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THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF THE

PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Editor:

M. P. CASTLE,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

VOL. IX.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1900.

PUBLISHED BY

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON,

Effingham House,

ARUNDEL STREET, LONDON, W.C.

1900.

383.2205742
L84
Hist. (Phil)

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THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. JANUARY, 1900. No. 97.

The Philatelic War Fund.



AT the risk of repetition we venture to again call attention to the War Fund Philatelic Auction, initiated by the London Society and supported by the provincial societies and the trade. There have already been many influential supporters of the movement, but we feel that in order to make the sale a great success the active co-operation of all Philatelists is needed. We therefore again make the most earnest appeal to every collector and dealer in this country to contribute something to the Fund. There never has, within living memory, been an object which could more directly appeal to our keenest and deepest sympathies.

The war drags on, with not too much success for our arms at present, and before its close the number of its victims will be many thousands. It is incumbent, therefore, on all who cannot fight to pay. In addition to our ordinary—and perhaps numerous—contributions as private citizens we can all well afford a tribute from our amusements and luxuries—of the nature of both of which Philately partakes. Let us therefore cast aside all selfish thoughts and heartily support a scheme that, while affording help in the truest cause of Patriotism, will assuredly in the end redound to the credit of Philately and give us a wider appreciation and the sympathy of the people of this country and its colonies.

The Late Mr. Douglas Garth.



IT is again our sad task to announce the death of one of our leading and most highly esteemed Philatelists. We deeply regret to announce that Mr. Douglas Garth died at Old Headington, Oxford, on the 6th of this month. Mr. Garth, whose health had been somewhat indifferent during the past few years, succumbed to the dreaded scourge of influenza, followed by an attack of bronchitis.

Mr. Douglas Garth, who was the second son of the Right Hon. Sir Richard Garth—an eminent Indian judge—was born on May 15th, 1852, and had consequently only attained middle age. He adopted the profession of solicitor, and as a member of the firm of Pemberton and Garth, carried on a large practice in the Metropolis until failing health compelled his retirement to the country a few years since. Mr. Garth was married, and leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss, and to whom we tender our most sincere and respectful sympathies.

Mr. Garth was elected a member of the London Philatelic Society in the early eighties, and was a member of the committee or council from 1886 to 1899. Having been elected Hon. Assistant Secretary on November 12th, 1886, he was elected Hon. Secretary in December, 1888, on the retirement from that post of Mr. E. D. Bacon, and held it until May, 1894, when the present Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. A. Tilleard, accepted the office. Nor were his labours confined to the duties of these offices, as he took a prominent part, as a member of the Publication Committee, in the preparation of the Society's works, a considerable portion of which were drafted by him in the first instance. He was, further, an active member of the Exhibition Committee of 1890, and indeed it may be said that for many years he was one of the most active — as he assuredly was one of the most highly respected — Philatelists of this country. Of later years, since his retirement to Oxford, Mr. Garth has not been often seen, but it is an open secret that had his health permitted, he would have occupied a still higher position among the officers of the London Society.

Perhaps the most notable permanent association with Mr. Garth's name will be that of the auctions, as it was to his initiative that the modern auction was due. It is true that in 1872 there was held one historic sale, but, although in America it had firmly taken root, the system remained practically unadopted in this country until 1888.

It was, we believe, directly due to Mr. Garth's ideas and energy that the first of the now popular auctions was held by Mr. Thomas Bull, at 77, Chancery Lane, on the 24th November, 1888. This was an immediate and pronounced success, and we personally well remember the excitement produced among the numerous collectors present, from the President of the

London Philatelic Society downwards, at the unforeseen and record prices created in many cases—records that have been very much broken since! This seed once planted flourished exceedingly, and auction sales have become an acknowledged and valued factor in the well-being of British Philately. It is, of course, patent that Mr. Garth did not invent philatelic auctions, but, like Columbus and the egg, he solved the difficulty by prompt action, and for this cause alone his memory will always be held in respectful and grateful recollection among stamp collectors in this country.

As a Philatelist and collector Mr. Garth has a bright record. The natural possessor of a delicate and refined taste, his collections were always marked by great beauty in the selection of his specimens and neatness in their arrangement. Perhaps the most notable collection he ever made was that of India, which was frequently exhibited and admired by all beholders, alike for its beauty and inclusiveness.

Both in the fields of European and colonial stamps, notably in the case of British Guiana, Mr. Garth held at various times exceptionally fine and choice collections, and it may be truthfully asserted that few men in this country have had more fine stamps pass through their hands.

The contributions to the literature of Philately by Mr. Garth have been, if not of frequent occurrence, marked by great ability, accuracy, and elegance of style, and no one will gainsay that Philately has in him lost one of its most gifted and esteemed students.

Endowed by nature with a handsome presence, Mr. Garth added thereto a charm of manner, a courtesy, and a geniality that endeared him to all his compeers, and it will assuredly be held that all who were privileged to come in contact with him were highly impressed with his kindly nature. By many of us who knew him intimately during many years the loss will be severely felt. It is indeed another and a sad snapping of the bonds that friendship and Philately have interwoven, and we can but hope that, when in turn we are called to pay the last sad penalty, the kindly recollections of our friends may be as whole-hearted and sincere as those that will always be associated with the memory of Douglas Garth.

The Early Issues of the Argentine Republic.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on 5th January, 1900.

By T. W. HALL.

THE Argentine Republic is a federal republic of South America, taking its name from the river La Plata (river of silver), and is made up of fourteen provinces and a number of territories. "River of silver," as applied to the La Plata, has been called a misnomer; but the name was really given to that grand waterway by Sebastian Cabot, not for any striking characteristics of the stream itself, but on account of the profusion of silver ornaments worn by the native Indians he met with on its banks. The principal seaport, capital, and largest town is Buenos Ayres, which was founded in 1535 by the Spaniards, who, in the person of Juan Dias de Solis, when searching for a south-west passage to the East Indies, first visited the country in 1516.

From 1825 down to 1861 a constant struggle took place between the two great political parties in the country, viz. the Unitarians, who were in favour of a strong central government, and the Federals, who sought to make each state independent of national government.

In the year 1861 General Mitre, leader of the Unitarian party, Governor of Buenos Ayres, and Commander-in-Chief (whose portrait appears on the 50 c., blue, lithograph of 1888 and the 50 c., yellow, engraved of 1890), succeeded in defeating General Urquiza, chief of the Federalists and Governor of Entre Rios (whose portrait appears on the ½ centavo, blue, of 1888 and 1890), at the battle of Pavon, in the province of Santa Fe, and in 1862 he (Mitre) was elected President of the Argentine Confederation, of which Buenos Ayres became provisionally the capital.

When General Mitre entered Buenos Ayres after the battle the authorities were without any chiefs, so that the conquering general had to reconstitute both the political and administrative offices. On the 17th October, 1861, he nominated Martinez as Superintendent-General of Revenue, and afterwards appointed him, in addition, Administrator of the Custom-house. None of the issues of the Confederation then in use pleased Martinez, who asked Don G. A. de Posadas, Administrator-General of the Post Office of the province of Buenos Ayres, to get made

40,000 stamps of 5 c.
20,000 „ 10 c.
6,667 „ 15 c.

the total value being 5,000 silver pesos.

Señor Posadas then at once entered into negotiations with a German

lithographer, Don Roberto Lange, master of the San Martin Lithographic Establishment (and who had printed the Buenos Ayres stamps), and came to the following agreement with him:—

"Don R. Lange shall make three lithographic blocks for postage stamps for the Argentine Republic of 5 c., 10 c., and 15 c. for the sum of 1,500 pesos. For printing, including paper, doing it at the Mint, 46 pesos current money per thousand; for gumming, 10 pesos per thousand. "*Buenos Ayres, December 11th*, 1861.

"R. LANGE."

The decree of February, 1858, was still in force, therefore the general features of the design could not be departed from, although by the agreement of the Government of Parana, on 8th October, 1860, it was resolved that in all administrative acts the name should be changed from Argentine Confederation to Argentine Republic. The author of the 1862 design is not known, but was probably Lange himself.

On 15th December Posadas wrote to Martinez, telling him of the arrangement he had come to, recommending the quantity above referred to being increased, and at the same time writing to the President of the Bank and the Mint and asking them to arrange, in conformity with the decree of 9th April, 1858, for the printing to be carried out in the Bank in presence of a commission nominated for the purpose, the stamps and lithographic blocks being left deposited at the Bank.

On the 23rd December Posadas sent Martinez a case containing 105 sheets of 70 stamps each, of 5 c. and 10 c.; on the 30th a further consignment of 10 c., on the following day the 6,667 15 c., and on 11th January, 1862, the remainder of the order, together with the moulds, permits, and the lithographer's receipted account as under:—

"*The San Martin Lithographic Establishment.*

"ROBERTO LANGE,

"*Buenos Aires, 9th January*, 1862.

"SENOR DON GERVASIO A. DE POSADAS.

"Postage stamps for the Argentine Republic.

"For 3 lithographic blocks of 5 centavos, 10 centavos, and 15 centavos at $500 current money			$1,500
For printing in the Mint of 5 centavos stamps	80,000		
" " " 10 " "	30,000		
" " " 15 " "	6,667		
Total number of stamps	116,670	at $45	$5,245
Paper for said printing		" $ 1	$ 116
For gumming, etc.		" $10	$1,605
		Total amount	$8,466

"Received the above sum,

"(Signed) ROBERTO LANGE."

On the 31st December, 1861, Posadas wrote to General Mitre, asking for a decree to precede the issue of these stamps; but no such decree has ever been discovered, and for this reason the actual date of this issue

is uncertain. The 11th January, 1862, has been generally adopted, as Tissera, Administrator of the Post Office of Rosario, on writing to Posadas on the 23rd January, 1862, states he began to use the new postage since the 11th inst., but that owing to insufficient stock they had not been able to entirely suppress the old issues.

Further printings were made in February, 1862; but the old Confederation issues were still being used in some parts, owing to the short supply printed and the time taken in distribution.

General Mitre determined to do away with these irregularities, and accordingly, by decree of 3rd October, appointed Posadas Administrator-General of the Post Office, nominating him also Commissioner. This gentleman having circularised the different ministrators, wrote to the Minister of the Interior in the following terms :—

"Buenos Aires, *October 21st*, 1862.

"To His Excellency the Minister of the Interior,
"Dr. William Rawson.

"The undersigned has the honour to inform your Excellency that the Government of the Old Confederation created and regulated on May 24th, 1858, the use of postage stamps for the payment of letters, which were made in Parana without the proper formalities and restrictions, so that the Administrator of the Post Office there could not and would not declare, in answer to the undersigned, at what date the said stamps were first put into circulation, which is a concealment of his charge. The Administrator of the Santa Fe Post Office has proceeded in the same manner.

"This stamp, then, without any original guarantee is what is being used in the post offices of some of the maritime districts, the which is more noticeable, as the branch offices of the province of Cuyo, and the North, use the other postage stamps that, by order of the Commander-in-Chief of the army of Buenos Aires, victorious in Pavon, ordered the writer to manufacture, which were manufactured and printed at the Bank and the Mint, according to the decree of the 9th of April, 1858, the total value being 20,012 $, 5 centavos silver, and they were sent to Rosario to the Superintendent of the National Revenue, as is proved by the receipts, permits, and other documents which are in the archives of this Government.

"Moreover, in the province of Corrientes there is another stamp, created in 1856. This stamp, for local use only, was ordered on that date by a simple provision of the Exchequer, and has been used ever since; its original value was one real (paper money of that province), but now, three centavos, and it is printed roughly on blue paper at the State printing office.

"The General Postal Administration of Buenos Aires, for its part, uses a pattern that it has for postage stamps, and although when this office was nationalised it made the colours and values of these stamps the same as those used in the Post Offices of the North and of Cuyo, they differ entirely from them in design and vignette.

"It is necessary, therefore, to adopt only one design for all the postage stamps of the Republic, not only in order to establish the proper uniformity, causing to disappear those stamps which signify the division of the Argentine country, but in order to reform and increase the revenue. For this purpose the Administrator-General (the undersigned) proposes to your Excellency the adoption of one design for the postage stamps for all the Republic, empowering the writer to get a lithographic

block made for the printing, which will be done at the Bank and the Mint according to the rules laid down in this matter.

"The proposed design will be the coat of-arms of the country, with the inscription 'Argentina Republica.' The stamps will be printed in different colours, representing the value of 5, 10, and 15 centavos, according to the law of the postal tariff passed on September 20th last.

"In order to regulate the accounts and to increase the revenue, the national post offices will receive from the General Administration the stamps in proper form, and as the thirty-five offices established in the country villages of Buenos Aires now receive them.

"Finally, the writer proposes to the Government that these new stamps and this system of accounts and distribution, to which he has referred, commence from January 1st, 1863.

"Do me the kindness to bring the contents of this letter to the knowledge of his Excellency the President of the Republic, and accept the expressions of esteem and respect with which the writer has the honour to salute you.

"G. A. DE POSADAS."

The Government adopted Posadas' suggestions, and they were carried into effect on the 27th of the same month. Don R. Lange was commissioned, and presented lithographic proofs, which were not, however, approved of. Señor Posadas then decided to have blocks engraved in England or France, in order not only that the stamps should be handsome, but that they might be difficult to forge. Ultimately the Government issued a decree on 1st January, 1863, appointing as the emblem for use the head of Rivadivia, and for an inscription "Republica Argentina." Pending the carrying out of this arrangement, further printings took place in March, and again in July, 1863. But the stamps ordered from Europe were longer in arriving than Posadas expected, as in a letter to him, dated 4th September, 1863, sent by Señor Balcarce at Paris, to whom the order had been given, the latter says he may be able to send them in two months' time. Consequently, another printing was made to fill the emergency in November, 1863; and as the blocks even then did not arrive, a still further printing, in January, 1864, and again, for the last time, on 6th February, 1864. At last, by the English vessel *Mersey*, which entered the port of Buenos Ayres on 15th March, 1864, the cases containing the new blocks, printing machines, and special paper, arrived, although it was not until another sixteen years had elapsed that the Argentine postage was made completely uniform, and the wretched local stamps of Corrientes, which had circulated for twenty-four years, entirely disappeared. All Philatelists are aware that in this issue there are two types of the 5 c., red, stamp; and in many catalogues the type with the narrow "C" is given as the first issue. This is an error, as, I think, can be clearly shown.

As before stated, the 5, 10, and 15 c. stamps of this issue were all printed in sheets of seventy stamps—ten horizontal rows of seven stamps each. I exhibit one entire sheet of the first type with broad "C," which will stand to illustrate the three values, the composition in each value being the same; the same paper, which is white, smooth, and rather thin, was used for all three values. The size of the stamps is $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22$ millimetres, and the description is as follows:—

"A round medallion, formed by a circle of pearls, containing in the centre, in the colour of the background, the Argentine coat-of-arms between two laurel branches, surrounded by the inscription 'Argentina Republica' in large white letters; surrounding the medallion, a background of oblique lines converging towards the centre; on this background, and below the medallion, the value of the stamp in a curved line in shaded white capital letters, the four angles formed by four triangles with a background of horizontal and oblique crossed lines separated from the general background by two little curved lines.

"The whole is framed by two lines—the inner thick, the outer finer."

Each value differs somewhat from the other, showing that a separate die was engraved for each value. The principal differences are :—

(1) The number of pearls which form the circle round the coat-of-arms.

The 5 cent. has 74,
„ 10 „ „ 78,
„ 15 „ „ 71.

(2) The little cross at the foot of the coat-of-arms
in the 5 cent. is placed upright,
„ 10 „ leans to left,
„ 15 „ leans to right.

In the 10 c. it is formed by five round dots; in the 5 c. and 15 c. the four outside dots are oval. All three stamps exist with and without the accent on "U" of "REPUBLICA."

As will be seen, I have in my collection used stamps of the 5 c. with accent dated in January and February of 1862, so the first printing must have been of the stamp with accent.

Monsieur Marco del Pont, in his article in *The Revista*, from which the more material parts of this article have been translated, states positively that there was no accent in the mould, but that it was added on the stone. If it had existed in the mould, its position on the stamp would have always been the same, which, as may be seen, is far from the case.

In the article from which these notes have been chiefly made exact reproductions of the 5 c. sheets with and without accent are given. These I hand round, and it will be noticed that the space between the stamps is not the same, and that therefore they unquestionably belong to different printings. The accent was not added in the later printings, and is supposed to be either an omission on the part of the lithographer, or possibly, as the inscription was in capital letters, he thought it unnecessary.

As may be seen, I have one stamp showing the accent between the "P" and "U" of "REPUBLICA." This is not on Monsieur Marco del Pont's sheet, showing there must have been still another plate.

There is also in one of the sheets with accent a diæresis over "U" not in Marco del Pont's illustration. This stamp, which I also exhibit, is the fourth stamp on the third row of the sheet.

Apparently, too, the sheet I exhibit without accent is not the same printing as the one illustrated by Monsieur Marco del Pont, *e.g.*—

Dot over "L" on the seventh stamp, third row;
„ „ „ fourth stamp, second row;

and various other minor spots over the "E," etc., which may be seen on a close examination of the sheet.

Monsieur Marco del Pont thinks the plate without accent was made for the third printing in February, 1863. This appears not to be so, as I show used copies dated as early as the 14th December, 1862, and apparently from a worn plate, too. I think, therefore, the accent must have been omitted in the second printing.

10 Centavos.

Two distinct printings of this stamp exist. In the first printing all stamps are accented; in the second printing not only are the stamps not accented, but there is another well-marked difference, viz. a line of separation which crosses the sheet horizontally and vertically.

Monsieur Marco del Pont thinks the unaccented variety of the 10 c. was issued in 1864, but in this I cannot agree with him. I show two copies; the dates on the postmarks are somewhat obscure, but apparently 1863. It is not possible to fix the date of issue of this second type very accurately, as the stamps are scarce, and they are even scarcer with dated postmarks, the cancellation being frequently the word "Franca" (free), or something equally pointless.

In the first printing there are two minor varieties I do not possess, viz.—

(*a*) An accent on "B" in addition to the accent on "U"; sixth stamp, fourth row.

(*b*) A short thick oblique line from centre of "L" towards the "B"; seventh stamp, first line.

Monsieur Marco del Pont states that the stone of the second type of the 10 c. is, or was lately, still in the possession of the General Management of the Post Office, and that he examined it carefully, but found nothing to notice. As may be seen from my collection, the 10 c. is sometimes found cut in two diagonally, and used for 5 c.

All in this condition that have been examined are of the first type, although this may be a mere coincidence owing to their rarity. There certainly seems no reason why the second type should not have been so used, as I have copies of the 1864, green, 10 c. so used, both of the imperforate and perforate series, and whilst we know that Posadas fought hard against the custom, it is clear that he failed to completely put an end to it.

15 Cents.

Only one plate, so far as research goes at present, was made for this value, and only 387 sheets were ever printed.

It is true the 15 c. exists both with and without accent. Many catalogues list the stamp with accent as a variety. This is an error; the stamp with accent is the type, the one without the variety.

As before stated, the accent is not found in the original die, but was afterwards added on the stone by the lithographer.

On the second stamp of the eighth line (the only stamp in the plate found without accent) the lithographer omitted to insert the accent either through error or carelessness.

The first stamp of the second line is inverted, thus forming a *tête-bêche.*

The stamps with accent only, and this applies to the 5 c., 10 c., and 15 c., exhibit two varieties; in some the inner framing line is broken at the point of union with the inner angles of the triangles at the four extremities of the stamps, the triangles being thus separated from the remainder of the design, and surrounded only by the outer line of the framework.

In others these lines are not broken, both types appearing on the one sheet; but the first variety, showing clear triangles, is much the scarcer of the two, in some cases there only being one or two in an entire sheet.

It appears the variety is caused in this manner:—

The engraver drew the thick inner line without any interruption, enlacing it with the triangle, cutting it afterwards at the inner angle, and thus obtaining between it and the triangle an exact distance.

In order to cut this line he used a preparation of nitric acid and gum, by which means any line engraved on the stone can be removed. When, however, a great many proofs had been taken off the original stone to make the plates, this preparation, little by little, lost its effect, and the lines that had disappeared entirely in the first specimens began to appear again, although not entirely, owing to the corrosive nature of the materials used.

Second Type of the 5 c.

In most of the catalogues the type of the 5 c. with narrow "C" is considered the first type. What has led to this entirely erroneous opinion is a matter of speculation only. I believe it was at one time suggested that, owing to the large quantity of the 5 c. printed, two moulds were made in order to hasten the printing—an argument which refutes itself, as if time pressed it would not be needlessly wasted in making two matrices.

As a matter of fact, it appears pretty clear, for the following reasons, that the narrow "C" type was issued much later than the broad "C," and probably not until some period in the year 1864.

1. No used copy of the narrow "C" type has ever been found with a dated stamp cancellation earlier than 1864.

2. Of the broad "C" type with (and slightly later without) accent I show copies used from January, 1862, onwards.

3. The only existing stone in the possession of the General Management of the Post Office is of the second type.

4. All known reprintings are of the second type.

Monsieur Marco del Pont calls attention in his article to the fact that almost all the used stamps of the broad "C" or first type from mid 1863 onwards show that the stone was worn out, and only printed the central medallion, the value, and part of the lines surrounding the stamp.

