correos," etc., to the left.

Official. No value, dark green.

SALVADOR.—To the list of "Transito Territorial" stamps given on page 196 must now be added the 2 c. and 3 c.

Adhesives. 2 c., rose ; surch. "Transito Territorial."
3 c., yellow-green ,, ,,

UNITED STATES.—*Guam.*—These stamps appear to have at last reached the parent country, but, so far, in very small quantities, from all accounts.

If, as it seems probable, the United States decide to use their regular issue for their newly acquired possessions when the present overprinted supplies run out, the somewhat small quantity ordered for Guam will hardly go round.

Porto Rico.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* we are to have no more United States stamps overprinted "Porto Rico" when the present supply is exhausted ; the ordinary U.S. stamps will do duty instead. This is sudden, and there will probably be a rush to get the surcharged stamps ere it be too late. How about Cuba and the Philippine issues ?

OTHER COUNTRIES.

SIAM.—The following cutting from the *M. J.* will, we trust, interest our readers :—

"Our publishers have received supplies of what appear to be new editions of the interminable 'provisionals' of this country. We have before us sheets of '1 Att.' on 12 atts, '2 Atts.' on 64 atts, and '3 Atts' on 12 atts, all with the usual overprint, in English and in Siamese, in *black*. The 1 Att and 2 Atts appear to be printed from the same setting, in which the right-hand half of the sheet has a narrower capital 'A' than the left-hand half. We have found no varieties in the figures '1,' but the ninth stamp in the top row of that value has the last letter of 'Att' upside down, and the seventh stamp in the third row has the figure '1' in that position. The figures '2' are all with straight foot, but those on the right-hand half of the sheet are narrower than those on the other half (to correspond with the letters 'A'), and the seventh stamp in the top row is surcharged '1 Atts.' in error. On both sheets the periods after the words are frequently invisible, and the same is the case with the cross-bars of the letter 'A.' The 3 Atts on 12 atts appears to be No. 51 in the Catalogue ; the surcharge is in clearer type than that of the other two, and the only variety we can find is a narrower 'A' on the fifth stamp in the top row.

"We do not think it has been noted that the stamps are in panes of 120, ten horizontal rows of twelve, with the watermark 'POSTAGE — SIAM — REVENUE' in outline capitals in the bottom and side margins. Presumably these are half-sheets, and there are others which show the watermark in the top margin instead of the bottom."

Adhesives. 1 Att on 12 atts, purple and carmine.
1 Att on 12 ,, ,, ,, (error).
1 Att on 12 ,, ,, ,, (,,).
2 Atts on 64 ,, purple and brown.
1 ,, on 64 ,, ,, ,, (error).

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. A. CHURCHILL EMERSON (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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THE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I have been examining my postmark collection with a view to discovering early dates on stamps, and think the enclosed will be found of interest.

The first specimen is a penny, Die II., perf. 14, with watermark large crown, postmarked "Nottingham MY 18 1855." The postmark leaves something to be desired in the way of clearness, but if I read it correctly this antedates the use of this paper, as the date given in the *British Isles* is 31 July, 1855 (on p. 35).

The rest refer to the abandonment of the brownish shade of red in the penny stamps.

The first sheet registered in "carmine-rose" was approved on January 18th, 1858, and the authors of the *British Isles* give January 7th of this year as the earliest known postmarked copy (p. 36). From the enclosed it appears that the change to carmine-rose was made about September, 1857, being heralded by a pale shade of pink, as follows:—

LIST OF ENCLOSED COPIES.

Leeds	9 AP 1857	pale pink
Liverpool	2 MY ,,	,,
Cork	9 ,, ,,	,,
Lewes	14 ,, ,,	,,
Southampton	9 JY ,,	,,
Leicester	8 AU ,,	,,

The last two are slightly more rosy than their predecessors.

They now change to a deep shade of carmine.

Roserea	22 SE 1857
Kilkenny	23 ,, ,,
Belfast	28 ,, ,,
Drogheda	8 OC ,,
Bradford, Yks.	4 DE ,,
London	18 ,, ,,
Wellington, Salop	28 ,, ,,

The last is lighter than the rest.

All the foregoing are perforated 14; the earliest copy I have in carmine with the 16 gauge is postmarked "Dublin JA 16 1858." The reason for the somewhat peculiar circumstance of copies being found with postmarks prior to the date of registration may probably be explained by no registration being made for the purpose of approving the new colour. The registration of Plates 61 to 68 in this shade was probably merely due to the fact of new ones being required, which were naturally printed from in the current colour, the change having been made during the life of the preceding plates.

Yours truly,

C. F. DENDY MARSHALL.

CRAIGNUIR, HASSOCKS,
4th October, 1899.

[Mr. Dendy Marshall has once more demonstrated his quick perception in Philatelic matters, and seems quite justified in his statements, although the date of specimen first referred to is not convincing, and the 1855 might be 1856. As regards the changes of colour from red-brown to carmine-rose, we gather that the *British Isles* is, through an oversight, inaccurate. We believe that the late Mr. Hastings Wright and Mr. Creeke were aware that the new colour was first used in April, 1857, a fact clearly shown by reference to Mr. Wright's paper in the *London Philatelist*, Vol. III. p. 9, last paragraph. Mr. Wright, as is well known, was fortunately enabled to complete that portion of the *British Isles* referring to the engraved penny, and it would seem that he omitted to make the necessary alteration from "January? 1858." The seventh issue, p. 36 of *British Isles*, should therefore read "April, 1857." In the preparation of a work of this magnitude there will be undoubtedly errors of omission and commission, and we would invite notification of such, which will be duly submitted to Mr. Creeke and published within a short period.—ED.]

THE ARRANGEMENT OF A GENERAL COLLECTION.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with interest Mr. Heginbottom's letter in your September issue in reply to mine in the previous issue. Our tastes seem to differ somewhat, and this being the case we should probably never agree.

There is, however, one remark in his letter to which I beg permission to refer. He says, "I think the fact that the majority of Philatelists who have reached any standard at all do not use printed albums shows that they are not much required." I do not concur in this statement, unless by it is meant that in certain quarters the sort of Philatelists referred to are not required. It is impossible to know to what extent the majority of advanced generalists would use printed albums, were really suitable albums placed on sale. The fact that there are *no* sufficiently advanced

albums is the very excellent reason why so many general collectors are driven to the use of plain books.

I am still convinced that something far in advance of anything in the printed album line yet published would be a very real boon to the collecting world, and I am hoping that in any case future albums will always be available with wide margins on both sides, with at least one blank page after each country, and in an unbound condition.

To continue to insist on cramping us for want of plenty of blank space on *every page* is to treat us as children, and to really lead one to infer that Mr. Heginbottom's inadvertent statement "that Philatelists who have reached any standard are not much required," was not so wrong after all, unless such Philatelists be "specialists" pure and simple. The present style of printed album kills off the "generalist." If the "generalist" goes, Philately goes. In saying this I am not speaking without some experience of stamps, as, although my collection falls short of Mr. Heginbottom's as regards numbers by several thousands, I have been a continuous collector some ten years longer than he has.

Yours faithfully,

GENERALIST.

9th October, 1899.

PICTORIAL POST CARDS.

SIR,—In your leader for September you remark that "pictorial cards may atone to Philately for any of its votaries who may be temporarily lured away" by the interest their owners take in them as travellers.

It seems to me that you overlook the main objections to these from the Philatelic collector's point of view, as distinct from that of the mere accumulator. They are *not* post cards at all, except in the few cases where the officially impressed cards are used for printing pictures on, as in New Zealand, Queensland, etc., and these efforts, as with those of San Marino, cannot be called either artistic or pretty. Philatelically, those used with adhesive stamps can have no more interest than the hundreds of different halfpenny cards used here or stamped "to order," as they are not sold to the public at the Post Offices. The same remark will apply to the hundreds of envelopes stamped on all sorts and sizes of paper.

In my younger days (the fifties) I accumulated several hundreds of such "view cards" (also note-paper headings), and I may arrive at the "celestial condition of things" you picture, if they can now be made of Philatelic interest by printing on the back the magical words "POST CARD" and sticking on a halfpenny stamp, because they *ought* to be as great rarities as "Post Office" Mauritius stamps, if not actually prehistoric, being over 100,000 hours earlier than the first official postal cards.

Seriously, the danger to the revival in collecting of entires, which revival some of us have been struggling for of late years, is that the younger ones, whom we have induced to take up this branch, will see no difference between the genuine postal cards and these attractive pictures; and so "the real, true spirit of collecting, as embodied in Philately, will be weakened," if not destroyed, by starvation resulting from malnutrition. You may more "reasonably anticipate" that the armies of Seebeckian and other unnecessary issues have obtained for us "Philatelic recruits," for they, at least, are officially issued stamps; but they have, as a matter of fact, caused far more to give up the pursuit than they have added to the ranks of medium or earnest collectors.

Another little point is that, to keep these as a collection, the holders must decide whether they are going to do so as pictures or as unofficial post cards "made to order," as they cannot be displayed to show both sides. Many years before the now common hinges were sold for adhesives, I used these strips for stamps and for the early Russian, Finland, and Ceylon cards, so as to examine the back printing; but this cannot well be done in ordinary albums, as the frequent turning over of leaves will cause the cards to tear off by their own weight.

It seems more than probable (though you doubt it) that the rage for picture cards has largely arrested the demand for stamps—not among the "strong, healthy people," perhaps, but certainly among those medium collectors whose numbers are ten times greater, and the beginners who are a hundred times more numerous than the advanced Philatelists; and it is these hundreds of thousands who can make or mar the *business* portion of stamp collecting, which is, after all, a large factor in its popularity.

Your obedient servant,

B. W. WARHURST.

CHELSEA, *October 4th*, 1899.

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.*

IN our August number we made some comment upon J. W. Scott Company's novel proposals, and the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of August 16th thus humorously replies :—

"The *London Philatelist*, one of the largest and best stamp papers published, thus comments on the advertisement of the J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., in a late number of the METROPOLITAN, in which they offer to repurchase all stamps sold at a discount of ten per cent. : 'The good example announced by the J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., is one that will be received by collectors with wild rejoicing, and one that we shall be glad to see copied by advertisers in the *London Philatelist*. . . Methinks they don't protest too much, and that there must be some drawback to a system which gives all the advantage to the purchaser. . . If there is no skeleton in the cupboard we hope that the idea may come home to roost' Skeletons are somewhat of scarecrows to timid people, but to us a skeleton appears to be the groundwork of everything good. It is the strong, flexible frame that supports the entire body, and forms a leverage by which the muscles act. When it approaches the brain, the noblest part of our anatomy, it grows outward, entirely surrounding and protecting it. The skeleton in the quoted advertisement works the same way. The knowledge that the company may have to repurchase stamps on a falling market is a strong inducement to quote lowest possible prices; that is where the bone is on top and nearly visible. At the other end, where the skeleton is divided into two parts, one foot admonishes the collector to take care of his stamps if he wants to get his money back, to say nothing of securing a large profit. The other foot tells the dealer that, in the improbable event of good stamps bought at the bottom of the market falling in price, his only escape from heavy loss lies in the carelessness of the holder in letting a stamp get spoiled when in his possession."

It is further stated that the J. W. Scott Company advertised "for every stamp collectors desired to sell, and of course when there was a standard of value established collectors did *not wish to sell*. During the entire two years they bought about five hundred dollars' worth from Europe, and less than fifty dollars in the entire United States. All the stamp business ever wanted is confidence among collectors and honesty among dealers."

Once again we call attention to the sentiment expressed in the closing sentences. Those who have *future* interests in stamps must help to create *confidence*: this is destroyed by stamps (and pigeongram) made for sale to collectors.

* * *

THE ITALIAN "DUCKIES."—We have received complaints from several correspondents with regard to the "gentleman" who originated the following quaint and ingenuous advertisement —which we quote *in extenso* and in all its orthographical beauty, including "the old Italean duckies"—though we think the "President" prefers geese.

"All who will send me colplete series or one or more stamps of the above said countries, will receive in exchange from me rare and real stamps for same value of all countries—SPECIAL—NAPLES—PARMA—ROMAN *states*, SARDINIA, ITALY, *and south* ITALY. All who will send me one or more series of the new emissions (New Zealand, Trinitad, Toga, *etc.*) will receive from me fa the same value of rare stamps increased 20 p0 of the old Italian duckty. —In the same d wish to exchange rare stamps of all English Colonies, Australasta, South Afric, America (preference given to the United states of America). I give in exchange same value of all old Italian duckty, *guaranted autentical*.—For stamps of the above said counties. I exchange with same value increased with 10 per cent. As a basis I take the prices of catalogues. I WISH gren correspondence with honest and reliable people from all countries of the world, especially from British Indies, Borneo, Labuan, Orange, Persia, Haway, Cape of good Hope and Sarawak. ALL who will send me not less than 25 adreyes of the above 8 countries, will receive from me by return of mail 5 schillings worth of good stamps of the old Italien duckies.—THE DESIRED ADDRESSES must exclusively be of stamps—dealers who use to exchange—I WILL send 9-schillings worth of good stamps of Italian duckies in a registered letter to all who will send me philatelic papers with the desired address marked in bleu, or red pencil, or witto hink. I further give the 9-scillings worth of stamps to al' who, not wishing to send me their philatelic papers, wil send me only the addresses cut out from the paper together with the announcement. ALL WHO WILL RECEIVE this circular, if they will take advantage of the accasion, PLEASE open corrispondence with me by sending for exchange good stamps catalogued not less than 50 centimes each I FURTHER ADVISE ALL WHO WILL receive THIS CIRCULAR to be so kind as to show it to all their friends dealing in stamps.

ALL SENDINGS MUST BE MADE BY REGISTERED LETTER with stamps possibly of new emissions, and of same values—I NEVER MAKE INITIAL SENDINGS.

RARE AND UNIQUE CONVENIENCE. CORRESPONDENCE in Italian, French, English, German and Spanish.

Apply always to: The

PRESIDENT CLUB PHILATELIQUE

PLACE CARMINE

CATANE—(Sicily Italy).

OLD RELIABLE FIRM.

Ancienne Maison de confiance

CASA DI FIDUCIA."

We have seen selections of the "Italien duckies" that have been sent to correspondents in Australia, which, excepting very common stamps, *consisted entirely of forgeries*, and we hear of similar instances in the United States. This man is assuredly a swindler of the worst class, and it is not likely that in a relatively small Sicilian town like Catania that a Philatelic Society (even if an "old reliable firm") would exist. We can only express our surprise at seeing this wretched impostor's advertisements in respectable journals—so soon after the Williams-Lima episode.

* * *

THE Auction Sales were practically opened for the season in the issue by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, and Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, of catalogues decidedly above the average as to the quality of the lots. The following is a list of some of the prices realised for a portion of the more prominent varieties:—Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, September 26th and 27th. France, 1 franc, orange-red, used, £4 7s. 6d.; Moldavia, 1854, 54 paras, used, on piece of original and very fine, £12; Spain, *Madrid*, 3 cuartos, bronze, unused, mint, £13 5s.; Spain, a horizontal pair of 2 reales, 1852, used, rather heavy cancellation, £13 7s. 6d.; a vertical pair, used, very fine, £13; Vaud, 4 c., used, fine but thinned, £16; Tuscany, 2 soldi, red, used, cut close, £5 5s.; 60 crazie, red, used, poor colour, £6 15s.; Ceylon, 8d., yellow-brown, perf., but corner perf. missing, used, £4; Straits Settlements, 12 cents, green, a pair, *twice surcharged*, unused, mint, £20 (? sold); Cape of Good Hope, 1d., blue, *error*, slightly creased and heavy cancellation, £33; the 4d., red, *error*, cut close and repaired, used, £20; Mauritius, "Post Paid" 1d., orange, a pair, medium early, on piece of original, £31 10s.; 1d., orange, medium state, two fine copies on piece of original, £16; 2d., blue, medium state, used, fine, £14 5s.; British Columbia, 5 c., carmine, imperf., large margins, penmarked, £16 16s.; Canada, 7½d., green, unused, large margins, but thinned, £4 5s.; United States, 1869, 24 c., *inverted centre*, used, minute tear, £26; U.S. *State*, 85, part gum, £15; 810, with gum, £9; Barbados, large star, rough perf., 4d., dull rose-red, unused, mint, £12 10s.; 6d., bright yellow, CC, perf. 12½, unused (?), £4; St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., unused, mint, £16 5s.; 4d., red-brown, unused, mint, £5 10s.; British Guiana, 1852, 4 c., magenta, used, very fine, £4; Queensland, 2d., blue, imperf., used, £5; Victoria, 1863-4, 1d., green, wmk. 6, unused, £8; same, wmk. 8, unused, £4 4s.; 5s., blue on yellow, unused, no gum, little off centre, £5 5s.; another, used, £3; 5s., blue and red, unused, mint, £5.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER, September 28th and 29th. France, 1 franc, orange-red, fine, used, £5 12s. 6d.; Moldavia, 54 paras, used, on piece, fine, £13 10s.; Spain, 1851, 2 reales, unused, with gum, £25 10s.; 1852, 2 reales, pale red, used, on piece, £6; Madrid, 3 cuartos, bronze, unused, full gum and fine, £13 10s.; Geneva, 5+5 c., used and fine, £17 and £17 10s.; Vaud, 4 c., used, torn and rubbed, £4 12s. 6d.; Zurich, 4 rappen, vertical lines, used and fine, £10 10s.; another, £9 10s.; another, horizontal lines, £10 10s.; Tuscany, 2 soldi, brick-red, a superb unused specimen with full gum, mint, £22; a vertical strip of 5, used, on entire envelope, £27; 3 lire, a fine lightly postmarked specimen, slightly creased, £43 10s.; another, deeper shade and circular postmark, £35; Wurtemberg, 70 kr., purple, an unused horizontal strip of 3, very fine, £9; Ceylon, 4d., imperf., used, fine, £14 10s.; 8d., brown, perf., unused, with gum, £5 2s. 6d.; India, 1st issue, 8 arches, ½ anna, *red*, unused, £4 8s.; Cape of Good Hope, wood block, 1d., red, used, very fine, £5 10s.; 4d., blue, a fine pair, used, £5 15s.; 4d., *deep blue*, superb, used, £9; 4d., red, *error*, cut short at bottom, used, £34; Mauritius, "Post Paid" 1d., vermilion on yellowish, early state, used, fine, £11 10s.; another, on blue paper, fine, £12 5s.; 1d., on blue, very early impression, a fine vertical pair, used, £10 10s.; the *error* "PENOE," 2d., blue, very fine, used, £15; another specimen, £13 5s.; large fillet 2d., blue, cut close, used, £8 5s.; Canada, 6d., grey-lilac, perf., unused, part gum, £7 10s.; Barbados provisional, 1d. on half 5s., a very fine pair, used, £21 5s.; British Guiana, 1st issue, 4 c., orange, cut to shape, on entire, used, £30 10s.; the 8 c., green, creased and clipped at corners, used, £25 7s. 6d.; 1852, 1 c., black on magenta, a fine horizontal strip of 4, used, £16; 4 c., black on deep blue, on entire, £5 5s.; 1856, 4 c., black on magenta, used, fine, £19 5s.; others with corners clipped, £6 10s. and £4; St. Vincent, 5s., star, unused and fine, £10 5s; ½d. on half 6d., yellow-green, a superb unused strip of 4, with full gum, £8 12s. 6d.; 4d. on 1s., vermilion, used, fine, £10 15s. and £9 9s.; U.S.A., *Justice*, set complete, with gum, £10 2s. 6d.; another set, used and fine, £7: Buenos Ayres, 4 pesos, scarlet, unused, £12 10s.; Peru, medio peso, rose, very fine, used, £9; Queensland, 1st issue. 2d., blue, imperf., fine horizontal pair and a single, used on piece, £10 2s. 6d.; 6d., green, imperf., unused and part gum, slightly creased, £6; a fine horizontal pair, used, £14; Victoria, 6d., orange, fine used specimen, £6 7s. 6d.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale, October 10th and 11th, also contained some good useful lots.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VIII. NOVEMBER, 1899. No. 95.

The Work of the London Philatelic Society's Meetings.

IT has been pointed out by friendly critics—and for the matter of that by others less kindly disposed—that there is not sufficient variety or attractiveness in the programme of the meetings of the London Philatelic Society. It must be the earnest desire of every well-wisher of that body that this should be remedied as far as is possible; and it may be well to briefly consider the existing state of things with a view to an improvement of the situation. We do not suggest that there is ground for serious complaint either in the attendance (which will compare favourably with that of most Philatelic Societies) or in the quality of the fare provided. It is, however, undeniable that the attendance of the members in still larger numbers and a greater variety in the evening's recreation would be heartily welcomed by every member of the Society.

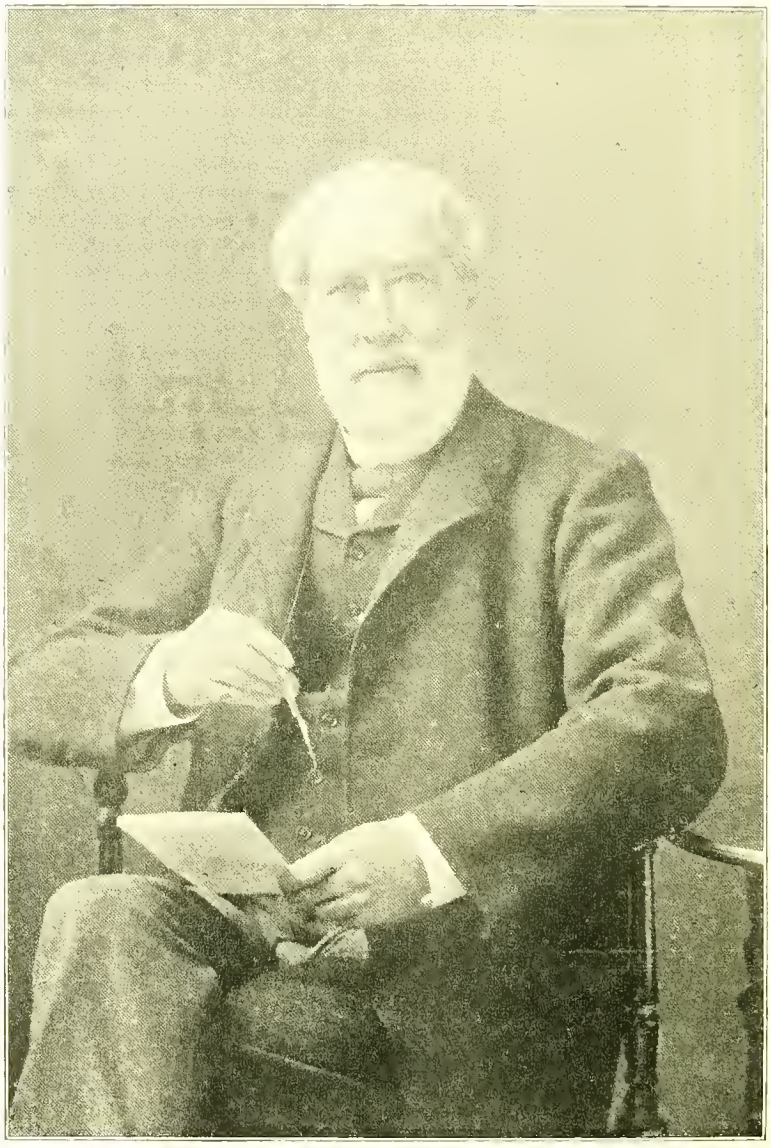
It must, however, be borne in mind that the present difficulty has been created by the march of Philately, rather than by any apathy of the Council or officers. "Times are changed, and we with them." Twenty, or even ten, years since the persons who either made a general collection or, perhaps, affected a large group such as the British Colonies or Europe were sufficiently numerous. If the reference lists of a certain country were being prepared there were generally quite a number of members who were enabled to attend with their stamps of the country under consideration, and capable and willing to take part in the discussions. It is patent to all that this old order has changed, and that the modern exigencies of increased cost and the high standard of up-to-date collecting have compelled the larger number of Philatelists to fall back upon a far more restricted area of collecting. The

obvious result is that A takes but scant interest in B's paper or exhibit, which the former has never even studied, and *vice versâ*. An equally important influence that militates against the successful evening programme is the greatly extended knowledge of all classes of stamps, and the consequent narrowing down of the points on which information is still desirable. It is very difficult nowadays to discover an issue of stamps from which sufficient can be educed to form the subject-matter of a paper to be read before a first-class Philatelic Society. A third, and perhaps minor, disintegrating agent is the ever-increasing area of distances from which the members of the London Society are drawn together. In the huge aggregation of cities and towns called London the members become more widely separated each year, and, being human, many a man hesitates to face a journey home of twenty or thirty miles on a winter's night.

It is far easier to recite the causes that have principally resulted in the present *impasse* than to suggest the remedy. One thing, however, seems to stand out clearly, *i.e.* the desirability of promoting and inducing members to make displays of their stamps. In the case of many countries these are a potent draw; *e.g.* we feel confident that if another "field night" with a *general* display of the stamps of Great Britain were invited—with reference particularly to new facts evolved in Messrs. Wright and Creeke's work—there would be, as before, a large and interested audience. We would counsel that a circular be sent to every member of the Society, inviting him (or her) to declare (*a*) what country or countries he collects; (*b*) which he would be prepared to display *with others*; and (*c*) what countries he would prefer to see displayed. The object to be attained, which could be pointed out in the circular, would be to ascertain and display the most favoured countries, and so induce the larger attendance of members *and their stamps*.

We would also suggest that on the occasion of a debate upon a paper, or when a member accompanies his display with a commentary, a short-hand report should be taken, and with the speaker's consent and corrections, should be reproduced for the benefit of the majority who cannot attend, either in the minutes of the Society or the columns of its journal. It is frequently the case that these displays are illustrated by many instructive and thoughtful remarks, some of which embody fresh information, and most of which would well merit reproduction. This would present a half-way house to the man who is too diffident—frequently unnecessarily—to announce his intention of reading a "Paper." It would, moreover, be of advantage if the Committee appointed to arrange the work for the session were appointed, say, in April to arrange the work for the next season, and desired to report at the initial meeting of the ensuing year. This "Work Committee" should be a strong one, and not confined to the Council.