There is little doubt that the matrix of the first type of the 5 c. was destroyed by or by the orders of Posados about the time.

On 13th May, 1864, the Bank and Mint delivered up all the articles which had been deposited there and used in the manufacture of postage stamps, and among these were three lithographic stones for 5, 10, and 15 c. stamps. The matrices for these three were fairly certainly not in existence then, as they are not scheduled amongst the list of the articles the Bank

gave up; and when Lange, the lithographer, wished to reprint these stamps, he had to make use of the only matrix he could get at, viz. the type of the 5 c. with narrow "C."

As before stated in this paper, the new 1864 plate of the Rivadivia head was much delayed. The broad "C" 5 c. plate had worn out; more 5 c. stamps were requisite, and consequently there was nothing for Posadas to do but to get a second matrix, and this he did; hence the two types. It is pretty certain that only the last two printings were made from this plate, that is to say, 144,060 stamps. Unused *genuine* originals of the narrow "C" 5 c. stamps are scarce. This second type does not vary much in colour, and is only found in slightly different shades of brick-red—a colour, be it noted by the way, that was never used for the first type. The arrangement of the plate is the same as the first issues.

The following are the chief differences between the first and second types:—

First Type.	Second Type.
(*a*) Letters regularly formed.	(*a*) Letters irregular, thinner, and wider apart.
(*b*) Letters "A A" have top part squared.	(*b*) Tops of letters "A A" form an acute angle.
(*c*) "C" in "CENTAVOS" open and round.	(*c*) "C" in "CENTAVOS" closed and narrow.
(*d*) "V" in "CENTAVOS" closed.	(*d*) "V" in "CENTAVOS" open.
(*e*) "G" in "ARGENTINA" large and round.	(*e*) "G" in "ARGENTINA" irregular and smaller than other letters.
(*f*) "5" small.	(*f*) "5" larger, especially the head.
(*g*) Comma after "5" slightly separated from it.	(*g*) Full-stop after "5" and nearer to it.
(*h*) Circle formed by seventy-four pearls.	(*h*) Circle formed by seventy-two pearls.
(*i*) Cross below coat-of-arms relatively large.	(*i*) Cross smaller and thicker.
(*j*) Laurel branches thick and well formed.	(*j*) Laurel branches thinner and confused.

Monsieur Moens and others catalogue this second type with accent. This is an error, as the stone now in the possession of the Post Office was examined by Monsieur Marco del Pont and found innocent of accent.

Reprintings and Forgeries.

Only the 5 c. of the second type has been unofficially reprinted by the lithographer Lange, in whose possession the matrix remained, no doubt forgotten by the Post Office. It is said there were two reprintings.

The first and commonest was taken from a plate sold by Lange to Mr. Stanley Gibbons, and by him reproduced in large quantities. The colour, paper, gum, and spacing are all different from the originals. The colour is in different shades of carmine, vermilion, rose, and even in black, whilst the genuine, as before stated, only exists in shades of brick-red. The paper of the reprint is much stouter in most instances, and the gum thicker. The spacing between the stamps is a millimetre less than in the originals.

As is generally known, 10 c. and 15 c. stamps were also manufactured out of this plate by changing the value and the colour; the alteration

was clumsily done, and the figures are higher up than the rest of the inscription. In the first of these printings the comma between the figures and the word "CENTAVOS" was omitted.

In the second printing the comma was inserted, and the imitations, for that is of course all they are, were made rather more perfect.

These stamps have been wholly forged in addition, but the forgery is a clumsy one, and would only deceive a mere beginner.

It is at least singular that so little is known of the "head of Rivadivia" issue of 1864 up to the present time. I do not think the engraver is known. The fact that the dies, etc., arrived at Buenos Ayres in the ship *Mersey* points to an English origin, although we must not forget Balcarce's letter from Paris of September, 1863.

Wherever produced it is certain this issue ranks (as a work of art) amongst the finest philatelic productions. The imperforate issues of 1864 are very scarce in pairs, and not easy to acquire. I have a pair of the red; have seen pairs of the green; but have only heard of pairs of the blue.

A good deal of controversy has taken place as to the admissibility of the 1864 imperforate unwatermarked stamps. At present I am inclined to regard them as proofs; but all these stamps are so rare that I hesitate to express a decided opinion for want of sufficient material upon which to ground my data.

The above remarks do not apply to the imperforate (and perforate) unwatermarked issue of July, 1867, with its complementary reissue of 1st July, 1872. The latter can easily be distinguished from the former by its colour; the issue of July, 1867, being in shades of rose, that of 1872 in shades of brick-red.

The issues of 1867, so far at any rate as the 5 c. and 15 c. are concerned, appear with backgrounds of horizontal and crossed lines.

One of our leading Philatelists long disagreed with me as to there being any division between the two, suggesting that the crossed lines were the original issues and the horizontal due to wear. That this view is erroneous is easily seen by the enlargement of the heads on the two stamps, recently, so I am informed, done at the instance of our leading dealers. I have not seen the photographs, but believe the two heads are thereby shown to differ entirely. The majority of the used copies I possess of the 5 c. stamp with horizontal background were used in 1867, whilst the earliest used copy of the cross-lined background is dated February, 1868.

Before closing I should like to warn collectors against the "*reversed*" surcharges of the 1877 issues. Whilst not being able to affirm that no genuine reversed surcharges of this issue exist, I may say that every single one I have possessed or examined has been hopelessly bad.

Philatelic Notes.

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

DISCOVERIES.

TYPES OF THE 5 c. GENEVA OF 1847.

IT might well have been thought that the last word had been written about an old timer like this stamp, but, according to an interesting note in the January number of the *Timbre-Poste*, there is still something to be recorded. The first-issued stamp of this canton is, of course, the well-known double Geneva of October 1st, 1843, followed on April 1st, 1845, by the 5 c. of the first type, in which the wing of the eagle is away from the edge of the shield, and the stamp printed with only a spacing of about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. apart. Early in 1847 the latter was superseded by the stamp of which we are treating, which has the eagle's wing touching the outside of the shield, and is indeed from an entirely redrawn design. The differences which constitute the three types, according to M. Moens, are to be found in the scroll in which occurs the word "TENEBRAS," which he thus defines: In Type I. a thin line starts from the left frame of the shield, and is prolonged to the upper part of the "T" in "TENEBRAS." Type II. resembles the latter, but the prolonged stroke only goes to the foot of the "T," and does not practically pass beyond the edge of the scroll. In Type III. this stroke is absent, a blank space in the scroll being thereby revealed. Attention is also called to the letters "I.H.S." in the glory above the scroll, in which the letters are in some instances seen partially repeated, this feature being absent in Type III. Our contemporary further states that the design at first appeared with the letters doubled, that they were found to be too large and were effaced, but imperfectly, as portions of the letters "I" and "S" can distinctly be traced. Smaller letters were then substituted. From an examination of our available specimens we can carry the discovery yet a little further, as we find that the 5 c. blue-green, issued in December, 1848, also has the same varieties, which M. Moens does not mention, and we are inclined to favour a fourth type. The varieties also occur on the same sheet; *e.g.* we have *se tenant*—

1847.	Types	2 + 2,	horizontal.
,,	,,	3 + 2	,,
,,	,,	3 + 3	,,
1848 (dark green).	,,	1 + 2, / 2 + 2,	block of four.
,,	,,	,,	1 + 2, vertical.

This clearly shows that these several lithographic reproductions were simultaneous and continuous to the end of the issue. The easiest method of finding the types is, in our view, by the examination of the letters "I.H.S." These differences may be thus described, and they will be found quite easy to follow:—

Type I. Complete vertical strokes both before and after "I."

Type II. A broken vertical stroke (varying in its dimensions, probably according to wear of the stone) before the "I," and short strokes over the "H" and "S."

Type III. "I.H.S." clear except minute stroke after the last letter.

Whichever system is followed, there should be little difficulty in placing these three types, which are quite distinct and form a most interesting philatelic variety. To the specialist these types do not exhaust the varieties, as there are other minor differences whose *raison d'être* we have not yet satisfactorily solved. In one instance the numeral "5" has a loop at the junction of the vertical stroke with the curved base of the figure. The thick black line which forms the shield also seems to vary in each type, and beyond this, for instance in Type II., we have three specimens, each of which, while in other respects conforming to the tests previously mentioned, have this frame distinctly different from others of the so-called type. Type II. also has the "L" of "CANTONAL" with a second faint head to the letter, as if the letter had been lengthened, which the above three variants have not. This may be therefore a fourth type, and we shall endeavour to examine other specimens with a view to deciding the still doubtful points.

VICTORIA: FULL-LENGTH 2d.

THE Victorian stamps are but a few years younger than those of the cantons of Switzerland referred to herein, but *their* chapter of disclosures and discoveries has never yet been finished, and we have still another noteworthy verse to add. The 2d., full-length portrait of the Queen, issued in 1852, as is well known, was first engraved and then reproduced by several lithographic transfers, some of which contain variations from the normal design that are mentioned in the catalogues, and will be found carefully described, as far as the former knowledge hereon permitted, in the London Philatelic Society's work *Oceania*. The most notable varieties are the variations of the corner lettering, occurring through the replacement of parts of the transfer, and that generally known as "broken steps to the throne." We have now received from Mr. E. Stock, of Berlin, another variety somewhat akin to that last mentioned. The stamp in question is of the earliest or second stage of transfer, in a brownish grey, fairly distinct impression, and with the background innocent of the white patches that are found on the later and more worn impressions. We append an illustration which will obviate lengthened description, but on comparison with the normal variety of this stamp, which is the eighth stamp in the fourth row, the deviations will be seen to be as under. The outer frame line to the lower right is broken and has been thickly redrawn, but is inside the upper and normal portion thereof. The bottom line under "S" is broken and is higher than the normal portion. The "S" is broken to the left, and, with the base of the "column" to right, is higher than that opposite.



There is no dividing line to the left hand of the "S." This is evidently the result of a slip of the transfer paper, the thick outer line being added to patch up blank space.

BELGIUM: THE 40 c. OF 1849.

THIS stamp has on several occasions formed the subject of comment in the *London Philatelist*, and on the authority of M. Jules Bouvez, whose interesting articles upon the Belgian stamps have been running in the *American Journal of Philately*, we give the following fresh information :—

"These regulations caused the administration to decree that from 9th October, 1849, a new value in the series of postage stamps, that of 40 centimes, should be employed. The engraving for this stamp was made in *taille douce* by M. Jacques Wiener, and the new value appeared on the 15th October, 1849.

"At first this stamp was printed on the thin white wove paper which had been used for the 10 and 20 centimes stamps of the second and third printings of the first issue, and there is to be found in these stamps, also in a frame, measuring 18 × 21¼ mm., the interlaced 'LL,' of which the greater number are turned towards the left. This value appeared at first in a bright brick-red colour, and the first printing, made about the 1st September, 1849, consisted of 800 sheets, that is 160,000 stamps.

"When the second printing of the 40 centimes stamps was about to be made, it was noted that there still remained in stock 360 sheets of the thick, ribbed paper. These sheets being considered sufficient to complete the stock of 40 centimes stamps necessary for a supply until the time fixed for a new printing of these values, they were used, and produced 72,000 stamps of this value. These stamps are to be distinguished from those of the first printing by the shade, which is less bright. They were used principally to supply the important offices; in fact, it is said that they were not sold except in the offices of Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Liège, Mons, Arlon, and Tournai, and, in fact, the greater number of these stamps are found cancelled with a cancellation stamp composed of lines with a number in the centre. These numbers belonged, at the time, to the offices mentioned: Brussels, No. 24; Antwerp, No. 4; Ghent, No. 45; Liège, No. 73; Mons, No. 83; Arlon, No. 5; Tournai, No. 120."

This is a particularly interesting confirmation of the two now well-known shades of the first 40 c. The paler one, in a dull rose-red shade, although printed in less than half the number in the bright "brick-red" colour, is not so scarce, perhaps owing to there having been a few copies held back at their supersession by the next 40 c. with the "LL" unframed. The 160,000 of the first printing were doubtless all quickly exhausted, and probably none escaped the then heavy Belgian obliterating dies, except one sheet which was reserved and, as is well known, defaced by horizontal pen lines. This stamp really unused, *i.e.* without the *removed* pen obliteration, is assuredly the rarest Belgian stamp, and at least as rare as any of the twopenny English that were its contemporaries.

HOLLAND: UNPAID LETTER STAMP, 1870.

WE have an interesting communication from M. J. B. Robert as regards the 5 c. value of this stamp. Its normal condition is brown on *buff*, both it and the 10 c., lilac on blue, being normally perforated 13 to 14 in small holes. The latter also exists perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, but we have not yet met with the 5 c. thus. Specimens of the 5 c. have been seen on yellow or lemon paper, which was attributed to chemical action. M. Robert, however, states that specimens which are of considerable rarity really exist on yellow paper, having been printed on the paper intended for the unpaid letter stamp of Dutch Indies (1870). These stamps, says our correspondent, have always been difficult to obtain, not being vendible at the post offices, and really partake of the nature of service stamps. The chemical changelings are easily to be discerned, as the colour has not a true appearance, and the paper has been rendered more porous by its colour transformation.

Occasional Notes.

PHILATELIC ECHOES FROM THE WAR.

THE ranks of the combatants in this dire South African struggle contain many Philatelists. Mr. Emil Tamsen was one of the first to be called to his country's aid, and all will wish him safe through the campaign. Not so fortunate has been Captain Eager, of the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers, who was mortally wounded at Belmont, and died shortly after. Captain Eager was a collector and a good Philatelist, and his recent able article on the "Provisionals of Crete" (where he had been stationed) in the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* will be remembered. All honour to the memory of a brave man!

The *Daily Mail's* Cape Town correspondent, under date of 28th December, states that in Bechuanaland, which the Boers have, alas! been allowed to run over at their own sweet will,

"the government is being carried on just as if the Dutch had been in possession for ages. The farms of those who refused to join the Boers have been given out to others, title-deeds having been manufactured in Pretoria and handed to the new occupants. The postage stamps in use are ordinary Cape stamps printed over with the letters 'S.A.R.' and the value of the stamp. Some of these stamps have already reached Cape Town, where they command exceedingly high prices."

If this information is correct these stamps, especially on original covers, will assuredly become valuable, but they will probably fall into hands who know their worth. The lettering should, however, be "Z.A.R.," but, perhaps, this is a mistake on the part of the correspondent—if the *Daily Mail* can be wrong! Perhaps, however, the writer was an "absent-minded beggar"—philatelically!

WAR RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE.

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GWYER.	PHILLIPS, C. J.	

WALTER BULL, H. R. OLDFIELD, } *Hon. Secs.*

It will be seen that the War Relief Fund Committee is at once catholic and influential, and with the aid of its energetic Hon. Secretaries a substantial result should accrue. It is, however, on individual effort that the affair mainly relies, and we earnestly hope that collectors and dealers throughout the kingdom will unite in making the Philatelic War Relief Fund at once a substantial aid to this most deserving form of all charity and a lasting credit to the public spirit of Philatelists. We would urge upon our readers to forward their contributions to the Hon. Secretaries before the end of the month. A strong appeal has been made to the hon. secretaries of all British Philatelic Societies, from which we anticipate good results.

We should explain that contributions may consist of stamps, literature, or cash, and that they may be acknowledged in either of the following manners, according to the wish of the donors:—

1. By the insertion of the donor's name following the lot in the auction catalogue.

2. By the insertion of the donor's name in a footnote to the catalogue specifying the names of the contributors without reference to the particular donations.

3. Anonymously.

Among the many promises of support already given there is one that will be assuredly received with great favour. The Philatelic Society of London (in addition to other donations) will present six handsomely bound volumes of their published works, which will be each inscribed with the circumstances attending their disposal, and bear the signature of the President of the Society. This is but another of the many instances afforded to us of His Royal Highness' kindly sympathies and co-operation.

The *Morning Post* of January 20th (which has been brilliant in its articles on the war) has an appropriate comment on our War Fund, which justifies the line of argument that has been taken in this journal, and will be read with interest:—

"In these days, when all are being urged to 'Pay! Pay! Pay!' on behalf of the sufferers through the war, it may be well to remember that the stamp collector has generally money to expend when his fancy is touched. Of late he has come to understand

the greatness of the British Empire, and for this reason the stamps of Great Britain and her colonies have risen in value. In addition, he has usually some sort of a desire to convince his friends that there exists a valid reason for being interested in stamps. Could it be shown that a collection of the stamps of the various component parts of the empire did in any way illustrate its history, he would have his excuse at hand whenever he desired to produce it. The stamps of the Transvaal already illustrate a portion of that history. First of all there are the stamps of the Republic; then those same stamps surcharged with the letters 'V.R.' Next comes a beautiful set in which a portrait of the Queen appears, and then again a variety of issues with not so much as an acknowledgment of the fact that Great Britain held the suzerainty of the Transvaal. It is stated that letters have been received bearing the Natal stamps defaced with the inscription 'Z.A.R.' Since the nation understands that this war must needs be fought to a finish, it is certain that there will once again be Transvaal stamps with the letters 'V.R.' surcharged, and after them stamps bearing a portrait of the Queen. In the meantime every envelope which has brought a letter from the front has its value, and would assuredly be bought by one collector or another if it were offered at a reasonable price. And, since there is need of money for the widows and orphans and the sick and wounded, why should not one give the stamp collector an opportunity of justifying his existence?"

The Committee have postponed the date of sale for another month—until the end of March. The movement in support of the fund now seems to be gaining general support, and it is felt that this postponement will result in a considerable increase of the total proceeds.

Once more, in the words of Rudyard Kipling, "Pay! Pay! Pay!"

DANISH WEST INDIES.

THE information following was sent from a correspondent, on 31st Dec., to the *Daily Mail*, and since corroborated, and as it would have a considerable philatelic importance we give it, however with all reserve:—

"The long-talked-of plan for the sale to America of the Danish possessions in the West Indies—St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. Jean—has been revived again, and bids fair to be carried out. Captain Christmas, a Dane with powerful connections in the United States, is acting as intermediary between the two Governments, direct official communication being impossible for Denmark after the repeated failure of the previous attempts. No opposition is expected from King Christian. The price of the islands has been fixed at $4,000,000. It has frequently been reported that Germany had made an offer for the islands, and there is no doubt that German engineers have been surveying the harbours, but no offer seems actually to have been made."

THE SECOND PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT BROOKLYN, U.S.

WE have from the energetic Secretary a full prospectus of the second venture of this enterprising philatelic section of the Brooklyn Institute which is wisely doing so much to popularise the pursuit in the United States. In a letter accompanying, Mr. Carberry writes:—

"The interest manifested by the public in the first Exhibition of Postage and Revenue Stamps, given by the Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute, has encouraged the members to give a second Exhibition on somewhat broader lines

(with the co-operation of leading Philatelic Societies of New York, Chicago, Boston, and Richmond) at the Art Rooms of the Brooklyn Institute, 174, Montague Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., from March 3rd to 11th, 1900. The Exhibition will be open on week-days from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Invitations will be issued for the formal opening on the evening of March 3rd, 1900, and the public are invited to attend on all other days and evenings without tickets of admission. The large attendance last year (being 2,500 to 3,000) on each of the special days set apart especially for the school children of Brooklyn to inspect the exhibits and to receive packets of stamps, which were distributed gratuitously, with a view of creating in the children an interest in collecting stamps, has inclined the Committee to renew the invitation to them again on March 11th, 1900, to be present, and further increase their collections begun last year. Gold, silver, and bronze medals of handsome design, as well as special awards, will be offered for competition for the best exhibits by collectors and dealers. Prospectuses and other information concerning the Exhibition may be had on application to the Secretary, Mr. John D. Carberry, 1,123, Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y."

The Exhibition will be held at Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A., on 3rd March next, and has an influential backing of many of the best-known names in American Philately. There will be eight classes of exhibits:—

1. United States, Colonies, and Protectorates.
2. British Empire, including Protectorates.
3. North and South America (not included in above).
4. Europe.
5. Asia.
6. Africa.
7. Envelopes, etc., etc.
8. Dealers' Exhibits.

These classes are, of course, broken up into suitable divisions—the wording of the first two is fully "abreast of the times"! We hope that this second Exhibition may be an unqualified success, and shall be pleased to afford further information from the prospectus to any intending exhibitors in this country.

DEATH OF MR. C. P. KRAUTH, OF PITTSBURG.

THE following brief notice appeared in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of 30th December, 1899:—

"Just as we go to press we learn with profound regret of the death on Wednesday evening of C. P. Krauth, of Pittsburg, one of the best-known collectors in the country."

We much regret to hear of this sad event, Mr. Krauth, who was a member of the London Philatelic Society, being widely known and respected as an able Philatelist.

PHILATELIC JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY.

WE alluded recently to additions to the ranks of philatelic journalism, and we have yet further indices of this redundancy. *Morley's Philatelic Journal,* edited by Mr. A. Preston Pearce, has issued its first number ; its main features being the inculcation of the collection of Revenue, Telegraph, and Railway Stamps. The *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* has been resuscitated by Mr. Percy Bishop, and it is pleasing to read that it will be conducted free of all personalities—a feature that has been painfully present in other instances of recent journalism in our ranks. The *Philatelic Record* for January once more reappears in a new garb, and under Mr. Edward J. Nankivell's able ægis makes a very favourable impression upon its reader. Lastly, a new paper has been issued, entitled *The Stamp Collector.* The difficulty in philatelic journalism is not the start off, but the continuance of the effort, as evidenced by numerous past experiences.

IMPENDING CHANGES IN THE PACIFIC.

THE announcement of the tripartite arrangements between Great Britain, Germany, and the United States, in the Pacific, that have been noted in the Press, will naturally entail postal and other modifications, and we may expect, therefore, that an end will shortly be put to the issue of stamps of Mr. Davis for Samoa, but efforts will doubtless be made to get as many of the *Provisional Govt.* issue postmarked as possible.

We may, of course, before long expect to see the new German colonial issue for Samoa—either the mother country's stamps with a nice surcharge, or perhaps something entirely fresh in the 1900 style!

After the success with the surcharged issue for Guam, we may also expect to find the current U.S.A. stamps overprinted "Tutuila," and our own commonplace colonial type will doubtless be adopted for Tonga and the Solomon Islands, in due course.

Reviews.

THE UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMPS.*

WE are indebted to the courtesy of the Committee of the Boston Philatelic Society for a copy of this monumental work. The collection of the fiscal stamps of this country has not yet taken deep root (though Mr. W. Morley and others are cultivating the seed), and we regret, therefore, that lack of technical knowledge prevents our complete appreciation of the value of Messrs. Toppan, Deats, and Holland's colossal labour. Even this adjective can but faintly suggest the vast accumulation of labour and patient research embodied in this bulky tome of over 400 large quarto pages. It has been compiled almost entirely from official records, the Committee having been fortunate to have complete access to the firms' books who held the Government contracts from 1862–75. From this period up to date, the official records from the National Bank Note Co. and the Bureau of Engraving have supplied copies. Lengthened and combined research on all that has been hitherto written on these stamps, and the loyal co-operation of all the leading U.S. collectors, have enabled the joint authors to produce a work that must be of inestimable value to all who affect U.S. Revenue Stamps—and their number is legion in the States. It may, indeed, be safely said that the Revenue Stamps of the United States equally divide with those devoted to Postage the appreciation of American collectors. The magnificent engraving of many of these "Revenues" is doubtless a powerful factor herein, and the appearance of such an important work cannot fail to give it a further stimulus. There are no illustrations to the work, for obvious reasons, but every stamp is fully and accurately described; there is a very extended and complete Reference List of every variety and sub-variety, extending to over fifty pages, an interesting Preface, with introductory chapters and a comprehensive Index. We heartily congratulate the Boston Philatelic Society and its experienced and able Committee of Authors—Messrs. Geo. L. Toppan, Hiram E. Deats, and Alexander Holland—upon this signal service they have conferred upon American Philately.

STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE, PART IV.†

Published at the nominal price of 1s., the 300 pages of reading matter in the last portion of this firm's catalogue can but inadequately represent the labour or the cost of its production. It is evident that no pains have

* *An Historical Reference List of the Revenue Stamps of the United States, including the Private and Documentary Stamps.* Compiled by G. L. Toppan, H. E. Deats, and Alexander Holland —a Committee of the Boston Philatelic Society. Boston, Mass., U.S., 1899.

† *Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., Priced Catalogue of the Envelopes, Post Cards, and Wrappers of the World* (1900). 391, Strand, London, W.C.

been spared to make this portion on a par with the preceding division of the Catalogue. The lists are clear and concise, quotations being given both for cut-square and entire envelopes, and the illustrations are for the greater part excellent. Like Part III., this will only undergo a fresh addition in accordance with requirements. It is a patent pity that "entires" should so languish, and we can but hope that this excellent catalogue will reawaken the interest of collectors therein.

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.—*Le Timbre-Poste* announces the issue of a Registration Envelope of the value of four pence.

Reg. Envelope. 4d., blue; size F.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—The *Monthly Journal* gives more information in the last number about the provisional ½ anna on 3 annas of 1891 initialled "A. B."

The following is an extract from our contemporary:—

"In reference to the provisional ½ *anna* on 3 a., to which we alluded last month, its owner has very kindly sent us some further information, together with an envelope bearing nine copies of the stamp in question, and showing that two others have been removed from it. Our correspondent tells us that he was British Vice-Consul at Zanzibar in 1891, and being at Mombasa on July 2nd in that year, he went to the post office to get some British East African stamps; he asked for ½ a. stamps, and finding that there were only about a dozen on hand, he bought them all, put them on the envelope, and addressed it to himself at Zanzibar. This is the envelope we have before us as we write, and it has upon it a strip of three, a pair, a single stamp, and three stamps that were evidently part of a block of five, a vertical pair of which has been removed. All the stamps are surcharged diagonally, in MS., '½ *anna*,' with the initials '*A. B.*' below it; they are postmarked 'Mombasa, Jy. 2, '91,' and there is, further, the postmark of 'Zanzibar, Jl. 3' on the other side of the envelope. This should be sufficiently satisfactory, and on looking at the history of the stamp as given in the magazines, we fail to understand how its authenticity came to be doubted. In 1893 it was vouched for by the Postmaster of Mombasa as having been issued in May, 1891."

CEYLON.—A 12 cent stamp for double postage was expected (see p. 194, vol. viii.), and we now notice from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that one has been prepared, if not issued.

The *M. J.* mentions a 6 cent, single and double, post card.

Adhesive.

12 cents, olive-green, figure in carmine, current design.

Post Cards.

Single and reply. 6 cents, carmine on white.

COOK ISLANDS.—A permanent ½d. stamp of the "bird" type has been announced, and we have just received a specimen from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

Adhesive. ½d., blue.

GREAT BRITAIN.—*Ewen's Weekly* has received a letter from the Secretary G.P.O. to say no date has yet been fixed for carrying out the proposed alterations in the halfpenny

and shilling postage stamps previously announced by us. It is only in regard to these stamps that any changes are contemplated.

LABUAN AND NORTH BORNEO.—Our correspondent Mr. A. H. Stamford, who keeps us well informed on philatelic matters in this part of our possessions, sends us the following :—

"HALL BANK, BINGLEY,
"10*th January*, 1900.

"DEAR SIR,—Referring to your observations in the current number of the *London Philatelist* on the issue of Labuan and North Borneo surcharged stamps, it may be of interest to supplement your remarks by information which I have recently received from a friend in Labuan, who tells me that instructions have been given for 10,000 each of the same series of Labuan as were issued on the Queen's Birthday to be sent to Sandakan to be surcharged there, so as to have a different overprint from the last lot, which were surcharged in England. The numbers actually forwarded to Sandakan, I understand, vary from 7,000 to 10,000, as the latter number could not be spared in each case. These, I am told, are to be sent to London direct, and that an envelope bearing the full set is to be posted as a proof that they have been used for postal purposes. None of these, my friend states, are to be sold in Labuan, and the only conclusion he can come to is that they will be sold at the British North Borneo London Office. It is supposed that there will be some difference in the type of the surcharge, by which the two series can probably be detected.

"With reference to the new 4 cents stamp, chronicled in your current number, I am told that a supply of these stamps has been in Labuan some weeks, but they are not to be issued until the series of the nine stamps to be surcharged in Sandakan has been sent home. The surcharging business has been carried on to such a prolific extent in connection with this country that I am not sure that the above particulars will be of any interest to your readers, but you will make such use of them as you think fit.

"Yours faithfully,
"ARTHUR H. STAMFORD.

"THE EDITOR, *London Philatelist*,
"Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C."

This information is really serious to the cause of Philately, and, like the Guam business, is nothing short of a scandal.

Philatelists will do well to leave both issues severely alone.

NEW ZEALAND.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the values of the postage due stamps and stamped envelopes to be issued shortly are as follows :—

Postage Due. ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 10d., 1s., 2s.
Envelopes. ½d., 1d., and 2d.

Colours and designs are not given.

SARAWAK.—Another surcharge : this time (according to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*) the post card 3 cents has been surcharged 4 cents.

Post Card. 4 cents on 3 cents, red.

SEYCHELLES.—The current type 15 cents has been changed to blue, according to the *Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Adhesive. 15 cents, blue, current type.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—To Messrs. Bright and Son we are indebted for the following varieties :—

The 4d. value with double surcharge "O.O.S.S." (also submitted by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg) and the new shade of 1s., brown, clean-cut perf. 11½, with "O.S." in thin type.

Adhesives. 4d., violet, surcharged "O.O.S.S."; perf. 13.
1s., brown ,, "O.S."; perf. 11½.

Also the 1d., green, and 2d., orange, current type, perf. 13, overprinted "O.S." in thin type, but without the period after "S," though a faint thin line is shown on most copies.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a 2½d. stamp in a new colour, deep blue.

Adhesive. 2½d., deep blue; perf. 13.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Negri Sembilan.*—In various quarters a new 1 cent stamp of the current type has been announced.

Adhesive. 1 cent, lilac and green, tiger head type.

Perak.—The authorities here seem to be doing a little stamp business, more or less openly, and by sale by auction. The lots appear to have been sealed up, and as the *M. J.* puts it (and to whom we are indebted for the information), it is like "buying a pig in a poke."

If the make-up and assortment be correct—and we notice that "nothing except the number and denomination of the stamps in each packet was guaranteed"—yet condition, so important nowadays, may be faulty, and future quarterly sales suffer in consequence.

Our contemporary furnishes more information about the stamps of this country, and we reproduce the following :—

"Our correspondent also sends us a photograph of a used copy of a variety of No. 34 in the Catalogue, the 2 c. Straits Settlements surcharged '*One CENT PERAK*,' in three lines, in which the type of the surcharge has got loose, the '*T*' of the second word having dropped down and the '*R*' of the third slipped up. This is not shown on any of the sheets illustrated in Mr. W. Brown's book, but no doubt the *forme* was tightened up before more than a few impressions had been taken. An unused copy, we are told, exists in the Perak Museum, and the Curator states that he personally took it from a sheet of stamps that came from the State Treasury.

"The same correspondent confirms the news, published last month, that the use of the 'Service' stamp has been done away with, and adds that forty copies only were doubly surcharged, though he does not tell us why they were thus disfigured."

TONGA.—All the journals are chronicling a commemorative stamp, to record the marriage of the king and his wife. The current 1d., it is stated, has been surcharged "T.-L. 1 June, 1899" in two lines.

Adhesive. 1d., red-brown and black; black surcharge.

TRINIDAD.—Our contemporary the *Metropolitan Philatelist* gets some early and useful information of new issues from the Post Office Department at Washington.

One of the latest is a 3d. value surcharge in large type on the 5 pence of the 1896 issue.

Adhesive. 3d. on 5d., lilac and mauve, type 1896.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—The full list of the new stamps is as follows, from the official circular:—

Adhesives.

1 heller,	violet.		30 hellers,	red-violet.
2 hellers,	grey.		40 ,,	green.
3 ,,	brown.		50 ,,	blue.
5 ,,	green.		60 ,,	brown.
6 ,,	orange-yellow.		1 krone,	rose-red.
10 ,,	rose-red.		2 kronen,	grey-violet.
20 ,,	red-brown.		4 ,,	green.
25 ,,	blue.			

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 15, 20, 40, 100 hellers, brown colour.

Journal Stamps.

2 hellers,	blue.	
6 ,,	orange-yellow.	
10 ,,	brown.	
20 ,,	red.	

Stamps for the Levant.

5, 10, 25, 50 hellers, and 1, 2, and 4 kronen, with surcharge in Turkish currency.

We understand there will also be a full complement of stationery.

Six values of the new issue have at present reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

In design these stamps are identical with the late issue as regards the lower values, except that the value is given in hellers instead of kreuzers.

We give an illustration of the 20 heller.



The unpaid letter stamps with kreuzer values are now coming over on thinner and whiter paper, and perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$–13; the 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 having been so received by us, the remaining values being as before.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

1 kreuzer;	perf.	$12\frac{1}{2}$–13.	
2 kreuzers	,,	,,	
3 ,,	,,	,,	
5 ,,	,,	,,	
10 ,,	,,	,,	

BAVARIA.—Four new values are before us—the 2, 30, 40, and 80 pfennig.

The colours we should describe as grey, green, yellow, and lilac respectively; but, without a reliable colour-chart, we dare not be too precise!

Adhesives. 2 pf., grey.
30 pf., green.
40 pf., yellow.
80 pf., lilac.

BELGIUM.—After all, the 10 centime stamp may not appear in a carmine shade.

A new design, with portrait of the king, is likely to be substituted.

FRANCE.—The new issue of the much-debated fresh type is announced to make its début between now and the opening of the Exhibition. It is stated that the design of M. Mouchon is to be adopted for the lower values.

GERMANY.—On page 337, vol. viii., we gave a list of the new German stamps.

Herr H. Krötzsch has kindly sent us specimens of the new Germania issue, which we illustrate, but cannot say we much admire. The lower values are before us, and turn out to be of one design. Only the 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, and 80 pfennig have as yet been issued; the higher values, of oblong stamps and different design, will come gradually into use, but the 5 marks is not expected until June.

We give an illustration of the 40 pfennig herewith.



HOLLAND.—Mr. J. B. Robert informs us that since October 1st the 1 gulden of "the coronation series" has been printed in sheets of fifty, and apparently in slightly altered

design, thus constituting a second type. The corner figures are slightly thinner, while the lettering generally appears thicker. In other respects there is no change.

HUNGARY.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have kindly sent us specimens of the whole set of fourteen values.

We give an illustration of the 1 krone value, the 3 kronen being identical.

The design of the 1 to 60 fillér is a crown in the centre, surmounted by an eagle *volant*. The inscription at the *top* of the stamp is "Magyar Kir Posta."



Values and colours as follows :—

Adhesives.	1 fillér,	grey-black ;	value in	black ;	perf.
	2 ,,	yellow	,,	,,	,,
	3 ,,	orange	,,	,,	,,
	4 ,,	mauve	,,	,,	,,
	5 ,,	emerald-green	,,	,,	,,
	6 ,,	plum	,,	,,	,,
	10 ,,	carmine-rose	,,	,,	,,
	25 ,,	blue	,,	,,	,,
	30 ,,	red-brown	,,	,,	,,
	50 ,,	magenta	,,	,,	,,
	60 ,,	dull green	,,	,,	,,
	1 krone,	red	,,	,,	,,
	3 ,,	sage-green	,,	,,	,,
	Newspaper Stamp.	2 fillér, red.			

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—From the *American Journal of Philately* we note the following information :—

"Errors are beginning to crop up among the recent surcharges. From various journals we learn of the following :—500 r. on 300 r. with '1399' instead of '1899,' and the same stamp with double surcharge. Also the 700 r., yellow, of the 1889 newspaper set, surcharged '700—1898—700,' instead of '1,000—1898—1,000,' the 700 r. surcharge properly belonging to the 530 r. stamp.

"The commemorative set so long announced is to be limited to four values, for which we should be duly thankful. The subjects are said to be :—

100 r., Discovery of Brazil.
200 r., Independence.
500 r., Abolition of the Empire.
700 r., The Republic."

We believe this is all new to our pages, but the changes in this country have been so numerous, it is hard indeed to follow them on paper.

CHILI.—The *American Journal of Philately* states that "the unpaid letter stamps have been withdrawn from use, and that in future a hand-stamp will be employed, probably the old hand-stamps in use before the time of the adhesive due stamps, will again be brought into use."

We think it more likely that we shall see a new issue of due stamps, with the expected postals, or at least a change in colours.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—The civil war in this country appears to be going on merrily, and, it is stated, supplies of stamps cannot be obtained from the capital ; we must therefore look forward to several issues of provisionals.

The second issue of these makeshifts has not been long in appearing, and Messrs. Bright and Son have kindly handed us specimens of both the values 5 cents. and 10 cents.

In design they appear to be very similar to the last, but, if possible, more roughly executed. They are printed on tinted paper, perforated, and gummed, and in place of the seal for authenticity, each value is *cancelled* (!), surcharged, or marked with a band of about seven wavy lines, similar to the postal cancelling mark now used in the principal American towns.

Adhesives.
5 cents., plum on blue tinted paper ; rough pin-perf.
10 ,, vermilion on pink paper ,, ,,

Another makeshift has reached us from Messrs. Bright and Son. This time it is the 1 centavo, black, of Bolivar, 1891, surcharged with *seven wavy lines* for use for *Foreign Postage*.

The specimen submitted franked a circular to Messrs. Bright and Son in London.

Provisional Adhesive.
Bolivar, 1 centavo, black, 1891, surcharged for *Foreign* Postage.

Panama.—The 5 cents., blue, "map" stamp is reported surcharged A.R. COLON COLOMBIA for use as a provisional Registration Return Receipt Stamp.

It is doubtful whether this stamp is worth chronicling, but it is at least as good as a lot of the rubbish now appearing.

Registration Stamp. 5 centavos, blue ; blue surcharge.

ECUADOR.—Some more provisionals are reported by *Le Timbre-Poste*.

The 1 sucre of 1896 has been surcharged 10 cents. in black, and also in black and blue ;

the former in two lines horizontally, the latter horizontally and obliquely.

Adhesives.
10 cents. on 1 sucre; surcharged in black and also in black and blue.

NICARAGUA.—The Asenjo issue for 1900 was expected in Nicaragua before the close of last year.

The design is stated to be a view of the Island of Momotumbo, in Lake Nicaragua.

As the American Bank Note Co. are doing the work, we may expect it will be satisfactory.

UNITED STATES.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* and other journals inform us that the U.S.A. authorities have decided to issue a "Buffalo Exposition" set of stamps.

It is satisfactory to hear that the strong protest of Philatelists against the issue of the higher values in the "Omaha" set has had weight, and that the new issue will contain no higher value than the 10 cents. The set will, so it is stated, be confined to the 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., 8 c., and 10 c., and the stamps will be of the same size as the current ordinary issue. The designs have not yet been decided upon, though one will probably depict Niagara Falls. If we must have these commemorative stamps, then let the issue be as small as possible.

The same journal informs us that the unsold "Omahas" and periodical stamps have been called in from the different post offices and are to be destroyed. An exception has been made with the Washington P.O., which will be "permitted, or, rather, required to sell out its supply of 'Omahas.'"

VENEZUELA.—To the list of provisionals mentioned on page 338, vol. viii., might be added further ten or so varieties of inverted and double surcharges, etc.!

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—Messrs. Bright and Son have shown us a used pair of the 1897 surcharge on issue of 1895, 1 cent, SMALL figure of value, on 1 cent, vermilion, with *inverted surcharge*. We do not think this variety has been chronicled.

Adhesive.
1 cent on 1 cent, vermilion, type, 1895, with inverted surcharge.

FRENCH COLONIES AND POST OFFICES.—*Alexandria.—Le Timbre-Poste* announces a set of French stamps surcharged "Alexandrie" of the following values:—

Adhesives. 1 c., black; surcharge red.
2 c., brown ,, blue.
3 c., grey ,, ,,
4 c., mauve ,, ,,
5 c., green ,, red.
10 c., black ,, ,,
15 c., blue ,, ,,
20 c., red on green; surcharge black.
25 c., black on rose ,, red.
30 c., brown ,, black.
40 c., vermilion ,, ,,
50 c., carmine ,, ,,
1 f., green ,, ,,
5 f., mauve ,, ,,

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us the 1 c. value.

Dahomey.—A specimen of the 25 centimes lately issued has reached us from the same friends, and we hear also of a 5 c. envelope.

The adhesive is of the usual colonial type, with inscription, "*Dahomey et Dépendances.*"

Adhesive. 25 centimes, black and rose on rose.
Envelope. 5 centimes, green on white.

Madagascar.—Our Ipswich friends also favour us with a specimen of the new 5 francs value of the current type.

Adhesive. 5 francs, lilac and blue.

Port Said.—From the same source we have received the four lower values of a set stated to be equal in number to the issue for Alexandria above chronicled.

Smith's Monthly Circular mentions that the 25 centimes value running short, the 10 centimes was issued with "25" surcharged in red. This proving unsatisfactory, recourse was had to a surcharge in words "VINGT-CINQ" instead. It is stated that some sheets received the surcharge first in numerals and then in words.

Adhesives. 1 centime to 5 francs.
25 centimes on 10 c., black; surcharge in red (three varieties).

HAYTI.—On page 221, vol. viii., we referred to changes in colour of the 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. of 1898.

Specimens before us, received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., show us that these three values are in the design No. 8 of Messrs. Gibbons' 1899 Catalogue, and therefore are a new issue.

Adhesives. 1 cent, yellow-green, type No. 8.
2 cents, carmine ,,
5 ,, pale blue ,,

HOLLAND.—*Dutch Colonies.*—We are informed by Mr. J. B. Robert that the Dutch colonial issues with surcharge are only intended to be provisional, waiting the reception of the new plates. These were despatched from Holland at the end of November, and can hardly therefore be available for use in the distant colonies until the latter part of this month.

MACAO.—In addition to the late surcharges on adhesives chronicled in our pages, we hear of a post card—the 2 avos of the 1898 issue—surcharged 1 avo.

Post Card. 1 avo on 2 avos of 1898, rose on grey.

MOROCCO.—The German stamps of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pfennig have been surcharged in two lines "Morocco"—3, 5, 10, 25, 30, and 60 centimes, in black. Specimens from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have reached us.