We are confident that the Council are as a body supremely anxious to increase the efficiency of the Society. None the less we trust that at the next election of officers of the Society there will be a large attendance, now that the time is inevitably approaching when some of the older members will seek positions "of greater freedom and less responsibility." The younger ones will come forward, and by a vigorous and hearty initiative again carry forward the prosperity and success of the Society.



THE LATE MR. W. A. S. WESTOBY.

Face p. 283.

The Late Mr. W. A. S. Westoby.

BY the death of William Amos Scarborough Westoby, Philately loses not only one of its pioneers, but one of the most able and devoted students that it has ever possessed. Long and honourable indeed has been Mr. Westoby's connection with the pursuit—extending from its earliest days down to the very century end. During all these long years he never once relaxed his connection with Philately and its literary attributes. Such a steadfast adherence to our hobby will not fail to create a grateful and abiding memory of him to-day and for many morrows. It will be truly felt that by his great abilities, fine character, and lifelong devotion to our hobby, Mr. Westoby has fairly earned the title of the Grand Seigneur of Philately.

Mr. Westoby, who was born in the memorable year 1815, had therefore at his death practically attained the age of eighty-five. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his M.A. in 1839, he was called to the Bar, and in 1861 or 1862 was first drawn into the Philatelic maelström, from which, like many of us, he was never to emerge alive. For some years after this, our esteemed friend was keenly engaged in the pleasures of collecting, and it was during one of his frequent quests to Paris that he first met with Judge Philbrick, about 1863, and then and there commenced that intimate and lifelong friendship the severance of which is most deeply felt by the survivor. Needless to say that Mr. Westoby was one of the earliest attracted to the London Philatelic Society, as he was one of the first to foresee the really scientific side of the question, and that such would be more efficiently brought out by the communion of kindred spirits. The collections of stamps formed by him were among the foremost of his epoch, and were marked by the greatest taste both in the choice of the specimens and their scientific classification. We well remember his beautiful collection of unused European stamps which was dispersed early in the eighties, very many specimens of which were acquired by the late Mr. Tapling, and from which the writer was also enabled to obtain many choice and scarce varieties.

It is, however, in the domain of Philatelic literature that Mr. Westoby has acquired the greatest and most deserved recognition. From his earliest connection with stamps he was both an accurate and prolific writer, many of his articles appearing under the pseudonym of "A Parisian Collector," while many others are to be found in the pages of the older journals, such as the *Philatelist* and the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*. The *Philatelic Record*, whose fifth volume (1883–4) bears Mr. Westoby's portrait as a frontispiece, was edited by him from December, 1885, to December, 1895—with an interruption of eighteen months—with conspicuous ability. We are indebted to that journal for some of the particulars contained in an interesting biographical sketch (Vol. 5, Jan., 1884), which will repay a perusal at this moment. In addition to this, Mr. Westoby edited Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.'s

Monthly Circular from the end of 1878 to the month of his decease, during all of which long period he wrote both leaders and the chronicle of new issues.

The association of the names of Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby in the literature of the stamps of our own country will, however, always remain *the* permanent feature in the latter's Philatelic career. The issue of this great work by the joint authors, in 1881, created a great precedent in the literature of Philately, and effected a revolution in the collection of British stamps that was undoubtedly the first step towards the true appreciation of our mother-country's stamps. Despite all that has appeared since, this celebrated book has never been excelled in point of classification, interest, or descriptive power, and for many years it reigned undisputed as *the* book on British stamps. A second edition has long engaged the labours both of Judge Philbrick and the late Mr. Westoby, and we believe that the manuscript is practically complete.

A smaller but very useful work on British stamps was also produced by Mr. Westoby in 1890, in celebration of the Postal Jubilee, and treating of all the issues from 1840 to 1890. During the past few years a history of the European stamps, intended for the medium collector, published by Mr. L. Upcott Gill, further engaged the energies of this prolific writer. This work, which has frequently been referred to in this journal, is also marked by great lucidity and information, and fortunately is practically complete.

Although this recital by no means includes all Mr. Westoby's work, it will be seen that his connection with Philatelic literature, extending over thirty years, constitutes his name as one of the most eminent in the annals of our literature for all time.

Needless to say, in all other walks of life, Mr. Westoby's career left nothing to be desired. Amiability, charm of manner and presence, wide stores of information, and the most unfailing courtesy, endeared him alike to relations and friends, and although his lot has been extended beyond the ordinary span, his loss will be sorely felt by all who were privileged to know him.

We are indebted to the courtesy of Miss Victoria Westoby for the accompanying portrait, which we understand was taken quite recently, and we are confident that the sympathies of all ranks amongst us will be sincerely tendered to this lady and her sister in their bereavement.

We cannot more fittingly conclude this imperfect testimony to an historic name than by quoting the following eloquent words of one who was privileged for many years to enjoy Mr. Westoby's friendship :—

"His loss is irreparable, as his sagacity was profound, and he knew so much more than any of us. He thoroughly and practically understood the arts of paper-making, engraving, printing, and lithography, and had more than a smattering of chemistry. Wary and cautious in forming an opinion, he was reluctant to abandon it, once formed, but always ready to do so if convinced. His mind was alike judicial and judicious, and he was not swayed by every 'vain blast' of Philatelic doctrine.

"A fine man and presence, courteous and dignified manner, and a flowing courtesy to all—he had. He was a sounder judge even than poor Pemberton, if not so rapid.

"Emphatically a pioneer, he was far ahead of the 'discoveries' of so many people, and kept in touch to the last."

The Tapling Collection.

By E. D. BACON.

MEMBERS of the Philatelic Society, London, and other readers of the *London Philatelist* will, I am sure, be pleased to hear that I have at length completed the rearrangement and classification of the adhesive stamps in the above collection. The work I was entrusted with by the Trustees of the British Museum has thus been brought to a successful, if somewhat protracted, conclusion; and my employment in connection therewith has consequently terminated.

During the time I was at the Museum I was more than once asked by the authorities there to make suggestions that would admit of the collection being made serviceable to students, and allow of the contents being safely inspected by anyone desirous of examining the stamps. I am glad to be able to announce that one of these proposals has met with the approval of the Trustees, and preparations are now being made to carry it into effect.

The system it is proposed to adopt consists of employing a number of cabinets with shallow drawers. Each of these drawers will be covered with plate-glass, and will only pull out sufficiently to allow of the examination of the sheets of stamps it contains. In fact, the cabinets will be built upon precisely the same lines as those which are now in use at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, for the display of butterflies and moths, except that the drawers will be shallower. These cabinets, when finished, will be placed in the King's Library, and anyone entering that part of the Museum will be allowed to inspect whatever portion of the collection he chooses; and this he will himself be able to do by simply pulling out and shutting the drawers containing the stamps of the countries he desires to see. I doubt whether it would be possible to devise a more perfect plan than this for preserving a collection of stamps, inasmuch as it provides ample protection in every way for the specimens, including that of danger from exposure to the light; and it also affords economy of space. Collectors will, at the same time, be able to inspect any of the stamps with perfect facility, and without the least delay.

It will necessarily be some months before the cabinets are ready to receive the sheets of stamps, but I trust no undue delay will now take place in completing the proposed scheme.

[It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the statement made by Mr. Bacon in the foregoing article. The authorities at the British Museum have earned the gratitude of every stamp collector in this country, in making provision for the due display of the magnificent Philatelic bequest of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling. The generous and altruistic idea of the testator, that his collection—in the formation of which he found so great

a pleasure—should after his death be always at the disposal of his less fortunate brother collectors, now seems in a fair way to be realised. The value to all concerned in having a Philatelic encyclopædia, of the stamps themselves, always at our command for purposes of inspection or information, cannot be too highly assessed, and it is a matter of the most sincere congratulation all round that the British Museum officials have now fully realised their responsibility in this important matter.

Our thanks are also due in the highest degree to Mr. E. D. Bacon for the invaluable aid he has given, not only in furthering the above object, but for his superb classification of the collection. It is but the barest truth to say that Philately owes more to Mr. Edward Denny Bacon than to any other living man in this country.—ED.]

Life and Death of the late Emperor Maximilian,

And the Stamps issued under his Government.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON APRIL 14TH, 1899.

BY RUDOLPH FRENTZEL.

THE GERMAN-AUSTRIANS.

WRITING an article upon a specified subject without any introductory notes, seems to me like bursting into the street door of the house of a stranger, and as I am not desirous of incurring a heavy carpenter's bill, I prefer to beat about the bush a little, even at the risk of being voted a bore.

Being myself of German birth, I have had ample opportunities of making myself acquainted with the character of German-Austrians, not only in the ordinary course of life, but by several visits to their beautiful capital, Vienna, and I have always found that the Austrians possess all the qualities that tend to make their fellow-men happy, comfortable, and at ease in their society. They are intelligent, polite, very good-natured and hospitable, natural, unassuming and simple in their ways. The latter qualification, however, applies more to the working classes, as is illustrated in the following anecdotes. A trooper being asked by his officer, "What is a soldier?" replied most seriously, "a geplagtes Vieh," "a tormented animal." On another occasion, a thief being taken by a policeman from the lock-up to the police-court, was asked by the good-natured officer what he was charged with. "Oh," the thief replied, "for having a hole in my pocket." "Dear me, how monstrous!" replied the astonished officer; but the thief omitted to tell him that he had stolen some silver spoons, one of which had slipped through a hole in his pocket and caused his apprehension.

Holding the Austrians in very high esteem, it will not seem surprising when

I say that I always entertained the profoundest respect for the Imperial Royal House of Hapsburg, especially for the Emperor Francis Joseph and his lamented brother Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, the subject of my paper.

MEXICO.

Before, however, coming to my theme I think it desirable to give a few outlines of the history of this beautiful country, with its plateau 7000 feet above the level of the sea, the land of fruit and flowers, of gold and silver, with perpetual sunshine and a bright, cloudless blue sky.

Very little is known of the early history of Mexico before the Spanish put their destructive feet upon the country, but it appears that at a very early period the aborigines had already reached a certain degree of civilisation.

In the eighth century a certain agricultural tribe of Asiatic origin, called Aztecs, immigrated into Mexico and settled down at Anahuac, now the city of Mexico; they cultivated the country, erected architectural monuments, manufactured goods in gold and silver, understood weaving and dyeing, had a knowledge of astronomy, and wrote in hieroglyphics. Being more advanced in civilisation than the aborigines, they soon became masters of the situation, and formed a government based on mild and just laws; they were very hospitable, and welcomed all strangers desirous of settling with them or near them. By-and-by the influx had reached such dimensions that it was necessary to form more and more states, of which Mexico continued to be most important. They lived happily and peacefully together, tilled the land, built town after town, erected enormous temples and monuments, of which there are plenty of traces at the present date. They had a king, courtiers, aristocrats, troopers, and a police, just like a modern regent—in fact, they possessed everything to make them happy. The only drawback to all this was their religion, which was idolatry, though they believed in an unseen divinity, and the annual sacrifices, consisting chiefly in human beings, were horrible in the extreme.

This state of contentment and happiness continued for centuries, till in 1519 the Spaniards, under Cortes, took possession of the country. The natives, not having any idea of European warfare, were compelled to submit. They at first thought that these strangely dressed beings in armour, with their terrible machines—which, with lightning and thunder, dealt such fearful punishment upon them—were superhuman; but when they found that these intruders were mortals like themselves, they took courage, and from time to time offered resistance; but all of no avail, the Spaniards remaining conquerors. However, these continuous fights trained and prepared them for warfare, and when in 1808, through the influence of Napoleon I., they saw a chance of ridding themselves of the intruders, they raised an army amongst themselves, and in 1810, under the leadership of the brave priest Hidalgo—who, with sword in hand, advanced to attack his enemies—succeeded in getting close to the gates of the capital. He being, however, betrayed, was taken prisoner and

shot. The struggle was continued in 1811 by Morelos, also a priest, but he too shared the same fate as Hidalgo.

From this period the revolts became more frequent, and the Spaniards apparently lost more and more ground. In 1821 Iturbide proclaimed the independence of Mexico, and, by playing his cards well, succeeded in getting himself proclaimed Emperor in the following year; but his reign was only of short duration.

In December, 1823, after the fall of Iturbide, the Congress formulated a constitution; and in 1824 the Republic of Mexico was properly constituted, its laws being almost entirely based on those of the U.S.A., the U.S.A. being the first to recognise the newly formed republic, and Great Britain following soon afterwards.

In spite of this great event, the internal affairs of this corrupted nation, composed chiefly of Indians, Creoles, and Spaniards, were by no means settled, and fresh revolts and fights, for party ends, were carried on by unscrupulous and selfish leaders. I may here mention that, according to the Mexican constitution, a President is elected for four years, yet in the space of forty-four years, from 1821 to 1864, no fewer than thirty-one different rulers governed the country; and it is stated that since 1808 some three hundred revolts have taken place.

In 1828 a decree was promulgated expelling all Spaniards from Mexican soil; and although a very large number of them left the country, they always cherished the idea of reconquering Mexico. They actually equipped an expedition of 34,000 men at the Havannah in 1830, and in July of that year took possession of Tampico. The Mexicans, however, proved too much for them. They compelled the Spaniards to capitulate, and to hand over to them their arms and standards before being permitted to return to their own country. After this mishap the Spaniards recognised the futility of making further attempts, and in 1836 they at last consented to recognise the republic.

In 1838 Mexico got into trouble with France, and in November of that year the French men-of-war bombarded San Juan de Ullao, which had to capitulate. Vera Cruz was occupied, and the Mexicans had to pay a heavy war indemnity.

In 1845 the Americans were provoked through constant revolts in Texas, and a war was only prevented by the annexation of that state to the U.S.A. Nevertheless, a war broke out between these two states on April 24, 1846, originating in a dispute concerning the boundaries of Texas. The Americans occupied the city of Mexico on September 15, 1847, and by a treaty of peace the Mexicans still further lost New California and New Mexico.

In 1861, under President Juarez, Mexico sank into a state of anarchy, the financial condition of the country being on the verge of bankruptcy, and foreign creditors in danger of losing all their capital, in consequence of which an armed intervention was decided upon by France, England, and Spain, and an expedition sailed for Mexico in 1863. The two latter powers, having obtained satisfaction, recalled their forces; but France remained, being determined to re-establish law and order, and it was then

that Napoleon III. endeavoured to carry out his beautiful dream of uniting all the Latin races under his sceptre, by inviting the Notables of Mexico to elect the Archduke Maximilian of Austria as their Emperor.

These are the outlines of the history of Mexico up to the election of the Emperor Maximilian.

MAXIMILIAN.

Maximilian Ferdinand was the second son of the Archduke Francis Charles, and brother of the present Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria and King of Hungary. He was born in Vienna on the 6th of July, 1832, and was specially trained for the navy. He entered the service, for which he developed extraordinary ability, in his fourteenth year, advanced rapidly from one position to another till he reached the highest honour, that of Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial and Royal Navy of Austria and Hungary, in 1859.

In 1857 he was appointed Governor-General of the Lombardo-Venetian provinces, then under Austrian dominion, with residence at Trieste; and in the same year he married the Princess Charlotte, daughter of Leopold I., King of the Belgians, born July 7, 1844. It was while residing here that he conceived the idea of erecting, on the top of the high rocks near Trieste, the noble castle of Miramar, designed by himself in Gothic style; and whoever has seen this magnificent edifice must have been struck with its beauty and marvellous position.

At the outbreak of the war in 1859, which cost Austria the Lombardo-Venetian provinces, Maximilian retired into private life, taking up his abode at the castle just mentioned. Here his principal occupation was the furtherance of art and science, the improvement of education, agriculture, and hospitals, the fostering of charities, etc.

Being a prince of great personal attractions, with fair hair and bright blue eyes, endowed with a most generous disposition and amiable temperament, he soon became the centre of attraction, and was beloved by all with whom he came into contact.

About this time Napoleon III., whose troops were in the occupation of Mexico, considered the moment opportune for realising his innermost wish of uniting all the Latin races under his sceptre; he accordingly induced the Notables of Mexico to elect Maximilian as their Emperor. This they did, and in October, 1863, a commission from the Notables of Mexico was sent to Maximilian, offering him the crown as the result of a vote of the Mexican population. At first sight such an invitation, backed by the Emperor Napoleon, seemed very flattering and acceptable to the young prince, but as there were several obstacles in the way and formalities to get over, he begged for time for consideration, which was gladly granted.

The Emperor Francis Joseph, who loved his brother dearly, did all in his power to dissuade him from accepting such a hazardous position, but other agencies were at work, and at last, on April 10, 1864, Maximilian accepted the crown of Mexico. He landed at Vera Cruz on the 24th May, and a month later, accompanied by his young wife, he entered the capital in great pomp.

Political affairs in Mexico were from the very first by no means reassuring, but being supported by a large force of French soldiers, Maximilian devoted himself with heart and soul to the reorganisation of the empire, a very difficult task, as he had not only to contend with the malcontents of his own empire, but also with the jealousies of the Americans, who hated the idea of an empire springing up so close to their own borders.

At last Napoleon, yielding to the continuous demonstrations of the Americans, ordered his troops to withdraw, and left Maximilian to his fate.

It was apparent to all that as soon as the French departed the country would be plunged into another revolution, and all the sincere friends of Maximilian implored him to abdicate and leave the country, but he would not listen to their counsel, giving them to understand that, having taken the oath promising to protect his people and country, nothing on earth would induce him to break it.

The expected rebellion broke out under the leadership of Juarez, the former President, in February, 1867, and Maximilian placed himself at the head of his army to quell it; he was, however, drawn by tactics and treason into Querétaro, right into the centre of his enemies, and after sustaining a siege for several weeks he was arrested, tried by court-martial, condemned to death, and shot on the 19th of June, 1867; and before the sound of the rifles that were aimed at him had passed away, the life of a most noble-minded, high-spirited, and unselfish young monarch was in eternity. If only the Mexicans had understood him better, and could have appreciated his noble qualities, they would undoubtedly have been happier to-day under his empire than under a continuously vacillating republic.

The young Empress, whose reason had given way on account of the continuous troubles and obstacles placed in the way of her husband, left Mexico for Europe the year before, and after long negotiations the remains of Maximilian were at last given up and conveyed to Vienna for burial, and there placed in the imperial vault in the early part of 1868, thus ending one of the most tragic records of modern history, a story steeped in blood and tears, and casting an ineffaceable stain upon the history of Mexico.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF MEXICO.

The first postage stamps of this country were issued in August, 1856, when General Comonfort was President, and consisted of five values—

½ rl., blue; 1 rl., orange; 2 rls., green; 4 rls., red; and 8 rls., violet,

engraved and printed in colours on white wove paper, imperforate and bearing the well-known portrait of the noble priest Hidalgo, who fought so bravely and sacrificed his life for the liberty of his country in 1810.

In 1861 another set of stamps of the identical design and values as those of 1856 was issued in black impressions on coloured wove paper, also imperforate; and later in the same year varieties of the 4 and 8 reales, printed in colours and on coloured paper, were added.

In 1863 a very handsome set of stamps, engraved by the American Bank Note Company, New York, printed in colours on white wove paper, perforated, and of the values of

1, 2, and 4 reales and 1 peso,

made their appearance, but there is considerable doubt about these stamps, whether or not they were ever officially issued.

The next issue is :—

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF MAXIMILIAN.

The stamps of this monarch are too well known to require any special description. I shall therefore confine myself to the following remarks only.

The first emission of the stamps of Maximilian is a series of six engraved stamps on wove and ribbed paper, imperforate, known as the "Eagle" issue, of the following values—

3 centavos, ½, 1, 2, 4, and 8 reales,

issued soon after the arrival of Maximilian in 1864, and continued till about the middle of 1866.

The 3 centavos used is no doubt the rarest and most valuable of all Mexican stamps, Locals excepted. Excepting the first supplies during a few months, all these stamps have control-numbers, and they are—

1864.	Numbers and date	in large type	from	Nos.	118	to 179.
1864.	„ „	in small „	„	„	180	to 244.
1865.	„ „	„	„	„	1	to 225.
1866.	„ „	„	„	„	1	to 131.

The second issue, lithographed on wove paper, with portrait of Maximilian, dated 1866 and 866, also with control-numbers, consists of four values—

7, 13, 25, and 50 centavos.
Control-numbers 1 to 139.

This issue was soon superseded by the third emission, engraved, also on wove paper, being of the same design and values, with control-numbers, dated 866 and 867.

Control-numbers	(1)866.	Nos.	101	to 139.
„	(1)867.	„	1	to 19.

The "Eagle" issue and the engraved stamps of Maximilian are undoubtedly the finest issues of all Mexican stamps, and what makes them particularly attractive to advanced collectors is not only the great variety of shades of some of the values, but also the new departure of adding dates and control-numbers to the usual surcharge of the names of the chief districts for which they were issued; many of the stamps are found with an additional date or number and date upon them, denoting the sub-district for which they were finally issued.

This style of control was discontinued in the issues that followed, and only a special number with date for a certain district was adopted, but the original number was by no means always sustained for the same district. The surcharging system was altogether discontinued after 1883, though in the 1884 issue there are still a few stragglers to be found.

The Paris International Philatelic Exhibition, 1900.

ORGANISED BY
THE SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE TIMBROLOGIE.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

M. Erard Leroy d'Etiolles (*President*). M. Albert Coyette (*Secretary*).
M. Jules Bernichon. M. Dormoy d'Evenans.
M. Lucien Gilis (*Treasurer*).



E are glad to know, by the issue of the official Prospectus,* that all the difficulties that militated against this scheme have been surmounted, and that there is every reason to anticipate a great success for, probably, the greatest Philatelic Exhibition of the century. The Prospectus, which gives full information on all points, can be supplied to applicants by the Secretary; but we quote the important features thus :—

An International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in Paris from 25th August to 10th September, 1900, will comprise postage stamps of all kinds, unpaid letter stamps, envelopes, cards, wrappers, stamped money orders; telegraph stamps; fiscal and municipal stamps, etc.; works on Philately; stamp albums; articles or books upon the stamp literature of one or more countries, with collections of the works mentioned in such books; the apparatus used in manufacturing stamps, *e.g.* engraving, printing, gumming, perforating, obliterating, etc., etc.; tapestry and mosaics made out of stamps; books, engravings, lithographs, and, broadly, everything connected with the past and present production of stamps, and with their use and collection.

The exhibition will be open to the public daily from ten to six. Admission: three francs on the opening day, fifty centimes on Thursdays and Sundays, and one franc on other days. Season tickets will be on sale at fifteen francs.

Persons desirous of exhibiting must send their application forms, clearly filled up and signed, to the Secretary, 438, Rue de Rivoli, Paris, before 31st May, 1900.

A prize, to be termed the "Grand Prize of the Exhibition," will be placed at the disposal of the jury for award to the most meritorious exhibitor.

* We are informed by our translator that he has adopted, in some portions of this summary of the Exhibition Prospectus, the rendering given in the *Monthly Journal*.—Ed.

The jury will consist of the following fifteen members, and will elect its own president and secretary :—

E. D. BACON, Esq.	*London.*
M. JULES BERNICHON	*Paris.*
HERR F. BREITFUSS	*St. Petersburg.*
M. P. CASTLE, Esq.	*Brighton.*
DR. EMILIO DIENA	*Rome.*
M. LANGLOIS	*Paris.*
M. LÉGLISE	*Dunkirk.*
M. PIERRE MAHÉ	*Paris.*
M. MARCONNET	*Nancy.*
M. J. B. MOENS	*Brussels.*
M. ANTON VAN HOEK	*Rotterdam.*
LIEUT. P. OHRT	*Berlin.*
BARON A. DE REUTERSKIÖLD...	*Ouchy.*
M. JULES ROBERT	*Paris.*
DR. SERVANTIE	*Bordeaux.*

Each exhibit can compete once only.

If a collection or other article already awarded a medal happens to obtain the "Grand Prize," this latter award will not be added to the former, which will become free, and will revert to the jury, who will make such use of it as they shall deem fit for the benefit of another exhibitor.

Exhibitors will have the right of declaring their exhibits "Not for competition."

Exhibits belonging to the members of the jury will be declared "Not for competition."

The specimens exhibited may be shown in albums, or placed either on cardboard or on loose sheets. Although no size of cardboard is obligatory, the Executive Committee hopes that exhibitors who propose to arrange their stamps especially for the exhibition will have the kindness, so far as is possible, to assist their labours, and to assure the uniformity of arrangement by making use of cards, or leaves, 30 centimetres high by 25 centimetres in width ($11\frac{3}{4}$ in. × $9\frac{7}{8}$ in.); thus each square metre of surface ought to contain twelve of these leaves or cards.

The fees payable are fixed as follows:—An exhibitor will pay for exhibits on leaves—10*s.* the square metre for upright show cases, and 12*s.* the square metre for horizontal cases. A collection in an album will pay a fixed fee of 16*s.*

This tax applies to collections contained in one or two volumes. Collections in more than two volumes will be charged for by the square metre.

Exhibitors should themselves insure their exhibits, both in coming to the exhibition and in returning, in such a way as to throw no responsibility upon the committee.

The carriage of exhibits, both coming and returning, as well as the amount of the transport insurance, must be paid by the exhibitors.

Exhibits must be delivered free of cost ten days before the date indicated for opening the exhibition.

Persons desirous of selling stamps inside the exhibition (in a room specially fitted out for that purpose) must make application to the committee at least two months before the opening of the exhibition. The fee payable will be stated on application; only those persons who shall have hired stalls in the saleroom will be authorised to sell stamps at the exhibition.

PRIZE LIST.

Class I.

Collections of Postage Stamps and Unpaid Letter Stamps of France.

Division I. Unused stamps (single specimens and blocks).

Division II. Unused stamps.

Division III. Collections of single specimens, without varieties, unused and used mixed.

Division IV. Collections of obliterations and divers varieties.

Prizes. *Division I.* Gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Division II. Gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Division III. Gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Division IV. Silver and bronze medals.

Class II.

Collections of Postage Stamps and Unpaid Letter Stamps of the French Colonies.

Division I. General collections of all the Colonies.

Division II. One or more of the following Colonies:—Benin, Guadeloupe, Nossi Bé, New Caledonia, Obock, Réunion, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Senegal, Tahiti.

Division III. Two or more of the following Colonies:—Congo, Diego-Suarez, Gaboon, Guiana, Madagascar, Soudan, Zanzibar.

Division IV. A mixed collection of the other French Colonies or Protectorates.