SAMOA.—On the authority of a contemporary, we announced on page 309 of last year's issue the appearance of a German surcharge on these stamps. It seems that the surcharge was not an authorised one! Recent events, however, foreshadow an early issue of the latest German colony.

The following cutting from the *Australian Philatelist* may possibly interest some of our readers :—

"Mr. J. F. Hambly has shown us an envelope franked from Apia (Samoa) to Sydney by means of the current 2d., yellow, overprinted 'Provisional Govt.' in two lines in red. This doubtless is but one of a complete set, and we deeply regret having to mention its existence, although we do so more as a warning than from any desire to swell the list of new issues. As is well known, the 'Palm Tree' Samoa stamps are issued by a private individual who conducts the local post office, merely as a commercial concern. It is true that he holds a grandiloquently worded 'concession' from the now deceased 'King' Malietoa, but for many years past the political government has been in the hands of Great Britain, Germany, and America, and branches of the home post offices were maintained by each nation, the local office doing such work as did not find its way into one of the three branch offices mentioned. Not only has the proprietor of the local post office made a profitable business out of selling his stamps, neatly cancelled to order at a big discount off face value, but he has also 'rung the changes' on provisional stamps with varied overprints, including the ridiculous and unmeaning word 'surcharged,' specially marked stamps for registered letters, uncalled-for 'accidental' changes of colour, and all the objectionable schemes for creating new varieties to feed the supposed voracious appetite of the omnivorous collector, and to comfortably line his own pockets. Now he caps all his previous efforts by bringing out a stamp (or series) purporting to be the emission of a Provisional Government! Why, the joint commission which sat for a while to decide affairs in Samoa was never intended to exercise control over local postal matters, and we feel sure it had no hand whatever in this absurd and pretentious overprint. Germany has now absolute control over the major portion of the Samoan Group, and America retains the little island of Tutuila. Before long the Samoan local post will be a thing of the past, and Germany will probably issue a 'colonial' series of the imperial stamps surcharged 'Samoa,' or some Teutonic variation of the name. America will issue a few values of current United States stamps overprinted 'Samoa,' and the proprietor of the local post will sadly pack up his postage and cancelling stamps, and seek some quiet spot from whence he can distribute his wares, posthumously postmarked to order, and reflect on the departed glories of the day when every tourist sought his bungalow to buy a modest dollar's worth of his many-coloured and variously overprinted labels, and the 'Provisional Government' issue will probably figure as sad mementoes of the last of Britain's influence in the islands!"

SIAM.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co, send us a specimen of the newly issued 4 atts, carmine-rose.

The design is similar to the last, but with head in profile to *left*.

The set is stated to contain nine values, as follows :—

Adhesives. 1 att, olive.
2 atts, green.
3 ,, red and blue.
4 ,, rose-carmine.
8 ,, green and yellow.
10 ,, indigo.
12 ,, lilac and carmine.
24 ,, lilac and blue.
64 ,, lilac and brown.

SURINAM.—Upon the information given by an American contemporary, we announced last month that the newly surcharged stamps of the Netherlands for Surinam were *without* additional value. This would appear to be incorrect.

TRANSVAAL.—*Ewen's Weekly* tells us to look out for some new provisionals, and that the ½d. and 1d. stamps were not obtainable at Pretoria.

The 1d. on 2½d., violet, of 1895 has been seen on letters *viâ* Lorenzo Marques, but whether drawn from old stock, or reprinting has taken place, remains to be seen.

Copies of the current Cape of Good Hope stamps have been seen surcharged "S.A.R.," for use, or used, in the "annexed portions" of our possessions in South Africa.

Collectors will, we think, be fortunate if they can succeed in procuring bonâ fide *used* specimens.

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.
Hon. 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 fourth meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 1st December, 1899, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present :—Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, Herbert R. Oldfield, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frentzel, L. L. R. Hausburg, William Silk, jun., A. R. Barrett, Gordon Smith, Thos. William Hall, A. B. Creeke, jun., W. Schwabacher, Edward J. Nankivell, T. Wickham Jones, B. D. Knox, J. A. Tilleard.

A letter was read from Mr. W. Matthews resigning his membership of the Society as at the end of the present year, and such resignation was accepted with regret.

A letter was read from Mr. Krauth in reference to the Philatelic Library established in connection with the Carnegie Institute, and inquiring whether the Society would be willing to present any works to such library.

It was resolved that a copy of the Society's work on India and Ceylon should be sent, and that if copies of the *London Philatelist* had not previously been sent to the American Philatelic Association, copies should be sent for the Carnegie Library.

A letter was read from Mr. C. J. Phillips, in which he forwarded for the inspection of members two copies of the 4 annas first issue Indian stamps with the frame inverted, and on a portion of the original envelope. The Hon. Secretary also submitted for the inspection of members an entire sheet of the 4 annas first issue Indian stamp, with the blue dividing lines, unused. Both these remarkably fine exhibits were inspected by the members with considerable interest.

The Vice-President then referred to the suggestion that stamp collectors should be invited to contribute stamps, which should be sold by auction, and the proceeds given to one of the war relief funds, and after reading various letters in support received from some of the leading dealers, he intimated that a well-known firm of London auctioneers had expressed their willingness to conduct the auction sale free of expense, so that the gross amounts realised might be added to the fund. He then moved, and Mr. Bacon seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously :—"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 or more of the war funds, and that a committee be elected to make all requisite 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."

The following members were elected to serve on this committee :—Messrs. W. B. Avery, M. P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, Gordon Smith, T. W. Hall, L. L. R. Hausburg, E. J. Nankivell, H. R. Oldfield, and J. A. Tilleard.

The Vice-President then read a paper on "The Collectors' Catalogue Question," in which he fully set out the arguments against the issue of an exhaustive unpriced catalogue, which work he considered impracticable; and he also set out with great detail the arguments for and against the preparation and issue of a priced collectors' catalogue, without expressing, however, his personal opinion on the matter, except that it was undesirable that any priced catalogue should be issued under the auspices of this Society.

An interesting discussion then took place, in the course of which Mr. E. J. Nankivell considered the issue of a priced catalogue would be undignified so far as the Society was concerned, but he strongly approved of the preparation of an unpriced catalogue. Mr. T. W. Hall considered the issue of a catalogue, either priced or unpriced, undesirable. Mr. Gordon Smith agreed that a priced catalogue was impossible, and suggested the commencement by the Society of a manuscript catalogue which could be retained by the Society, and which could constantly be added to. Mr. Oldfield favoured the preparation of a priced catalogue by collectors, and Mr. Tilleard considered that it would be impossible for this Society to issue any catalogue except in the shape of works on particular countries, which could only appear at long intervals.

Owing to the late hour the business of the meeting was then concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

The fifth meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 15th December, 1899, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present :—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, Gordon Smith, Herbert R. Oldfield, Robert Ehrenbach, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frentzel, L. L. R. Hausburg, T. Maycock, William Silk, jun., W. Schwabacher, C. McNaughtan, J. A. Tilleard, A. B. Creeke, B. D. Knox.

In the absence of the Vice-President, Mr. E. D. Bacon took the chair.

The minutes of the meeting of the 1st December, 1899, were read, and after some slight modifications had been made the same were signed as correct.

A letter was read from the Vice-President regretting his absence in consequence of indisposition.

A report was received from the Hon. Secretaries of the War Relief Fund Committee, and the same was noted.

At the suggestion of the Hon. Secretaries, it was resolved that six copies of one of the Society's publications should be presented for sale at the forthcoming auction in aid of the War Relief Fund, the question of further donations being reserved for consideration later on.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gordon Smith, it was resolved that the next meeting of the Society should be held on Friday, the 5th January, and that the meetings should be fortnightly as from that date.

Mr. Gordon Smith then read a paper and notes on "The Provisional Halfpenny Surcharged Stamps of Natal," illustrated by numerous blocks of the stamps in question.

Among other interesting results of Mr. Gordon Smith's investigation he was able to prove that the penny Natal stamps, watermarked Crown and CC (upon which ½d. had been surcharged), were printed in four panes, each of such panes probably consisting of sixty stamps.

Mr. Ehrenbach proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gordon Smith, and pointed out that these notes showed how many interesting facts in connection with a comparatively recent issue were unknown to collectors generally, and that the Society were indebted to Mr. Gordon Smith for the careful researches he had made.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Bacon and carried unanimously.

Mr. Adolph Passer's collection of Austrian not having been sent to the Society's rooms, the proceedings then terminated.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

A MEETING of this Society was held on Thursday evening, 21st December, 1899. In the absence of the President, Mr. N. G. Heaven was requested to preside.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, and a new member proposed, it was announced by Mr. Cartwright that he had received from the Bristol postmaster (Mr. R. C. Tombs) a copy of the *Bristol Royal Mail*, of which he is the author, as a donation to the Society's library, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Tombs for the same was passed unanimously. A letter was then read from the Philatelic Society of London advocating the formation of a "Philatelists' War Relief Fund," and the sale by auction in London of "duplicates" sent up by way of contribution to the object. After a very full discussion by the members present, added to the opinions previously expressed by several of the absent members, it was for various reasons, philatelic and local, unanimously decided that this Society declines to associate itself in any way with the scheme proposed, inasmuch as it considers, first, that the principle is unsound—philatelically—and also that our local funds require and should have all our attention.

The annual general meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4th, 1900.

THE annual general meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, January 4th, 1900. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the President, Mr. P. J. Lloyd, vacated the chair, but was, at the request of all the members present, forthwith asked to resume the position which he had so well filled from the birth of the Society. The election of officers was then proceeded with. Mr. F. E. Ellison was re-elected as Vice-President. Mr. Way having expressed his desire to be released from the work of Exchange Packet Secretary, Mr. D. H. McPherson kindly consented to act for the present, Mr. Dalton having offered to assist him. Mr. Bird also declined re-election in consequence of his frequent absence from Bristol. The following members were then unanimously elected as the Society's officers for this year, viz.:—Committee: Messrs. N. Glyde Heaven, J. H. Reynalds, J. W. Stooke, and J. P. Way. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. R. Dalton, 30, Carnarvon Road, Redland. Hon. Librarian: Mr. T. C. Cartwright, 17, York Crescent Road, Clifton. Exchange Packet Secretary (*pro tem.*): Mr. D. H. McPherson, 36, Woodstock Road, Redland.

It was decided, *nem. con.*, that the Society's meetings be held as heretofore at 42, Cotham Hill (near the White Ladies Road Railway Station); also that *Stamps*, published by Mr. F. L. Heygate, of Rushden, R.S.O., should be the official organ of the Society for the year. One or two minor alterations in the rules were passed after discussion, copies of which will be sent to the members.

The possibility and expediency of insuring the packets against loss or fraud during transit was mooted, and Mr. Kellar was requested to make some inquiries on the matter.

The programme for the season was then arranged, viz.: For January 18th, "Canada"; February 1st, "Cape and Natal"; February 15th, open night; March 1st, "Victoria," with paper by Mr. Dalton; March 15th, "Forgeries"; April 5th, "United States," paper by the President; April 19th, "Leeward Isles"; May 3rd, "Great Britain"; May 17th, "Chili."

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer stated that as some of the packets were still on round, he must postpone his report until a future meeting, when he hoped to be able to show a small balance in hand.

A few members had resigned during the year, but more than an equal number of new ones had been added.

A vote of thanks was passed to the editor of the *Clifton Chronicle* for his fortnightly notices of the Society's meetings; also to the *London Philatelist*, the *Philatelic Chronicle*, the *Stamp Collector*, and other journals, for their reports of the Society's meetings from time to time.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A GENERAL MEETING was held at Anderton's Hotel on Tuesday, January 2nd, 1900, at 7 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. C. R. Sutherland (in the chair), W. A. Bois, E. Bounds, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Ehrenbach, R. Frentzel, G. Haynes, W. Z. Kuttner, E. A. Mardon, R. Meyer, J. O. Sell, W. Simpson, and H. A. Slade.

William Morley and D. Citroen were elected ordinary members on the recommendation of the Committee.

The question of the "Philatelic War Relief Fund" was discussed, and it was agreed that any member proposing to contribute stamps, etc., to the fund should do so through the Secretary of the Society.

Business being concluded, Mr. Robert Ehrenbach gave a display of his well-nigh complete collection of the stamps of Natal, accompanied by lucid and interesting remarks on the relative rarity, etc., of the different issues. At the conclusion of the display Mr. Haynes congratulated the Society on the help it was receiving from members of the premier Society, and passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Ehrenbach for the splendid entertainment he had provided. The meeting terminated at 9.15 p.m.

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

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.
January 3rd, 1900.

Cardiff Philatelic Society.

President—Mr. WALTER SCOTT.

THE general monthly meeting was held at No. 3, Park Place, on the 9th January, at 7.30 p.m., the President in the chair.

Mr. Petty was to have given a paper on the Stamps of Uruguay, but he was unable to be present. His place was taken by Mr. E. W. Shackell, who gave a paper on "Exchange Clubs," in which he gave his ideas as to how an Exchange Club should be conducted. He strongly deprecated the present system of pricing stamps at 50 per cent. discount, and urged that an alteration to net prices would tend to more exchanges taking place.

The President displayed his collection of Sydney Views, and explained the various differences in the plates, and a pleasant time was spent inspecting them.

W. A. JUTSUM, *Hon. Sec.*
371, COWBRIDGE ROAD.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

JULY sheets have been returned to their respective owners, and accounts duly submitted and settled. Sales amounted to upwards of £200, a very satisfactory average. August packets are coming back from their rounds, and will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Three packets, containing 147 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1,747 13*s.* 10*d.*, were despatched on the December circuit in good time. These packets contained very fine selections of stamps, priced very reasonably, and members should have no difficulty in picking out many bargains. Australians were especially strong, and African Protectorates were well represented. Non-subscribing members who wish to see packets should not fail to notify the Secretary at regular intervals. Six applications for membership were received during the past month, of which four were accepted. Good references should accompany every application. A special appeal to every member to subscribe liberally to the Philatelists' War Relief Fund has been made directly, and is renewed in this notice. Secretary, H. A. Slade, 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. 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.

"PENNY REDS."

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

SIR,—The difficulties attending the subject of colour names could not be better illustrated than by the Philatelic Notes of your last issue, as most people think they are fairly safe with reds, and decidedly so with pink. From my observations among common persons who are not experts in colours or stamps, pink is always a bright pale rose, thought to be so becoming for certain ladies' wear; salmon-pink being a pale scarlet, and cerise, or cherry-pink, a pale carmine or crimson. "Pale pink," therefore, should be something like a "blush-rose" tint, or the delicate colour of a young maid's cheek. Whether anybody has seen a "penny red" of this tint it is impossible for me to say, but certainly I have not, nor even the "orange" and "red-brown" that other English specialists use in describing shades of these stamps.

If the central idea of each main colour is well fixed in the mind, many of these unusual descriptions will disappear. An average orange is a warm but deep golden yellow, which in deeper tones approaches to vermilion. The normal brown is, roughly, that of common parcel paper. I cannot say what inks the stamp printers had, but as the resultant colour was intended to be a plain red, it is unlikely that they would mix either yellow or brown with their stock red ink for this purpose, though it might be reduced in tone at times. Both steel and copper plates will chemically affect many inks, but not sufficiently to turn a bright red—which I take it was the normal hue, between scarlet and crimson—into orange or brown. The action of impure air has the effect of tarnishing or making such reds dull

or brown*ish*; but in describing stamp colour dates the actual colour at time of issue seems most correct. Now the idea conveyed to many by "pale pink with a tinge of brown" would be a warm or pinky *buff;* "more pink but less brown" would be a faded or pale dull red, and might even carry one on to a pale chestnut; and "orange-brown" is usually synonymous with the "tan" colour so fashionable for shoe leather, without a particle of pure red.

The only name here given that seems to fit the old penny stamps is a pale chestnut—besides the usual dull vermilion or light red, dull scarlet, bright red (almost carmine), rosy red (light and dark), with occasionally a very deep hue near crimson. There may have been some prints so light or pale as to be near to "salmon," but of thousands that have passed through my hands nothing with a yellow or orange tinge has appeared. The nearest approach to a brown shade is the "Venetian red" of following issue, some printings of which resemble chestnut or pale red-brown. It is always difficult to say where brown-red ends and red-brown begins, when such colours are mixed, but you may reduce orange, pure red, and brown colours to light tints, and each tint will be distinctly different; that is, the red will not have become orange, nor the brown either red or orange. A dull or dirty red stamp may look brown*ish*, or even greyish, as if dipped in inky water, but need not, therefore, be called red-brown or red-black.

Your obedient servant,

B. W. W.

CHELSEA, 5*th January*, 1900.

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 auction sales this month have been of considerable variety, that of Messrs. Puttick and Simpson on the 16th and 17th containing an enormous quantity of the more ordinary stamps, being Messrs. H. Hilckes and Co.'s stock, sold by order of the Official Receiver, and commanding a ready sale. On the 30th and 31st the fine collection of unused stamps of M. A. Le Conte, of Paris, is to be sold. Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper on the 18th and 19th held an important sale, nearly all the lots being composed of rare and valuable stamps; no less than fifty-five were illustrated.

* * *

THE question of condition seems to gain greater force each year, so that nowadays a catalogue quotation really represents frequently nothing more than "a pious opinion" as to the real value. As an example hereof we have recently examined a selection of the first issue of the stamps of a certain country, the two leading varieties of which have a catalogue price of 70s. and 90s. respectively, in unused condition, used values being very small. The prices quoted were:—

		s.	*d.*
A.	"Cleaned" . . .	2	0
,,	Rather small margins with slight ink or dirt stain .	15	0
,,	Cut close, but unused, with traces of gum . .	20	0
,,	Pair mint	175	0
B.	Unused, good margins, but not fresh impression .	55	0
,,	Mint; very minute defect	70	0
,,	Good margins, part gum .	85	0
,,	Pair mint	300	0

No comment is needed! The vendor is an old philatelic hand!

MR. PAUL KOHL has forwarded a list of some of the greater rarities in the big collection of Baron von Transehe-Roseneck, which he is now selling. The baron, who it is grievous to learn has been compelled by almost total failure of eyesight to abandon Philately, was a resident in a remote district in Russia, and by general repute was possessed of fabulous wealth. It is clear that, as a comparatively modern collector, he could only have acquired so many of the great rarities by lavish outlay of money, all of which may not come back, as in another recent case. In Philately one wants to build slowly!

The following is a list of some of the principal stamps in this grand general collection:—

Roumania.—1st issue, unused and used, the latter loose and on entires.

British Guiana.—1st issue, 2 cents, rose, pair on letter; 4, 8, and 12 cents in fine condition; 1856, 4 c., dark blue, sugar paper, etc.; 1862, all types.

Cape of Good Hope.—A grand lot of the triangular issue, including the red and blue errors.

Russia and Finland.—All errors, etc.; Finland envelope in *red.*

Mauritius.—Very strong in early issues, partly plated.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.—Shillings, unused.

United States of America.—1869: 12, 15, and 30 cents, with inverted centres.

Canada.—12d., black, used and unused.

Newfoundland.—All vermilion, used and unused.

Dominica.—One Penny on Sixpence, green.

St. Vincent.—All used and unused.

Barbados.—Pair 1d. on half 5s., unused.

Turks Islands.—1s., plum.

Hawaii.—2 c., 5 c., both 13 c., and a 13 c. used on letter.

Most if not all the European rarities—such as Tuscany, 3 lire; Naples, arms and cross; Swiss Cantonals; Austrian Mercuries, red, yellow, and rose; Great Britain, etc.—exist both used and unused. In short, this collection is practically complete, in both used and unused, in all the great rarities; and beyond that, in several countries, such as Roumania, it is fully specialised.

* * *

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, December 12th and 13th. This catalogue was of the useful order, mostly comprising big lots—collections, etc. We notice in conning over the priced catalogue: Great Britain, 2d., blue, without lines, a pair, unused, one stamp creased, £6 15s.; India, 1st issue, ½ a., red, 9½ arches, unused, no gum, £3 12s. 6d.; Straits Settlements, 6 cents, yellow, a pair, mint, £2 4s.; Natal, wmk. Star, 3d., blue, imperf., unused, no gum, £3 17s. 6d; Zanzibar, 1896, Indian stamp surcharged 1 anna, plum, with *blue* surcharge, £2; Barbados, 1d. on half 5s., £3 5s.; a collection in Lallier, 1,452 stamps, £30 10s.; collections, 3,000, £20; 4,154, £15; 5,579, £45; 2,978, £21; and 2,433, £23.

* * *

Mr. W. Hadlow's sale of January 8th. Few lots of single stamps are to be found in this sale also. We may, however, mention: Hawaii, "Inter-Island," 2 c., black on white wove, with red postmark, £1 3s.; Labuan, 6 c., *twice surcharged* in red on 16 c., penmarked, £5 5s.; St. Vincent, wmk. Star, 4d., dark blue, unused, with gum, £2 10s.; Turks Islands, 4d. on 1s., prune, Gibbons' No. 16, unused, £2 8s.

* * *

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale of January 9th and 10th (including the second portion of Mr. Tamsen's collection). St. Vincent, 1s., rose-red, perf. 11 × 12½, unused, full gum, £5 10s.; 1s., vermilion, unused, with gum, £5; pair 1d. on half 6d., unused, mint, £16 10s.; 4d. on 1s., vermilion, unused, with gum, £16; 4d., ultramarine, full gum, 46s.; 6d., bright green, perf. 12, a superb unused block of 6, mint, £5 12s. 6d.; 4d., *red-brown*, unused, full gum, £4 10s. Queensland, 2d., blue, imperf., used, £7 10s. Western Australia, 1s., yellow-green, rough perf., unused, £5. British Central Africa, 1d. on 2d. (1895), twice surcharged, unused, with gum, £4. Cape of Good Hope, 4d., blue, *re-touched corner*, £4 10s.; 4d., dark blue, used, £4; the errors "THE . EE" and "PENCE," £3 12s. 6d. Mauritius, "Post Paid," 1d., vermilion on yellowish paper, and 2d., blue on bluish, early state of plate, used, £25; 1d., vermilion on blue paper, vertical pair, earliest state of plate, used, £20; single specimens, £4 15s. and £4 4s.; 2d., blue, "PENOE," early state of plate, used, £12 10s. St. Helena, perf. 14 × 12½, 4d., carmine, unused blocks of 6, full gum, £3 17s. 6d. and £3 3s. Zululand, 5s., carmine, used, 48s. "V.R. TransVAAL," 3d., lilac, imperf., block of 6, unused, full gum, £5 15s.; pair, £2; 6d., blue, with inverted surcharge, £3 3s.; sheet of 60 of the error on 6d., Queen's Head, "Halve Penny" instead of "TWEE Pence," unused, £15.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. FEBRUARY, 1900. No. 98.

The Dispersal of Collections.

THOSE of our readers who have read the items under the head of "The Market" in the last few numbers of this journal cannot fail to be impressed with the number of important collections that have latterly changed hands. It is not always thus, fortunately, but during the past few months there has been an exceptional number of changes of ownership. In at least two of these cases physical infirmity is the *causa causans*, and in another instance unexpected financial liabilities. As regards one collection neither of these reasons can be assigned, and we fail to understand the owner's willingness to part from the stamps that he has always—up to the latest date—been so attached to. It is inevitable that changes will ensue in stamp-ownerships as in aught else human, and our immediate interest is, selfishly perhaps, more keenly evoked by the question as to what will become of the stamps, or how their dispersal will affect our own treasures. The answer to both these questionings can hardly be separated, and happily is of a nature that will not cause any heartrending to the most timorous collector. Experience, both past and recent, has shown that where a fine collection is placed on sale, the very fact itself whets the appetite of other collectors, and, in a strictly parliamentary and philatelic sense, the vultures never leave the carcass until the bones are picked bare! Unless in the case of some very difficult or little-favoured specialised country the unvarying experience has been that a really good collection is always depleted of its best things within a few months, and practically becomes only a *remanet* to be "absorbed into stock" within a year or perhaps two of its first breaking up. It would seem that there are always recruits ready to fill up the vacant

spaces in our ranks, no more apposite instance of which could be found than in the case of the collecting of our own country's stamps. Without mentioning names, it will be conceded that within the past half-dozen years the leading or prominent collectors of British stamps have nearly all been changed; the owners of the old household names one after another placed their collections on the market, and the wiseheads prophesied, saying, "Now we shall see English come down," etc., etc. The very appearance of these fine British collections seemed, however, to create an entirely fresh and keen band of enthusiasts, who rapidly swallowed all the delicacies, and, like Oliver Twist, are now asking for more. The advertisements in the philatelic journals, the inspection of dealers' stock books, of auction lots, or of Exchange Societies' sheets, alike denote the steady demand there is for sound and fine English stamps. The reason of this is not far to seek, *i.e.* a comparatively limited supply. In the case of a large proportion of sound stamps the like condition also applies, so we need not to worry our philatelic souls at the fact that our neighbour is "selling off." Rather may we rest securely content with this prescience, that if our stamps are as good as our neighbour's, when their time comes they will just as readily find new and willing ownership.

The First Two Cents, British Guiana.

By E. D. BACON.

IT will be remembered that M. J. B. Moens published last summer a very interesting article in *Le Timbre-Poste* on the "Post Office" Mauritius stamps. In this article the writer gave an account of the discovery of each of the known specimens, tracing out through whose hands they had passed, and ending up by indicating the present owners of the then nineteen (now twenty) stamps.

It is obvious that a paper of this kind can only be written about a few of the greatest rarities, and even then it is most difficult to obtain authentic particulars. People's memories are so short-lived that, unless the writer knows personally most of the incidents connected with the subject, he is almost certain to be led astray by false information, which may nevertheless be furnished to him in perfectly good faith. One of the few rare stamps of whose history I know sufficient to write an article similar to that of M. J. B. Moens is the 2 c., rose, British Guiana, issued on March 1st, 1851. The early issues of this South American colony have always had a certain fascination for me, and the investigation of their issue and production has been a particularly favourite pursuit of mine. I therefore set to work some months ago to put together and to collect the necessary materials for an article on the known copies of this 2 c., rose, stamp. In making these researches I have met with every kindness and assistance from the collectors

and dealers to whom I have applied, and in this connection I tender my grateful thanks to Mr. M. Giwelb, Mr. Thomas Ridpath, Messrs. Alfred Smith and Son, Mr. A. H. Wilson, of the late firm of Pemberton, Wilson, and Co., and others, for the help they have afforded me.

The 2 c. British Guiana may be said to have been the last of the great rarities to be discovered by collectors, if we leave on one side the famous 1 c. 1856 issue of the same colony. The existence of both values of the "Post Office" Mauritius became known in Europe in 1865, that of the first 2 c. Hawaiian Islands in 1873, while it was not until the end of 1877 that the first specimen of the 2 c. British Guiana arrived from the colony.

1. This specimen was bought by Mr. Thomas Ridpath from a Mr. Kirton, and was at once sold by him to a well-known Parisian collector. When Mr. Ridpath acquired stamp No. 4, in the following year, it was found that the latter was a somewhat better specimen; he thereupon exchanged stamps with the Parisian collector, and No. 1 afterwards passed through a number of hands as follows:—Mr. Ridpath resold the stamp early in 1879 to Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co., who found a customer for it in Captain J. D. Cameron, J.P., at the price of £25. Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co. afterwards bought Captain Cameron's entire collection in 1883, and thereupon sold the specimen of the 2 c. to Mr. J. Botteley for £30. On Mr. M. Giwelb acquiring Mr. Botteley's collection, in February, 1887, for £1,700, he sold the stamp to the late Mr. Douglas Garth for £75. In the spring of 1893 the stamp passed into the hands of Mr. W. W. Blest, in exchange for rare European stamps, and he sold it with other British Guiana and certain British Colonial stamps, in January, 1895, to Mr. W. B. Avery, in whose album it still rests. The specimen in question, like Nos. 2, 3, and 4, is cut round, and all four stamps correspond in type and bear the same initials, "J. B. S.," being those of Mr. James Belton Smith, who was a clerk in the Imperial Department of the Post Office at Georgetown. There is a tradition that all these four stamps came off the same letter-sheet, and as, I believe, they are all postmarked in October, 1851, although the date is indistinct on some of the specimens and the day of the month is illegible, it looks as if there was more truth in the story than there usually is in old tales of this kind. Like all the other known specimens, No. 1 is postmarked, and an unused copy of this 2 c. stamp is yet to be found.

2. Early in the year 1878 Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co. received a specimen from Mr. Neil R. McKinnon, at that time a collector in British Guiana, and this they sold in March of the same year to Judge F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., for £20. In 1882 Judge Philbrick sold his famous collection to a well-known Parisian collector, and about 1884 the purchaser sold the specimen of the 2 c. to the MM. Caillebotte. These gentlemen sold their collection to Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co. in 1887, and Mr. F. de Coppet purchased the stamp from them the following year for £70. It was again sold in the auction sale of Mr. de Coppet's collection, held in New York in April, 1893, when it fetched $1,010·00 (£210), the purchaser being Mr. F. W. Hunter, a large American collector. The stamp has recently again changed hands, having been sold in the auction sale of Mr. Hunter's collection, in New York in January, 1900, to Mr. W. H. Peckitt.

3. Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co. received a second specimen from Mr. McKinnon later on in 1878, and this they sold to Mr. W. E. Image in July of that year for £20. The late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., purchased Mr. Image's collection in 1882, and on Mr. Tapling's death, in 1891, the specimen passed, with his entire collection, to the British Museum.

4. In the autumn of 1878 Mr. McKinnon sent over his collection of stamps to Mr. Wylie Hill, of Glasgow, for disposal, and the collection was first of all offered to the late Mr. E. L. Pemberton, but the negotiations for its purchase fell through. It was then offered to Mr. Ridpath and other dealers by the same post. Mr. Ridpath writes to me: "I received my letter at 4.45 p.m., and at 8 p.m. I was on the way to Glasgow. I saw Mr. Hill by 9 a.m. next morning, concluded the business, and was back in Liverpool all within twenty-four hours. Date, October 2nd, 1878." A decidedly smart stroke of work, fortunately not without its reward. Mr. Ridpath gave £120 for the collection, and besides numerous other British Guiana stamps, it contained the only known copy of the 1 cent, black on magenta, large oblong stamp of 1856, and a specimen of the first 2 c. The former he sold to the well-known Parisian collector, and the latter he exchanged for the specimen he had previously sold him. (*Vide* the remarks made under No. 1.)

5 and 6 (pair). For many years the above four specimens were all that had been discovered of the stamp, and it was not until 1889 that Mr. E. C. Luard, a collector in the colony, found an unsevered pair attached to a letter-sheet postmarked "Demerara Oc. 24 1851." This gentleman sent over his collection of British Guiana stamps to the London Philatelic Exhibition held in May, 1890, when he was awarded a silver medal. Later on in the same year the collection was purchased by Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co., who sold the pair of 2 c. to the well-known Parisian collector for about £175. The upper stamp is unfortunately badly damaged, and both correspond in type with Nos. 1 to 4, and bear the same initials—"J. B. S."

7 and 8 (pair). In the spring of 1896 a lady in the colony was fortunate enough to discover another pair of 2 c., and being of a pious turn of mind, she gave them to the parson of Christ Church, Georgetown, as an Easter offering. The stamps were afterwards sold by auction in the colony, and were bought by Mr. E. C. Luard for $1,005 (£205). Mr. Luard resold them in the autumn of the same year to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., for £600. They were then acquired by Mr. H. J. Duveen, and they still form one of the principal gems of that gentleman's fine collection. The pair of stamps is on a letter-sheet, which is postmarked "Demerara Au. 5. 1851." Both stamps are of the same type, but of a type different from Nos. 1 to 6 and 9 and 10, and each is initialled "E. T. E. D." by Mr. E. T. E. Dalton, the then Deputy Postmaster-General. The pair is cut round at the top and bottom, but the stamps are perfect, and are but lightly postmarked.

9 and 10 (pair). In the summer of 1897 Mr. E. C. Luard obtained a third pair of the 2 c. in the colony, which he again sold to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., this time for £650. This firm sold the stamps to Mr. Carl Willadt, of Pforzheim, who sold them to Mr. P. Kosack, of Berlin. They were then acquired by Baron Otto von Transehe-Roseneck, a large Russian collector. This gentleman has unfortunately been obliged to abandon

Philately on account of failing eyesight, and has recently sold his entire collection to Mr. Paul Kohl, of Chemnitz. The famous pair of 2 c. has once more been purchased by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and is again in the market. The stamps are on a letter-sheet, postmarked "Demerara No. 25. 1851," correspond in type with Nos. 1 to 6, and are initialled "E. D. W." by Mr. E. D. Wight, a clerk in the Colonial Department of the Post Office at Georgetown. The margins of this pair are larger than those of either of the other two pairs, and both stamps are lightly postmarked.

My story is now completed, as the above ten specimens are all that are known of the stamp. Of these, it will be seen from the particulars I have given that of Type I. of the 2 c. there are eight copies, and only two, numbers 7 and 8, of Type II. It will also be noticed that six of the specimens are initialled "J. B. S.," two "E. T. E. D.," and two "E. D. W." It now only remains to add a table of the various owners, etc. :—

SUMMARY.

I.

Owner.	Year.	Price.
Mr. Kirton	1877 ...	
Mr. T. Ridpath	End of 1877 ...	
Parisian Collector	„ „ ...	
Mr. T. Ridpath	Oct., 1878 ...	
Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co.	Early in 1879 ...	
Captain J. D. Cameron, J.P.	1879 ...	£25
Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co.	1883 ...	
Mr. J. Botteley	„ ...	£30
Mr. M. Giwelb	Feb., 1887 ...	
Mr. Douglas Garth	1887 ...	£75
Mr. W. W. Blest	1893 ...	
Mr. W. B. Avery	Jan., 1895 ...	

II.

Mr. Neil R. McKinnon	1877 ...	
Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co.	March, 1878 ...	
Judge F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.	„ „ ...	£20
Parisian Collector	1882 ...	
MM. Caillebotte	About 1884 ...	
Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co.	1887 ..	
Mr. F. de Coppet	1888 ...	£70
Mr. F. W. Hunter	April, 1893 ...	£210
Mr. W. H. Peckitt	Jan., 1900 ...	

III.

Mr. Neil R. McKinnon	1877 ...	
Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co.	July, 1878 ...	
Mr. W. E. Image	„ „ ...	£20
Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P.	1882 ...	
British Museum	1891 ...	

IV.

Owner.	Year.		Price.
Mr. Neil R. McKinnon . . .	1877	...	
Mr. T. Ridpath	Oct., 1878	...	
Parisian Collector	„ „	...	

V. and VI. (PAIR).

Mr. E. C. Luard	1889	...	
Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co. . .	1890	...	
Parisian Collector	„	...	about £175

VII. and VIII. (PAIR).

Lady in British Guiana . . .	1896	...	
Mr. E. C. Luard	„	...	£205
Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. . .	„	...	£600
Mr. H. J. Duveen	„	...	

IX. and X. (PAIR).

Mr. E. C. Luard	1897	...	
Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. . .	„	...	£650
Mr. Carl Willadt	„	...	
Mr. P. Kosack	„	...	
Baron Otto von Transehe-Roseneck . .	„	...	
Mr. Paul Kohl	Dec., 1899	...	
Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. . .	Feb., 1900	...	

The Remainders of Unused Colonial Stamps.

A VAST amount of unfounded speculation and interested rumour has long been privately circulated anent the apparition of certain limited quantities of unused English Colonial stamps. Conscious that this gossip was practically dependent for its sustenance on self-interest and sordid motives, we did not perforce consider it such a subject as should merit discussion in this journal, except in the columns devoted to "The Market." Within the past few months, however, the question appeared in print in the columns of a philatelic gutter journal, that expired after three or four issues. In this ephemeral product of some small "outside dealer" or clerk, an attempt was made to sensationalise the question, and, in impudent terms, the London Philatelic Society, for some occult reason, was associated with the question of these unused remainders. It is impossible to whip every cur that snaps at one's horse's heels, and we assuredly took no note of such mongrel yelps as the above "journalistic" efforts.

Another phase of the situation, however, has now supervened. Scarcely is the breath out of the body of the gutter journal in question when one of the most respected of our contemporaries, the *Monthly Journal*, takes up the question with all the impressive additions of sensational type that are the

hateful appanages of modern journalism. With all respect to our contemporary, which, under Major Evans' guidance, is at once excellent and philatelic, we consider that the discussion of such a pecuniary question is best fitted to a dealer's journal, and this is a view that we have long urged upon Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and other leading firms. Nor do we consider that it is the place of this journal or the London Philatelic Society, which it represents—to use a homely, but very suitable phrase—to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the stamp trade. Our main reason, however, for now drawing our readers' attention to this unused remainder question is that our esteemed contemporary, as will be seen by quotations later on, has sought to impugn the apparent want of initiative in the matter on the part of the Philatelic Society of London.

In order to make our meaning more plain we must very briefly recapitulate the facts of the case, for the benefit of such readers as are removed from centres of philatelic action. Mr. C. J. Phillips, who is the author of the interesting article in the *Monthly Journal,* gives an exhaustive account of the various batches of unused Colonial and British stamps that have been unearthed during the past few years. The first of these was the remainder of the Perkins Bacon stamps, mainly West Indians, which, in varying and considerable quantities, have been on the market since 1887. In this case more good than harm has accrued *to the collector.* Many of the earliest issues of Trinidad and Barbados, etc., were, in olden days, practically unknown, and the dispersal of these stamps has enabled a large body of collectors to acquire fine stamps at a relatively low figure. It is well known that, on the first appearance of this batch, determined efforts were unsuccessfully made by certain prominent dealers to buy up the whole lot—for the benefit of collectors, we presume!

The second remainder is of relatively small importance, consisting of about fifteen varieties of stamps, mostly British West Indians, which were discovered by a retired Civil Service official. In this case again—we are imputing no discredit, but merely recording a natural financial impulse—the trade tried, and once more unsuccessfully, to acquire the lot (? in the interests of collectors). The larger portion of these lots, in no case over 200 specimens of any value, has been already assimilated by collectors, and without any injury to Philately.

The third and undoubtedly most disturbing find has been the appearance on the market of many of the De la Rue printed stamps, inclusive of a number of stamps hitherto accounted very rare in unused condition. The exact origin of these stamps has yet to be determined; it is, however, clear that their appearance is due to a laxness and irregularity that are reprehensible to a degree. Mr. Phillips says—and we are quite with him hereon:—

"Now it seems to me there are only two places from whence any of these stamps can leak out at the present day. The one is from the printer's waste or superfluous sheets which may have been handed back by De la Rue and Co. to the Government official appointed for that purpose, and the other is from the Stores Department of the Crown Agents' Office; and from both these sources the stamps could only be obtained, so far as I can see, by illegal means. I think we should all unite together and try to impress upon the proper authorities the need for much greater care in the custody

of their remainders of postage stamps, many of which, by the way, are still available for postal purposes; and if, as I have no doubt has been the case, sheets of such stamps as are still available have been obtained, it is quite possible that they may be used to prepay postage, and thus defraud the revenue."

The principal stamps in this find are again largely composed of West Indians, but others of importance are also present, *i.e.* De la Rue prints of the Perkins-Bacon dies of the Cape and Ceylon; the 2½d. imperf. and the 10 c. and $1 of British Columbia; the Sierra Leone 4d., watermark CA; and several of the first issue of the Straits, inclusive of the double surcharge on the 12 c., green. This latter, the 2½d., imperf., British Columbia, the Natal 3d., Star watermark, imperforate, and the 1d. triangular Cape with CC and Crown watermark, must now be relegated to the position of the 8d., brown, English—*i.e.* stamps prepared for issue, but not put into circulation.

After a recapitulation of the general features of the situation as regards this De la Rue "remainder," Mr. Phillips urges that

"this part of the case is one that it has always struck me should be taken up by the Philatelic Society of London. The Society is doing a good deal for Philately by means of its publications, but it might go much further, and try to protect *collectors* against floods of remainders emanating from Government offices."

The London Philatelic Society was founded in the interests of collectors, and both publicly and privately has always endeavoured to make this principle the pivot of its action. It does not at all follow that in this present instance it has not already taken such action as the legitimate interests of collectors demanded, and we believe that such is the case. There are various methods in philatelic as in military strategy, all of which are not necessarily—like Mr. Phillips'—frontal attacks.

Let us now consider in what way "the collectors" require protection in the present instance, and who has endeavoured to afford this. These De la Rue stamps have been gradually placed on the market during the past three years, a large proportion apparently emanating from one quarter. Apropos of this we may here indignantly disclaim that any prominent member (or any other, as far as our knowledge goes) of the London Philatelic Society is, or has been, in any way associated with the sale of these stamps. Many unfounded and malicious rumours to this effect have been spread about, and we are glad therefore to see that Mr. Phillips loyally bears out our assertion hereon in the paragraph following:—

"In all cases of this kind, where the origin is shrouded in mystery, a heavy crop of surmises and speculations naturally springs up as to the channels through which such stamps come on the market. In these circumstances it is inevitable that most of the rumours should ultimately prove to be baseless, with the result that persons absolutely innocent of all knowledge of the transactions have had their names implicated. As an instance of this I am in a position to positively state, and I do so with pleasure, that the rumours associating the names of prominent members of the Philatelic Society, London, with this find are absolutely and entirely devoid of truth."

It would appear from the list given by our contemporary that about sixty-five to seventy varieties of stamps have "turned up" in the present "discovery," and it is not believed that more than two or three sheets exist

of any stamp. Out of these seventy varieties four of the rarest are practically eliminated from the collector's standpoint, as previously stated, from not having been put into issue. About a score of the others are stamps of fair importance, ranging in degree say between the $1, perf. 14, of British Columbia, the Sierra Leone 4d., CA, and the St. Helena 6d., Star watermark, perforated. The Cape triangulars represent four or five more varieties. These, however, were quickly absorbed, and are practically all in collections; and if their value has been at all affected it will very speedily rise to its former level, or, we believe, beyond it, and *collectors* will not have suffered. The remaining half of the stamps "found" consists of sound and universally appreciated Colonials, as the Ceylon CC set of 1863–6, the Straits Settlements of 1867, Trinidad CC 1864-72, and so on. The appearance of two or three—or even ten sheets—would not affect the general appreciation of this class of stamp; they would—and will—be readily absorbed by the collecting world without any detriment to Philately.