Prizes. *Division I.* Gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Divisions II., III., IV. Silver and bronze medal in each.

Class III.

Division I. Collections of one of the following countries or groups of countries of Europe:—

Section A. Austria, Lombardy, Hungary, and Austrian Levant; Greece; Moldavia; Roumania; Russia, Poland, Finland, Russian Levant; Spain; Switzerland; Turkey, Great Britain, and British Levant.

Section B. Germany (Empire and old German States); Italy (Kingdom and old Italian States); Russian Locals; Bulgaria, Roumelia, Servia, Montenegro, Bosnia.

Section C. Denmark and Iceland, Danish West Indies; Sweden and Norway; Portugal and its Colonies; Holland and Dutch Colonies.

Section D. Belgium; Luxemburg; Monaco.

Section E. Alsace-Lorraine, collections of unused stamps and of postmarks.

PRIZES. In each section from A to D, gold, silver, and bronze medals. In section E silver and bronze medals.

Division II. Collections of one or more of the following British Colonies :—

Section A. British Guiana before 1852, Cashmere and Indian States, Ceylon, Mauritius, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria.

Section B. Canada, Cape, India, Natal, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Straits Settlements and Dependencies, South Australia (Departmental), Tasmania, Trinidad, Western Australia.

Section C. Barbados, Fiji, Heligoland, Labuan, Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Turks Islands, Ceylon from 1863, New South Wales since 1860, Victoria since 1862, Western Australia since 1861, British Guiana since 1852, Mauritius since 1859.

Section D. Bahamas, Bechuanaland, Honduras, Cyprus, Grenada, Griqualand, St. Helena, Central Africa, East Africa, South Africa, Niger Coast, British Guiana since 1863, Mauritius since 1863.

Section E. Antigua, Bermuda, Cook Islands, Dominica, Falkland Isles, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Hongkong, Ionian Islands, Jamaica, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Madagascar, Montserrat, Borneo, Prince Edward Island, St. Christopher, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tobago, Virgin Isles, Uganda, Zanzibar, Zululand.

PRIZES. Gold, silver, and bronze medals in each of sections A, B, C.

Silver and bronze medals in section D.

Two silver and two bronze medals in section E.

Division III. Collections of the following countries :—

Section A. Japan, Philippines, Portuguese Indies, Transvaal, Afghanistan.

Section B. Azores and Madeira, Egypt and Suez, New Republic, Persia, Shanghai, and China (without the Locals).

Section C. Belgian Congo, Liberia, Sarawak, Siam, Corea, Formosa, German Colonies, Orange Free State.

PRIZES. *Section A.* Gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Section B. Silver and bronze medals.

Section C. Two bronze medals.

Division IV. Collections of the following countries :—

Section A. Brazil, Buenos Ayres, Bolivia, Colombia, Hawaii before 1864, Mexico (including Locals), Peru, San Domingo.

Section B. Confederate States, United States of America, United States Locals.

Section C. Argentine, Chili, Cuba, Porto Rico, Fernando Poo, Uruguay, Venezuela, Hawaii since 1864, Tonga, Corrientes and Cordoba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Samoa.

PRIZES. *Sections A and B.* Gold, silver, and bronze medals in each.

Section C. One silver and two bronze medals.

Division V. Reserved for collectors not advanced.

Section A. Three countries of Europe.

Section B. Three countries of Asia and Africa.

Section C. Three British colonies of Australia, North America, and Asia.

Section D. Three British colonies of Europe, Africa, and West Indies.

Section E. Three countries of America, or elsewhere, not included in the list of the subdivisions *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*.

PRIZES. Silver medal and bronze medal in each section.

CLASS IV.

Collections of Rare Stamps.

Division I. Collections of 75 to 100 varieties.

In this division, pairs or blocks will be reckoned as one stamp.

Division II. Collection of a maximum of fifty stamps, not exceeding by the catalogue the value of £2 each.

PRIZES. *Division I.* Gold and silver medals.

Division II. Silver and bronze medals.

CLASS V.

General Collections of Postage Stamps with or without envelopes, cards, etc.

Arranged in albums which, in Divisions I., II., and III., must not contain less than ten countries.

Division I. Collections without limit as to number.

Division II. Collections not exceeding 10,000 stamps.

Division III. Collections not exceeding 5000.

Division IV. Special collections, including groups of countries which are related geographically, historically, politically, or by language.

PRIZES. *Division I.* One gold and one silver medal.

Division II. One silver and one bronze medal.

Division III. Two bronze medals.

Division IV. One bronze medal.

CLASS VI.

Division I. Collections of entire envelopes of one or several of the following countries:—Austria, Hungary, Lombardy, Great Britain, Germany and German States, Mauritius, Russia, Finland and Poland, United States.

Division II. A minimum of three countries not mentioned in Division I.

PRIZES. *Division I.* Gold and silver medals.

Division II. Silver medal and bronze medals.

CLASS VII.

Collections of Post Cards and Letter Cards.

Division I. One or more of the following countries:—Russia and Finland, Germany and German States, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad, Japan, Luxemburg, Belgium, Mexico, Roumania, Spain and her Colonies.

Division II. Minimum of three countries not mentioned in Division I.

PRIZES. *Division I.* Silver and bronze medals.

Division II. Bronze medal.

Prizes consisting of gold, silver, and bronze medals will also be awarded to collections of fiscal stamps, telegraph stamps, municipal stamps, private offices and old postal marks; public literature; albums; accessories useful to Philately; special arrangement of postage stamps, stamps upon letters, sheets or envelopes, proofs, essays, curiosities, all documents dealing with Philately and the postal service; also to societies, statutes, organisations, and for special services rendered to Philately.

Philatelic Notes.

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

THE 2 REALES, BLUE, OF SPAIN, 1851.

A VERITABLE "bolt out of the blue" is an announcement with regard to this long-contested variety, repeated in the last issue of the *Monthly Circular*, from the Continental journals, which states as follows :—

"The late Mr. Westoby was a strenuous defender of the status of the 2 reales, blue, as an error, in spite of the body of expert opinion which declared it an essay. So great an authority as M. Moens maintained the contrary opinion. It now appears that it has been found attached to the 6 reales, blue, the pair having been cut from a block of fourteen stamps. It is the property of a Barcelona dealer, who expects that it will create a great sensation at the forthcoming exhibition in Paris."

From the earliest days of Philately, controversy has raged as to the question whether this variety—blue in lieu of red—of the 2 reales of the 1851 issue was an essay or an error of colour. Those among the earlier adherents to Philately who favoured the latter theory, rested their belief mainly, as far as we understand, on the specimen that has since passed into the collections of M. de la Renotière and the late Mr. T. K. Tapling. We are under the impression that at least one more is known, but for many years past the belief has gained ground that, in the entire absence of any confirmatory copies of the stamp used or unused, its separate existence as a *stamp* was very problematical. This opinion we have assuredly shared and expressed in this journal, and the current catalogues, where the variety is conspicuous by its absence, endorse this view. Should, however, the facts now stated be borne out, it is clear that the stamp must be rehabilitated and classed as a genuine error. Moreover, it would be one of the greatest rarities, and in the condition mentioned—*se tenant* with the normal values —it must be a "piece" of unique interest. Its appearance at the Paris Exhibition will certainly arouse the widest interest; and its transference to a permanent home will probably mean a substantial reduction of the fortunate collector's bank balance.

UGANDA.

MR. W. H. PECKITT has sent us specimens of the 1 anna, type-set 1897 issue, showing considerable difference in the shape and thickness of the figure "1."

FRANCE: THE 40 CENT. OF 1849.

THE differences in the shape of the numeral of value of this stamp are well known, and are, moreover, clearly defined in the various catalogues. It has, however, remained for M. A. Maury, in a recent article in the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, to account for the existence of these varieties. It appears, as established by official documents, that in the preparation of the

plate of the 40 c. two *cliché's* of the 20 c. were inadvertently inserted. The mistake was noticed before printing—or we should have had some rare errors of 20 c., orange! The offending figures of "2" were erased, and those of "4" substituted, as nearly as possible resembling those on the 40 c. value. That this attempt was, however, not altogether successful is apparent to us all, with the result that we have an interesting and perfectly legitimate variety in our collections. It appears in the course of M. Maury's interesting article—our Parisian contemporary is always to the fore as regards the French stamps—that the reproduction of the original designs by no means met with the approval of M. Barre, the somewhat autocratic engraver. Many of the printings of the 1849 assuredly vary much, and some of the 40 c. are very defective impressions. The entire article of M. Maury will repay the careful attention of every student of the French postal issues.

Occasional Notes.

A SUPERB EXHIBITION OF CONFEDERATE LOCALS.

WE are gratified to note that our American cousins have recently held an exhibition of the Confederate Locals of surpassing value. It will be seen by the following account, which is reproduced from the *Virginian Philatelist*, that this fine exhibition was almost complete; and in view of the great interest always shown in this country for these historical stamps we cannot do better than reproduce in full the able account given by our contemporary:—

"Without doubt the grandest and most complete exhibit of Confederate postage stamps ever gathered under one roof was that held in the Valentine Museum, Richmond, Va., under the auspices of the Virginia Philatelic Association, September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 1899. The only Confederate stamps not represented in the exhibit were the following:—Paton Rouge, 10 c.; Grove Hill, 5 c.; Jetersville, 5 c.; Kingston, 5 c.; Marion, Va., 2 c., 3 c., 10 c., 15 c., and 20 c.; Victoria, Texas, 5 c. and 10 c.; Franklin, N.C., 5 c.; and Emory, Va., 5 c. But to make amends for these absent treasures there were scores of stamped envelopes and a few adhesives not yet admitted to the catalogue, but recognised by advanced Philatelists. The Valentine Museum, one of the finest in the South, with its treasures in paintings, tapestry, and sculptures, was an ideal building for the exhibition, and Richmond—well, it was the capital of the Confederacy. The object of the promoters of this exhibition was to present to all lovers of Confederate stamps an opportunity to study those rarities so seldom seen, and their success was beyond expectations. They feel deeply grateful to the exhibitors, and especially to Messrs. H. E. Deats, R. S. Nelson, and C. E. Hussman, who loaned their rarest locals for the instruction of less favoured collectors. To the authorities of the Valentine Museum they are also greatly indebted, and the uniform courtesy with which all wishes were anticipated will long linger in their memories.

"Following is a partial list of the stamps exhibited, and by it Philatelists can judge the completeness of the collection, the grandest and first exclusively Confederate Philatelic exhibition the world has ever known:—Athens, Ga., pair, *tête-*

bêche, o. o. c., strip of four, showing two varieties o. o. c., and several others o. o. c. showing shades. Baton Rouge, 2 c. o. o. c., several copies of the two dies of the 5 c. showing varieties, among them the error in spelling McCormick, the latter used, but not on the o. c. Beaumont, Texas, a fine copy on the o. c.; Charleston, S.C., in singles and pairs on the o. c., and the envelopes in every known colour. Columbia, S.C., envelopes in every known and several uncatalogued colours. Two fine copies of the Danville, Va., adhesive, and the envelope in several colours. Several copies of the Fredericksburg 5 c. o. o. c., and a complete sheet of twenty unused, also a fine copy of the 10 c., red. Beautiful copies of the Goliad, Texas, 5 c. and 10 c. Two fine copies of the Greenville, Ala., o. o. c., and Knoxville, Tenn., in fifteen colours and shades, all o. o. c., also the envelopes in every known colour. Beautiful copies of the Lenoir, N.C., Livingston, Ala., and Lynchburg, Va., as they were delivered by the postmasters to their addressees. Every denomination and variety of the Macons on their original covers, including the rare 2 cent. Of the Marions there was only the 5 cent, but a most perfect copy it was. Memphis, Tenn., in shades appeared, and the envelope in various colours. The Milledgeville, Ga., was on hand and Mobiles galore, in pairs and singles, strips and shades. Not less than twenty-five copies of the 5 cent were on exhibition, and of the twos—a dozen. Nashville, Tenn., was well represented by nine copies o. o. c.; a beautiful specimen of the 10 c., used, and a strip of five of the three cent, just as they came from the printer's hands. New Orleans were in evidence in every denomination, colour and shade, including the rare yellows and reds. Of the Petersburgs there was a reconstructed sheet of ten varieties, all beautifully centred and cancelled, besides numerous other copies o. o. c. Pittsylvania C. H. was there, on and off the cover, and so was Pleasant Shade. A beautiful copy of Rheatown was exhibited, and varieties of Salem, N.C., also a beautful specimen of Salem, Va., a new adhesive aspiring to Philatelic recognition. Two beautiful copies of the Spartanburg were seen, the bluish and the white paper. Unused copies of Tellico Plains, the 5 c. and the 10 c., were there, and Tuscumbia, Ala., well cancelled. Uniontown, Ala., four copies, representing as many varieties and all on the original covers, completed the list of catalogued locals. The general issues appeared complete, in singles and pairs, strips and blocks, on and off the original covers. Outer lines with the line on one side, two sides, three and four, TENS in several shades. One frame contained twenty shades of the 1861 10 cent, and another as many of the rose and carmine-rose. Complete sheets of the 10 cents were shown, with all the plate numbers. Every denomination except the TEN and the 'Outer line' was exhibited in complete sheets of 200 stamps or half-sheets of 100 copies. Split twenties, twice-used covers, and other novelties were in great abundance, and hand-stamps received their share of attention.

"Among the claimants for recognition were the Savannahs, Corinth, Ga., Greensborough, N.C., Dalton, Ga., Huntsvilles, Hamburgs, Atlantas, Albany, Ga., Abingdon, Va., Canton, Miss., Christianburg, Va.. Also Statesville, N.C., Unionville, N.C., Winchester, Va., and Selma, Ala., the latter now acknowledged authentic, when signed Wm. H. Edgar, Eutaw.; Centerville and Tuscaloosa, the Alabama claimants, were also there, and 'Flags of truce' in varied arrangements. Two fine copies of the perforated 10 cent were sent from far Alabama and that state's capital supplied the recent claimant, the Montgomery T. Welsh 5 c., in both red and blue on envelopes of various colours. Withal, this grand exhibit was one to be ever recalled, and many a visitor left the glorious display with an aching heart and a mind stored with more Philatelic information than he could have elsewhere obtained."

POSTAL REVENUE OF THE COOK ISLANDS FEDERATION FROM 1892 *TO* 1898.

THE information following as regards the stamps of these islands justifies our reproduction of it from the pages of the *Australian Philatelist*.

"The following is the postal revenue of the Cook Islands Federation from 1892 to 1898:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1892–3	245	5	9	1895–6	120	8	5
1893–4	278	2	3	1896–7	120	5	3
1894–5	228	0	1	1897–8	179	16	2

"For six years the revenue has been only £1171 17*s.* 11*d.*, or under £200 per annum. During this period there were no less than three different series of stamps issued, comprising thirteen varieties (not counting the two papers of the first issue). This allows for an average of £90 for each variety. Now, from the virtuously indignant remarks of certain speculative stamp suppressors, one would naturally suppose that the 'bleeding' of stamp collectors so largely descanted upon would be of something like a respectable amount. After allowing for the value of the stamps legitimately used for postal purposes, and there can be no doubt that more than one-half of those issued in Cook Islands were so used, the longsuffering Philatelist appears to have been 'bled' to the extent of possibly £500 for thirteen new kinds of stamps, or less than £40 worth of each. When the bill for engraving and painting was paid very little would be left over to be reckoned as Philatelic profit."

A PHILATELIC SURVIVAL.

IT is the fittest that survive, hence, probably, the continued existence of a collection that has narrowly escaped the usual destiny of disintegration. In the minutes of the Sydney Philatelic Club (see *Australian Philatelist*, September 30th) we read that the President, Colonel Williams, exhibited his specialty collection of the stamps of France from 1849 to 1871. This collection was formed by Sir Daniel Cooper in 1873, and contains a magnificent range of shades in both used and unused condition. Pairs, strips, and blocks are shown in most varieties, but the gems which most attracted the attention of the members were the *tête-bêche* varieties. These included the 20 c. black and 1 franc carmine of 1849, used, the 20 c. blue of 1853, unused; the 4 c. grey of 1864, and the 1871 Republic 10 c. bistre and 20 c. blue. Of the 10 c. brown on rose there was a block of nine unused, the centre stamp *tête-bêche*, and two pairs *tête-bêche* used, one being on the original cover. Of the first Empire type the La Susse perforations were complete, and there were also a pair of 1 c. and the 20 c. and the 30 c. of 1864, *percé en points*. The Bordeaux 1 c., 5 c., and 40 c. were shown *percé en lignes*, and the 20 c. *percé en points*. In addition to these there were three of the first issue 10 c. of New Caledonia, and a large number of the other early French Colonial issues. The collection is mounted in one of Wilson's Philatelic albums with *quadrillé* pattern leaves.

We thought it would be of interest to call the attention of Sir Daniel Cooper, the esteemed first President of the London Philatelic Society, to the fact that his collection of French was still intact, and have received the following letter, which explains the circumstances. Writing from London, under date of November 11th, 1899, Sir Daniel Cooper writes:—

"The collection of French stamps you mention I bought many years ago; I acquired it from a German gentleman who lived in Cornwall Road, Notting Hill, and at whose house the London Philatelic Society used to meet. He was not in good health, and his wife died, so he had to break up his home, and to enable him to return to his native country he offered me a book containing his French collection of stamps at a moderate price. I kept the collection for several years *with difficulty*, but when Dr. Williams went to Sydney and was appointed military surgeon, he took up stamp collecting, and it became a mania with him, so I gave him all the stamps I had when he was on a short visit here, and the French collection was among the lot. Williams is now Colonel Surgeon Williams, and he is now on his way to South Africa to join the New South Wales Lancers."

The "German gentleman" alluded to was doubtless Mr. H. A. de Joannis, who was Honorary Secretary to the London Society, but resigned owing to failing health, in November, 1879. The heartiest good wishes of us all will accompany Colonel Williams in South Africa for his safe return to the country he is bravely serving.

DEATHS IN THE PHILATELIC WORLD.

THE hand of the Destroyer has been sorely active in our ranks during the past few months, and the losses sustained in this country have their counterpart abroad. The death of Mr. F. Trifet, of Boston, U.S., in the early days of last month removes a highly respected name from the ranks of the dealers, and one that has been associated with Philately as a dealer from the earliest days. Mr. Trifet shared with Mr. J. W. Scott the credit of being the veteran dealers of the stamp world in the United States, having commenced trading in the sixties. Mr. Trifet's connection with stamps was, we understand, as successful financially as it was honourable in its method.

Germany has also lost a well-known member of the trade, Herr Georg Zechmeyer, of Nuremberg, whose name will be always associated with the vast accumulation of stamps that have gained a world-wide celebrity as "Zechmeyer's Continentals," and have been distributed in countless millions. We remember well a visit made to that delightful relic of mediævalism, Nuremberg, some few years back, when Herr Zechmeyer kindly allowed our inspection of his colossal accumulation of the commoner stamps—fire-proof rooms literally heaped up with stamps like corn in a granary. Herr Zechmeyer's interest in Philately was, however, by no means bounded by common stamps, and he has left behind him a well-deserved reputation and a respected memory.

THE APPROACHING RETIREMENT OF M. J. B. MOENS.

THE announcement conveyed in our advertisement columns of the retirement of this celebrated firm, although perhaps not unexpected, will awaken wide and general feelings of regret. The name of Moens has always been synonymous with fair, straightforward dealing, coupled with profound Philatelic knowledge. It may truthfully be asserted of M. Moens that the dominant features of his enterprise *ab initio* have been the purchase of stamps at the time of their issue (with a truly remarkable foresight), and their subsequent sale at a fair and moderate rate, increased only by the gradual demand as created in due course of years. Doubtless there has always been a rich and deserved rate of profit on these wise purchases, that must have developed with the successive years until M. Moens had received a colossal return upon his Philatelic investments. The grateful recollections of all who value fine condition in stamps will always attach to M. Moens, who had the prescience to commence purchasing unused stamps from the Post Offices as early as 1853 or 1854 (having started business in 1851). It will always be remembered that it is mainly due to M. Moens' intuition that the stamps of many countries have been preserved to us in unused pristine condition. In the case notably of unused European stamps, it may be truthfully urged that, but for M. Moens' purchases, very many varieties would be virtually unattainable. Not less pleasant in our memories will remain another important feature—the invariable rule of M. Moens to sell his stamps at a fair rate of profit, guided only by the real state of the market and uninfluenced by the purse of the purchaser. *O si sic omnia!*

In this country the true inwardness as to the superb nature of the Brussels firm's "reserves" was slow to awake, but once the situation was grasped, both from this and every other country such a rush to purchase ensued that the stocks became rapidly exhausted. Although the older and scarcer stamps are all played out, it will be found that there are still many desirable acquisitions to be made at the Rue de Florence under the favourable conditions now announced. It is no secret that M. Moens has been a successful man. He has thoroughly deserved his guerdon, and we hope that when his final sales are complete he may enter into a long and happy retirement.

A LINK WITH THE PAST.

THE quaint little half-marine, half-rural village of Southwick is but a few miles removed from fashionable London-super-Mare, as Thackeray dubbed the town of Brighton; and it may not be without interest to note an interesting link with the past of the postal history of this country that has been exemplified in the forenamed little village near the South Downs. Mrs. Cabot, the popular and esteemed postmistress at Southwick, has been presented privately with a cheque on behalf of the inhabitants of the parish, in recognition of her completion of fifty years' service under the General Post Office in this village. Mrs. Cabot's career in connection with the Southwick Post Office presents many points of interest, but other matters in relation

to the courteous old lady are worthy of record. For instance, the family —the Dinnages—from which she is descended is an ancient one, and a Sussex one too, having resided at Nuthurst, in the neighbourhood of Horsham, for very many years previous to 1777, when they came to Southwick. Mrs. Cabot's husband was a descendant of the famous sailor, Sebastian Cabot, who, in the fifteenth century, was one of the greatest leaders in maritime adventure and enterprise. Indeed, he bears the honour, by reason of historical research, of contesting the discovery of America, certain records pointing to the fact that he visited that continent some fourteen years before his great contemporary. At the age of thirteen years Mrs. Cabot was sworn into the postal service at Portslade. It is interesting to note, adds the *Sussex Daily News* (from whom we learn some of these details) that at that time all stamps had to be cut with scissors.

It is also interesting to think of the unsuspected treasures, from a Philatelic aspect, that have passed between the scissors or through the hands of this venerable old servant of the Post Office in her fifty years of office!

CHANGES IN OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

In an "Occasional Note" of last month we alluded to several new features in Philatelic journalism; but a correspondent has pointed out that we failed also to call attention to another new departure. This is the publication of Mr. L'Estrange Ewen's weekly journal in a new and enlarged garb, in which not only the stamps of the mother country, as heretofore, but all others will be considered. The title of the journal is now *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*—the initials being, curiously, those of the cardinal points of the compass. We wish the new venture all success, the more so as Mr. Ewen's journal has always been devoted to stamps, and has been free from the odious personalities that disfigure but are frequently found in journals unworthy of Philately. We are fully conscious of our own demerits, but in all cases, our connection with Philatelic journalism shall always have the saving grace of avoiding personalities and of endeavouring to draw the attention of our readers to the virtues of the stamps, and not to the vices of their owners.

A RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT.

The substitution of stamps in the packets of Exchange Societies is a dangerous and contemptible practice that has always militated against the complete success of these organisations. It is satisfactory, therefore, to learn that an old offender herein has been caught red-handed, and that a certain Herr Adolf Poppe, of Hanover, has lately been visited by the Royal Court of Justice in that city with the exemplary sentence of three months' imprisonment and condemnation in all costs of the proceedings. The credit of discovering this petty thief lies with the Kiel Philatelic Society, whose members Poppe had been victimising during the past three years, and it is to be hoped that it will "encourage the others."

Reviews.

THE SCOTT CO.'S STAMP CATALOGUE, 1900.*

MESSRS. SCOTT & CO. wisely refrained from the issue of a catalogue last year, in view of the somewhat alarming fluctuations of price that were then prevailing. We cordially commended this precaution, and should have been glad to have seen it adopted in other quarters. Excellent as are the modern dealers' catalogues, there is no occasion, as far as the collector is concerned, to reissue them every year. The constant "revision" of prices—frequently needless rushing up and pulling down—has a very disturbing and depressing effect upon Philatelists, while the new issues of the year could be amply provided for by the publication of an addendum. There is every inclination to accept and recognise the services rendered to stamp collecting by the remarkable development of the modern dealers' catalogue. It should not, however, be forgotten by the trade that its ready acceptance by collectors as an arbiter of values has conferred a far greater corresponding boon on the publishers. In return for this confidence the leading catalogues should endeavour in all cases to place a true and just valuation of all the values, *i.e.* not dependent entirely on their own stock thereof. So far as a cursory examination will allow, the Scott Co. have, in the main, striven after this ideal—one cannot expect "counsels of perfection." The lists of the U.S. stamps lead the van in the book, and among the quotations we note important reductions in the Provisional or Postmasters' stamps, while there are also alterations on a downward grade in a good many of the stamps of the issues of 1851, 1855, 1861, and 1869 (in the latter case justified). The latter remark also applies to Departmentals, which have been notoriously held up by speculators. The Unpaid might also be judiciously lopped. The 3 c., pink, is apparently a stamp growing in estimation, and has jumped up 15 dollars. The general Philatelic excellence of the U.S. list remains unimpaired, while its inclusiveness has been materially increased.

The most important feature of this catalogue is undoubtedly the present subordination of all variations of, or deviations from, the standard normal values. These sub-varieties are now in all cases placed below the normal stamp in smaller type and in different alignment from the standard values, and are lettered *a*, *b*, *c*, etc. This system is practically that adopted by M. Moens and one we have always cordially approved of; it was partially followed by the Scott Co. in 1898, and by its adoption in its entirety in the new catalogue this firm has undoubtedly exercised a thoroughly wise and sound discretion. The man who only wants salient or normal varieties sees in large

* *The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, 1900. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., 18. East 23rd Street, New York, U.S.

type *his desiderata*, while he who specialises can ruminate peacefully over the many departures from the standard type depicted in the smaller print. The whole system is good, as being distinctly one to encourage both classes of collector. The former has always existed, and in these days of needless and superfluous issues there is all the more reason to engage the continued support of those who are content to limit the scope of their acquisitions. This good work can be even bettered next time by the omission of prices against the majority of these sub-varieties, which are rarely held in stock.