Where then is this danger and damage to *collectors* that has been the lamentation in certain quarters? In our opinion an entirely false issue has been raised, and there never has been any danger to collectors. The only really serious effect upon the collector has been caused entirely by those interested only financially in stamps. The trade have made—again we are not casting any blame, but recording commercial actions—repeated and persistent efforts to acquire the whole of these remainders. In this they have been entirely unsuccessful, and now the hour has come to "bear" the market. Had the dealers secured the whole of the stamps, there would have been no question of alarming the collectors, but to the abiding satisfaction of the trade these stamps would have formed a safe and steady source of income. The members of the trade have been throughout the persons most affected by these remainders, as naturally they were afraid either to buy or sell, while as regards the collector, for every one who regrets to find a former purchase now reduced in value, a score would rejoice at the acquisition of a rarity at a relatively low price. In plain English, the trade has been "sitting upon the hedge." It has been repeatedly urged upon them that the wisest course was to "face the music," and inform the philatelic public of the true facts of the case. The only real deterrent factor has been the uncertainty of collectors as to what and how many stamps had turned up. Now that this is tardily known there will be a steadying of prices, and within a reasonable time an absorption by collectors, *at their real value*, of these remainders. Had the trade secured them there would have been a gradual *écoulement* of these stamps at the prices that the sole holders chose to fix. We have unwittingly extended our remarks, but we felt that in the present instance the true inwardness of the facts required to be sharply presented. The moral of the situation to-day is, that the London Philatelic Society, or any body of collectors, has, or has had, no occasion for any feeling of alarm as regards these finds, and that practically all the "disturbance and anxiety" that existed has been confined to the ranks of those gentlemen who are—without doubt honourably and justifiably—connected with the business aspect of Philately.

Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld's Swiss Book.

NOTES BY M. PAUL MIRABAUD.

IT is with much pleasure that we are enabled to announce that this long-heralded book has at last been issued. M. Paul Mirabaud has kindly intimated that a copy has been forwarded to us—of the English version, which was revised by Mr. M. P. Castle some time back.* We are meanwhile indebted to M. Paul Mirabaud, one of the joint authors of this important work (which will be shortly published by the Librairie Hachette et Cie.), for the following remarks on the scope of this book, which will well repay the careful perusal of our readers.

"On the point of the publication of a work that, both by its subject and extent, is destined to have a marked place in philatelic libraries, we ask permission to expose in a few words the genesis, developments, and character of this book—the product of long years of work.

"It was at the meetings of the Lausanne Philatelic Society that the idea of the present book was conceived. Three amateurs, M. Chenevière, M. A. de Reuterskiöld, and myself, determined to join our efforts to lead the enterprise to a successful issue. The two former gentlemen began by writing to the chief towns of Switzerland where there would be any chance of finding information; they then searched in the archives for all official documents calculated to throw light on the history of the stamps.

"Unhappily, M. Chenevière's prolonged absence ensued, and hence delayed our work, and on M. de Reuterskiöld's shoulders fell all the weight of these local researches.

"We then entered into relation with the principal known collectors, who, with one exception, loyally submitted to us specimens of all sorts and conditions.

"In the meanwhile I had added, by purchase, to my own collection the two most important collections of Switzerland and choice 'pieces' of several others. We had therefore in hand all the necessary materials of study, so that, save some exceptions, carefully noted in our work, all the types of stamps or obliterations that we have reproduced are reproduced from specimens in our own collections.

"The divisions adopted in this book were dictated by the nature of the facts with which it deals. The first three parts will treat in turn of the *Stamps issued by the Cantons*, the *Transitional Stamps*, which appeared after the Confederation took over the control of the Post Office, but before the issue of Federal stamps, and finally, of the *Stamps issued by the Federal*

* The work has been received by us, and is, for the moment, briefly considered elsewhere.—ED.

Government. A fourth part will be devoted to a subject common to the three periods—a description of *obliterations.*

"In the history of the different stamps a uniform plan will render research easy. Firstly will be given a short history of the issue of the stamp and its official circulation; then, *in extenso,* and printed in a smaller type, the texts bearing upon that information; and finally, a description of the type adopted for the stamp, together with such details concerning its manufacture as we have been able to obtain, viz. the number of stamps issued, reprints, and other details.

"To better attract the reader's attention it was thought necessary to supplement this book with carefully executed plates of the stamps of which we have treated: the *Cantonal Stamps,* the *Transitional Stamps,* the *Ortspost,* the *Poste Locale,* and the *Rayons.* But it was thought unnecessary to do the same work for the *Silk Threads,* of which the specimens are so well known, and the design so familiar to the amateur. As for the obliterations and the dated postmarks, we have reproduced, in black, the greatest part of the known types.

"An appendix ends the book, in which are included the titles of all the works and articles of reviews that have been published on the old Swiss stamps up to the end of 1895.

"It does not fall to us to appreciate the importance of the contribution brought by our book to the study of the old Swiss stamps; but we cannot be precluded from calling attention to the fact that not only will the condensation of the results acquired by our predecessors' researches and the reunion of all the official texts kept in the archives be found therein, but questions quite new will be found to have been studied and elucidated: *e.g.* the question of the 'double line of the Poste Locale'; the classification of the 'Silk Threads'; the reconstruction of the plate of the 5 c., known as 'Vaud'; and the classification—hitherto quite unknown, important, and almost complete—of the obliterations.

"To reconstruct the plate of the 'Vaud stamps,' which contains 100 stamps, was extremely delicate work. It is known that the plate of 5 c. has been obtained by erasing the figure of value on the 4 c. plate, and by drawing a figure '5' in its place. In the plate of the 4 c. the 100 types of value are identical, having been reproduced by lithographic reproduction of one single type. The figures '5,' drawn separately by the hand, are, however, different from one another, and there can be found as many varieties of the figure '5' as there are stamps in the sheet, *i.e.* 100.

"To reconstruct this plate we have taken stamps belonging to our own collections, or others that have been lent us by different amateurs. Our *point de départ* was the fine block of forty-eight stamps of the Reuterskiöld Collection, which gave us a solid basis of reconstruction, its three large margins establishing with certainty that it was the left part of the whole sheet. (We give the No. 1 to it in the figure opposite.) * We had then at our disposition, besides several pairs and blocks kindly lent to us, two blocks of my own collection, which are designated as Nos. 2

* M. Mirabaud has sent us a sketch of the overlapping blocks, which are numbered respectively as stated by him in this article.—ED.

and 3. The place of block 2 could be easily determined, thanks to a red dot in the centre of the cross of the right-hand stamp of the top row of the block; this same peculiarity is the characteristic of the stamps placed in the angles in M. de Reuterskiöld's block. No doubt existed then that this block should occupy the right half of the top of the sheet. As for block 3, its chief character was a red line dividing horizontally the two stamps of the right of the block. A similar line was to be seen in block 1, between the fifth and sixth rows of stamps; it was then certain that we were in sight of the fifth and sixth rows of the right half of the sheet.

"After the information afforded by these blocks and pairs there remained yet to determine the place of twenty stamps. We established readily that they were different from the rest of the stamps of the blocks, but we did not know in which order to classify them. While we were jointly studying the subject I noticed that the separation lines were irregularly drawn and different from each other, and the key was found! In contrasting the one with the other, with these irregular lines, we ought to be able to find the normal position of each stamp. But this operation, delicate in itself, was rendered still harder by the difficulty in meeting with stamps of sufficient margins to follow the trace of the separation lines. It is only by means of much patience and perseverance that the end has been attained—to be more exact, we ought to say *almost* attained, for one specimen has till now escaped us, No. 76, which we have not yet seen.

"We know exactly its place on the plate, as it is the only one left unfilled after the places of the other stamps had been precisely determined by the above-indicated means, but we do not know the type itself, and for that reason on the reconstructed plate we have drawn the figure '5' of this type with dotted outlines.

"To show at once the slight differences existing between the stamps on the plate, we have given in addition a series of illustrations (enlarged twice), showing the characteristics by which each stamp can be differentiated from its neighbours.

"It will be interesting, we believe, for our readers if we give some details of the processes that we have employed to reproduce the different plates.

"Nothing would have been easier than this reconstruction if we had had at our disposition unused stamps. Everyone, however, knows the rarity of unused Swiss stamps,* and we had to be satisfied with used ones. To reproduce one specimen several copies were therefore necessary to have every part of the stamp not obliterated.

"If we had, for instance, a stamp postmarked on its left half, another was necessary on which that part had been spared from obliteration. This case was an exception, and we have frequently had recourse to five or six specimens before having the stamp complete.

"For the reproduction we begin by photographing three times enlarged the specimens showing the least possible obliterations. On a proof on *papièr salé* the stamp is redrawn with China ink, with the help of all the specimens that give the whole of the stamp. This proof is then passed

* We have ourselves assuredly so known for many years past. In Switzerland, however, the fact has not yet been fully grasped.—Ed.

under an acid that leaves the ink design without any trace of photography or of the obliteration.

"This result must then be photographed, giving to the photo the right dimensions of each stamp, and finally reproduced on a copper plate.

"The results of this work will be seen in the book, the proofs in *taille douce*, true, clear, and distinct in every particular.

"It is easy to judge by the preceding of the difficulties encountered in the preparation of our plates.

"However careful we may have been, we do not present to our readers the stamps absolutely identical to the originals. There will always remain some difference, however insignificant it may be. But if this dissimilarity should fail to be perceived by any amateur, and should induce in him a doubt as to the authenticity of any stamp, he has only to address it to any one of the Expert Committee nominated by Switzerland, and they, as well as ourselves, will, without any hesitation, distinguish the 'tares from the wheat.'"

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.

M. MOENS returns to his guns—as always—with regard to this 2 reales, blue—error or essay—of 1851, and adds that he has even now no reason to alter his long-expressed views that this stamp comes only under the latter category. In the November number of the *London Philatelist*, page 297, we stated on the authority of Continental journals that this stamp had been found *se tenant* with the normal 6 reales, blue. We were naturally not in a position to adopt these statements absolutely, but argued that *should* it prove to be true, the philatelic world would be face to face with one of the scarcest and most interesting specimens known. According to M. Moens this vision has been rudely dispelled. It appears that a M. Antonio Vives, who was the reputed possessor of the block, failed to make response to M. Moens' repeated application to inspect this treasure. (This is no new feature in Continental correspondence. We know of a case where a well-known English collector has no less than six unanswered letters addressed to various French and German philatelic firms, with all of whom he was well acquainted. Politeness is supposed to exist only across the Channel!) Failing in these applications, M. Moens enlisted the services of a Parisian colleague, who was passing through Brussels, where M. Vives was installed, and who has certified that *the stamps were forged!* Brussels has acquired a pretty fair reputation for lying rumours in other matters, and it would seem that there is a philatelic as well as a political Dr. Leyds in the Belgian capital.

Occasional Notes.

PHILATELISTS' WAR RELIEF FUND.

We are glad to be able to announce that the donations to the Fund are now steadily coming in, and that there is every prospect of a substantial and satisfactory result. Among the later gifts are some of an exceptionally handsome nature, and it is evident that there will be many very fine stamps placed at the disposal of the Fund. As the latest date for sending in is rapidly approaching, we once more earnestly entreat all classes and sections in Philately to help in this good and patriotic cause, and to proclaim to the world the liberality and broad-minded sympathy of Philatelists. The date of the sale is fixed for March 28th, and we hear there is every prospect of an abnormal attendance.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY—EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

From the minutes of the Society recorded in the present number it will be seen that a straightforward and feasible system of effecting exchanges has been promulgated. The labours of the committee appointed to consider this question have been by no means light, and the members of the Society should be much indebted to them, especially Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, to whose initiative this new movement is mainly due. The development of this new feature now rests with the general body of members, through whose co-operation we trust to see the Exchange Department rendered of permanent and practical utility.

PHILATELIC ECHOES FROM THE WAR.

Lieutenant Stanley M. Castle (6th Battalion Royal Fusiliers) has been ordered to South Africa as an attached officer to the 4th Battalion Scottish Rifles (the Cameronians, with whom he has been on duty for several months past), and sailed with the latter regiment on the 20th inst. Mr. Castle is the only son of Mr. M. P. Castle, and was for four years a lieutenant in the 1st V.B. Royal Sussex Regiment.

We are sure that all our readers will wish Mr. Stanley Castle a safe return.

Dr. Paul Bush, a well-known Bristol Philatelist, has also left for South Africa as senior surgeon in charge of the Princess Christian Hospital.—*Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.*

We read in the *City Press* with much regret that the "Victorian Government has made arrangements for the issue of special war stamps for the purpose of augmenting the patriotic funds." Philatelists are always as ready to respond to patriotic calls as any other class, but they do not approve of "speculative and unnecessary stamps," for whatever purpose they may be issued.

We are glad to see that Tommy Atkins' letter-writing facilities are given due attention by the authorities, *pace* Mr. Hanbury's recent statement in the House of Commons, who, in reply to a question, said: "It has been arranged that soldiers actually serving at the front, and consequently not always within reach of an Army Post Office, shall, within reasonable limits, be allowed to send home letters without prepayment, the cost being defrayed out of army funds. The same privilege cannot be extended to letters sent from this country to the front, but every assistance will be given as regards postage deficient on letters addressed to the soldiers themselves."

LIEUTENANT PAUL OHRT.

WITH great regret we hear that this very able Philatelist has announced his retirement from the "Germania Ring." This body has been instituted in Germany with the object of acting as an Expert Committee, and for other co-operative purposes in the interests of collectors, and has already done much valuable and excellent work, while it is an open secret that the *genius loci* was our esteemed friend Lieutenant Ohrt. We read that certain anonymous aspersions on the Lieutenant are the cause of his withdrawal. It is to be hoped that this decision may not be final. The reward of reformers is, alas! frequently of a backhanded nature.

THE ITALIAN POSTAL MUSEUM.

WE have received an interesting communication from our friend Dr. Emilio Diena with regard to the somewhat languid progress of the establishment of a National Postal Museum for the kingdom of Italy. It appears that Dr. Diena is now firmly seated in his post, and since the 1st December last has been officially installed in the Ministry of Posts as "Librarian and Conservator of the Royal Postal Museum." The worthy Doctor, however, does not consider the horizon as free from clouds, and fears that it will be difficult to realise his wishes and intentions as regards the definite formation of the postal collection. It appears that there is no fund available for the purchase of specimens, and, moreover, that owing to the enormous number of employees in the administrative buildings of the postal department there are absolutely no rooms available for the proper display of the Postal Museum. Despite these discouragements, Dr. Diena intends manfully to struggle for his point, and only to resign his post when all possible avenues

of progress are barred. He justly adds that in remembrance of the late and deeply lamented minister Sineo, to whose initiative the movement is due, and who commanded such universal respect, no efforts shall be wanting on his part in endeavouring to carry out the deceased minister's far-sighted and liberal programme.

It would appear that the Congress of the Universal Postal Union is to be held in Rome in 1904, and Dr. Diena naturally considers it highly important that the Italian Postal Museum should be thoroughly organised and installed before that date. In this country Dr. Diena has the most sincere good wishes for the success of his labours, and we trust that the Italian postal authorities may see the wisdom of following the example set by this country and Germany in this matter. In the latter case notably, a magnificent National Postal Museum and philatelic collections have been formed, mainly by the untiring energy of one man (Judge Lindenberg) *at a trifling cost*, and as Dr. Emilio Diena is an Italian counterpart of his German colleague, there is no reason for doubt but that a similar success would attend his efforts. It is clearly to be desired that the Italian Government should lend a helping hand to Dr. Diena in his patriotic task of founding an Italian National Postal Museum.

THE PARIS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

WE are informed that the Committee have at length secured a suitable locale for the Philatelic Exhibition. The National Society of Horticulture has placed its Hôtel in the Faubourg St. Germain at the disposal of the Committee, and it is in that building that the International Congress, inaugurated by the *Société Française de Timbrologie*, will be held. It is claimed that no more suitable or convenient situation could be found. The Boulevard St. Germain, which adjoins the proposed site, is close to the Place de la Concorde and the grand entrance to the general Exhibition, and its advantages are therefore obvious. Moreover, it would seem that the building in question "realises marvellously all the requirements of a Philatelic Exhibition, as its vast proportions will admit of the very large installations that are requisite for the successful holding of a Philatelic Exhibition." We are glad that such a happy issue of the energetic labours of the Committee should have been evolved. We can but deeply regret, however, that the times should be so unpropitious for international co-operation.

THE YOUNG PHILATELIST.

THE junior collector is always regarded with kindly interest, as affording the material from which our future Philatelists will be mainly created, and we are all glad to encourage him in his career. It may not be known that in one instance Philately is represented in the London Society by a

member of a family that has three generations all of them now collecting. The junior of these three is a lad of some twelve years of age, who has already shown remarkable aptitude in collecting fine and perfect specimens. In a recent letter to his father the lad writes that he is "laid up with ear-ache with a bad surcharge." Taken in conjunction with his philatelic environment this malaprop is delicious, and despite our renunciation of aught that is of a frivolous nature, is worthy of being placed on record. Surcharges have indeed caused many of us heartache!

PHILATELY IN LEEDS.

BY M. P. CASTLE.

I HAVE been fortunate enough during the present month to make my first acquaintance with the great and important city of Leeds, having been invited by the Leeds Philatelic Society to be present at one of their meetings. I had there the pleasure of meeting several well-known Philatelists at the rendezvous of the Society, in the Reference Room of the Municipal Library; amongst them, Mr. H. M. Hepworth (the President of the Society), Mr. Skipwith, Mr. Denison Roebuck (acting Secretary), and other gentlemen. I was much gratified to find the philatelic spirit so much in evidence in Yorkshire. The Leeds Society, indeed, is one of the oldest in this country, ranking in date of establishment next to Manchester, I believe, and it is clear that it has a consistent and energetic body of collectors in its ranks. No further evidence of this is needed than the holders of an Exhibition so early as 1891.

The most important collection is that of the President, Mr. H. M. Hepworth, whose British Colonials, especially Barbados, are exceedingly fine and choice, and whose example is closely followed by other members. Among the other collections I was privileged to inspect, after examination of the stamps I had brought, were Mr. J. H. Thackrah's British, British Colonials, and Continentals; and Mr. E. Egly's general collection, both of them of interest and merit.

I cannot refrain from expressing my acknowledgments of a hospitality both kindly and gracious on the part of my host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hepworth, and of recording my sense of the gratification afforded me in my first philatelic excursion to Yorkshire.

MESSRS. SENF AND COLOUR PRINTING.

SOME years since the well-known Leipsic firm were wont to illustrate stamps in colours in their journal, the result being that many stamps were reproduced in such dangerous proximity to the real thing as to be capable of deceiving collectors. The process, however alluring and attractive,

was therefore discontinued, but with the first number of the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* for the new century (*à l'allemand*), January 1st, 1900, the process has been revived. An article on the early British Guiana stamp by Herr Theodor Haas has effective colour illustrations of the issues 1850 to 1856, which, being undefaced in any way, will inevitably be put to base uses by the black sheep within the philatelic fold. This form of illustration is most unwise; each coloured stamp presentment should be palpably defaced by a heavy line, a voided corner, or a surcharge denoting its origin. The new issues of the past year are all illustrated in their respective colours, but in this case with a horizontal line printed across each illustration —which is as it should be. As specimens of colour printing these reproductions are mainly very successful, and impart a bright and cheerful tone to the very voluminous issue of their journal with which Messrs. Senf have inaugurated the "new century."

"DISEASE IN STAMPS."

UNDER this alarming heading the *Daily Mail* discourses with its wonted perspicacity on all things mundane, from the management of the Imperial armies to the arrangement of a stamp collection. If its information on the former is as carefully edited as on this latter, its counsels must indeed be those of perfection to Lords Wolseley and Roberts.

"A surgeon in the French army has just discovered that stamp collectors may be the means of disseminating tuberculosis by means of the stamps. A man in his employ was a great stamp collector, says the *Medical Press and Circular*, and occupied his spare time in fixing the stamps in albums or on sheets of gummed paper for sale, moistening the stamps for the purpose with his tongue. Three hundred of the stamps were placed in sterilised water, and with some of the water eight guinea-pigs were inoculated. Each died with characteristic tuberculous lesions. Children, says the journal, should be warned against placing any stamps near their mouths in order to moisten them, and foreign stamps should be disinfected with a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid before adding them to collections."

The "great collector" who occupied his spare time by fastening his stamps on sheets of gummed paper with his tongue should be placed on view at the Paris Philatelic Exhibition—there could be no greater curiosity!

Reviews.

MESSRS. MIRABAUD AND DE REUTERSKIÖLD'S SWISS WORK.

WE have received this sumptuous volume unfortunately too late for anything beyond a brief notice in this number. We hope, however, to do full justice to it in our next issue, and meanwhile the perusal of M. Mirabaud's interesting article elsewhere will prepare our readers for something quite out of the ordinary. We should, however, remind all intending purchasers that the English edition is limited to 150 copies, and that in view of the magnificent illustrations this small quantity is sure to be quickly acquired—even at the price of £6 6*s*. No one who has seen the book will think this sum too high—and no philatelic library should fail to acquire a copy.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE, 1900.*

The most important feature in this new edition that seems to tread so closely on the heels of its predecessor is that of the illustrations, which have been re-made (at an expense of £400) on a uniform scale of reduction from the original. A great improvement has been effected, but as the publishers acknowledge, there is still left something to be desired, as the reproductions are of very uneven merit—and in a few instances very unsatisfactory. The enlarged Dies I. and II. of Great Britain are also too blurred to be of real service.

Another innovation is the elimination of certain Colonial stamps, whose actual issue or circulation is open to doubt. We have elsewhere referred to this point, and would only urge that eliminations should only take place on ascertained and indubitable grounds. The prices quoted will be found to vary in many instances from the last edition—but with a general stiffening tendency—notably in Australians. In all other respects the same excellent greatness that has made the reputation of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogues is fully maintained.

* *Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., Part I., Priced Catalogue of the Stamps of the British Empire* (1900). 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.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* appears to be the first to chronicle an interesting unlisted variety of the 2d., bistre, Type I. (Gibbons'), but watermarked *CA*. Perhaps, after all, the 1d., CA, listed in some catalogues may exist, and diligent search is certain to be made, we hope with success.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—As we expected they would turn out to be, the four new high values noted on page 335, vol. viii., are combined "Postage and Revenue" stamps.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—We have a specimen of the 1d. of the new issue. The design is hardly an improvement on the previous issue, and consists of a view of Table Bay with Cape Town and Table Mount in the background, colonial arms in the upper half of the stamp, with inscription "Cape of Good Hope—Postage," and figure "1" at each corner.

Adhesive.

1d., deep rose, wmk. Cabled Anchor; perf. 14.

CEYLON.—A letter card is chronicled, value 6 cents.

Letter Card. 6 cents, green.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Our attention has been called to the abbreviated instructions on the current ½d. post card.

The inscription on the face of the new card reads—the final word "only" being eliminated—"The address to be written on this side."

Post Card. ½d., brown on white (Court size).

INDIA.—*Duttia.*—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us two stamps of the sans-serif type of setting, stated to be ¼ and ½ annas in *new colours*.

Adhesives. ¼ anna, red on white.
½ ,, black on green.

Kishengarh.—Mr. W. W. Corfield sends us specimens of the stamps issued for this state. They are so badly executed that it is difficult to make out the design, but there appears to be a coat of arms in the centre, "REVENUE AND POSTAGE" in a band at top, and "KISHENGARH" at foot. The values are stated to be ½ and 1 anna; the latter, indeed, has this value in English. *Le Timbre-Poste* mentions other values, but the following are those we have so far received:—

Adhesives. ½ anna, yellow-green; pin perf.
1 anna, lilac; imperf.
Envelopes. ½ anna, blue on white laid paper.
1 anna, lilac ,,

Travancore.—The *M. J.* notes some changes in colour of the ½ ch. and 2 ch. adhesives, and the 2 ch. envelope, also a post card of the value of 5 cash.

Adhesives. ½ ch., bright mauve.
2 ch., pale pink.
Envelope. 2 ch. ,, on white laid.
Post Card. 5 cash, rose-red on buff.

LABUAN.—Mr. A. H. Stamford sends us a copy of the 4 cents on 18 cents, olive-bistre, with the word "cents" doubly surcharged.

If this be the only *error* to be found in the late batch of surcharges, Philatelists may be thankful, but we fear it will not turn out to be so.

Adhesive.

4 cents on 18 cents, with the word *cents* doubly surcharged.

NEWFOUNDLAND. — In our December number we announced the probable destruction of all the remainders of Newfoundland, including the Cabot issue.

Messrs. Bright and Son favour us with the official list (copy at foot) of all the stamps destroyed, and from it it will be seen that only the 3 and 5 cent Cabot issue were included.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.
4th January, 1900.

We hereby certify that we were present on Wednesday the 3rd inst., at the *Royal Gazette* Office, and on Thursday the 4th inst., at the General Post Office, and did see the following obsolete stamps first defaced by the printing press, and afterwards destroyed by fire:—

NUMBER.	DENOMINATION.	FACE VALUE.
49,717, orange	2 cent, fish	$ 994.34
40,638, slate	3 ,, queen	1,219.14
104,569, blue	5 ,, seal	5,228.45
34,422, deep pink	6 ,, queen	2,065.32
92,966, black	10 ,, ship	9,296.60
27,162, blue	24 ,, queen	6,518.88
69,653, pale brown	12 ,, ,,	8,358.36
2,658 (Cabot Issue)	3 ,, Bonavista Cape..	79.74
11,342 ,,	5 ,, mining	567.10
		$34,327.93

ARTHUR MEWS,
Deputy Colonial Secretary.
GEORGE COEN,
Deputy Minister Finance.
GEO. W. LEMESSURIER,
Acct. General Post Office.
E. DEVEREUX,
Post Office Inspector.
WILLIAM CAMPBELL,
Stamp Clerk, G.P. Office.

We hereby certify that we were present at intervals on Wednesday the 3rd inst., at the *Royal Gazette* Office, during the defacing of the Postage Stamps enumerated in above certificate; and that on Thursday the 4th inst., we were present and did see the aforesaid stamps destroyed by fire at the General Post Office.

J. ALEX. ROBINSON,
Colonial Secretary.
J. A. MCLEOD,
Manager Bank of Nova Scotia.
J. O. FRASER,
Postmaster-General.
F. C. BERTEAU,
Comptroller & Auditor-General.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim has sent us specimens of the 1890 issue showing perforations not yet chronicled, viz. 5s., perf. 10×11, and 20s., perf. 11.

The varieties of perforation of this issue have by no means been fully catalogued.

Adhesives. 5s., purple, 1890; perf. 10×11.
20s., ultramarine, 1890; perf. 11.

SARAWAK. — In addition to the provisionals and stamps in new colours we have already announced, there are the following:—

Adhesives.
4 cents on 6 cents (1871), green; red surcharge.
2 cents, green; type 1888–92.
8 ,, yellow; value in black.
12 ,, violet.
16 ,, brown; value in green.
25 ,, bistre ,, blue.
50 ,, olive ,, carmine.
$1, carmine ,, green.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The new ½d. stamp has come to hand from Messrs. Smyth and Nicolle, but it is disappointing in every way.

In the centre of the stamp a view of the General Post Office at Adelaide is given. There are also six lines of dots, doubtless to represent telegraph wires; "SOUTH" on the left and "AUSTRALIA" on the right, with "POSTAGE" below, and "½d." in each lower corner.

The colour, emerald-green, does not improve the appearance.

Adhesive.
½d., emerald-green; perf. 13; wmk. Crown S A.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Pahang.*—The *M. J.* mentions the 8 cent of Perak with the surcharge "Pahang—Four Cents" upside down.

Perak.—From the same source we hear that the Government stamp auctions were not accepted with much favour out there. We are not in the least surprised at this, especially after the system of lotting adopted. Buyers like to see what they are bidding for.

Malay States.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* appears to be the first to announce an issue for the Federated Malay States.

The tiger-head issue of Negri Sembilan has been surcharged "Federated Malay States," in two lines, in black.

Adhesives. 1 c., lilac and green.
2 c. ,, brown.
3 c. ,, carmine.
10 c. ,, orange.
25 c. ,, carmine.

TASMANIA.—For early specimens of the 1d. and 2d. values of the new pictorial issue we are indebted to Messrs. Smyth and Nicolle. We can hardly say we look upon these two stamps as a success.

The *Australian Philatelist's* description is as follows:—

"The stamps are of large size, 32×24 mm., printed apparently from engraved *copper* plates, similarly to the current Tongan. The 1d. contains a large view of the old dam used in connection with the Cascade Brewery Water Supply, and grandiloquently termed

the 'Mountain Lake,' with snow-clad Mount Wellington in the background. A somewhat simple frame incloses the view, and the name 'TASMANIA,' in small white Roman capitals, is placed in a straight line at the top, 'MOUNT WELLINGTON,' in coloured letters, in an arch below, flanked by '1d.' in white on coloured shield at each side; shape, upright rectangular. The 2d. contains a view of Hobart, with Mount Wellington in the backgroud, taken from Rosny Point, copied from Capt. Forrest's well-known and wonderfully accurate painting. Name in white capitals above, value in figures (2d.) in colour on white shield in upper angles, 'HOBART' in small coloured capitals below; shape, oblong rectangular. The watermark consists of the abbreviation 'TAS,' in sloping letters running diagonally in rows, repeated throughout the sheet. This watermark appears three times complete, and four times partially on each stamp. It is so marked as to give a stained or greasy appearance to the face of the 1d. stamp wherever the letters fall."

Hints are thrown out that when the supply of these two stamps is exhausted some alteration in the design may be expected.

Adhesives. 1d., carmine; perf. 14.
2d., purple ,,

UGANDA.—The following cutting from the *M. J.* will probably be of interest to our readers. An interesting article hereon by Mrs. Basett will be found given in our next number.

"Mr. W. T. Wilson sends us some notes on the early type-written stamps. The earliest of all appear to have been in sheets of one value throughout, or at least with more than one row of the same value together, whilst those with "V 96 R" were in sheets with the different values together, in consecutive horizontal rows, the 5 cowries at the top followed by the other values in regular order. But as all these were made by hand, we may suppose that the sheets may not have been all alike, especially as some values must have been more required than others."

EUROPE.

AUSTRIAN LEVANT.—M. A. Yaremdji informs us that the Austrian set has appeared surcharged for use in the Levant.

AUSTRIA.—A 5 heller post card is announced, colour dark green on yellow, printed in four languages; also a wrapper of 3 heller, brown on brownish.

Post Card. 5 heller, dark green on yellow.
Wrapper. 3 heller, brown on brownish.

BOSNIA.—Like Austria and Hungary a new issue will appear with the values in heller and kronen.

We have before us a copy of the 1 heller, grey. The full set is not to be issued before April 1st.

The value is at bottom, and the framework is apparently inverted as compared with the last issue, but appears less well drawn. The eagle seems exactly like the old one.

Adhesive. 1 heller, grey; perf. 10½.

BELGIUM.—After all that has been written for and against the probable change of colour of the 10 centime stamp it is now a *fait accompli*. A specimen in rose-carmine of the Sunday coupon type, received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., is before us.

Adhesive.
10 c., carmine-rose, current type, with coupon; perf. 14.

FRANCE.—M. Jules Bernichon kindly sends us specimens of the 5 c. of both Types I. and II. in blocks emanating from different sheets, and informs us that the latter is also to be found in conjunction with the former on the same sheet, but adds that they have only been thus issued to certain offices, and are hence difficult to find. The 10 c., as has already been chronicled, exists thus (with both types on the same sheet), and the like has been averred as regards the 15 c.; but M. Bernichon denies that such is the case, and we fully accept the *dictum* of so excellent an authority on French stamps as our Parisian colleague.

GERMANY.—To the list of the new adhesives we have already chronicled, the *Metropolitan Philatelist* adds a 2 pf. value of the design of the other lower values, colour grey. Bavaria having already issued this value, it is hardly surprising to find the Empire adopting it.

A post card of 5 pf. of the new design has appeared, with the stamp surrounded with laurel branches in the right upper corner, and "1900" surrounded by rays in the left.

Adhesive. 2 pf., grey.
Post Card. 5 pf., green on buff.

HUNGARY.—In addition to the adhesives mentioned on page 25, we hear of four new post cards, two letter cards, and one envelope.

Post Cards. 4 filler, brown on buff.
4+4 ,, ,, ,,
5 ,, green on rose.
10 ,, carmine.
Letter Card. 6 filler, green on grey-green.
10 ,, brick-red.
Envelope. 10 filler, rose on white wove.

ICELAND.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung* chronicles a 4 aur, in grey, with rose frame, usual type.

Adhesive.

4 aur, grey; rose frame; wmk. Crown; perf. 13.

ROUMANIA.—The *M. J.* has seen a used copy, supposed to be unique, of the 5 bani card of 1894 with a complete double impression on the same side of the card, one being one way up and the second the other way. Both are stated to be quite clear, though one is rather pale, and both the stamps were carefully obliterated by the Post Offices.

SWEDEN.—The *D. B.-Z.* chronicles a 1 krona of the current type, colour carmine with head in bluish grey.

Adhesive.

1 krona, carmine and bluish grey; perf. 13.

TURKEY.—It is variously announced that a new issue may be expected about March, when the Ottoman financial year begins, though probably April or May will be nearer the mark. It is stated that the issue will be an exceptionally large one, of nearly thirty varieties, consisting of two series, one for internal use, and the other for international purposes. We have, however, no absolute confirmation of these reports.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—Specimens of the four commemorative stamps referred to on page 25 have reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

The descriptions given in our last will, we think, be sufficient, merely adding colours.

Adhesives.

100 reis, red.
200 ,, green on yellow.
500 ,, blue.
700 ,, blue-green.

The *American Journal of Philately* mentions receiving the 50, 100, and 200 reis stamps in the old type (1894?) but printed in new colours to conform to the rules of the Postal Union.

Adhesives.

50 reis, green; perf. 11½
100 ,, rose ,,
200 ,, dark blue ,,

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—The supply of provisionals has not yet stopped, though of course we are not in the least surprised.

From Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. we have received two values, the 1 and 2 centavos.

It is stated that some of the blocks of the 5 c. and 10 c., previously chronicled, were altered to make the 1 and 2 centavos stamps by having the tops and bottoms cut off, and the word "CORREOS" at top and value at bottom inserted in type. As the previous issue of 5 c. and 10 c., both have the control mark of seven wavy lines, and are pin perf.

The value is given as "UN 1 centavo" on the lower and "DOS 2 CTS" on the higher. Small variations are stated to have been discovered.

Adhesives. 1 centavo, brown on buff; pin perf.
2 centavos, grey-black on buff; pin perf.

Still another variety of the War Provisionals. At the moment of going to press Messrs. Bright and Son hand us a specimen of the new-comer.

In design it is very similar to the 10 cent. of 1870-74—"REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" and Arms in centre in a circle, on white; "CORREOS" in curved band at top; and value at foot.

The stamps are printed in rows of ten, repeated five times in each sheet, and the first four stamps in the bottom row overlap the stamps in the row above. All have the seven wavy control lines in blue. Ungummed.

Adhesive. 5 centavos, vermilion; imperf.

ECUADOR.—On page 338, vol. viii., we mentioned four of the new postal issue surcharged "Oficial," and from the *Briefmarken Journal* we find there are four other values similarly honoured.

Officials. 1 centavo, black and orange, black surcharge.
5 centavos ,, ,, ,,
1 sucre ,, ,, ,,
5 sucres ,, ,, ,,

NICARAGUA.—*Le Timbre-Poste* gives the values and colours of thirteen postage and seven postage due stamps of the Asenjo issue.

The postage issue is very similar in appearance to the 2 cents of Hawaii of 1894-9. In the centre is a view of the Island of Momotumbo (?) in Lake Nicaragua, "NICARAGUA" at top, "CORREOS" on both right and left of the stamp, and "CENTAVOS" at foot.

The unpaid letter stamps resemble the

Hayti issue of 1898, and a crop of "officials" is to follow as soon as possible.

Adhesives.

1 centavo, violet-brown.
2 centavos, orange-red.
3 ,, green.
4 ,, olive.
5 ,, deep blue.
6 ,, carmine.
10 ,, lilac.
15 ,, ultramarine.
20 ,, brown.
50 ,, red-brown.
1 peso, yellow.
2 pesos, orange-red.
5 ,, black.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

1 centavo, violet-brown.
2 centavos, orange-red.
5 ,, dark blue.
10 ,, lilac.
20 ,, bistre.
30 ,, green.
50 ,, red-brown.

VENEZUELA.—From Mr. W. Hadlow and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. we have received six stamps of the current issue surcharged somewhat indistinctly "Reselladа," and the initials "R.F.M." in a scroll. A theft at the Post Office or the Treasury is the excuse made for this issue, but any excuse is said to be better than none.

Adhesives. 5 c., blue-green, black surcharge.
10 c., red ,,
25 c., blue ,,
50 c., grey-black ,,
1 b., green ,,
Registered. 25 c., brown ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CAROLINE ISLANDS.—The *Australian Philatelist* mentions having seen the 20 pf. Imperial German stamp surcharged diagonally in black "Karolinen," and used in the island of Yap, so doubtless the usual series has been issued.

Adhesive. 20 pf., blue; black surcharge.

COREA.—We shall require more space in our albums for Corea, for, according to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, to celebrate the entry of this country into the U.P.U. a new set, consisting of about fourteen values, was to be issued on January 1st.

In design a close copy has been made of the last issue for Japan. Values and colours not yet to hand.

CUBA.—All in good time, for this important island is about to have a supply of 15 and 50 cent stamps; at least (so we are told by the *Metropolitan Philatelist*) the Director-General (of Cuba?) recommends that a supply of these values be prepared and sent to him for sale.

GERMAN COLONIES.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim has given us early information about the values and designs of the new German Colonial issues. We cannot do better than quote our correspondent's letter:—

"The following description of the new German Colonial stamps, which have just been sent out, may be of interest to your readers.

"Only the lower values (3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, and 80 pfennig) have as yet been issued. There is a uniform design for all the colonies showing a steamer with two funnels, steaming to the right, in a frame standing upright. The name of the colony appears in Latin letters on a ribbon above the picture, and the value of the stamp in the two lower corners in Arabic figures; size, perforation, and colours are the same as the new German stamps.

"I hear from a reliable source that new plates are being prepared to replace the recently issued German stamps, as the Germania design has not met with public approval."

GUAM.—We make the following excerpt from *Mekeel's Weekly*, and as the remainders of Omahas were to have been destroyed before this—at least, so we understood—we think it probable the United States Post Office Department have thought it better to get rid of their Omahas *viâ* Guam:—

"The stamps of Guam still hold a large share of the attention of the local fraternity, speculation being now busy with the effect of the new supply for that colony on the first issue. If report be true that the $1 stamps for Guam are surcharged on the Omaha issue, it is calculated that this stamp will become very desirable, as it will be impossible to issue any more of the same, providing the Government keeps to its intention of destroying all the remainders of the Omaha issue, which was to have been done on the 1st of January. According to the reports received from Washington, only 3,000 of these stamps were issued for Guam. Another feature discussed are the stamps of the 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. denominations. The total face value of the new supply of these labels, according to Washington advices, is $2,400. The amount of money said to be awaiting the arrival of the stamps at Guam, from collectors and dealers, is reported to be in the neighbourhood of $9,000. It is presumed that most of this amount went there for the purchase of 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. stamps, as it was not known at the time the remittances were made that any other denominations were to be supplied to Guam. Some of the new issue are expected to arrive here by the next steamer that comes from Guam, which is due here within a few weeks."

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.—Mr. J. M. Bartels states that it is reported in Washington that

after July 1st the stamps of this country (U.S.A.) are to go into use in the above-mentioned islands, rendering all previous issues of the islands obsolete, and that it is probable that no surcharge will be applied.

After the Guam business we can hardly hope the U.S.A. postal authorities will let such an opportunity pass for mulcting Philatelists.

JAPAN.—*Chinese Offices.*—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles a set of provisional or surcharged stamps for use on postage matter mailed at offices in China controlled by the Japanese Government, for distribution in any part of Japan.

The surcharge is stated to consist of the Japanese characters signifying "CHINA."

Adhesives. 5 rins, slate; red surcharge.
1 sen, brown ,,
2 sens, green ,,
3 ,, marone; black surcharge.
4 ,, red ,,
5 ,, orange; red surcharge.
8 ,, olive ,,
10 ,, blue; black surcharge.
15 ,, violet ,,
20 ,, red-orange ,,
25 ,, green; red surcharge.
50 ,, brown; black surcharge.
1 yen, carmine ,,

MARIANNE ISLANDS.—*Smith's Monthly Circular* informs us that an issue of German stamps surcharged "Marianen-Inseln" is in preparation, and that Guam is the only island of the Marianne (or Ladrone) group which belongs to the United States, the others having been sold last year by Spain to Germany, together with the Caroline Islands.

Let us hope the Germans will stop surcharging beyond the 50 pf. stamp, and keep the higher values (when they appear) in the Fatherland.

MOROCCO.—In addition to the German stamps chronicled in our last, we find there are single and reply post cards with a similar surcharge "Marocco," and value in two lines.

Post Cards. 5 c. on 5 pf., green, single and reply.
10 c. on 10 pf., carmine ,,

ORANGE FREE STATE.—Mr. C. E. Fagan has kindly sent us a curious stamp stated to have been used by the Mounted Police of the Orange Free State a month or two before the war broke out.

The design (type-set within a rectangular frame of diamond-shape ornaments) consists of the following: "in Dienst," followed by a dotted line "R.D.M." in the centre, and after more dotted lines, "O.V.S.," no value, *black on yellow*, and perf. 12. The *M. J.* of January, 1899, describes an almost similar stamp, but *black on white*, and gives the following translation of the Dutch words "in Dienst" (On Service), "R.D.M." (Rydende—Dienst—Macht—Mounted Police), and "O.V.S." (Oranje Vrij Staat, or Orange Free State).

Our correspondent thinks only a few could have been used on *yellow* paper.

Official Stamp. No value, black on yellow.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—*Mekeel's Weekly* mentions that the 15 c. and 50 c. U.S.A. stamps, surcharged for use in these islands, are making their appearance, and that there is a marked peculiarity about the 50 c., in that it comes on unwatermarked paper. As our contemporary remarks, it will be interesting to note whether both watermarked and unwatermarked stock has been used.