The 1900 Catalogue, in a word, bears throughout the impress of careful and conscientious labour; it has been improved in many ways, and the latest information embodied. Whether as regards its literary aspect or its typographical garb, it reflects much credit upon its publishers, and is worthy of the tradition of a firm whose name is equally respected on both sides of the Atlantic.

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 three stamps we referred to on page 248 as revenues postally used, turn out to be surcharged for use *both* as postals and fiscals, pending a *new* combined stamp, inscribed "Postage and Revenue," to be prepared as quickly as possible.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—Mr. Charles E. Fagan has been good enough to send us a specimen of the Cape of Good Hope 4d. blue stamp, surcharged merely "British South Africa" in two lines in black, with the word "Company" entirely omitted.

Our correspondent informs us that this stamp was purchased at the Post Office, Bulawayo, during the time of the Matabele war.

Adhesive. 4d., blue, Cape stamp, surcharged in black "British South Africa," wmk. Anchor.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—A new issue is promised. The designs, it is stated, have already been approved, and the dies are being prepared.

We trust this information emanates from good British, and not Boer, sources.

CEYLON.—From the *P. J. of India*, just to hand, we cut the following:—

"Ceylon's Philatelic activity is undiminished. The 2 c. and 4 c. now appear in their old design, but in chocolate-brown and yellow respectively. The 3 c. is now in a pretty dark green, and the 5 c. a bright blue.

"The new design for the high values is commonplace enough. So far we have seen a rose 1 r. 50 c., and a dull blue 2 r. 25 c. The lower values are watermarked CA, and the two latter CC. These two are on apparently *laid* paper. All are perf. 14."

GIBRALTAR.—*Morocco Agencies.*—The

M. J. gives the information that the most easily recognised difference between the local and the London surcharge is in the shape of the letter "g," which, in the former, has the little curl at the right rising above the top of the circle, whilst in the latter type the curl is level with the top of the circle.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We are informed on high authority that the ½d. stamp is to be issued shortly in dark green, with the design unchanged, and that the 1s. will be printed in bicolour, probably of a new design; both values to be on ordinary white paper. No indication is forthcoming as to the 1d. stamp being changed.

On November 1st there were issued to the public the promised set of larger-sized post cards.

The thin inland card, brown on buff, now measures $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The stout inland card, brown on white, is now $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches (court size), but issued also as reply card; and the foreign card has changed its colour from vermilion to carmine on buff, and measures $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The change is extended to double cards as well.

Post Cards. Single and Reply.
½d., brown on buff, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
1d., carmine on buff, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inche

Reply.
½d., brown on white, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The following cuttings from Mr. Ewen's *Weekly Stamp News* will doubtless interest many of our readers :—

"Mr. V. Gregory notifies us of an interesting discovery, namely, a 9d. wmk. Emblems of 1865 (lettered TA), the watermark of which consists of *three roses and a shamrock*. The third rose is inverted and takes the place of the thistle in the lower left-hand corner (looking at the printed side). We have examined the stamp and find the watermark unusually clear.

"The wire bits used to produce the 'Emblems' or 'Four Flowers' watermark were, in fact, very liable to get damaged round the edges of each pane, and until 1864 the 'bits' were renewed in the same position as those which had been removed. After 1864, however, the 'roses' were inserted in an inverted position with one cusp instead of two, uppermost (this is really the correct heraldic position). Such varieties occur almost entirely along the top row of each pane, the stamps of which are lettered A, F, K, or P in the lower left-hand corner. Three variations of this later state of the watermark naturally occur, as in the illustrations."

INDIA.—*Cochin.*—To the list of envelopes mentioned on page 218, we have now to add another of similar type, and presumably on white laid paper.

Envelope. 1 p., red.

MAURITIUS.—The 8 c., rose, double card is stated to be overprinted, like the single card, "6 cents."

Post Card. 6 c.+6 c. on 8 c.+8 c., black and rose.

The *P. J. of India* writes :—

"Two 15 (cents) stamps together is not bad. One is of the 'Arms' type, green, with value in orange. The other is the threatened 'Labourdonnais' stamp. It is an ultramarine atrocity of large size, with a portrait of an amused old gentleman in a big white wig. A 6 c., green, with value in rose-red, has also appeared. The two little stamps are watermaked CA, and the big monstrosity CC. All are perf. 14."

NEW ZEALAND.—The *Australian Philatelist* tells us that the new 4d. was issued on August 29th. The design is the same as that of the 1d., with the exception of the new value label and figures in the lower angles.

Owing to the similarity to the 1d., it was withdrawn about a week after issue, but will be reissued when the 1d. value of the present type is exhausted.

The locally printed 9d., on unwatermarked paper, has been received by our contemporary.

Adhesives. 4d. (new type), brown and blue; perf. 11.
9d., dull purple; perf. 11.

QUEENSLAND.—At the moment almost of our going to press, Mr. W. Hadlow and Messrs. G. Hamilton-Smith & Co. have shown us a new halfpenny stamp. Design: "Queensland" at top, with a more or less up-to-date profile of the Queen in circle in the centre, "One Halfpenny" in a curved band, and a bold "½d." at foot.

Adhesive. ½d., green, wmk. Q and Crown; perf. 12½.

SARAWAK.—Yet another of the 1871 issue has been surcharged "2 cents," the 3 c., red-brown on yellow, having had its turn according to reports from several quarters. How long will it be before the 6 c. is called out for service?

We take it that the 2 c., lilac on lilac, and 4 c., red-brown on yellow, are exhausted, or there would be no need for surcharging until these old remainders were used up.

Adhesive.
2 c., in black, on 3 c., brown on yellow, 1871 issue.

SIERRA LEONE.—The *American Journal of Philately* mentions having seen several Revenue stamps of Sierra Leone *used* for postage, consisting of the long 6d., surcharged "One Penny" in one line in black, and of the small 6d., lilac on bluish paper, and the 1s., lilac and green. The last two, it is stated, are of the same tpye as the postage stamps of the old issues.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Messrs. G. Hamilton-Smith & Co. have kindly sent us specimens of the 1d. and 2d. values in the new colours.

The 1d. value we chronicled on page 275 as rose; perhaps it might better be described as carmine-rose.

The 2d. value is in a delicate shade, something between violet and purple, and the change of colour gives a great improvement to the appearance upon the old orange stamp in use so long.

Adhesive. 2d., violet, current type; perf. 13.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Johore.*—The *Briefmarken Journal* announces the 4 c., current type, in a new colour, design yellow, and value in brick-red.

Adhesive. 4 c., yellow and brick-red, current type.

Pahang.—The *M. J.* chronicles the 5 c., Tiger's Head type, surcharged "Four Cents" in black, with a bar across the value at the top; announcement is also made of a post card of the 1891 type.

Adhesive. 4 c. on 5 c., lilac and ochre.
Post Card. 1 c., green, on pale buff.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.—Our statement that the colour of the current 10 centimes stamp had been changed to carmine seems to have amused some of our contemporaries; but it was made on good authority, and, like the equivalent value on this side of the Channel, it will probably ultimately fall in line with Postal Union colours.

GERMANY.—On page 111 we announced the contemplated issue of four new values, and to these must be added a 40 pfennigs stamp. It is now officially stated, moreover, that higher values up to 5 marks will be provided, and that on January 1st, 1900, a new design will supersede that now existing, the Imperial Eagle occupying the centre of the present stamps being replaced, it is stated, by a bust representing "Germania." We presume this is an issue for the mother country connected with that for the German Colonies mentioned on page 195(?).

ROUMANIA.—Mr. W. Hadlow has submitted to us a curious block of six stamps of the 10 bani, rose, or rose-red, of the year 1879, perf. 11½, but horizontally imperforate.

This block was found in a large parcel of used copies of these stamps, and has undoubtedly been postally used.

SPAIN.—On page 275 we reported a change in the colours of the 5 and 10 centimos and anticipated alterations in the garb of the 2 and 20 c. It is announced in several of our contemporaries that the 2 centimos is to appear forthwith, in black, and the 20 centimos in orange.

Adhesives. 2 centimos, black.
20 ,, orange.

SWITZERLAND.—Several of the Continental journals announce the 50 centimes changed in colour to green in the place of the 25 centimes, which was lately altered in colour to blue.

Adhesive. 50 centimes, green; perf. 9½.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Messrs. Whitfield King send us specimens of the lower values of the new issue. "The design consists of a seated figure of the Republic, with name at top and value below. The peso values are in two colours and are larger, being similar in size to the 1891 peso values. The stamps are watermarked with the sun, and are perforated 11½."—*P. J. G. B.*

Adhesives. ½ cent., bistre.
1 ,, green.
2 cents., indigo.
5 ,, carmine.
10 ,, dark green.
12 ,, sky-blue.
16 ,, orange.
20 ,, red-brown.
24 ,, violet.
30 ,, rose.
50 ,, Prussian blue.
1 peso, black and blue.
5 ,, black and orange.
10 ,, black and green.
20 ,, black and carmine.

BOLIVIA.—The 50 cents. and 100 cents., 1894 issue, are stated to have been, as we fully expected, surcharged with "EF 1899."

The colours of the newly issued 50 cents. and 100 cents. turn out to be pale brown and pale violet respectively.

BRAZIL.—There is only one novelty to report this month, for which it would appear *Le C. de T.-P.* is responsible, viz. an unpaid letter stamp, in pale blue, of the value of 300 reis.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 300 reis, pale blue.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—*Le Timbre-Poste* gives the information of a 50 centavos in a new design. Arms in circle, "Correos" in a plain band at top, "Republica de Colombia" and figure "50" under arms, and "Cuiquanta Centavos" at foot.

Adhesive. 50 centavos, blue, on lilac.

Antioquia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens of a commemorative issue.

Design: Portrait of General Cordova, with the inscription "Departamento de Antioquia" on a banderole, with "1899" at foot. At top of stamp, "Republica de Colombia"; at foot values, in figures, repeated on each side in circles or squares.

A fairly liberal supply has been made, and registered labels for home and foreign use have not been forgotten.

Adhesives.	½ centavo, deep blue,	30,000.
	1 ,, ,,	30,000.
	2 centavos, brown,	25,000.
	2½ ,, dark blue-green,	20,000.
	3 ,, vermilion,	25,000.
	4 ,, yellow-brown,	20,000.
	5 ,, green,	140,000.
	10 ,, vermilion,	80,000.
	20 ,, deep violet,	20,000.
	50 ,, olive,	10,000.
	1 peso, grey-green 1 ,, Russian green	4,000.
	2 ,, bronze-green,	2,000.
Registered.	2½ centavos, dull blue,	20,000.
	10 ,, mauve,	20,000.

With a variety of the latter imperf. horizontally.

Boyaca.—Le Timbre-Poste has received a stamp for this department which certainly must be received with caution.

It is stated to have a portrait of Mendoza Perez, Governor of Boyaca; value 5 centavos, blue-green on white; perf. 13½. Our contemporary may be trusted to find out more later about this issue.

Santander. From several sources comes the announcement of a new 1 c. stamp, from a new type; the 5 c. to complete the set is expected, unless the one chronicled on page 111 completes the set.

Adhesive. 1 centavo, black, on pale green.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—On page 82 we alluded to a set of stamps the Government had decided to issue to provide funds to erect a costly tomb for the bones of Christopher Columbus. A rather long list of values was mentioned, and from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the following values have been received:—

Adhesives. 1 cent., claret.
2 ,, red.
5 ,, blue.
10 ,, orange.

ECUADOR.—To the list of the stamps of the portraiture type we have given from time to time must be added the following:—

Adhesives. 20 cents., black and green.
1 sucre, black and olive-yellow.
5 sucres, black and violet.

There is also another provisional envelope to keep company with the 5 cents. mentioned on page 251.

Envelope. 10 cents., carmine on straw; carmine surcharge.

GUATEMALA.—Again there seems to be a dearth of 1 centavo stamps, and it is announced in several quarters that the 5 cents., purple, of 1886–91 has been surcharged "un 1 centavo," 1899, in red.

Adhesive. 1 centavo on 5 c., purple: red surcharge.

MEXICO.—To the list of new issues about to appear, given on page 251, we find we must add a 20 cents., blue on light red ground. All values from 1 cent. to 20 cents. inclusive bear the national arms. Messrs. E. Clarke & Co. send us specimens. The three higher values we described.

Adhesive. 20 cents., blue, on light red.

A list of stationery follows.

Letter Cards. 2 cents. and 5 cents.; single and reply.
Post Cards. 1 cent., 2 cents., and 3 cents.; single and reply.
Envelopes. 2 cents., 5 cents., and 10 cents.
Wrappers. 1 cent. and 2 cents.

UNITED STATES.—*Mekeel's Weekly* mentions the find of a current 8 c., puce (Sherman), printed on the *revenue* paper. It shows the large double-lined "R" of the inscription "U. S. I. R."

Adhesive. 8 cents, puce; error of watermark.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* informs its readers that there is every reason to expect that shortly all stamps sent out to *first class offices* in America are to be overprinted on the face with the name of the office, probably across the lower portion of the stamp, in order to facilitate detecting stolen stamps. If this (simple!) plan works well, all the stamps sent to *second and, later, third* class post offices are to be treated in the same manner.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CAROLINE ISLANDS.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* reports that the Germans will surcharge their current stamps for use in their newly acquired dependency "Karolinen—Inseln" in two lines.

CUBA.—A serious mistake appears to have been made in the Cuban special delivery stamp.

Instead of the word "immediata" it should have been "inmediata," according to correct Spanish.

The latest news is that this error is to be corrected, but it is not settled what is to be done with the remainder of the 100,000 sent out after Philatelists have liberally satisfied their requirements.

The new Cuban envelopes with portrait of Columbus are arriving, and the following is a list taken from the *American Journal of Philately* :—

Envelopes. 1 cent, yellow-green, on white and on amber.
2 cents. rose ,,
5 ,, dark blue ,, ,,
Wrappers. 1 cent, yellow-green, on manilla.
2 cents, rose ,,

FRENCH CHINA.—*Le T.-P.* mentions the following errors :—

Adhesives. 50 centimes, rose ; surcharge *red.*
5 francs, violet ,, ,,

The change of colour of the 5 c. stamp of France seems to be generally extended to the various French Post Offices and Colonies.

GUAM.—(*United States*).—It was hardly to be expected that the quantity of stamps prepared for this island (45,000 as mentioned on page 170) would be sufficient for some 5500 inhabitants and *Philatelists* as well, and we are not surprised to find, from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of 4th November, that a further order has been received at the Bureau for the following stamps, including 50 c., $1, and Special Delivery :—

Adhesives.	1 c.	15,000
	2 c.	75,000
	3 c.	5,000
	4 c.	5,000
	5 c.	15,000
	6 c.	5,000
	8 c.	5,000
	10 c.	10,000
	15 c.	5,000
	50 c.	4,000
	$1	3,000
	Special Delivery 10 c.	5,000
		152,000

HAWAII.—In addition to the 5 c. having been changed in colour to blue, as announced on page 170, the word "Cents" has been added between the numerals in the lower angles.

JAPAN.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens of a new issue of postage stamps for this country.

Adhesives. 5 sen, orange.
8 ,, brown
15 ,, purple (as stamp now in use).
20 ,, red ,, ,,
25 ,, light green ,, ,,
50 ,, reddish brown ,, ,,
1 yen, carmine ,, ,,

LORENZO MARQUES.—There is still a short supply apparently of 50 reis stamps at this place, and the current stamp of 75 reis has been surcharged "50 Reis" in black.

Adhesive. 50 r., black, on 75 r., rose.

MACAO.—The *P. J. G. B.* mentions that the 13, 16, 24, and 31 AVOS will be surcharged 5, 10, 15, and 20 AVOS respectively, and the word "PROVISORIO."

TIMOR will have the 16 and 31 AVOS similarly surcharged 10 and 20 AVOS.

The issue is to take place on January 1st next.

PERSIA.—The new set, according to the *P. J. G. B.*, has appeared in the same types as the last, but the colours of the kran values are changed.

The following is a list of the values given :—

Adhesives. 1 shahi, grey.
2 ,, brown.
3 ,, violet.
4 ,, brick-red.
5 ,, yellow.
8 ,, orange.
10 ,, blue.
12 ,, carmine.
16 ,, green.
1 kran, carmine.
2 ,, green.
3 ,, lilac.
4 ,, brick-red.
5 ,, coffee.
10 ,, deep blue.
50 ,, brown-red.

PORTO RICO.—It seems settled that there shall be no more U.S.A. stamps surcharged for Porto Rico. If this be so, why are surcharged stamps wanted for the other new possessions of Uncle Sam?

SAMOA.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* states that the 2 pence, orange, has been surcharged "Provisional Govt." in red, in two lines, and that other values exist.

No doubt the most will be made of the remainders before the islands are taken over by the Germans and Americans.

Adhesive.
2d., orange, surcharged, in red, "Provisional Govt."

A statement has been made and repeated that the current German stamps, 3 pfennigs to 50 pfennigs, have been overprinted "Samoach" (*sic*).

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 1899-1900.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—H. R. Oldfield.

W. B. Avery.	E. B. Evans.
E. D. Bacon.	T. W. Hall.
W. D. Beckton.	T. Wickham Jones.
R. Ehrenbach.	R. Pearce.

Gordon Smith.

The first meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 20th October, 1899, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, A. Passer, Adolph Rosenberg, Herbert R. Oldfield, G. Owen Wheeler, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frenkel, Thomas Wm. Hall, L. L. R. Hausburg, William Silk, jun., C. Neville Biggs, E. D. Bacon, T. Maycock, W. R. Palmer, Alfred A. Davis, A. B. Creeke, jun., C. McNaughten, W. Schwabacher, L. S. Davidson, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard.

The Vice-President having taken the chair, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on the 9th June, 1899, were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from the Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Exhibition, with the accompanying medal which had been awarded to this Society.

Written acknowledgments from various societies of the receipt of the presentation copies of the *London Philatelist* were laid on the table.

The Hon. Librarian reported the receipt of the undermentioned works, which had been presented to the Society during the recess:—

"Annual Report of the Birmingham Philatelic Society." "Rules of the Malta Philatelic Society." "A Colour Dictionary"; "Reprints of Postal Adhesive Stamps," by E. D. Bacon; "Priced Catalogue of the Local Postage Stamps of the World," presented by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. "Nederlandsche Verieniging van Postzegelverzamelaars Amsterdam Jaarboekje 1899/1900." "Catalogue Manchester Exhibition." "Investigaciones sobre la emision de ratampillas des Corones Semisiaro en timbez en Marzo de 1895 Peru." "Katalog ond Danmarks Islands og Dansh-Vestindien" Complete set of the publications of the Oesterreichischer Philatelister Club, Vienna. He was directed to acknowledge the receipt with the thanks of the Society to the various donors.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Committee for the Paris Exhibition, 1900, relative to the Philatelic Congress to be held in connection therewith, and inviting members of this Society to furnish particulars of any papers they might be willing to read at such Congress.

A letter was read from Mr. E. L. Waterlow intimating his resignation at Christmas of membership of the Society, and the same was accepted with regret.

A letter was read from Mr. Stein explaining that his resignation had been forwarded to the Society owing to a mistake on the part of his representative, and requesting that the resignation should be cancelled. It was resolved that the note in the minutes of the 14th October, 1898, accepting his resignation should be cancelled.

The death of Mr. W. A. S. Westoby having been reported to the Society, the Vice-President moved that the meeting desired to record the sense of the deep loss sustained by the Philatelic world in consequence of the death of Mr. Westoby, and to tender to the relatives an expression of the Society's esteem and sympathy. Mr. E. D. Bacon seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously, pointed out that Mr. Westoby had been a collector and writer since 1862.

The following gentlemen were proposed and seconded and duly elected members of the Society after the usual ballot:—Mr. William Wilmot Corfield, proposed by Mr. M. P. Castle, seconded by the Hon. Sec.: Mr. E. Sassoon Gubbay, proposed by Mr. C. F. Larmour, seconded by Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson; Mr. D. P. Masson, proposed by Major Evans, seconded by Mr. W. D. Beckton; Mr. George Alston, proposed by Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, seconded by Mr. C. F. Larmour; Mr. Edward Pole Airlie Dry, proposed by Mr. H. G. Palliser, seconded by the Hon. Sec.

Mr. Leslie L. Hausburg proposed that a Committee of five members should be appointed to consider and report as to the feasibility of a scheme for exchange of duplicates beween the members of the Society. This resolution was seconded by Mr. G. Owen Wheeler. Some considerable discussion ensued, in the course of which Mr. A. Rosenberg indicated some of the difficulties that would have to be dealt with, and considered that upon the whole the advantages of the proposal outweighed the disadvantages, while Mr. A. Passer was of opinion that the Society would lose prestige if it were proposed to undertake the management of a Stamp Exchange Branch on the usual lines of Exchange Societies. It was pointed out by other members that the whole matter required to be carefully considered before any definite steps were taken, and eventually the resolution was passed and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to consider and report thereon:—Messrs. Ehrenbach, Hausburg, McNaughten, Meyer, and Schwabacher.

It was proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith that the meetings of the current season should be held fortnightly, seconded by Mr. Biggs, and carried unanimously. The remainder of the evening was occupied with the inspection of Mr. Passer's interesting collection of Austrian stamps.

The second meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 3rd November, 1899, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, R. Frentzel, W. Silk, jun., T. W. Hall, C. N. Biggs, T. Maycock, B. D. Knox, A. B. Creeke, jun., W. Schwa-

bacher, C. McNaughten, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard.

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

The Secretary reported the receipt of a circular from the President of the French Society, enclosing copies of the Prospectus of the Philatelic Exhibition intended to be held in Paris in connection with the International Exhibition of 1900.

Mr. Franz Reichenheim, proposed by the Vice-President and seconded by the Secretary, was duly elected a member of the Society.

The business of the evening consisted of a display of the stamps of Natal. This was given by Mr. R. Ehrenbach, who fully and carefully explained the history of the stamps and the several issues, including the numerous and complicated surcharged issues. The privilege of inspecting the magnificent collection which Mr. Ehrenbach has been able to acquire in the short period of one year was fully appreciated by the members attending the meeting, and in particular the very complete series of the surcharged stamps, including nearly all the principal rarities, were much admired.

An interesting discussion ensued, and in proposing a resolution for a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Ehrenbach for his most interesting display, Mr. Gordon Smith described the collection which had been shown as one of the finest and most complete collections of the stamps of Natal which had ever been formed, and congratulated the owner on his acquisition.

The resolution was seconded by the Vice-President and was carried unanimously.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Honorary President—W. B. Avery, Esq.
President—W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Vice-Presidents—R. Hollick, Esq; W. Pimm, Esq.
Committee—
Mr. P. T. Deakin. Mr. T. W. Peck.
Mr. C. A. Stephenson. Mr. W. S. Vaughton.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.—Mr. G. Johnson, B.A.
Official Address—208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

The summer packets have been very fair considering the hot weather, those for June amounting to £2457 11*s.* 10½*d.*, those for July to £1632 1*s.* 3½*d.*; and owing to the reduced prices the percentage of sales is very good, many of the better-class sheets being well cleared, and anything in the shape of really fine old stamps at fair prices is quickly snapped up. For instance, the first twelve have bought £160 1*s.* 10*d.* off July B alone.

Seventeen members of our Society won thirty medals, besides diplomas, at the recent Manchester Exhibition.

W. B. Avery, Silver Medal, Switzerland; Silver Medal, Confederate States.

P. M. Bright (Bright and Son), Bronze Medal, Philatelic Literature.

W. Brown, Bronze Medal, Great Britain (used); Bronze Medal, Post Cards.

H. Buckley, Silver Medal, Norway; Silver Medal, Scandinavia

S. M. Castle, Gold Medal, U.S.A.; Bronze Medal, best exhibit shown by a member of a provincial society; Silver Medal, best exhibit shown by a member of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.

R. Dalton, Bronze Medal and Diploma, Albums.

W. Hadlow, Bronze Medal, for best exhibits shown by a member of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.

J. E. Heginbottom, Silver Medal, Great Britain (used); Bronze Medal, Ceylon, Queensland, Victoria; Bronze Medal, Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia.

P. Kohl, Bronze Medal and Diploma, Albums.

F. W. Lake, Bronze Medal, Rare Stamps.

C. F. Larmour, Silver Medal, Portuguese Indies.

J. N. Marsden, Silver Medal, Portugal; Silver Medal, Azores and Madeira; Silver Medal, given by I.P.S.

W. Pimm, Silver Medal, St. Lucia.

C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Limited), Bronze Medal and Diploma, Philatelic Literature; Bronze Medal and Diploma, Albums; Diploma, Philatelic Accessories.

T. Ridpath, Silver Medal, Post Cards.

W. T. Willett, Silver Medal, Great Britain (unused); Silver Medal, Nevis; Silver Medal, most meritorious exhibit in Class 1.

W. T. Wilson, Silver Medal, Mexico; Bronze Medal and Diploma, Albums.

The Annual Meeting will be held at 8 p.m., October 5th, when the Annual Report will be presented, showing considerably increased membership, and a very satisfactory percentage of sales in the exchange packets. The total value of the packets is somewhat less, as in all exchanges, some of the members having locked up their duplicates until another catalogue appears, and others are sending less, as in numerous cases the cutting-down process has been far too drastic. The prospects of the coming session are very bright, for we have more members and more applications than we have ever had, and the status of the applicants is as high as ever.

Our next session commences on October 1st (when all subscriptions are due), and we welcome English, foreign, and colonial collectors and dealers of good standing, feeling confident that we can offer exceptional benefits to all. For years past we have circulated more valuable packets than any other society in the world, and our list of members, including the foremost Philatelists of the world, gives a good indication of buying powers if suitable stuff is sent to us at reasonable prices; and this is only one of the many advantages we offer.

The Annual Report, with rules, etc., will be sent on application to anyone who has not already received one.

Advertisements for the next issue, published October 5th, must reach the Hon. Secretary by September 20th. The Society guarantees 4000 copies to start with.

October 5th. Annual general business meeting. The officers for 1899–1900 were elected as above.

The accounts, showing a balance in hand of £64 19*s.* 7½*d.*, were audited and found correct.

The membership for the past session was 250, the highest yet reached.

The election of the following was confirmed:—Mrs. N. Roach, Messrs. C. G. Roberts, W. P. Williams, W. Houtzamer, Rudolf Friedl, and A. Sempad.

The following were unanimously elected members:—Lieut.-Col. E. Beresford-Coke, Rev. A. E.

Woodward, Mrs. H. H. Ashworth, Messrs. L. L. R. Hausburg, B.A., P. J. Lloyd, W. Ditchfield, R. T. Morgan, A. Beddig, W. J. Grant, and O. Allen.

The exchange packets for value circulated and amounts sold have again easily maintained their position as the best in the world.

Total circulated October 1st, 1898, to September 30th, 1899, £28,569 11*s.* 4*d.*, but as some are not returned it will be better to give the totals from July 1st, 1898, to June 30th, 1899. Total circulated, £29,615 8*s.* 2*d.*; July 1st, 1898, to June 30th, 1899, total sold, £4007 3*s.* 7*d.*

Four thousand copies of the Report were ordered to be printed and circulated. Anyone who has not received one may have a copy on application to the Hon. Secretary.

The programme for the session is as follows:—

1899.
Oct. 5. Annual Meeting.
Nov. 2. Display, South Australia.
Dec. 7. Paper, "Mexico," with exhibit of collection. Mr. W. T. Wilson.
1900.
Jan. 4. Display, with notes, British North America. Mr. W. Pimm.
Feb. 1. Paper, "Egypt." Mr. G. Johnson.
Mar. 1. Display, West Indies.
Apr. 5. Paper. Mr. R. Hollick.
May 3. Display, African Colonies.

November 2nd. Display, South Australia.

The following were unanimously elected members:—Dr. L. F. Houghton, Messrs H. M. Hepworth, G. L. Edwards, J. W. Etherington, A. McDonald, J. W. Heath, H. Reeks, E. W. Smith-Delacour, W. E. Fowkes, and F. H. Thompson. It was incidentally mentioned that forty-one members of the London Philatelic Society were members of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.

A vote of thanks was given to Mons. T. Lemaire for two bound copies of his catalogue.

Then followed a very interesting display and discussion of the stamps of South Australia, illustrated by the collections of Messrs. W. T. Wilson, W. Pimm, and T. W. Peck. The discussion brought out the fact that many of the varieties cannot be supplied at catalogue values, and that collectors would do well to fill in gaps before the rise which must inevitably take place in the next catalogue and which has already taken place in sales.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

President—P. J. Lloyd.
Vice-President—F. E. Ellison.

The members of this Society held their first fortnightly meeting of this season on Thursday evening, 5th October. The President (Mr. J. P. Lloyd) occupied the chair; there was a good attendance of members, and some visitors introduced by them. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, and a new member duly elected, it was proposed by Mr. T. C. Cartwright (the Hon. Librarian), and carried unanimously, "That the best thanks of the Society be sent to Dr. Emilio Diena, of Rome, for his kind donation to the library of two volumes of his valuable works on the stamps of Modena and Romagna" (two of the old Italian States).

Mr. Dalton (the Hon. Secretary) then, at the request of the President, commenced his description and display of the stamps of South Australia. The way in which the numerous varieties of shades and perforations were illustrated and remarked on was very much appreciated by the members present, being both interesting and instructive as a guide through some of the intricate details of the very erratic stamps of that colony, and showing the great amount of labour and patient research bestowed upon the subject by the Hon. Secretary before presenting it to the members in so exact a form and well-digested order of issue, etc. Almost every known variety was represented by one if not several specimens, and also some that are unchronicled. Of these, notably a vertical strip of two, in which the vertical perforation of the upper stamp was different from that of the lower one on the right-hand side, the change taking place at about the division of the two. Another perforation freak was in a block of six where the alternate horizontal perforations were different from each other. The cause of some of the compound perforations was explained by Mr. Dalton, but much remains for speculation at present. The sheets (about thirty) on which the stamps were mounted were contained in the album patented by Mr. Dalton, and for which he obtained recognition and a medal at the Manchester Exhibition, and also the congratulations of the members of this Society. Each sheet was easily and expeditiously removed and replaced, and was, as referred to, placed on an easel, so arranged under the strong light of an incandescent burner that it could be seen generally by all, thus saving the risk and time of passing them round separately. In order to exactly illustrate each of the six varieties of type in the "TENPENCE" surcharge, and also as a means whereby to detect a forgery, Mr. Dalton has contrived a very sure and simple test in the form of a transparent film, on which is printed a facsimile of each type, which can be so placed as a gauge on the surcharge that the type thereof can be determined precisely. A printed card showing all these various types was kindly presented to each member present by the inventive Hon. Secretary. On the proposal of the President, seconded by Mr. Cartwright, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Dalton for his very interesting paper and display. It was announced that the subject for the next meeting, on the 19th inst., would be "British Guiana."

A meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, the 19th October. In the absence of the President, Mr. N. Glyde Heaven was requested to take the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read by the Hon. Sec., and confirmed in the usual way, Mr. D. H. McPherson showed about a dozen sheets of the stamps of British Guiana, beginning with the issue of 1860; the various perforations and shades were well represented in each succeeding issue, and were examined with much interest by the members present, of whom there was a very good attendance, and also a visitor from one of the London clubs, introduced by Mr. Broderip, who showed a miscellaneous collection of stamps of Great Britain, many of which were very interesting, especially to specialists, and several of which were afterwards disposed of to some of the members at reasonable prices. The stamps of Austria and Austrian Italy will be the subject for the next meeting, on November 2nd.

Herts Philatelic Society.

THE Annual Meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 7 p.m. Present: L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, G. Gaffe, C. Forbes, M. Z. Kuttner, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, C. R. Sutherland, F. A. Wickhart, and H. A. Slade. Alterations and additions were made to the rules, which were ordered to be reprinted and distributed. The fee for life membership was raised to £2 2s., and a reserve fund was created. The reports from the Librarian, Secretary, and Treasurer were received and passed. The outgoing officers were re-elected for the 1899–1900 season, with the exception that C. R. Sutherland took the place of the Rev. Walter Jenks on the Committee. Mr. M. P. Castle accepted office as Vice-President; Messrs. W. B. Avery, O. Firth, R. Frentzel, T. W. Hall, R. Meyer, and E. J. Nankivell became hon. members on the invitation of the Committee. The following elections were made: W. Simpson and Mrs. Hugh Rose, life members; W. A. Boyes, W. Laird Clowes, E. G. Davidson, E. Nuthall, W. R. Palmer, and A. G. Wane, ordinary members. Messrs. C. Forbes and J. C. Sidebotham were appointed hon auditors. The meeting terminated at 9.40 p.m.

A SPECIAL MEETING was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, October 10th, 1899, at 7 p.m. Present, W. B. Avery, E. Bounds, W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, E. G. Davidson, R. Frentzel, G. Gaffe, G. Haynes, H. Haynes, J. W. Jones, M. Z. Kuttner, R. Meyer, W. Simpson, C. R. Sutherland, A. G. Wane, F. A. Wickhart, and H. A. Slade.

No business was transacted, as the meeting had been specially convened to give members an opportunity of welcoming Mr. Avery to the Society, and of examining a portion of his wonderful collection. A good muster was the natural result. The countries selected by Mr. Avery for display were British North America and the United States, and for two hours members were occupied in admiring rarities such as the 12d. Canada, U. S. 1869, inverted centres, Newfoundland shillings of 1857 and 1860, etc., etc., stamps often heard of but seldom seen. At the close of the display the Chairman (Mr. G. Haynes) congratulated the members on the splendid entertainment they had enjoyed, and in passing a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Avery for his courtesy, hoped he would honour the Society in a similar manner on some future occasion. An acknowledgment from Mr. Avery, who wished success to the H.P.S., and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, brought the meeting to a formal termination at 9.10 p.m. Stamp talk and exchanges followed.

THE packets for September and October were composed as follows:—

September, 24 sheets, value £607 4s. 10d.
October, 35 ,, ,, £419 19s. 9½d.

Members are requested to send the best sheets they can, in order that packets may attain to a higher standard. Contributions should reach the Secretary not later than the 20th of each month from October to May inclusive. Good sales are expected, as many large buyers see the packets. Club sheets will be supplied on application to the Hon. Sec., H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

A GENERAL MEETING was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Tuesday, November 7th, at 7 p.m. Present: W. A. Bois, E. M. Bounds, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Frentzel, M. Z. Kuttner, E. A. Mardon, R. Meyer, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, A. G. Wain, C. R. Sutherland, and H. A. Slade.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business, the Chairman (Mr. Sutherland) announced the death of Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, an esteemed hon. member, and an expression of regret was passed and entered on the minutes.

Mr. Frentzel then gave a display of the stamps of Mexico (1856-83 issues). His collection, which was practically complete, was accompanied with explanatory notes giving an account of different issues, varieties of paper, surcharges, postmarks, etc., etc. The splits of the 1856 issue, the 1861 errors, three superb copies of the 3 centavos Eagle issue, the uncatalogued varieties of the 1866–67 issue, and the Guadalajaras were perhaps the most noticeable.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Frentzel for his courtesy was suitably responded to, and an enjoyable evening was brought to a close at 9.40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in December, when Mr. E. J. Nankivell has promised a paper and display on the Transvaal "Stamps of the British Occupation." The political situation should render this doubly interesting!

H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

INGLESIDE, ST ALBANS.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

THE opening meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, October 6th, the President being in the chair, and the following members present:—Messrs. Abbott, Coote, Duerst, Gee, Munn, North, Ostara, Oxley, E. T. Roberts, and the Hon. Secretary, as well as one visitor.

The Hon. Librarian reported that in addition to the *London Philatelist*, the *P. J. G. B.*, and *La Revue Philatelique Francaise*, which had been received regularly as published during the summer months, amongst other volumes given to the library were the *P. J. G. B.*, vol. viii.; *The Stamps of the Straits Settlements*, by Mr. W. Brown; a *Colour Dictionary*, by Mr. E. W. Warhurst; an Album, from Mr. Richard Dalton, of Bristol; the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, by Mr. Hugo Krotzsch, of Leipzig; and *British Indian Adhesive Stamps Surcharged for Native States*, by the Philatelic Society of India.

The Hon. Secretary presented a report of the recent Exhibition from the point of view of the Society, which showed that 20 members had received 35 medals, 27 of which (4 gold, 9 silver, and 14 bronze) were in the open competition, and 8 (4 gold and 4 silver) special medals, as under:—

J. H. Abbott, Silver Medal, Servia, Bulgaria, S. and E. Roumelia: Bronze Medal, Egypt and Suez Canal; Silver Medal, 50 Rarities.

F. J. Beazley, Bronze Medal, Gambia, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone.

W. Dorning Beckton, Silver Medal, Roumania with Moldo-Wallachia; Gold (Special) and Silver Medal, Special Group Collection of West Indies.

W. Brown and S. C. Skipton, Bronze Medal, Great Britain (used); Bronze Medal, Post Cards of Mexico and Belgium.

H. Buckley, Silver Medal and Special Silver Medal, Norway.

John Cooper, Silver Medal (Special), General Collection in eight vols.

C. H. Coote, Bronze Medal, General Collection in one vol.

G. B. Duerst, Bronze Medal and Silver Medal (Special), Roumania.

D. S. Garson, Silver Medal, General Collection in one vol.

G. Fred H. Gibson, Bronze Medal, Gibraltar and Malta.

Oswald Gillett, Silver Medal, Modena and Tuscany.

W. Grunewald, Gold Medal and two Special Gold Medals, France.

A. H. Harrison, Bronze Medal, Norway.

J. E. Heginbottom, Silver Medal, Great Britain (used); Bronze Medal, Ceylon, Queensland, and Victoria; Bronze Medal, Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.

M. W. Jones, Bronze Medal, Colour Chart.

J. C. North, Bronze Medal, Cyprus.

Ernest Petri, Gold Medal and Special Silver Medal, Modena and Tuscany.

T. Ridpath, Silver Medal, Post Cards.

E. T. Roberts, Bronze Medal, Brazil.

Vernon Roberts, Gold Medal, Cape of Good Hope; Silver Medal, Gambia and Gold Coast; two Gold Medals (one Special), 100 Rarities.

Nineteen Special Medals were presented by various members, and of those offered by the Society, the silver one for that Society whose members were most numerously represented, was awarded to London; and the gold and silver ones for the best two exhibits in Class IV., shown by Philatelists living out of the British Isles, to Mr. D. P. Masson and Baron de Reuterskiold, for Cashmere and Philippine Islands respectively.

A sum of over £400 has been guaranteed by the members to cover the expenses of the Exhibition, most of which will be returned to the donors.

The President then read a paper on "The Whys and Wherefores of European Reprints." After showing that reprints were first made in 1864, he pointed out that they are by no means alike either in interest or value, those officially issued and printed from the same plates as the originals being important to the advanced specialist, whilst those from fresh plates or issued by private firms are absolutely useless from a Philatelic point of view.

G. FRED. H. GIBSON, *Hon. Secretary.*
KERSAL, MANCHESTER.

Plymouth Philatelic Society.

THE opening meeting of the ninth session of the above Society was held at 9A, Princess Square, on Wednesday evening, the 18th October.

In the absence of Major Stockdale, R.E. (President), the chair was taken by the Rev. E. T. Fyffe, B.A., R.N. (Vice-President.) Three new members were elected, and a pleasant evening was spent in the examination of some rare specimens, and in general discussion.

THE above Society met at 9A, Princess Square, Plymouth, on Wednesday evening, 15th November, when the Rev. E. T. Fyffe read a paper on the Stamps of Victoria, illustrating it with very fine specimens from his collection. During the discussion which followed Mr. Fyffe gave many valuable hints to collectors of the stamps of this colony. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Fyffe for his highly instructive and interesting paper.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday evening, December 13th, when Dr. C. E. Russel Rendle will open a discussion on the Stamps of Great Britain.

The Club has an extensive exchange branch, and particulars of membership may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Mr. Charles H. Dymond, 5, Cotehele Terrace, Stoke, Devonport.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

SINCE the last Club reports were issued the February, March, and April accounts have been settled and sheets duly returned. Sales for these months were £191 18*s.* 8*d.*, £212 4*s.* 7*d.*, and £187 17*s.* 2*d.* respectively. May packets have come back from circulation, and are being dealt with as quickly as possible.

One hundred and sixty-one sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1974 13*s.* 2*d.*, were made up into three packets and despatched on the September circuit on the 26th. A large selection of rare and medium stamps was offered at attractive prices, good condition and "o.g." being quite noticeable. Africans and Europeans were specially strong, and West Indians showed lower quotations. The following members have joined during the past month: W. S. Pinkney, Worksop; A. Le Meester, Oudenbourg; W. Morley, Hove; W. E. Hewes, Chorlton; Miss Watkins, Kimberley; G. J. Fergusson-Buchanan, Bowling; A. H. Helmore, Bristol. A fresh stock of stationery has been obtained, and Club sheets will be supplied to members at cost price. Applications for membership, which should be accompanied by two references, to be made to the Secretary, H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

MAY packets have come back from circulation and accounts have been rendered and sheets returned. Sales were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
May A1	101	4	2
,, A2	89	9	4
,, B1	53	2	11
,, B2	47	17	2

Two hundred and seven sheets, aggregate value £2014 15*s.* 8*d.*, were received by 20th Oct. These were made up into four packets and despatched on their rounds on the 25th. A large number of rare and medium stamps in good condition were offered at reasonable prices, and purchasers will have a good opportunity of picking up bargains at much under catalogue. Europeans and Africans

were perhaps the strongest sections, with unused Australians next. The newly joined members include :—S. F. Annandale (London), H. Buckley (Christiania), Burton F. Cooper (London), P. J. Francis (Bushire), Sergt.-Maj Glover (Aldershot), F. A. Rance (London), C. Tait (Oporto), W. S. Webb (Walpole). Applications for membership must be accompanied by two references, or delay will ensue. Blank spaces, or any other irregularities, should be reported to Secretary direct. Club stationery only should be used ; a supply forwarded on application.

H. A. SLADE, *Secretary*.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Warrington Philatelic Society.

THE annual general meeting of this Society was held on the 12th ult., at the Old Academy. The President, Mr. John P. Reynolds, was in the chair. The Hon. Secretary's report showed that the membership is steadily increasing, there being now 24 members, and that good work had been done during the past year. The balance sheet showed a satisfactory balance in hand. The sales on the exchange packet averaged 19 per cent. The thanks of the Society were given to the Philatelic Society, London, for the *London Philatelist* from vol. iii. to date, to Messrs Bright & Son for their A B C Catalogue, and to sundry others for various Philatelic literature.

Mr. John P. Reynolds was re-elected President and Mr. J. D. Fairclough and Mr. Percy Silcock as Committee, with Mr. Herbert Woods as Hon. Secretary. The change of headquarters of the Society to the Old Academy was approved.

HERBERT WOODS, *Hon. Secretary*.

MOORE, WARRINGTON.

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.*

SINCE our last issue, sales have been held by Messrs. W. Hadlow, Puttick and Simpson, and Ventom, Bull, and Cooper.

* * *

MR. HADLOW'S sale was noticeable for the large number of stamps submitted, including many wholesale lots, collections, etc., which always seem to command a steady sale.

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MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale of October 12th and 13th. We notice Bavaria, 1876–9, 1 mark, horizontal wavy lines, unused, no gum, £3 ; Finland, 1883, 10 marks, unused, with gum, £3 17s. 6d. ; Russian Locals, a collection of 1007, £27 10s. ; Spain, 1865, imperf., 12 cuartos, rose and blue, with frame *inverted*, £8 2s. 6d. ; a very fine collection of fiscals, several thousands in number, £57 ; a fine lot of proofs, essays, etc., £26 ; British East Africa, first issue, on English, ½ a., 1 a., and 4 a., all unused, with full gum, £3 ; British South Africa, 1891 provisionals, ½d., 2d., 4d., and 8d., all unused and full gum, £2 18s. ; Madagascar, lots 221 to 230 all brought good prices ; Mauritius, 2d., blue, error "PENOE," early state of plate, lightly cancelled and fine margins, £11 10s. ; Newfoundland, 6½d., scarlet-vermilion, unused, with gum, £8 ; Nova Scotia, 1s., cold violet, superb, used, £15 15s. ; British Guiana, 1852, 1 cent, black on magenta, a horizontal pair, used, on piece, a little rubbed, £6 ; British Honduras, 1888 provisional, small surcharge, 50 c. on 1s., grey, unused, with gum, £3 15s. ; Tobago, 6d., bistre-brown, C.A, unused, part gum, £6 15s. ; New South Wales, registered, imperf., orange and blue, a fine unused block of three, £7 10s. ; Sandwich Islands, interisland postage, 1859, bluish white paper, 2 cents, black, postmarked, bluish grey paper, 2 cents, black, penmarked, white wove paper, 1 cent, black, postmarked, and 2 cents, blue (pinhole), penmarked, a rare lot, £8 ; Western Australia, first issue, 6d., bronze, very fine, £3 7s. 6d.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale of October 26th and 27th, being the first portion of Mr. Emil Tamsen's collection. Ceylon, 1s. 9d., green, perf., unused, full gum and well centred, 75s. ; United States, 90 c., 1869, unused, 57s. 6d. ; British Guiana, 1852, 4 cent, black on deep blue, used on entire, very fine, £5 17s. 6d. ; France, 1853, 1 franc, dull carmine, unused, horizontal *tête-bêche* pair with full gum, £22 10s. (? original). Lots 81 to 95, French Colonial stamps, brought good prices, many records : Reunion, 1852, 15 cent., used, on piece of original, fine, £33 ; 30 cent., used, on entire, £46 ; Cape of Good Hope, blued paper, 1d., brick-red, with gum, and 4d., blue, unused, 63s. ; wood-block, 1d., red, used, £4 4s. ; 1d., red, a pair, the lower stamp thinned at back, and the other with very small tear, used, £8 ; 4d., blue, with retouched corner, used, £4 2s. 6d. ; 4d., deep blue, used, £6 15s ; Lagos, 1s., orange, perf. 12½, the two varieties, unused, with gum, £5 15s. ; 1s., orange, C and CC, perf. 14, unused, and full gum, £7 10s. ; Mauritius, 2d., blue, Post Paid, earliest state of plate, used, £7 7s. ; large fillet, 2d., dark blue, a superb horizontal pair, used, on piece of original, £43 ; Greek border, 2d., pale blue, an unused vertical pair, cut close, £5 10s. ; 1854, 4d., black on green, unused, £4 8s. ; Swazieland, 10s., brown, a superb unused horizontal pair, full gum, £7 7s. ; Orange Free State, an entire unused pane of 60, 3d. on 4d., ultramarine, with types, £13 5s. ; a horizontal strip of four of these stamps,

Type 15, unused, full gum, £4 4s.; Natal, first issue, 1s., buff, a fine specimen, used, on piece measuring 25 × 32 mm., £10 5s.; Transvaal, British occupation, 3d., mauve, red surcharge, "V.R. TRANSVAAL," *at back of stamp*, £7; 1d., red, black surcharge, "V.R." and "Transvaal" printed wider apart, unused, £6; 1s., yellow-green, black surcharge, soft porous paper, "V.R." and "Transvaal" wider apart, used, £6; 1877–79, surcharged "V.R." and "Transvaal," 1d., red on blue, fine roulette, the error "Transvral," used, £29; 3d., lilac on buff, imperf., surcharge inverted, used, £5 15s.; 6d., blue on green, imperf., surcharge inverted, used, £3 12s. 6d.: 6d., blue on green, fine roulette, surcharge inverted, used, £4; 3d., lilac on green, imperf., the extreme rarity with surcharge omitted, used, on piece of original, and very fine, £15 10s.; surcharged with italic "V.R." and "Transvaal," 6d., blue on blue, imperf., surcharge inverted, slightly thinned at back, £3 12s. 6d.; 3d., lilac on green, surcharge inverted and misplaced, very fine and rare, £7; 3d., lilac on green, wide roulette, a very fine specimen of this stamp, £4; Queen's Head issue—the error on 6d., Queen's Head, "HALVE PENNY" instead of "TWEE PENCE," an entire unused sheet of sixty, with gum, very rare, £16.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale of November 7th and 8th. We notice Great Britain, 1d., black, imperf., a magnificent block of twelve, on very white paper, cut rather close at right, otherwise mint condition, £11; a block of ten, similar condition, £7; Schleswig-Holstein, first issue, 2 sch., pair unused, £3; Ceylon, 1885, five cents on 48 c., rose, wmk. CC, unused, no gum, £6 10s.; 3 cents Postal Commission on 4 c., rose, the error "CEUTS," unused, mint, £3 10s.; Turks Islands, 1881, 2½ on 1d., red, Type 11, unused, but clipped on two sides, £3; Queensland, 2d., blue, imperf., a strip of three very lightly cancelled, on small piece of original, £18.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale of November 9th and 10th. The following lots may be mentioned: Wurtemberg, 1879, 2 marks, vermilion on orange, unused, with gum, £3 7s. 6d.; Japan, a collection of 879, £11; Niger Coast, first issue, 1d., lilac, unused, error of surcharge, "Oil Rivers" being above "British Protectorate," £3; Newfoundland, 10 c., black, and half a one, used as 15 c., on piece of envelope, £3; New South Wales, 2d., blue, on laid paper, Plate IV., No. 17 on plate, *unused, with full gum*, £32.

* * *

MESSRS. HAMILTON-SMITH announce the disposal of Mr. M. P. Castle's collection of used European stamps *en bloc* to a purchaser. This enterprising firm may fairly be congratulated upon the expedition with which they have conducted this important sale. We are not informed as to the name of the present owner, but we gather that he has acquired the collection (which consists of nearly 20 volumes and contains practically all the European rarities) at a price that will assuredly not cause him to regret his purchase.

* * *

WE take the following sensible and sound criticism from the *American Journal of Philately*, contained in its November leader:—

"The ideal Philatelist is one who collects for the sake of collecting, not for speculation—who views his stamps, from time to time, with more or less pleasure, according to their number, class, and condition, not according to catalogue fluctuations; who is in Philately to stay, and not constantly estimating the probable net cash value of his collection at a forced sale. The man who goes in for the moment or for speculation must expect his whim, or 'flyer,' to be as expensive and risky in this line as in any other; the man who takes a real pleasure in the stamps themselves will thereby be amply repaid for his outlay, and, in addition, will find, to his probable delight, that, over longer periods of time and excepting lines unduly boomed, good specimens always increase in value."

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. VIII. DECEMBER, 1899. No. 96.

The Philatelic War Fund.

ONE subject alone engrosses the mind and thoughts of every patriotic man and woman within the vast realms of the British Empire — the terrible and hitherto unfortunate campaign that we are engaged upon in South Africa. It is now patent to all that, in true British fashion, we had not fully calculated either the difficulties or the nature and extent of the field of operations, while we had singularly underestimated the numbers, arms, and fighting efficiency of our adversaries. We have, as a nation, announced our intention of going right through with this sad business, and even were our initial declarations not binding on our national honour and consistency, there would be, at the present juncture, no other alternative short of a confession of failure that would jeopardise our empire, and seriously compromise the position of Great Britain as a first-class Power. It is therefore abundantly evident that we have, at all costs, to continue this war, and prosecute it until it is successfully concluded. The enormous total of casualties that has already accrued foreshadows a further colossal amount of suffering to our brave defenders and their wives and families, and it is clearly evident that vast sums of money will be required if we are to do our duty towards our brave defenders.

There have been, and will be again, many calls upon our generosity; we may have subscribed to our local fund, we may have sent the Lord Mayor a donation, we may have bought tickets for patriotic entertainments, or helped to swell the collection in our churches; but despite all this there is still room for an especial appeal to Philatelists. It has been already abundantly demonstrated how a generous rivalry has arisen between great bodies of associated traders, the daily Press, the theatrical world, and many

other classes as to who shall show the greatest amounts or the greatest approach to unanimity in support of the national funds for the sick and wounded. There can be no body of men or women to whom such an appeal, at such a time, can have greater force than to Philatelists.

Great Britain, with Natal, Rhodesia, the Cape Colony, British Bechuanaland, and the great African companies, Canada, and united Australia, are waging a war for the dominion of South Africa against the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and (alas!) a considerable portion of the Dutch inhabitants of its own colony. The recapitulation of these names, familiar to us collectors as household words, is eloquent testimony to us all of the strength of the bond that unites patriotism and Philately. Without "Great Britain and Colonies," how vastly inferior would be the interest in stamp collecting; and we cannot more fittingly exemplify our feeling of pride in our great empire, whose symbols we collect, than by making a supreme effort to put it into a practical form.

Let us all show that Philately is a pursuit that imbues its student with broad views as to our great empire, that it enlarges our sympathies, renders us cognisant of, and intimate with, our great dependencies the world over, and that it tends to make us one and all in touch and sympathy with our kinsfolk in every sea. Let us rise to the occasion, and show that we are no petty accumulators of coloured labels, but that we are content to collect stamps, not only for their intrinsic merits, but rather that we absorb with them a broad and sympathetic view of the globe, and the keenest interest in all our race scattered across its surface.

We have seen not long since in a London daily paper—conceived upon utterly false premises—an opinion that in the pursuit of Philately the writer had discovered that "human folly could no further go." We have now as a class a magnificent opportunity to refute the narrowness of this misjudgment. Let us show that our "folly" broadens our sympathies with our brave colonies and their defenders, and that Philatelists will be in the forefront where their country's honour and welfare are concerned.

In our judgment, *no such opportunity has ever occurred in this country for Philately to make a leap in public estimation* as is now afforded. Independently of the good cause, the announcement of a *great* "contribution by the Philatelists of Great Britain" would do more to raise the status of stamp collectors or dealers than anything that could possibly be conceived. In the words of our national poet, Rudyard Kipling, let us all "Pay, pay, pay!" and support in cash or kind—with generous effort—the great Philatelic Sale that is to convey to the British public the patriotic feelings of British Philatelists.

Philatelists' War Relief Fund.

WE gladly insert the following important communications, to which we also elsewhere refer. It will be seen from these letters that it is proposed to raise a Philatelic War Fund by contributions of stamps, literature (or cash as we gather), from all sections of collectors and dealers throughout Great Britain. The medium of disposal of these gifts is to be by public auction in London, and we understand that there will be no deduction whatever from the aggregate of the sales, owing to the generosity of the auctioneers. The proposal for this auction has been warmly espoused by the London Philatelic and other Societies, and by the leading dealers, and we earnestly hope that the provinces will readily respond to the call, with the result of a substantial donation to the War Relief Funds. Such a consummation cannot, however, be attained without the zealous and loyal co-operation of all sections of Philately, and in so good a cause we certainly expect it.

We should wish to see a commanding sale full of fine and choice stamps, a crowded attendance, and patriotic bids. We strongly advise that practically every stamp be provided with a hinge on which the words "Philatelic War Fund, 1900" should be printed, and we should like to see a handsome well-illustrated and artistic catalogue that would sell widely for the benefit of the Fund, and would constitute an interesting souvenir in years to come. There is no collector or dealer who cannot spare some stamps, and we trust that the response throughout this country will be such as to show that Patriotism and Philately are united in all our hearts.

The following influential Committee has been formed, with full powers to add to their number:—Messrs. W. B. Avery, W. Brown, M. P. Castle, E. Ehrenbach, F. R. Ginn, M. Giwelb, Gwyer, Gordon Smith, W. Hadlow, Leslie Hausburg, W. Lincoln, E. J. Nankivell, Oliver, W. H. Peckitt, C. J. Phillips, E. H. Selby, H. A. Slade, B. W. K. Smith, J. A. Tilleard, H. J. White; with Messrs. W. Bull and H. R. Oldfield as Joint Hon. Secs.

"To the Editor of the 'London Philatelist.'

"DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, held on the 1st of December, 1899, the following resolution was passed:—

> "'The Society cordially approves the suggestion that stamp collectors resident in the United Kingdom should be invited to present postage stamps for sale by auction, the proceeds of such auction to be handed over to one of the War Funds, and that a Committee be elected to make all reasonable arrangements, with

power to invite the co-operation of other Societies and of the leading collectors and dealers and any others interested in Philately, and that such Committee should also have power to add to their number any person or persons whether members of this Society or not.'

"A Committee has been formed in accordance with such resolution, and in co-operation with many of the provincial Societies and with the leading collectors and dealers.

"The Committee has made arrangements with a well-known firm of auctioneers to conduct a sale by auction of all stamps given to the Committee, and such sale will be free of all expense, so that the entire gross proceeds may be available, and these will be divided between one of the Mansion House Funds and the *Daily Telegraph* Fund. It is proposed to append to the Catalogue a list of the names of all the contributors.

"We inclose copy of a circular which is being sent to collectors, and are requested to invite your co-operation and support in making this scheme as widely known as possible.

"All gifts of stamps should, if possible, be sent to the undersigned, care of The London Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C., on or before the 25th January, 1900.

"Yours faithfully,

"WALTER BULL,
"HERBERT R. OLDFIELD, } *Joint Hon. Secs.*"

Under the Auspices of the Philatelic Society, London.

PHILATELISTS' WAR RELIEF FUND.

"*Circular No.* 1.—*To Philatelic Societies.* *December*, 1899.

"At a meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, held on the 1st December, 1899, the following resolution was passed:—

"'The Society cordially approves the suggestion that stamp collectors resident in the United Kingdom should be invited to present postage stamps for sale by auction, the proceeds of such auction to be handed over to one of the War Funds, and that a Committee be elected to make all reasonable arrangements, with power to invite the co-operation of other Societies and of the leading collectors and dealers and any others interested in Philately, and that such Committee should also have power to add to their number any person or persons whether members of this Society or not.'

"A Committee has been formed in accordance with such resolution, and numerous promises of support have already been received.

"It has been suggested that the leading provincial Philatelic Societies should be requested to form local committees to work their own districts, and we have been directed to invite the co-operation of your Society, and to inquire whether you would be willing to take steps to form a committee in your district for the purpose of obtaining gifts of stamps.

"We inclose for your information copy of a circular which is being sent out by the Central Committee.

"Yours faithfully,

"WALTER BULL,
"HERBERT R. OLDFIELD, } *Joint Hon. Secs.*"

"*Circular No. 2.—To Philatelists.* *December*, 1899.

"DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—A Committee has been formed under the auspices of the London Philatelic Society, acting in conjunction with other Philatelic Societies and many of the leading collectors and dealers, for the purpose of inaugurating a special subscription from Philatelists for the War Relief Fund.

"Collectors generally throughout the United Kingdom are invited to contribute gifts of stamps (in collections or otherwise) or other articles connected with Philately, which will be sold by public auction, and the proceeds divided between one of the Mansion House Funds and the *Daily Telegraph* Fund.

"Arrangements have been made with a well-known firm of philatelic auctioneers to conduct an auction sale, which will be held early in February and will be free of all charge whatever, so that the entire gross proceeds can be handed over to the Funds.

"All gifts of stamps should be sent, if possible, before the 25th January, 1900, to the undersigned, care of Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand.

"It is proposed to append to the Catalogue a list of the names of all the contributors.

"The Committee hope that this scheme will receive the support of collectors and dealers all over the kingdom, and will result in the addition of a substantial sum to the War Funds.

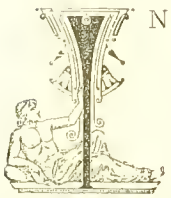
"Yours faithfully,

"WALTER BULL,
"HERBERT R. OLDFIELD, } *Joint Hon. Secs.*"

The Collectors' Catalogue Question.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on December 1st, 1899.

By M. P. CASTLE.



IN approaching once more the question of an issue of a Catalogue for Collectors by Collectors I am conscious of two distinct disadvantages. In the first place, much has already been said and written hereon, and it may be difficult to advance any novel arguments, although *per contra* it can be urged that a question such as this, on which every member is capable of expressing an opinion, may be deemed an eminently suitable peg for the purposes of debate. It is therefore possible that, as so often happens when a contention is thrashed out in debate, some practical result may be attained. The second and—speaking personally—more important point is, that after having given much thought to the question I find so many aspects, both for and against, that I am not yet prepared to support any proposal for the issue of a Collectors' Catalogue, and that therefore I am reduced to review the situation, and make my remarks partake rather of the summing up of the judge than of the arguments of the advocate. These confessions of weakness may well excite the query as to why I should therefore raise the subject at the present juncture. I have, however, or at least conceive that I have, sufficient reason for bringing the matter before this Society.

It is well known that the Collectors' Catalogue has not wanted advocates in the philatelic Press for many years past, and this *desideratum*, under the style and title of the *Normal Katalog*, has been long held to be a much-felt want in philatelic circles in Germany. There appears to have been latterly a distinct recrudescence of this feeling. In several of the Continental journals, Belgian, French, and German, I have—since the question was last discussed here—read long and able articles, all advocating the issue of such a catalogue. No one has, however, yet been found to put a bell on the cat! I should here perhaps explain that the catalogue advocated in the forenamed journals is a list of the prices, and not an exhaustive philatelic one. This brings me inferentially to the second of my reasons for reading this paper. It will be within the recollection of all members that last season we were indebted to Mr. E. J. Nankivell for an interesting paper, in which he advocated the preparation of a Standard Catalogue—without prices—by the Society. After a full debate it was decided that, however excellent in theory was the author's project, in execution it was impracticable. This paper was copied into many journals and its object advocated by not a few; but in scarcely any case were the arguments quoted that were used against it in discussion, and consequently a somewhat misleading view of this

Society's action was adopted in some quarters. For myself, I confess to having written distinctly and plainly against the proposal, not on the ground of objection to the idea, but wholly and solely on account of its utter impracticability. I even used, in fact, the word "presumptuous," but in this sense only, that the Society should not be asked to endorse a proposition of such magnitude and importance unless accompanied by some practical scheme for putting it into execution. It is one thing to come down to these rooms with a red-hot project, and it is quite another to carry out the work. The one means a few hours' exertion for the writer; the other, months, perhaps years of work for other people. It is for this reason, as much as any other, that I hesitate to advocate even the modified form of catalogue that I propose to treat of. Mr. Nankivell's proposal was, I believe, to issue a Standard Catalogue which should give all the varieties that a specialist could imagine, and which should be of the character of the Mede-and-Persian laws. The greatest attempt yet made in this direction is the *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, but it must be adjudged very far from a success on the Mede-and-Persian line. Under the editorship of two very able men, helped by a host of others, their catalogue has lingered on for many years, nor is it complete now. It is in many ways worthy of the highest praise, and commands our respect as the most complete and exhaustive universal catalogue yet issued, but I am confident that even its authors would not claim for it that mathematical exactitude which is conveyed by the word "standard." My own experience of the *Advanced Catalogue*—and I believe the same may be said as to that of other collectors—is that in almost every country whose stamps I am well acquainted with there is much to correct and a great deal to add. The only country whose stamps can be treated with any reasonable degree of finality is one's own—on both sides of the Atlantic. It is clear, therefore, on this last hypothesis that the preparation of a "Standard" catalogue would require sub-editing by the component groups on indigenous soil, a practically impossible theory if world-wide. The whole philatelic leisure of a dozen of our best students would be absorbed for several years—and where are these twelve apostles? The reproduction of the plates, of the different surcharges, of the watermarks, and of the stamps themselves, involving many thousands of illustrations, if done in accordance with this Society's preceding works, would, in my opinion, have alone cost certainly nothing less than £1,000, and most likely double that sum. *Cui bono?* The sale of such a book would be limited in the extreme; it would be suitable, eminently so, for the library of a Philatelic Society, but would be far beyond the wants of the ordinary collector, with the result that this Society would be involved in an enormous outlay, of which nine-tenths would be gone for ever. This, in my view, is a reproduction of the principal arguments against the former proposal, and in my humble judgment they are absolutely conclusive. I have referred to them at fuller length than I intended, because I wish that when others read and copy the papers read in these rooms they may be reminded—which they occasionally need to be—that this Society is prepared always to carefully weigh any project put before it, and that it does not decline to accept such without good and solid reasons.

When Mr. Nankivell first brought forward this question I believe that there were members who were prepared to support him under the idea that he advocated the inclusion of prices in his catalogue. I think I am not divulging any confidence when I say that there are members of this Society, well capable of a mature judgment, who still believe that the issue of a priced catalogue by collectors—even if not by the Society—would be a most desirable object. It is this feeling that, more than any I have previously mentioned, has made me desirous of a second time testing the opinion of members as to the issue of a Catalogue for Collectors—but with prices. There are, as I have said at the outset, so many pros and cons hereon that I hesitate where to begin, and may perhaps fittingly marshal the two opposing forces in array. I should, however, premise that in one important particular I cannot be judicial in my views. I do not think that, however necessary it might be to issue a Collectors' Priced Catalogue, such a work should officially emanate from any one Society. The Philatèlic Society of London, as the oldest body of collectors, has also a reputation that it must endeavour to live up to, and I am assuredly of opinion that were it, either unaided or officially in conjunction with others, to take up the question of prices, it would inevitably lose caste in the eyes of the world. I am therefore strongly of opinion that this Society should not undertake such a work either now or hereafter. In good truth, it would not be a "Standard" of prices if issued by any one body, but rather a pious opinion. If anything is to be achieved in this line, it must be by cosmopolitan effort.

I may now briefly enumerate the

ARGUMENTS FOR A COLLECTORS' PRICED CATALOGUE.

(1) The fact that no independent price list has yet been issued.

(2) The knowledge that all existing price lists being those of dealers, *their* interests are necessarily more consulted than those of collectors.

(3) That by issue of a Collectors' Catalogue the true and permanent value of stamps would be better established, and collectors would be encouraged and increased in number.

(4) That a large source of revenue might be obtained by the issue of such a catalogue.

Other arguments no doubt could be adduced.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST.

(1) That the existing numerous Dealers' Catalogues already well cover the ground.

(2) That those who issue a price list should be prepared to sell at those prices.

(3) That in order to be a "Standard" the catalogue would require the joint work of all the leading countries of the world.

(4) That the standard of appreciation would be found hopelessly divergent in these different quarters of the globe.

(5) That this catalogue would, however carefully prepared, require to be regularly revised and reissued in the near future.

(6) That it is impossible to price every variety and condition of stamp —and that the mere pricing of the normal varieties would not be an adequate reason for the issue of such a work.

(7) That the preparation of the lists and of the illustrations, and the issue of the book in several languages, would involve a large amount of expense and labour that would be difficult to procure, and still more difficult to recoup.

(8) That, admitting the existing price catalogues are not all that is to be desired, collectors would better employ their time and money in endeavouring to get the Dealers' Catalogues improved, than in entering into competition therewith.

Again, here there are without doubt other reasons that could be brought forward.

It is obviously beyond the scope of a paper that is simply intended to induce debate—upon a subject of general interest—that I should endeavour to expatiate at length on all the heads that I have recited. I will rather content myself with a general *résumé* of the more vital points, leaving the details to be elaborated in the discussion that follows.

Assuming that this price catalogue were to be seriously contemplated, I conceive that the first step would be an international congress, that would be clearly needed to settle general principles, and to ascertain that there were no vital or fundamental points of difference, such as would prevent international co-operation. It is obvious that the initial expense of sending delegates—say two—from each leading country to meet, possibly in Paris or Berlin, would be not inconsiderable. The first question to be discussed by those so assembled would be *what* should be priced, and the second on what basis the values should be estimated. As regards the former, it seems to me clear that it would be entirely impracticable to price all the smaller varieties, such as the unofficial perforations, the very scarce shades, the inverted surcharges, etc. Take, for example, two stamps of widely different classes: the 6d., brown, New Zealand, no watermark, imperforate, and with its several pseudo-official perforations, or the 20 c., Empire France, imperforate, with its different papers and many shades. How could anybody decide the universal market value of all these, unused and used? To my mind the extent of the pricing would have to be confined to the more important varieties, and to those stamps that are known to change hands with such sufficient frequency as to afford a basis of calculable value. These issues could, of course, be supplemented by valuable footnotes, giving ranges of assumed values as a general guide, but it would be of doubtful utility to the purchaser of, say, any of the rarest varieties of the two forenamed stamps—taken as samples only of a very numerous class. As to the second point, the arrival at an agreement of a universal average collector's value, the question bristles with difficulties.

In the case of many of the used stamps there would be no insurmountable obstacles, *e.g.* a practical world-wide valuation might be made upon such stamps as 4 and 6 rappen Zurich, 1s. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Ceylon octagonals, imperf., 18 kreuzers Wurtembergs, or commoner ones, such as Great Britain 1d., black, or the lower values of most countries. In the instances of separately engraved stamps, varying greatly in impression, only a general note would have any value to the collector.

The case for the unused stamps stands, however, on a different basis. In many countries there is a considerable proportion of the unused stamps that so rarely come into the market—notably in mint condition—that their selling value practically depends upon the place where they are brought to light, and on the possibility of finding a suitable or a well-to-do collector willing to pay a price really commensurate with the rarity of the specimen. Such being the case, how would our suggested Congress of Collectors fare when they had to decide the values of many of the Great Britain, German, or Australian stamps in mint unused state? The majority of the members of the congress would not believe in the attainment of the prices paid for special rarities in fine condition by a select few collectors in each individual country—prices only paid because the supply is extremely limited—in fact, barely equal to the demand; they would probably insist in cutting down these prices to an absurdly low figure. On the contrary, as the great majority of the voices behind these delegates would be those of the owners of used stamps, there would be a tendency to keep the used stamps to a fair if not full level. Were these conditions to obtain, we should in turn be in the presence of one of the chief drawbacks to the Dealer's Catalogue, *i.e.* the keeping low what he wants to buy, and the retaining high what he has to sell—commercial principles truly of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market, which would assuredly, to some extent insensibly, also influence the authors of the Collectors' Catalogue.

The question of condition, whether used or unused, would have to be considered very carefully in order to decide what was a "fair average copy" and what would be the difference in value between such and a "brilliant copy," mint specimen, or "cabinet piece." There are many and exceeding difficulties in the way of the Philatelic Arbiter of Prices. No "Standard" Collectors' Price Catalogue would have any extended sale that represented the views of one section of the community only, and therefore to make its influence commanding it *must* have a cosmopolitan authorship. Given all this—and it is much—within two or three years, new issues, fluctuations, discoveries, wars, "slumps," or "booms" would render a vast proportion of the prices obsolete and a new edition necessary. This, however, might be produced by correspondence and exchange of views, but with much labour.

There is yet another and important point to consider. The Dealers' Catalogues represent to a considerable extent the basis upon which they are disposed to *sell* their wares. What would the Collectors' Catalogue represent? The price at which they are willing to *buy*—not to sell. It is, however, the seller who usually makes the price, and, to be logical, the concomitant feature of the Collectors' Catalogue would be the foundation

of a philatelic co-operative store, where the stamps would be on sale (or return!) at the quoted prices. The dealers would also naturally resent purchasers fixing their own prices, and would hang together and keep to their own prices. I need not dilate more upon all these dragons in the path of the Standard Catalogues, but now briefly refer to the considerations which seem to call for the work.*

There can be no doubt that dealers have themselves to thank for the general want of confidence in the catalogues of to-day as regards pricing. As regards philatelic work, the leading Dealers' Catalogues are monuments of conscientious and scientific accuracy, and are rapidly approaching a condition when, as handbooks, they will hardly be susceptible to improvement. Even as touching the prices there has been considerable amelioration of latter days. A few years past the way that certain unused stamps in large and important classes were kept down, frequently to a tenth of their value, was nothing less than a scandal, and even now it is a matter of general knowledge that, while many of the commoner unused and a good proportion of the used stamps have not a real cash value of half the quoted price, on the other hand many of the rarer used and very many of the unused, if really fine, are worth double their quotations. Beyond this, dealers are actuated mainly by the replenishment or denudation of their own stocks, and are naturally guided by this knowledge, which may mean that because, say, Messrs. X. and Co. have to-day in stock 100 1 c. Socotras, they will catalogue and unload them to collectors at five shillings each; but when their stocks become exhausted the catalogue price would still "lie low" for buying-back purposes, possibly to a large extent from the original buyers. Until the stock was replenished intending buyers of Socotras would be informed that the stamp was *épuisé*, until in due course it was fully gathered in again, when Socotras would jump up to thirty shillings, and so on again *usque ad nauseam*. There is also legitimate ground for grumbling in some cases at what are called "catalogue copies" of stamps. For instance—to note an actual recent case—I saw myself the first issues of Baden sold at about 150 per cent. above his own freshly issued catalogue prices by a certain dealer. Would this dealer buy from the collector at the latter or the former figure? In many instances the "catalogue copies" mean that they are mediocre specimens, and that "very fine are rather more." The prices quoted should be for fine only, and "not very fine" should be "rather less." Broadly speaking, there can be no doubt whatever that the catalogue is mainly issued by the dealer for his own especial benefits, aims, and ends. It is intended, to a large extent, to keep up what he has

* In the course of the long and interesting debate that ensued after my paper, one speaker pertinently remarked that he had never heard any paper read before the London Society that so bristled with matters of contention or debate. There can be no doubt as to this, and I even fear that I have omitted several points that would also admit of prolonged discussion. One of these is—and a most important point for our Congress of Collectors to settle—what should or should not be admitted into the Standard Catalogue. The question of stamps known only imperforate—unused, those prepared for issue but not circulated, bisected stamps, Jubilee issues, and many others, would all call for earnest and detailed consideration. The brunt of the work of the S.S.S.S. would, in fact, fall upon the shoulders of the compilers of the catalogue. The mere fact of the admission of a stamp or pseudo-stamp in a catalogue that aimed at being an international standard would give it a status, irrespective of price, that could not be lightly and unreflectingly conceded.

to sell, and to keep down what he wants to buy; and in so far as these conditions are fulfilled it acts in diametrical opposition to the interests of the collector. There is, however, an important aspect that the dealer should not overlook—the question of stability and confidence. The process by which a dealer evolves a fortune in hard cash by the sale of stamps is necessarily a slow one, and in the vast majority of cases it is a lifetime before a dealer can transmute all his stamps into coin of the realm. If, therefore, by undue and unfair fluctuations and concealment of values he unsettles the market, he is seriously injuring his future prospects. In the case of stamps, that are certainly no necessity of life—scarcely even a luxury, and practically the purest of superfluities—it is of the deepest moment to all concerned—collector and dealer alike—so to handle them philatelically and financially that people may be made to feel, fragile and superfluous as is the postage stamp, it is yet endowed both with a scientific interest and a realisable value, which shall always make it a favoured acquisition.

On whose shoulders the Price Catalogue of the almost dawning twentieth century shall rest it is not for me to say. Whether the collectors should put upon themselves this arduous task, or whether they should take counsel with the trade and concentrate their energies upon improving and consolidating the existing lists, I should be loath to decide. Of this, however, I am sure: It is quite impossible that stamp collecting can continue to exist on its present basis of vastly increased intrinsic value unless there is some degree of permanence and solidity imparted to the market prices. It is with a view to the attainment of this object that so much has been written about the Collectors' Catalogue and that I have also ventured to lay before you—at a greater length than I had foreseen—some of the aspects of the question. I am aware that this paper is not philatelic, but it is obvious that the bed-rock of Philately is the confidence that creates the collector, and therefore I feel, and feel strongly, that we shall all of us be advancing the interests of this Society in seeking to attain to a just and honest standard of prices for our collections.

Philatelic Notes.

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

"BRITISH ISLES."

WITH regard to the subject of the change of colour that took place in the penny stamps, I have recently had the opportunity of examining a great many dated copies through the kindness of Mr. Firth, and am now in a position to enlarge somewhat upon the letter published in the *London Philatelist* for October on this subject.

Firstly, I must withdraw the suggestion of May, 1855, for a "Large Crown" penny. On comparing with other similar postmarks the copy in question appears to be more likely to be 1856. In any case it is not distinct enough to claim as a record.

To return to the change of colour. From examining used copies I have come to the conclusion that "blueing" disappeared finally about the end of March, 1857. This is more or less borne out by the fact that the last sheet at Somerset House which shows any traces of it (from Plate 59 of Die II.) was approved (and therefore printed before) February 11th of this year.

Investigating after this date, I have copies as follows :—

1. Hull	AP. 2. 1857.	Pale pink, but with a tinge of brown in the
2. Hull	AP. 3. „	More pink, less brown. [colour.
(3. Bradford	AP. 4. „	Orange-brown, evidently an older stamp.)
4. Liverpool	AP. 8. „	Similar to No. 2, but slightly more rosy.
5. Leeds	AP. 9. „	As last, but paler.

After this the shade is practically constant in about thirty copies up to the middle of August, with the exception of a slight deepening in shade as time goes on. I have a few odd copies which do not fit in, but these are probably survivors which had been kept before being used.

A distinct step is marked by a copy used at Huddersfield, August 20th, 1857, which is an intermediate shade, fairly dark, but without the strawberry tinge, followed by the appearance of carmine at Hull, August 29th, 1857, the colour then settling down for the rest of the life of the stamp.

The majority of the stamps used between August 20th and September 20th were still pale pink, but it is difficult to say how far this is due to the stamps used by the public lagging behind those being issued at the post offices.

Mr. Ewen mentions a bright red on white paper, March 20th, 1857. I have not yet come across a stamp of this batch.

The earliest known date of a carmine with perforation 16 is given in *Ewen's Catalogue* as January 4th, 1858; the earliest I have yet found is

January 16th. No date is given for this variety in the *British Isles*. In Mr. Wright's 1894 paper it is given as February 24th.

To trace the various colour-phases through which the penny stamp passed will require very careful investigation, and the stamps examined must come from many different sources, so that the foregoing remarks, which I half fear are immature, must not be looked upon for a moment as final.

Later on I shall hope to accumulate and study used specimens, showing the dates, and may be induced to place on record the results, if I consider them sufficiently interesting, and what is still more important, sufficiently definite, to merit it.

C. P. DENDY MARSHALL.

November 19th, 1899.

[Mr. Dendy Marshall has kindly forwarded for our inspection the stamps —numbered 1 to 5—referred to, and they are unquestionably dated as quoted by him.—ED.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE list of the dies recently destroyed in Sydney is thus given in the *Australian Philatelist*:

"DESTRUCTION OF OBSOLETE DIES AND PLATES.

"Under the authority of the Colonial Treasurer the Government Printer has destroyed all the postage stamp dies and plates not required for the production of current stamps. The destruction was effected by means of an emery wheel in most cases, by which the face of the die or plate was ground flat. In some few cases the plate was hammered out.

"The following is a list of the dies and plates destroyed:—

"1838.—Embossed lettter sheet. Steel die.
"1850.—Sydney View, 2d. Copperplate. (This plate had already been rendered incapable of producing impressions.)
"1851.—Laureated, 1d., 2d., and 3d. Steel plates. (These also had been effectively placed *hors de combat*.)
"1854–6.—Diadem and Square. 1d., steel plate; 2d., 2 steel plates; 6d., 2 steel plates; 8d., steel plate; and 1s., steel plate.
"1856.—Registered stamp. Two steel plates.
"1862.—Queen's Head, 2d. Steel die and several electroplates.
"1864.—Queen's Head, 1d. Steel die and several electroplates.
"1867.—Queen's Head, 4d. Steel die and electroplate.
"1872.—Queen's Head, 6d. Electroplate (steel die preserved).
"1876.—Queen's Head, 1s. Electroplate (steel die preserved).
"1888.—Centennial, 1d., 2d., and 5s. Steel dies and electroplates.
"1891.—Postal Union, 2½d. Steel die and electroplates.

"There were also destroyed a number of electros, copperplates, &c., used in the production of the obsolete wrappers, stamped envelopes, and post cards; the dies and plates of the Telegraph Stamps of 1871, and the die of the first embossed wrapper (1d., oval). There were also similar dies to the last mentioned for 2d., 6d., and 1s., none of which were put to use in embossing stationery for issue.

"Only the dies and plates of stamps actually in current use are now extant, and consequently there can be no more reprints."

Occasional Notes.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

THE following is taken from the *Australian Philatelist* of October, and is confirmatory of our note as to Colonel Williams in our last issue :—

"The President of the Sydney Philatelic Club, Colonel W. D. Williams, who is officer in command of the Army Medical Corps, embarked for the Transvaal on Saturday (28th inst.) with the New South Wales contingent.

"Colonel Williams will be sorely missed from the club meetings, which he attended with most commendable regularity, and his place in the presidential chair will not be easily filled. We sincerely hope that he will see more of peace and Philately than fighting and surgery, and bring home more stamps than payments of shells in his pocket. May he reach the Transvaal capital in time to preside over the first meeting of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society after the close of the war! Perhaps he may even be consulted as to the design for the new British Transvaal stamps.

"Be merciful, Colonel, and do not advise a fresh series of 'V.R.' Transvaals with all the varieties of type, inverted surcharges, and errors that marked the previous issue."

ACTION AGAINST A FOREIGN STAMP DEALER.

MR. FRANZ REICHENHEIM writes to inform us that he purchased through a gentleman from a stamp dealer, Herrn Loewe, of Berlin, early in 1895, a Basle pigeon stamp, unused. At the London Exhibition in 1897 this stamp was marked by one of the judges as "forged."

Mr. Reichenheim subsequently submitted this stamp to a German expert, who gave his opinion that it was not a forgery, but a "proof." He then returned the stamp to the dealer, and applied to him to furnish him with a genuine specimen therefor, or refund him the amount he had paid for it, but the dealer declined absolutely to entertain his application.

Mr. Reichenheim then placed the matter in the hands of his solicitors, Messrs. Fritz Scheef and Dr. Gerstenberg, of Berlin, who, in December, 1898, brought an action before the court, but were nonsuited under Article 349 H G B, that a purchaser must ascertain any defect of goods contracted for within six months of purchase. Notice of appeal was given on the following counts: That the above Article 349 did not refer to the matter in dispute; that the object of the deal should have been a stamp, and a "proof" cannot be considered as such; and that therefore the dealer had not delivered the article contracted for, but *something else*. The result being that the Appeal Court in November, 1899, found for Mr. Reichenheim, and entered judgment against the stamp dealer for repayment of the amount with five per cent. interest and costs.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY. PRESENTATION TO MR. G. F. H. GIBSON.

THE Annual Dinner of the Manchester Philatelic Society was held at the Grand Hotel on Wednesday, November 22nd. The President took the chair, and a large gathering of members and friends were present.

An innovation was made this year again in regard to the menu; this consisted of a photograph, in which the Honorary Secretary, in sporting costume, was worked in, looking at the rock of Gibraltar, in which a block of four of the second one shilling unused was let in. This menu proved very appropriate in view of the presentation which, quite unknown to the Honorary Secretary, was about to be made to him in connection with his services to the Manchester Exhibition, at which his exhibit of Gibraltar was complete in blocks of four, with the exception of the stamps above referred to.

After the toast of "The Queen," proposed by the Chairman, had been duly honoured, Mr. Gibson gave "The Continued Success of the Manchester Philatelic Society," asking the guests to bear in mind that this was the annual social evening of the Society, and if they wished to see the serious side of the Society to come to a meeting held every Friday, when they would see the members engaged upon the consideration of some abstruse point affecting the science. Mr. Gibson went on to ask, "What was the importance of such questions as 'The better housing of the working classes,' 'The relation of capital to labour,' or 'Bimetallism,' in comparison with the knowledge how to classify the stamps of Greece? What was the peace of Europe compared to the compilation of a correct colour chart contemplated by the Society?" The toast was drunk with all the old enthusiasm.

Mr. Duerst then arose, and said that there had been a very strong desire amongst the members of the Executive Committee of the late Exhibition to make a small presentation to Mr. Gibson for the manner in which he discharged the arduous duties of Honorary Secretary, and in consequence a meeting had been convened by the late Mr. Petri, at which the matter had been put in train, and upon Mr. Petri's death he had taken over, at the request of the members, the active part of the work in connection with the presentation. Mr. Duerst paid a high tribute to Mr. Gibson in regard to the manner in which he discharged the secretarial duties, pointing out that whenever one went to the Committee-rooms and it was found that Mr. Gibson was not there, he had only just left, and that if anyone waited for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes he was sure to be there again. Mr. Duerst also emphasised the courtesy extended by Mr. Gibson to all he came in contact with, he answering their questions, whether important or trivial, in a manner showing that he had as to the former a full grasp of the situation, and as to the latter in a manner which impressed the questioner with the really serious importance of his question.

Mr. Duerst then handed to Mr. Gibson a gold stop-watch (semi-hunter), bearing the following inscription: "Presented to G. Fred. H. Gibson, Esq., in recognition of his untiring efforts as Honorary Secretary of The International Philatelic Exhibition, Manchester, 1899, by the members of the Executive Committee."

Mr. Gibson, rising immediately and speaking under visible emotion, thanked the members most heartily. He incidentally referred to the financial part of the Exhibition, which, bearing everything in mind, he considered eminently satisfactory; at the same time he remembered that

the Exhibition had cost the Manchester Society members £150, the greater part coming from the members of the Executive, and when these gentlemen were willing to dip their hands into their pockets again in order to make the very handsome presentation he felt that he had earned their confidence, which was the best thanks of all.

The members gave him musical honours, with the usual incidentals; and the rest of the evening was devoted to conjuring, shadowgraphy, songs, ventriloquism, etc. Mr. A. H. Harrison rendered "The Sons of the Empire," a collection confined to the members present realising £10 for the War Fund. A special word of thanks is due to the arrangements made by the Dinner Committee (Messrs. A. H. Harrison, Gee, and Oxley) and to Mr. Cook, who designed the menu.

THE JUNIOR LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

UNDER this title is announced, "for young Stamp Collectors and Beginners all over the world," a new society to which we cordially wish success. Nothing is better for collecting than the enlistment of fresh recruits. The President is Mr. Fred. J. Melville, and the Vice-President Mr. Henry Schneider. Committee:—Mr. F. Harry, Mr. H. Atfield, Mr. Tiddeman, Mr. F. Clayton, Mr. Davis, Mr. J. Wilkie; with Mr. James B. Melville as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (16, Lydon Road, Clapham, S.W.). Mr. Chas. Nissen (of Charles Nissen and Co.) has consented to act as Hon. Counterfeit Detector, 106, High Holborn, W.C.

Mr. Melville has written us explaining the object of the Society, which is to extend a knowledge of collecting amongst boys, notably those at schools, and adds: "Among our methods for introducing new members will be by giving free lectures on 'Stamp Collecting: An Introduction to the Hobby,' illustrated by lantern views. The tickets for these lectures will be sent to the schools in the various districts, and the head master will be asked to present them to all the stamp collectors in his school."

Our own experience, recently confirmed, is that the boys who collect at school vary from 20 to 50 per cent., and there should therefore be a wide field for the new venture, if properly managed.

NEW PHILATELIC SOCIETIES.

PHILATELY is nothing if not cosmopolitan, and the seed seems to be sprouting in varied soils. Several new societies have sprung up in France during the last year or two, the latest addition being that of Besançon. An important addition to our ranks is the Philatelic Society of Egypt, founded by MM. Cantel Bey and Colucci in co-operation with an influential group of collectors of good social position. The seat of operations is Cairo, and as an initial fund of £100 has been subscribed to procure a suitable *locale*, it is clear that the new Society is launched under most favourable auspices. M. Henri Cantel Bey, Sub-Director of the Ministry of the Interior at the Egyptian capital, is to be the President, and we have had in this country ample evidence of his philatelic ability and fitness for the

post. The list of the foundation members includes many names of well-known and influential men in Cairo, hence there should be every reason to anticipate a complete success for the Philatelic Society of Egypt. We also note with pleasure that Cardiff has started a Society, whose meetings will be found recounted in this issue.

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE.

We have received the eleventh year-book of this important institute, a volume of some 400 pages, handsomely illustrated, and clearly setting forth the enormous ramifications of this great corporation. There are no less than twenty-six sections, ranging from music, with a membership of 1,933, to Philately—the latest adherent—with ninety-two. It is eminently gratifying to find Philately in such good company, and we gratefully recognise the important and elevating influence of such a conjunction upon the general public. It is therefore to be desired that all Philatelic Societies of the English-speaking races should help the Brooklyn Institute in their splendid endeavour to raise the scientific status of Philately. Donations of books for the library are needed, and have been given already by the London Philatelic Society and other bodies; such to be sent to Mr. Carberry, the energetic Secretary of the Brooklyn Institute.

THE LATE MR. TRIFET.

The Boston Philatelic Society kindly send us the following further particulars about Mr. Trifet, which we are sure will be read with interest :—

Ferdinand Marie Trifet, born in Paris, France, September 10th, 1848, died in Boston, Mass., September 20th, 1899. He was the son of Baron Alexander Trifet, an eminent physician and surgeon of France, who was knighted by Napoleon III. for distinguished researches in medicine and surgery, and was also decorated with the medal of the Legion of Honour. Mr. Trifet came to Boston in 1865 and entered into the periodical and postage stamp business, and has resided here since that date. He published the *Stamp Mercury* in the sixties, one of the first philatelic journals in this country, and was looked up to as a philatelic expert and one of the fathers of Philately. Of late years he conducted a very successful music business, being probably the largest publisher of sheet music in the United States. He was greatly interested in military and Masonic matters, holding a commission as lieutenant in the Massachusetts Militia as far back as 1875. He was a member of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company, and had held the position of adjutant in that organisation. He was a Knight Templar and thirty-second degree Mason, and had held many important Masonic offices, at the time of his death being High Priest of St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter. He was a man of strict integrity and a warm and true friend. Few realised the refined feeling and tender heart contained under his quiet exterior, but those who were intimate with him knew and best appreciated his many sterling qualities. Mr. Trifet leaves a wife and daughter to regret his loss.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

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

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—The *M. J.* calls attention to a copy of the 3 annas of 1891 surcharged in manuscript "½ *anna*," and initialled "*A.B.*," which is stated to have been purchased and used in Mombasa about 1890–1.

Our contemporary states that this stamp was chronicled in October, 1891, on the authority of *Le T.-P.*, but its authenticity has since been denied.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* mentions that this country is *out* with a few high values conforming in design to the lower denominations of current set.

This may probably be the new combined stamp, "Postage and Revenue," expected.

Adhesives. 50 c., green and red.
$1 ,, ,, ,,
$2 ,, ,, blue.
$5 ,, ,, black.

CEYLON.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, in its list of newly issued colours, mentions a 15 c., blue, which we have not noticed before.

Adhesive. 15 cents, colour changed to blue.

GOLD COAST.—The *Ph. J. of India* has received a new one-penny envelope with the stamp in rose, of the type of the current adhesive. *Envelope.* 1d., rose.

GREAT BRITAIN.—To those of our readers who do not see Mr. Ewen's *Weekly Stamp News*, and are interested in Railway Letter Stamps, we commend the following extract:—

"A new issue of Railway Letter Stamps is about to be made by the Manchester, South Junction, and Altrincham Railway, differing, however, in no important particular from previous issues. The most striking alteration is in the control numbers (running from 3001 to 4000), the figures of which are $5\frac{1}{4}$ mm. high instead of $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm. as heretofore.

"2d., dark grey-green (somewhat similar to the previous issue but one, but darker); perf. 12; still with outer guide lines; stamps further apart, the sheet before us (numbered 3001 to 3025) measuring $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. vert. × 6 in. horiz., whilst our sheet of the last issue (Nos. 2001 to 2025) measures only $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. × $5\frac{7}{8}$ in. (approximately).

"It is interesting to note that the old transfers which were used in preparing the lithographic stone for printing the 2nd and 3rd, and we believe also the 1st numbered printing, are no longer in use (the first issues of the M.S.J. & A., 1891–3, were unnumbered and are shrouded in mystery). We do not recognise on the new sheet any of our old friends, the type with the broken Y, that with the small M, etc. The title of the Company is now neatly and regularly inscribed on each stamp. M.S.J. & A. stations are situated at Altrincham, Timperley, Brooklands, Sale, Stretford, Old Trafford, Knot Mill, and Oxford Road, Manchester.

"We have also received a specimen of the 12th Issue of the Metropolitan Railway (Nos. 6601 to 7200), the same in every way as the majority of the 11th Issue. We say majority as the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sheets appear to belong to a different printing.

"First sheet, 6001 to 6060, dark rose.
2nd to 4th sheets, 6061 to 6240, pale pink, surfaced paper.
5th to 10th sheets, 6241 to 6601 (and also the new issue), dark rose again.

"It seems to us that the only safe way to collect Metropolitan Railway Letter Stamps is to get one specimen off each sheet of 60 (which lasts perhaps two weeks). Within the last week or two we have received the following on letters (* denotes that the official who has charge of the cancelling

department has no sympathy with stamp collecting) :—

6007, 6036, 6049, 6060, source unknown.
6019, Great Missenden.
6050, dark rose, Aylesbury (town).
6065, pale rose, Amersham.
6071, 6080, pale pink, source unknown.
*6088, pale pink, Kilburn (quite spoilt).
6125, pale rose, Wendover.
6197, pale pink, o.c., Rickmansworth.
*6278, dark rose, Northwood.
6307 ,, Stoke Mandeville.
6348 ,, Harrow.
6361 ,, Waddesdon Manor.
6486 ,, Source unknown.
6500 ,, Chesham.
6603, New issue, Chorley Wood.

"From Willesden Green came No. 5317, perf. 10, so that the 9th Issue is not yet exhausted all along the line. We describe these two new issues at some length, as several readers have expressed disappointment that we have referred so little of late to these very interesting stamps. This is not our fault; no one is a more enthusiastic collector of them than the Editor of this paper; but it means the expenditure of considerable time and trouble to get on the track of new issues and fresh information, and we have had little spare time of late to devote to them. Since writing the above we have received stamps Nos. 5164, 5833 and 4894 from Wembley Park, Quainton Road, and West Hampstead stations respectively.

"The London and North Western Railway has also had a new printing of Letter Stamps, numbered 130,001 to 135,000, but we have not yet seen a specimen.

"Later (Thursday). Following have come to hand :—

"5196, Swiss Cottage (not fine, letter torn in half).
5733, Pinner.
5739, Finchley Road."

Levant.—The *M. J.* informs us that the surcharge "40 Paras" on the 2½d. Envelopes exists in two distinct types; the earlier of the two is smaller than the second and in thinner letters. The length of the word "Paras" is about the same in both, but the total height of the figures and word is not quite 8 mm. in the earlier and about 8½ mm. in the latter.

The difference between them is stated to be too great to be accounted for by heavy inking and spreading of the impression.

GRENADA.—The long-delayed issue of the ½d., type 1895-6, has lately been announced, and now several journals report a 2d. value of this design, colour lilac, value in brown.

Adhesives. ½d., lilac, value in green.
2d. ,, ,, brown.

INDIA.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* is responsible for the statement that the 1 anna 6 pies stamps have been withdrawn, as the changes in the postal tariff have rendered this stamp useless. But, as it is stated that there are some half a million in stock, the easiest way of quitting them would be by the aid of a nice surcharge.

LABUAN AND NORTH BORNEO.—Referring to the issue of surcharged stamps noted on page 274, the *M. J.* now informs us that while only 1,000 copies of each value were sent out, *10,000* of each were retained for sale at the office of the North Borneo Company in London.

This sort of business does great harm to Philately, and it is astonishing that stamp collectors (we hardly like to say Philatelists) are found to purchase such rubbish, little or no better than the Hamburg Locals of our earlier days.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* mentions a new 4 cent value for both Labuan and North Borneo, design a monkey. Colours respectively :—

Adhesives. 4 c., yellow, brown, and black.
4 c., green and black.

NEWFOUNDLAND. — *Smith's Monthly Circular* informs us that an official notice dated the 8th ult. states that on January 2nd (why not January 1st?) the remainders of all the Cabot issue, as well as all stamps issued before 1897, will be destroyed.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Messrs. L. L. R. Hausburg and W. H. Peckitt send us the current 9d. with a distinct double surcharge.

Adhesive. 9d. on 10d., red-brown; perf. 11.

NEW ZEALAND.—We have received from Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg also specimens of some of the values of the current set locally printed, perforated 11½, and we gather that all the values are so appearing. We hear also of the intended issue of Unpaid Letter Stamps.

QUEENSLAND.—The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the new 5d. value with numerals in all four corners. The figures are stated to be separately engraved by hand, and to show marked variation in shape and size. *Adhesive.* 5d., violet-brown; new type.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Our contemporaries mention a $5 stamp of the current bicoloured series.

Adhesive. $5, orange, name and value in red.

Perak.—We cut the following from the pages of the *M. J.*:—

"The following is a newspaper cutting that has been sent us relative to the *Service*

stamps. We do not quite understand why the term 'beastly' should be applied to the current type, and we may add that we have not seen any double impressions of the 'Service' surcharge, and should be inclined to regard them with some suspicion.

"'The *Service* stamps introduced by the Perak Post Office will cease to be used after the 30th instant. The stamp originated in this way: Parcels posted from one part of the State to another on purely Government service were charged five cents a lb., and to obviate the necessity of keeping a supply of postage stamps by heads of departments, some of the five cents Perak stamps were surcharged 'Service,' and were issued for use by Government offices free of charge, but on the condition that an account was kept of parcels despatched in a special book, which had to be produced at the post office each time a parcel was being forwarded. The first lot of stamps surcharged was on the five cent, *blue*, with the springing tiger, and when the supply of this stamp was exhausted the *beastly Tiger Head* had to undergo the surcharging operation. We understand the *blue* stamps surcharged were few in number, and consequently will increase in appreciation by collectors. It is said that every care was taken by the Government printing office that the surcharges were to be uniform and no mistake made, as in the days of the Straits Settlements stamps, when the number of surcharges and errors was legion. With all the care bestowed, we hear that there are double impressions on some of the later issues, and these are now in great demand, and command fabulous prices.'"

VIRGIN ISLANDS.—Information supplied by Messrs. Cameron and Co. is to the effect that the two errors in the sheets of the ½d. stamps, and another which is stated to have existed in the 4d., were removed from the sheets when discovered, and destroyed by order of the *Secretary of State for the Colonies*.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—*Bosnia.*—The *M. J.* has received some fresh varieties in shades and perforations.

It is stated that some of them are practically identical in colour by artificial light, though quite different by daylight.

Adhesives.

1	nov.,	pearl-grey; perf. 10½.	
25	,,	reddish purple; perf. 11½.	
1	,,	pearl-grey	,,
2	,,	deep yellow	,,
3	,,	green	,,
5	,,	red	,,
10	,,	blue	,,
15	,,	brown	,,
20	,,	olive-green	,,

The long-heralded new issue in the currency of *heller* and *krone* is officially announced to take place at the commencement of the new year. The high values are to be in relief, and we trust that the whole series may be an improvement upon the present.

BELGIUM.—The 10 centime stamp in carmine, it is now reported, will not be issued until next year, and the date seems not to be definitely fixed. The 1 franc is to be changed to green, and there seems some chance of the Sunday coupon being suppressed.

FRANCE.—The French philatelic journals have various rumours as to the impending new issue. There are to be probably new stamps next year on the occasion of the Exhibition, the set consisting of values 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 centimes. The presumed design represents the figure of the Republic sitting, holding a tablet in the hand with the inscription, "Droits de l'homme," a shield surrounded by laurels bearing the indication of the value of the stamp. We have not heard authentically that either this design or the one for the higher values is accepted.

GERMANY.—Several of our contemporaries give particulars of the new stamps, and *Le Timbre-Poste* illustrates the 10 pf. and 1 mark.

It appears that the four lower values are to appear with Head of Germania; the next nine values with crowned and armed figure of Germania holding an olive branch in her right hand, and the four higher values have pictures representing scenes in the history of Greater Germany.

The colours of this set are given as follows:—

Adhesives.

3	pfennig,	brown.
5	,,	green.
10	,,	red.
20	,,	blue.
25	,,	black and orange on yellow.
30	,,	,, ,, buff.
40	,,	,, carmine on white.
50	,,	,, violet on buff.
80	,,	,, carmine on reddish.
1	mark,	carmine.
2	marks,	blue.
3	,,	violet.
5	,,	carmine and black.

HUNGARY.—As with the Austrians, the new set is announced for Jan. 1st next.

AMERICA.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—Messrs. Bright and Son send us a pair of curious provisionals called into use through the civil war in this country.

The values are 5 c. and 10 c., the former red and the latter blue, both on yellowish paper. The design is similar to the earlier issue: Arms in centre, "Correos" at top, and "Republica Colombia" in curved band underneath, with values in figures and words at bottom. They are printed in panes of ten (two rows of five each), and there are several types of each value, ungummed.

Both specimens franked a letter to Messrs. Bright and Son, and we reproduce a copy of a letter from these friends' correspondent :—

"These stamps were made and issued here (Cartagena) on the 8th November. As this country is in revolution since the 20th October last, and there is no communication with the interior of the Republic, it hasn't been possible to obtain from the capital (where the Government has the deposit of stamps) the current issue of Colombia, and consequently the General Post Office disposed to issue these provisional stamps.

"The small seal with the three stars is put at the Post Office as authenticity, and no stamp is good without the seal.

"These stamps will be scarce in a few months, because they have only issued 5,000 of each value, *and if another issue is necessary* they will be different either in colour or in paper."

Adhesives. 5 cent., red on yellowish; imperf.
10 ,, blue ,, ,, ,,
Both surcharged with a small Seal in blue ink.

Boyaca.—A specimen of the stamp chronicled in our last has reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. It seems generally the opinion that this stamp has been suppressed owing to the portrait of Mendoza Perez having been used.

ECUADOR.—Some, if not all, of the new designs have appeared as "Officials." The *M. J.* chronicles four values surcharged "Oficial" as follows :—

Official. 2 c., black and orange.
10 c. ,, ,,
20 c. ,, ,,
50 c. ,, ,,

SALVADOR.—According to the *Australian Philatelist* some remarkable objects have come from this Republic.

Stamped envelopes of the 1896 issue are adorned with adhesive stamps stuck over the impressed stamp in the upper right-hand corner, and a small circular device in black is struck in the centre of the stamp.

Stamped Envelopes. 5 c., orange, over 1 cent., rose.
12 c., green ,, 15 cents.
13 c., carmine ,, 15 cents.

The *American Journal of Philately* announces several more varieties with the Wheel surcharge.

This time it is four values of the Official stamps that have been operated upon, viz. :—

Officials. 3 c., dark blue, surcharged with a Wheel.
13 c., lake ,, ,,
26 c., carmine ,, ,,
100 c., violet ,, ,,

URUGUAY.—The *Australian Philatelist* gives a list of current types changed in colour.

It includes a 3 mils., purple, which, we believe, we have not yet chronicled.

Adhesive. 3 milesimos, purple.

VENEZUELA.—The *American Journal of Philately* is the first to announce some provisional stamps for this country, and informs us, on the authority of a correspondent, that "recently, owing to a shortage of certain values of the Official stamps, the 50 centimos and 1 bolivar Officials were surcharged with new values, respectively 5 and 25 centimos."

The surcharges are stated to be in two colours, and some *têtes-bêche* also have been seen. The surcharge consists (so we are told) of the date "1899" at the top of the stamp, and the value in each lower corner, with "C M S" between.

It does not surprise us to hear that *most* of this very interesting issue is held by officials of the Post Office Department.

Official Stamps.

5 c. on 50 c., yellow and black; carmine surcharge.
25 c. ,, 1 b., violet and black ,, ,,
(Variety: *Tête-bêche* of the latter.)

5 c. on 50 c., yellow and black; violet surcharge.
25 c. ,, 1 b., violet and black ,, ,,
(Variety: *Tete-bêche* of the 5 c.)

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CUBA.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* informs us that "the error in the 10 c. Special Delivery of Cuba has been changed. The portion containing the word 'Immediata' was the only thing altered in the original die. Probably the impressions will show that a change has been made in the engraving. This necessitated a new transfer roll, and, of course, also a new plate. The old one will be destroyed. As it is not probable that the supply of these stamps sent to Cuba will be recalled, it may take a very long time before a further supply of Special Deliveries will be needed for the island. One hundred thousand have been sent there, and this is a considerable number of a stamp so little used. There is not the slightest doubt there are over 90,000 of them on hand in Havana,

in spite of the large orders received from stamp dealers."

DUTCH INDIES AND POSSESSIONS.—Several of our contemporaries mention that certain values of the new issue of the Netherlands have been surcharged for use in the Colonies and Possessions.

From the *Metropolitan Philatelist* we take the following.

Surcharged "NED. INDIE" and value :—

Adhesives. 10 c., grey-lilac.
12½ c., blue.
15 c., yellow-brown.
20 c., yellow-green.
25 c., carmine and blue.
50 c., bronze-green and red-brown.
2½ gld., brown-lilac.

Surcharged "Curacoa" and value :—

Adhesives. 25 c., carmine and blue.
1.50 gld. on 2.50 gld., brown-lilac.

Surcharged "Suriname," but without additional value :—

Adhesives. 50 c., bronze-green and red-brown.
1 gld., bronze-green.
2½ gld , brown-lilac.

GUAM.—The new supply of stamps is stated to be on its way out.

We reproduce the following from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* :—

"Guam is a small island, containing 200 square miles and probably 100 white inhabitants. There cannot possibly be any postal service in the island, and the only use for stamps is for forwarding letters to the United States or the Philippines.

"Newspapers there are none, so that five or ten cents stamps would be ample for all postal requirements.

"The other values that are to be sent out are superfluous, but the Special Delivery is simply ridiculous, and well calculated to make the postal authorities of the United States the laughing-stock of intelligent people the world over, and should be suppressed at all hazard. The poverty of Spain and Portugal has been the excuse for the large number of colonial issues of these countries, but no such excuse will answer for the United States of America. Leaving us the choice between ignorance and avarice, both equally galling to American stamp collectors. What could the postal authorities be thinking about? A series of twelve stamps for the miserable little island of Guam, while they consider five values sufficient to supply the wants of the magnificent island of Cuba! We trust every collector will immediately write to the President, Postmaster-General, and Cabinet, the Senators, and the members of Congress of their district to stop such a disgrace before it is made known to the intelligent portion of the inhabitants of the world by means of stamp albums and catalogues."

MACAO AND TIMOR.—The provisional stamps mentioned on page 309, to be issued on January 1st next, have already reached this side, and specimens of all the values have come to us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

SAMOA.—As was to be expected, the remainders, or perhaps we had better say current stamps, have been surcharged "Provisional GOVT" in two lines.

We mentioned the 2d. value in our last number, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 1d. and following list of values and colours of surcharge :—

Adhesives. ½d., green ; surcharge in red.
1d., red-brown ,, blue.
2d., yellow ,, red.
4d., blue ,, ,,
5d , red ,, blue.
6d., marone ,, ,,
1s., rose ,, ,,
2s. 6d., mauve ,, red.

SARAWAK.—Mr. W. H. Peckitt sends us two stamps in new colours, the 4 and 10 cents of the 1889 type, printed in carmine-rose and blue respectively.

Adhesives. 4 c., rose-carmine ; type 1889.
10 c., blue ,,

TUNIS.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* states it is reported that the perforating of the postage stamp with a large "T," to represent Postage Due stamps, will shortly be discontinued, and a special issue of Postage Due stamps may be expected before very long.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

Dec. 7. Display with notes, "Mexico," by Mr. W. T. Wilson.

The following were unanimously elected members:—Messrs C. R. Corfield, L. P. Hernandez, E. Tautz, J. M. Minwala, W. Ackland, J. M. Bartels, D. Agemian, F. E. Remfry.

Mr. W. T. Wilson then showed his superb collection of unused Mexican stamps with used copies on originals in the case of those varieties which are much rarer used than unused, such as the 1865 issue.

It was a great treat to all those who were present, and showed the immense possibilities there are in this extremely interesting country and the great rise there will be in prices when the relative rarity of many of the earlier issues is recognised.

A large amount of very interesting information was given, which we trust, for the good of Philately, will at no distant date be accessible to all students of this country's stamps.

The chief points touched upon were naturally the difficult ones: (1) the arrangement and re-arrangement of the plates, as shown by the different spacing between the horizontal rows of the 1850 issue; (2) the sub-consignment numbers of the 1864–7 issues; (3) the reasons and necessity for the surcharge of town and district names on all the issues down to comparatively recent years.

The sales from the July and August packets have been very good; £183 5s. 6d. was bought off *one* sheet in July B, while over £20 was bought off several other sheets in the same packet. Those for December are very good indeed apart from actual value, although that is very satisfactory, being over £1,000 each.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

The fortnightly meetings of this Society were held as usual in the last month, but the attendance of members was so small that no business was transacted, and the interesting subject and display of "Great Britain," in which some of the members are very strong, was of necessity deferred to another occasion. The cause of this lies in the fact that the actual presence of our much-loved Queen in this our ancient western city was of far greater import than the study of her effigy, and philatelic eyes were more interested in the living original than in Dies 1 and 2. They were also relieved from the anxiety of looking for forgeries, whilst preparing to receive her in person, as becomes the most observant of her subjects, in all parts of her empire. No wonder, then, that neither the attraction of penny blacks, two cents pinks, nor any other impressions of Her Majesty could prevail to draw them from herself. At the meeting last Thursday evening there was a very good attendance of members, and the President occupied the chair. It was proposed and carried unanimously that "This Society desires to express its sorrow at the death of Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, one of the oldest Philatelists, and one who has contributed so largely by his indefatigable literary labours and research to our information and knowledge on the subject of Philately; and whilst acknowledging with gratitude the great value to us of the same, we also desire that our sympathy should be conveyed to the surviving members of his family, in their sorrow for the loss of him who was held in the high esteem of all Philatelists, not only on account of his labours in a congenial pursuit on their behalf, but also for his personal kindness and courtesy to all those who had the privilege and pleasure of his acquaintance." Mr. Cartwright was requested to communicate the above resolution in due course. Mr. Way having drawn attention to the new work entitled *The Bristol Royal Mail*, compiled by our esteemed Postmaster, Mr. R. C. Tombs, it was unanimously decided that a copy of the same should be placed in the library. "Brazil" being the subject for the evening, the chief display was made by Mr. T. C. Cartwright, of about 400 stamps on fourteen well-filled sheets; every issue was represented, from the early figures to the more recent newspaper stamps surcharged for letter postage use. Attention was drawn to the Southern Cross issues, one of which is described in some of the catalogues as being "redrawn." Mr. Cartwright suggested that "retouched" would be more correct, as, judging from the specimens before them, it would be seen that the work in each was the same—only that the lines in the one were deeper and more clearly defined—thus indicating, as in our own early issues, "retouching" rather than "redrawing." The subject for the next meeting, on the 21st inst., will be "Hong Kong and the Straits Settlements."

Cardiff Philatelic Society.

This Society was formed on the 6th Nov., the following officers and committee being elected:—

President—Walter Scott.
Vice-Presidents—
E. W. Shackell, J.P. Alderman W. J. Trounce.
Hon. Secretary—W. A. Jutsum.
Hon. Treasurer—G. N. Thorp.
Hon. Librarian—Mrs. Groves.
Committee—
J. L. Everett. G. E. Petty.
J. T. Milburn. W. H. Renwick.
B. Rowlands.

The President gave an interesting address on the advent of postage stamps, interspersed with his reminiscences.

A vote of thanks was passed to the London Philatelic Society for the gift of several volumes of the *London Philatelist*.

[We welcome this new accession to our ranks. —Ed.]

The second meeting, held on the 12th Dec., was presided over by the President, who gave a paper on "The Stamps of Great Britain," and exhibited his fine collection, which comprised specimens of almost every known variety in an unused state. One stamp in the collection is believed to be the only one of its kind known—the ½d. of 1870 in green colour, imperf., plate 20.

Several other members displayed their collections of English, and a very pleasant time was spent in examining them.

Mr. J. L. Everett presented Vol. II. of the *London Philatelist* to the Society, for which he was thanked.

The Stamps of Uruguay will be studied at the next meeting; paper on them by Mr. G. E. Petty.

Secretary's Address—
371, Cowbridge Road, Cardiff.

Chelsea "Entires" Exchange.

(*Late Second Section of Clifton Stamp Exchange Club.*)

A new Exchange Society is announced.

This Exchange is for the purpose of distributing among its members post cards and covers in an "entire" condition as officially issued with impressed postage stamps, either unused or used. Used picture cards and envelopes with adhesive stamps thereon, also stamped telegraph forms, though not forbidden, will only be circulated if of special interest or few in number, so as not to increase the postage of packet on its rounds. Torn or soiled pieces of covers are not desirable and may be withheld by Secretary.

Members may send to address below, by the 25th of each month, up to 100 "Entires" in two covers containing thirty to fifty each, or three lots (150) every two months. Every piece should be lightly numbered in pencil on the left side to agree with the printed list giving *net cash* prices.

The packet will be sent out six to eight times in the year, depending on the number of members who wish to see it, the circuit being constantly varied so as to ensure an early inspection for all in turn. Members receiving packet must send it on to the next name on postal list by Registered Parcel Post within fifty hours of its receipt (Sundays excluded), and will be held responsible in case of loss if not duly registered, or for damage done to contents while in his or her possession. A fine of 3d. per day may be imposed if not forwarded in due course.

Annual subscription of one shilling is due on joining, and renewable on 1st of January, or in July if the member joins between July and November. Twelve covers with printed forms for the uniform inclosure of the entires will then be sent. Extra covers supplied at 6d. per dozen.

Postage for return of lots will be charged in settlement, and a commission of 5 per cent. on the *balance* due to members. This will only affect those who do not see the packet or do not take from it to the extent of the sales from their lots. Cash due will be sent with returns within seven days of arrival of packet. Adverse balances to be paid to Secretary before the return of lots.

The Secretary is willing (on similar terms) to receive lists of entires "wanted," or that members desire to dispose of, stating best prices. Care must be taken to describe if in "mint" condition or whether the cards, etc., are soiled, broken, or badly postmarked. It may be mentioned at once that mixed lots of recent issues are offered from 1s. per 100.

B. W. Warhurst, *Secretary*.
15, Paultons Square, Chelsea, S.W.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A general meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel on December 5th, 1899, at 7 p.m. Present: Messrs. W. Simpson (in the chair), W. A. Bois, W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, R. Frentzel, F. R. Ginn, J. W. Jones, E. A. Mardon, E. J. Nankivell, J. O. Sell, C. R. Sutherland, A. G. Wane, H. A. Slade, and one visitor.

The following were elected as ordinary members:—Erland A. Clark, M.A., D. Field, F. G. Powell, C. Tait, and F. Wilcox. At the conclusion of business Mr. Edward J. Nankivell displayed his unique collection of stamps of the British Occupation of the Transvaal, prefaced by a lucid description of the series surcharged "V.R." Mr. Nankivell stated that only one dangerous forgery existed, that there were but two differences of perforation, and that the inverted surcharges were accidental and not numerous. He added that the error "Transvral" was the rarest stamp of the series, and advised collectors of unused to take nothing but absolutely mint specimens The Chairman passed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Nankivell for his courtesy and for the entertainment afforded to members, and also thanked Mr. Marks for bringing his collection of the same country for display.

H. A. Slade, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.

The second meeting of the session was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, October 20th. The President occupied the chair, and there were fifteen other members present.

The President alluded to the loss which the Society has sustained by the death of Mr. Petri, one of the Vice-Presidents, and proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Abbott and adopted by all the members standing:—"That the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society, being deeply moved by the death of Mr. Ernest Petri, who has for several years been one of their Vice-Presidents, and feeling that they have sustained a serious blow by the loss of one who ever worked for the welfare of the Society which he had so much at heart, beg to tender to his mother and sisters their sincere sympathy in their bereavement."

Messrs. Joseph Brooks, Eliot Levy, and Dr. Corns were elected ordinary members, and Mr. S. S. Harvey a corresponding member of the Society, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr. E. D. Bacon and Major Evans should be asked to become honorary members.

Mr. Nathan Heywood read a paper on "The Coins of the Postmasters," which were tokens issued between 1649 and 1672, and again during the Napoleonic wars, in consequence of the scarcity in the country of small change. Mr. Heywood exhibited a very fine collection of those emanating from post offices in England and Ireland.

THE third meeting took place on Friday evening, November 3rd, when the President took the chair, and nine other members were present.

Mr. Joseph Ingleby was elected an ordinary member.

Three short papers were read, the first being by Mr. G. B. Duerst on "The Postal Service on Lake Constance," in which he stated that steamers belonging to five countries — Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Switzerland, and Wurtemberg—ply upon the lake, each being provided with a letter-box in which letters may be posted for delivery in any one of these states at a fee equivalent to a penny, and in any other part of the world at the usual rate. The total postage fee may be made up of stamps of any or all of the different countries, and it is therefore no uncommon thing to find letters bearing stamps of all the five.

Mr. North called attention to a variety in the Swiss stamps of 1862–78, and in one case in the issue of 1854–62, but amongst all that he has examined only eight specimens have been found. It consists of a triangle of colour in the lower portion of the shield, which in most cases is perfectly white.

The third paper was by Mr. E. T. Roberts on the first issue of Brazil.

AT the fourth meeting, on November 17th, the President again took the chair, and was supported by fifteen other members.

The resignation of Mr. J. R. Hesketh was accepted.

In the absence of Mr. M. W. Jones his paper on "Stamps and their Colours" was read by the Hon. Secretary. After pointing out that the difficulty of properly naming shades arises from the fact that there are no standards of colour as there are of weights and measures, and also because from circumstances often unavoidable the colours of printing-ink are liable to constant change, the writer suggested that many of the troubles might be overcome by the appointment of a joint committee of experts in the colour trade and Philatelists, who, after compiling a well-defined list of colours and avoiding all such elastic terms as apple-green, sky-blue, stone colour, etc., might obtain specimens of colour of reliable purity, have them ground in varnish, made into printing-ink, and then printed. By this means a considerable approach would be made to the desired end.

THE fifth meeting was held on December 1st. The President occupied the chair, and ten other members were present.

Mr. A. H. Dearn was elected an ordinary member of the Society.

Mr. W. K. Skipwith read a paper on the stamps of "Uganda," illustrated by his collection of the issues of this country.

G. FRED. H. GIBSON, *Hon. Sec.*
KERSAL, MANCHESTER.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

JUNE packets have returned from circulation, and accounts were submitted without delay. July sheets are expected to be ready for distribution by about the middle of December. Sales for the June account were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
June A packet,	91	2	3
,, B ,,	79	4	11
,, C ,,	57	18	1

Two hundred and twenty-nine sheets, aggregate value £1,794 13s. 7d., were received by Nov. 21st, and made up into four packets and circulated by Nov. 26th. The great features of contributions for this month were Europeans and a large number of obsolete issues unused in mint condition; these were offered at prices much below catalogue. Philatelists wishing to add to their collections at reasonable cost cannot do better than join a good exchange club; large selections, which can be looked over at leisure, are provided, and non-contributors can always see packets, as buyers are as needful as sellers. Copy of rules, with full information, can be obtained on application to the Secretary, H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

Correspondence.

SECTION ON PHILATELY
OF THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—Under separate cover, I am sending you, with my compliments, copy of the Year Book of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, containing a report on the work of the Section on Philately, up to May, 1899. In this report will also be found a list of contributions of stamps from some of the Governments. A large number of contributions have since been received, including a very handsome one from our own Government as well as a complete set of Austria.

This work, neatly bound in cloth, containing a full report of the work accomplished by the Section on Philately, its constitutions and by-laws, for the year ending May, 1899, may be had by addressing a letter to the Secretary of the Section on Philately, Mr. John D. Carberry, 1125, Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y., and inclosing unused stamps of your country to the equivalent of 14 cents in American money, to defray the cost of postage and wrapping.

As no doubt a large number of persons would appreciate a copy of this valuable book, I would be glad if you would insert the inclosed item in the columns of your next issue.

Yours very respectfully,
JOHN D. CARBERRY, *Secretary.*

174, MONTAGUE STREET, BROOKLYN, N.Y.,
Nov. 27th, 1899.

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.*

WE have received from the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., the most imposing auction catalogue that it has yet been our fortune to behold. Six full pages of autotype illustrations, 147 pages of matter, and 3,321 lots bespeak something out of the common; and such indeed is the case, the sale being that of Mr. F. W. Hunter, who has long been known to possess one of the finest general collections in the States. Many of the rarities have been sent over to this country for inspection by our leading dealers and collectors, and the sale is of great importance. Should its results be satisfactory it will undoubtedly have an important effect in future upon the dispersal of collections—although for the matter of that it is abundantly evident that *really good* collections command a ready sale anywhere—*pace* those of Baron von Roseneck, Mr. William Thorne, and Mr. M. P. Castle, all the sales of which have been announced within the past four weeks. The sale of the Hunter Collection is to be held from January 10th to 18th (six days) and will doubtless attract a large attendance. The collection is particularly strong in the Provisional issues of the United States, including some varieties which are practically unique. It contains a large number of rarities of all kinds, prominent among which are the following:—United States: Baltimore, Brattleboro, New Haven, St. Louis, 5 and 10 c. (three of each); 1851, imperforate, 24 and 90 c.; 1869, 15, 24 c. (pair), and 30 c. with inverted centres; many rare Carriers and Local Stamps. Confederate States: Provisional Issues: Greenwood, Macon, Knoxville 10 c, Pleasant Shade, Tellico Plains, etc. Argentine Republic, 1864, imperforate, 10 and 15 c.; British Guinea, 1850, circular, 2 c. rose, 12 c. blue; 1856, 4 c. magenta, 4 c. blue, paper coloured through: 1862, Provisional issue, 2 and 4 c. and sheet of the 1 c.: Buenos Ayres, 1858, 5 p.; Canada, 1851, 12 p.; Ceylon, 1857, 4 and 9 p.; Finland, 1866, 10 p. error; France, 1849, 1 fr. vermilion and *tête-bêche* pairs of issues of 1862–74; Great Britain, 1840, 1 p., V.R. cancelled; Hawaii, 1581, 5 and 13 c. uncancelled; Mauritius, 1848, 1 and 2 p., early impressions; Nevis, 1867, 1 sh. on laid paper, fine unused copies of the 4 and 6 p. lithographed and of the 6 p., 1882; New Brunswick, 1851, 6 p. (cancelled) and 1 sh.; 1861, Connell; Newfoundland, 1857, 2, 4, 6 p., and 1 sh scarlet-vermilion, half of the 1 sh. used as 6 p., and two copies of the 6½ p. uncancelled; Nova Scotia, 1851–3, 1 sh. dull violet; Oldenburg, 1858, ⅓ and 2 g. unused; Roumania, 1858, 54 and 108 pa. on covers; St. Vincent, 1881, 4 p. on 1 sh.; Saxony, 1850, 3 pf., two copies; Sierra Leone, 1883, 4 p. unused; Spain, Madrid, 1853, 3 c.; Switzerland, fine Basle, double Geneva, Zurich, 4 r. (six copies), Vaud, etc.; Turk's Islands, 1873–9, 1 sh. violet and numerous rare surcharges, including two inverted; Tuscany, 1851, 2 s.; 1852, 60 c.; 1860, 3 l.; Two Sicilies, 1860, ½ t. both types; Western Australia, 1865, 2 p. lilac, error.

THE following paragraphs from *Mekeel's Weekly* are amusing evidence of the American keenness for a new issue that will sell:—

"From the tenor of an article in the *Tribune*, collectors have themselves to blame for the coming embarrassment of stamps from Guam. Governor Leary is represented as having had life made miserable by their insistent demands on his first small stock. He has now ordered a variety and quantity of specimens that will meet all orders from dealers and collectors.

"The plan evolved was to retain the cash sent until a requisition for a large supply of stamps could be forwarded to Washington, and upon their arrival to fill orders. As Captain Leary worked upon the proposition its possibilities enlarged, and instead of ordering only the one, two, and five cent denominations, he included the entire list, up to and including the $1 value and the special delivery stamp. His schedule was as follows: 1 cent, 15,000; 2 cents, 75,000; 3 cents, 5,000; 4 cents. 5,000; 5 cents, 15,000; 6 cents, 5,000; 8 cents, 5,000; 10 cents, 10,000; 15 cents, 5,000; 50 cents, 4,000; $1, 3,000; special delivery, 5,000.

"The order amounts to about $11,000 worth of stamps, at face value, sufficient to last Guam's four or five hundred white people for *twenty years*, and stamps of the fifty cents and one dollar denominations sufficient *for a hundred years*."

The italics are ours, and save us any further comment!

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WE have heard from several sources that yet another great American collection is to be broken up—that of Mr. William Thorne, of New York. Mr. William Thorne is a member of the London Philatelic Society, and a gentleman well known to most of us on this side of the Atlantic, and it is sincerely to be hoped that he does not mean to sever his connection with Philately, but only to condense his collecting energies. The collection is a very fine one, including rarities of all countries—in fact, a large general collection, some countries being specialised—notably those of Australia. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* adds hereon:—

"Perhaps the most important item of news is the sale of the celebrated Thorne Collection of stamps, one of the best in the city. The fortunate purchaser is the New England Stamp Company, and the price $50,000, which should represent a cash profit of nearly twenty thousand and fully twenty years of pleasure in its accumulation. Certainly there is no other form of amusement which realises so large an amount of unalloyed pleasure with such magnificent cash profits. Of course it is not to be expected that every collector can make an equally large amount of money, but there is little doubt but that the same painstaking perseverance, combined with a small amount of cash, will realise an equal, if not greater per-

centage of profit. Stamps have been cheaper than they are now, but they will never be as cheap again, and considering the great boom in all mercantile business there can be little doubt but that now is the time to buy, and all purchases from reliable dealers made within the next six months cannot fail to show big profits."

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MR. PAUL KOHL, of Chemnitz, who has now achieved a position inferior to no one on the Continent, announces the acquisition of the well-known and important collection of Baron Otto von Transeke Roseneck. From all report this collection is very valuable, ranking among the greatest accumulations of the world, and we shall anxiously await the detailed list that Mr. Kohl has announced.

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MR. E. VERVELLE, of Paris, an old and esteemed acquaintance of many collectors here, also announces his acquisition of a very large collection of French and Colonial stamps, numbering some 12,000 specimens. It is said to consist of unused, used, blocks, pairs, and in fact a veritable *comble de bonheur à la Français!*

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MESSRS. YVERT AND TELLIER, of Amiens, have just issued their new Catalogue for 1900—how unfamiliar seem the figures! This has grown to quite a compendious work, some 700 pages clearly printed and excellently illustrated. The principal feature of interest lies, however, with the stamps of France and Colonies, which are listed very fully, even to pricing lined backgrounds! and occupies one-fourth of the whole contents. It is an excellent list, and reveals the hand of a thorough student of French stamps. As usual some of the prices in the general section, which is by no means exhaustive, reveal once more the absurdities that accompany universal pricing of unused and used by one firm!

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ANOTHER Government has entered upon the stamp dealing business! It has been known to many Philatelists that the Saxon Post Office Department has for some years past been disposing of its surplus stock at various prices above face value—according to supplies—and we have ourselves, in years gone by, added to our collection from this source. It would appear, however, that *l'appétit vient en mangeant*, as the new prices announced in various Continental magazines are on a vastly increased scale. The stamps on sale are fortunately few as to variety. The 3 pfennig of 1851—the green one—not the red one of 1850, which *would* give many of us a shock!—is now retailed by the Saxon Government at 15 marks. As this stamp is catalogued at 10s. to 12s. 6d., according to shade, the Dresden officials are not absurdly cheap. The stamps of the 1856 issue, head to left, are thus offered:—

	Marks.
1 gros., rose . . .	1
2 ,, blue . . .	2
3 ,, yellow . .	3
5 ,, vermilion . .	10

which are practically current catalogue quotations. The 2 gros. is, however, the commonest, while the ½ gros. seems to have been "sold out" at the post office. It is a pity the officials have not also the 10 gros., which would grace many a collection in mint blocks of four! The 1863 set of embossed stamps is also on sale, but at wholesale rates, and also one or two envelopes, which are to be positively given away at prices up to 30s. each! We should assuredly think it more in consonance with a European Government's standard of integrity to burn its old stock of stamps than to sell them at hundreds and thousands per cent. over their original face value. It is, moreover, a most dangerous precedent, and invites a practice that would be highly prejudicial to investors in current unused—and they are many.

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SINCE our last number sales have been held by Mr. W. Hadlow and Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper.

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MR. W. HADLOW'S sale of November 14th and 15th. A good catalogue of very useful lots. The prices realised may doubtless reflect the present state of the market, taken on the whole. Of the nineteen stamps photographed, presumably some of the best, the following are the results: Brazil, with italic figures, 180 reis, used, £2 and £1 12s.; 300 reis (2), used, £2 6s. each; 600 reis, used, and very fine, £5 12s. 6d.; Colombian Republic, 1859, 10 c., yellow, a *tête-bêche* pair, unused and mint, 21s.; 1861, 2½ c., black (4), used, all fine, 37s., 36s., 35s., and 35s. respectively; 1862, 20 c., *red*, with good margins, used, £4 4s.; 1 peso, lilac on white, unused, £2; and the same stamp on bluish, used, £2; St. Lucia, one shilling on 1s., orange, used and fine, 55s.; Grenada, 1881, wmk. broad-pointed Star, 2½d., claret, superb pair, unused, in mint condition, 52s.; Uruguay, 1857, 180 c., green, used and superb, 28s.

The sale of the 11th December was mostly of the wholesale order, and we fail to notice anything particularly worth recording.

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MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale of November 23rd and 24th. Many of the lots in this sale were of the collector's, though doubtless desirable, order. We notice the following: Great Britain, 1d., black, an unused horizontal strip of 12, with side margins and full gum, three or four creased, £11; 8d., brown-lilac, a very fine unused pair, mint, £4 15s.; Gibraltar, 1st issue, complete, unused, with gum. £3 12s. 6d.; Parma, 1854, 5 c., yellow, a superb horizontal strip of three, 42s.; Chamba State, on Indian, 1 a., 2 a., Service, ½ a. and 4 as., and ½ a. Envelope, all with error "STATE," unused, 63s.; Japan, 1875, ½ sen, grey, Plate IV., an entire unused sheet in mint state, £5 5s.; Johore, on Straits, the error "TWO CENST," on 24 c., green, used, £2 3s.; Lagos, 2s. 6d., olive-black, unused, 63s.; a stock book of several thousand useful stamps, £55; another, £23; a collection of 10,701 stamps, £110.

The sale of Dec. 7th and 8th consisted largely of stock books, wholesale lots, and collections, all exceedingly useful lots, but hardly needing special report in these columns. Collections of 2,844 and 2,280 sold respectively for £32 and £37.

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MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER announce the sale of the second portion of Mr. Emil Tamsen's collection on January 9th and 10th, the Cape, Mauritius, and Transvaal being fine.

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MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON announce the sale of the stock of Messrs. Harry Hilckes and Co., Ltd., on January 16th and 17th. There is an enormous number of stamps to be dispersed, affording a good opportunity for the replenishment of trade stocks.