TRANSVAAL.—*Der Philatelist* gives a list of four provisionals issued at Vryburg, viz. the following Cape stamps, surcharged "Z.A.R.":—

½d., green; 1d., carmine; 2d., violet; and 2½d., olive-green.

It is stated only 2,500 copies were printed, of which the postmaster kept part! The Postmaster-General promptly suppressed them, and forwarded a supply of Transvaal stamps. We doubt, therefore, if this issue can be taken seriously.

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.
Hon. Librarian—T. Maycock.

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

The sixth meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 5th January, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—M. P. Castle, Thos. William Hall, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frenkel, Franz Reichenheim, C. Neville Biggs, A. B. Creeke, jun., E. A. Elliott, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Hon. Secretary read a letter from Mr. R. Pearce, stating his desire to resign his membership of the Society, and his resignation was directed to be accepted with very great regret. The resignations of Messrs. J. S. Lambert, C. J. Lambert, F. E. Owen, G. S. Bird, and W. Herrick were also announced and accepted with regret.

A warning from Mr. A. W. Chambers in reference to the bisected stamps of some values of the 1860 series of British Guiana was communicated to the meeting.

During last season copies were produced of the 4 c. stamp apparently treated in this manner to serve as 2 c. stamps, and these were on original covers and had every appearance of being genuine. Mr. Chambers, finding that several copies of the same stamps and of other values were being offered for sale, made careful investigation and inquiries, with the result that he was satisfied that the stamps were ingenious frauds made by manipulating the covers of some genuine correspondence of the period when the stamps of the series in question were in issue.

Mr. T. W. Hall then read a paper on "The 1862 Issues of the Stamps of the Argentine Republic." After a short historical review of the events which brought about the change of government at the date in question, Mr. Hall proceeded to give a description of the stamps comprised in the issues under consideration, explaining in detail the types and varieties to be found, and giving a large amount of valuable and novel information in regard to some of the stamps. The paper was illustrated by a display of the author's very fine collection, in which he showed and explained all the issues of the Argentine Confederation and Republic, and pointed out some varieties which had not been previously recorded.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Mr. Meyer, a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Hall for his valuable paper and for the interesting display he had given.

The seventh meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 19th January, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—M. P. Castle, Herbert R. Oldfield, Robert Ehrenbach, Franz Reichenheim, C. McNaughtan, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frenkel, W. Schwabacher, A. H. Pfenninger, Thos. William Hall, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, William Silk, jun., Leslie L. R. Hausburg, 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 Hon. Secretary informed members of the recent death of Mr. Douglas Garth, and proposed a resolution in the following terms, and referred at some length to the valuable services Mr. Garth had rendered to the Society during his period of office as Hon. Secretary:—

"That this meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, having heard with very great regret of the death of the late Hon. Secretary, desires to record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Douglas Garth to the Society, and its sense of the great esteem in which he was held by his fellow-members, and further that the Hon. Secretary be directed to convey to Mrs. Garth an expression of the heartfelt sympathy of the members with her in her affliction."

The above resolution was seconded by Mr. Castle, and he and several other members expressed their sense of the loss the Society had sustained.

The Hon. Secretary also reported the death of Mr. C. P. Krauth, which was noted with regret.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the Duke of York had expressed his willingness to sign the six copies of the Society's works which were to be presented for sale by auction in aid of the Philatelists' War Relief Fund.

Mr. Tilleard proposed, and Mr. Ehrenbach seconded, a resolution that the Society should make a donation of £10 in aid of the War Relief Fund, in addition to the payment by the Society of the expenses of printing and postage, and such resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hausburg then submitted the report of the Committee appointed to consider the "Exchange" question, including various suggested rules regulating the procedure, and moved that the report be received and adopted. This resolution was seconded by Mr. McNaughtan.

Mr. Ehrenbach moved as an amendment that before the vote be taken the rules be separately considered; and this amendment, having been seconded by Mr. Castle, was carried. The meeting then proceeded to discuss the rules in detail at some considerable length, making various alterations, and eventually it was resolved to defer for the present the further consideration of the matter.

Mr. Oldfield then moved that it was desirable that a system of exchange should be instituted among the members of the Society.

Mr. Tilleard seconded the resolution, which was carried, and the matter was referred back to the existing Committee for reconsideration, Messrs. Tilleard and Oldfield being added as members of such Committee.

In consequence of the late hour, the meeting then terminated, and the display of the stamps of Austria by Mr. Passer was postponed.

THE eighth meeting of the season 1899–1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 2nd February, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: M. P. Castle, T. W. Hall, H. R. Oldfield, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frenkel, Franz Reichenheim, L. L. R. Hausburg, William Silk, jun., W. Schwabacher, T. Wickham Jones, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, H. J. Duveen.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secs. of "The War Relief Fund" reported that among other valuable gifts presented for the purposes of the sale was an unused 3 lire Tuscany stamp.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of Mr. P. J. Bruner, proposed by Mr. Alex. Holland and seconded by Mr. J. M. Andreini, who was after ballot declared duly elected.

Mr. Hausburg then presented on behalf of the Exchange Sub-committee their report, with suggested rules and regulations, and moved that the same be received and adopted, and that the same be communicated by the Hon. Sec. to the members of the Society.

Mr. Oldfield seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. Tilleard, and after some remarks by Mr. Wickham Jones, the resolution was put to the meeting and declared carried unanimously.

Mr. Castle approved of the scheme, and thought that it was an excellent solution of the difficulty, and moved that the thanks of the Society be given to the Sub-committee.

It was resolved that the first Exchange meeting should be held on Friday, the 23rd February, at 7.45 p.m., and that the resolution as approved be embodied in a circular to be sent to the members. Mr. Castle proposed and Mr. Wickham Jones seconded a resolution that the following gentlemen be elected to serve on the permanent Exchange Committee: Messrs. Ehrenbach, Hausburg, McNaughtan, Meyer, Oldfield, Schwabacher, and Tilleard, and such resolution was carried.

Mr. Castle then read a paper entitled "Notes on the Early Issues of Belgium," illustrated by specimens from his very fine collection of this country. In the course of his remarks Mr. Castle pointed out traces of numerous retouches in the stamps, the causes of which had been a source of considerable discussion in consequence of the difficulty of seeing how steel dies or plates could have been in any way dealt with after they had been hardened. Mr. Castle explained that it had recently been discovered that the hardened plate had been annealed, and that then the lines had been retouched to bring out the design where it appeared to be defective, and that the plate had then been rehardened; he expressed the opinion that with regard to these stamps this process must have been adopted more than once.

Mr. Gordon Smith, in moving a vote of thanks for the extremely interesting paper read by Mr. Castle, and for the pleasure afforded to members by an inspection of his fine collection, referred to the printing of the stamps of some of the British colonies, such as St. Lucia, where two plates had been used, one a key plate and one a duty plate, and pointed out that with regard to the second plate the die must also have been annealed and retouched, showing the interesting fact that surface-printed stamps could be treated in the same way as line-engraved stamps.

Mr. Wickham Jones seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried, and after being suitably acknowledged by Mr. Castle, the proceedings terminated.

The following is the Exchange scheme and rules as passed and approved:—

1. A special meeting for the purpose of the exchange of stamps between members will be held in the Society's rooms once in each month in which ordinary meetings of the Society are held. The date and the time of each special meeting will be specified in a notice convening the first ordinary meeting to be held in each month.

2. A member of the Exchange Committee will be in attendance, and will preside at the Exchange meetings, and the business of the meetings shall be transacted in such manner as shall be decided at such meetings.

3. No visitor introduced by any member at any such meeting will be permitted to take part in any Exchange transactions.

4. Advertisements by members of duplicates and "wants" will be inserted in the *London Philatelist*, in a space set apart for this purpose, at a nominal charge of 2d. per line for each insertion.

5. For the further convenience of members unable to attend the Exchange meetings a register will be kept at the Society's rooms, in which the exchange requirements of members, with their names and addresses, will be entered on receipt of particulars. All inquiries by post in reference to any entry in the register should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary at the Society's rooms, and marked "Exchange," and must be accompanied by an addressed and stamped envelope for reply. The register can be inspected by members at all times when the Society's rooms are open.

6. All stamps offered or advertised under this scheme must be the bonâ fide property of the members offering the same.

7. All exchange transactions must be carried out and settled between the members concerned in such manner as they may mutually arrange.

8. On the 30th June and 31st December in each year all entries in the register will be cancelled, unless previous notice is received requesting continuance.

9. Any question as to the genuineness of any stamp acquired by one member from another in any transaction under this scheme shall be referred to the Expert Committee of the Society, and unless such Committee certifies that the stamp is in all respects genuine, the transaction may be repudiated, and in that case the cost of obtaining the certificate shall be borne by the member from whom the stamp was acquired.

10. All other disputes between members in regard to any exchange transaction shall from time to time be referred to the Council of the Society, who may depute a Committee to investigate the matter, and the decision of the Council or Committee, as the case may be, certified by the Honorary Secretary for the time being of the Society, or by the Chairman for the time being of the Committee, shall be final and binding on both parties without appeal.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

President—W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

Jan. 4th, 1900.—Messrs. Preston Lumb and E. Rizzo were unanimously elected members.

Mr. W. Pimm displayed his collection of British North America, and gave a running commentary on the varieties which needed any such explanation.

Feb. 1st.—Messrs. J. Thackrah, A. Saatdjian, and A. de Meester were unanimously elected members.

Mr. G. Johnson then gave his paper on the stamps of Egypt, illustrating it by his collection. The two types of each value of the first issue were explained and illustrated; imperfs. of this issue and imperfs.—between vertically and horizontally—of the 1867 issue were shown. The 1872–5 issue was arranged so as to show the varieties of perf., simple and compound, certain values being unknown in some of the perfs. The arrangement of the sheet in the case of the so-called "5 paras with inverted centre" was shown by means of a small chart.

Mr. W. T. Wilson also showed an exceptionally fine lot, including such desirable stamps as the high values of the first issue, used; the various inverted surcharges; a block of nine of the 2½ piastres of the 1872 issue with the centre stamp inverted.

A subsequent discussion on the 5 piastres, 1886 (no wmk.), which is being offered from certain foreign sources at high prices, brought out the general idea that it was a proof with faked perforations.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

Honorary President—Baron de Worms.
President—M. P. Castle.
Hon. Secretary—Baron A. de Worms, 27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

The first meeting of the season 1899–1900 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday, November 21st, at 8.15 p.m., at which seven members and one visitor were present. The President took the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary stated that he received in May last a set of the *London Philatelist*, from Vol. III., as a donation to the library from the London Philatelic Society, and that he had acknowledged with best thanks the receipt of same on behalf of the Brighton Society. He read a letter from Mr. W. H. G. Cruttwell tendering his resignation as a member of the Society, which was accepted with regret. The Secretary also said he was extremely sorry to announce that the number of members had been further reduced by the sad and sudden death of Mr. H. Davis.

A display of the stamps of Great Britain then took place, the President exhibiting his splendid collection of unused only, consisting of many shades of every issue and variety in perfect condition. Mr. Sang and the Hon. Secretary also showed their collections; in that of the latter were unused specimens of several of the rarities. The President also read some notes on Messrs. Wright and Creeke's new book.

The second meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, on Tuesday, December 12th, at 8.15 p.m., when six members were present. The President took the chair, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. J. F. B. Vandeleur was unanimously elected a member of the Society.

A display of general collections then took place. The exhibitors were Dr. Burrows and Mr. J. W. Gillespie, both of whom showed several books containing many good and scarce stamps, Mr. Gillespie's collection of the Netherlands being specially fine. On behalf of Mr. Hillman, who was unable to attend, the President showed several volumes of British Colonials. Mr. Vandeleur also brought his collection.

The third meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel on Thursday, January 11th, 1900, at 8.15 p.m., when four members attended. The President took the chair, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, a discussion took place as to what steps the Society should take with regard to the "Philatelists' War Relief Fund." The President suggested that he should write a letter in his own name impressing upon the members the importance of the occasion, and urging them to contribute to the forthcoming auction in aid of the Fund. The suggestion was agreed to, and the Hon. Secretary was requested to forward a copy of the letter to each member.

The President then showed his collection of the early issues of Sweden, and gave a short account of their history. He said that several shades in the first issue were extremely rare unused, and that there were one or two shades of the 4 sk. bco. which he had never seen in that condition. He also mentioned that some of the reprints were very scarce. The President was accorded a vote of thanks for his interesting notes.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A General Meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel on Tuesday, February 6th, 1900, at 7 p.m. Present:—Messrs. E. Bounds, W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Frentzel, T. W. Hall, M. Z. Kuttner, E. A. Mardon, R. Meyer, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, C. R. Sutherland (in the chair), A. G. Wane, and H. A. Slade.

Mr. R. R. Bogert (Paris) was duly elected as an ordinary member. At the conclusion of business Mr. Rudolph Meyer exhibited his collection of the stamps of Chili, and prefaced his display with an interesting and accurate historical essay on that country. Mr. Meyer's paper and collection were much appreciated by the members who were fortunate enough to be present, and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Meyer for his courtesy. Later in the evening members passed round for inspection new issues, curiosities, etc.; and opportunity was taken for pleasant discussion and exchange. The meeting broke up about 9.30 p.m.

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

Ingleside, St. Albans.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Hon. Secretary—G. Fred H. Gibson, Kersal, Manchester.

The seventh meeting of the Society took place at the Grand Hotel on Friday evening, Jan. 12th. The chair was taken by Mr. J. H. Abbott, Vice-President, eleven other members being present.

The resignation of Mr. J. J. Leach, who is now living in the South of England, was accepted with regret.

Mr. Henry E. Walker was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. E. T. Roberts read a paper on "Brazil," and illustrated it by his collection, which is very strong in pairs and blocks of all the issues. A block of eighteen of the first 90 reis, and one of twelve of the 60 reis (1866), both unused, were specially noticeable.

At the eighth meeting, on Friday, Jan. 26th, the President was in the chair, and twelve other members were present.

The Hon. Sec. read a short paper on the question of a colour chart, and, after some discussion, the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That the members of this Society, feeling that a complete and reliable colour chart can only be produced at very considerable cost, and in a size too great to be of any practical use, have decided to abandon their contemplated scheme with regard to its compilation."

Mr. Abbott called attention to an error in the catalogues with regard to the 10 paras on 2½ p., Egypt, 1879. The surcharge is not inverted, but one stamp on each sheet is printed *tête-bêche*.

Mr. Beckton made some remarks upon the perforations of the stamps of Roumania from 1879-90, and gave a list of several unchronicled varieties.

The ninth meeting was held on Friday, Feb. 9th, when, in addition to the President, seven members and a visitor were present.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Duerst, the first part of his paper on Oldenburg, dealing at considerable length with the stamps of the first issue, was read by the Hon. Secretary.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

August packets have returned from circulation, and balances have been adjusted without delay. Sales showed a higher average than usual, owing to the very large proportion of rare stamps offered for exchange in that month.

One hundred and forty-one sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1,804 14s. 9d., were made up into three packets and sent on the January circuit by the 29th. Colonials and Africans were specially strong.

Members admitted during the past month include J. K. Boddy (London), R. R. Bogert (Paris), H. Collet (Copenhagen), H. Ker-Fox (Lazonby), H. A. Rawlinson (Camberley), W. Scott (Cardiff), W. H. Terry (Brooklands).

As complaints have reached me of the time packets are in circulation, it has been decided that, from this month, no packet shall be in circulation longer than thirteen weeks. Sheets will be returned and balances made out within a week of return of packets. Members are invited to assist in upholding this regulation by strictly adhering to the rules.

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. 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.

"BELOW CATALOGUE PRICE."

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

Dear Sir,—I have now before me a fairly large lot of Roumania sent on approval by a German firm. The stamps profess to be unused, and are so priced. Eighty per cent. of them are cleaned copies, some are without gum, and others are regummed. The stamps cover the period from 1879-97.

A word of caution in time may prevent too confiding collectors being fleeced.

Yours faithfully,

W. Dorning Beckton.

Mr. Beckton's caution is timely. We have had repeated personal experience from the Continent of "faked," repaired, and partly forged approval selections, which are obviously good sales at "50 per cent. below catalogue price."—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.*

SINCE our last, marked catalogues have come in from Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Puttick and Simpson, and W. Hadlow.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale on January 18th and 19th presents a fine catalogue. We notice on reading it through the following: Gibraltar, 1889, error, with value omitted, carmine, full gum, £7. Austria, 1858–9, 2 kr., orange, unused, with gum, £6 15s. (medium copy). Brunswick, first issue, 3 sgr., vermilion, unused, £5 12s. 6d. Levant, 1865, 2 kr., brown and blue, unused, but slight tear, £6 10s.; 20 kr., blue and red, unused, a little thinned, £5 10s. Moldavia, first issue, 54 paras, used, £11 10s.; 108 paras, unused, fine, £48; a used copy, tiny pin-hole, but fine, £19. Roman States, first issue, ½ baj., bluish grey, vertical *tête-bêche* pair, £6. Servia, error, 2 p., deep green on rose, unused, with gum, £6 2s. 6d. Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red, unused, £16; 1852, 2 reales, pale red, unused, medium, £6; 1853, same, unused, £5 17s. 6d. Sweden, 1866, 17 öre, purple-grey, unused, full gum, £2 2s. Tuscany, 2 soldi, brick-red, unused, £14; 60 crazie, brown-red, unused, small ink spot, £14 15s.; 1 soldo, yellow, unused, £5 2s. 6d.; 3 lire, unused, cut rather close right side, otherwise fine, £62. Wurtemberg, 1857, with silk thread, imperf., 9 kr., rose-carmine, unused, £4. Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf., used, £8; 8d., brown, imperf., used, £9 5s.; 9d., brown, imperf., used, £2 12s. 6d. Labuan, 1880, provisional, "6" twice surcharged in red on 16 c., blue, unused, £9. Persia, 1881, lithographed, 25 c., dull green, unused, mint, £3 2s. 6d. Philippines, first issue, 5 cuartos, orange, unused, £4 10s.; 10 cuartos, pale rose, unused, £3 2s. 6d. Cape, error, 4d., red, but defective, £10 10s. Mauritius, 1s., yellow envelope, cut square, unused, £4 5s. Natal, first issue, 1d., rose, fine horizontal pair, £6 10s.; 1d., blue, ditto, £6 10s. Sierra Leone, first issue, 6d., purple on bluish, imperf., unused, £6; provisionals, 2½d. on 2s., a fine unused horizontal pair with full gum, two types of surcharge, £5 7s. 6d. Transvaal, 1878, 1d., red on blue, error "Transvral," unused, with gum, but torn, £11. British Columbia, perf. 14, 10 c., unused, with gum, £5 7s. 6d.; $1, green, unused, with gum, £10; same, perf. 12½, £2 10s. Canada, 12d., black, laid paper, used, two tiny pin-holes, otherwise good copy, £51; 6d., deep lilac, on thick paper, unused, but a little creased and thinned, £7. Antioquia, first issue, 5 c., green, used, £3 15s. New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, unused, £6 10s.; 1s., violet, unused, £40. Newfoundland, 4d., carmine, unused, £10 10s.; 1s., carmine, unused, full gum and large margins, superb, £61; 4d., orange, unused, £4 4s. and £6; 6d., orange, unused, with gum, small margins, £4 17s. 6d.; 1s., orange, unused, part gum, £62. Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, unused, £35; 1s., cold violet, used, £11 15s. Dominican Republic, 1 rl., black on green, unused, but a little thinned, £3 10s.; 1 rl., black on yellow, similar condition, unused, £2 7s. 6d.; another, used, £3 10s. Mexico, 3 c., brown, eagle, surcharged, unused, with gum, £3. Campeche, 1877, 25 c., blue, used, £5 5s. Uruguay, 1895, 25 c., red-brown and black, with *centre inverted*, £4 10s. Barbados, 1873, star, clean-cut perf., 4d., rose-red, unused, £3 5s.; pair, 1d. on half 5s., rose, used, £12. British Guiana, circular, 8 c., green, used, £12; 12 c., blue, cut to shape and used, from £2 17s. 6d. to £3 15s.; 1852, 4 c., black on deep blue, rubbed as usual, used, £3 7s. 6d.; 1856, 4 c., black on magenta, cut square, £11; 1 c., brown, 1860, thin paper, perf. 12, unused, with gum, £3 15s.; provisional, 1862, 4 c., blue, pearl in heart border, unused and signed, £5; another, used, £3; same value, border of rosaces, with inner lines, used, £6. Grenada, large star, 2½d., rose-lake, and 2½d., claret, 1881, unused, with gum, £4 8s.; 4d., blue, ditto, £2 12s. St. Kitts, provisional, 1887, one penny on ½d., dull green, twice surcharged, unused, £5. St. Vincent, 6d., yellow-green, clean-cut perf. 15 to 15½, unused, £5 5s.; 1s., violet-rose, perf. 11 to 12½, unused, £3 5s.; 1s., claret, ditto, full gum, £3 3s.; 1s., violet-rose compound perfs., unused, £3 17s. 6d.; 1s., vermilion, ditto, £3 2s. 6d.; provisional 1d. on half 6d., unused pair, full gum, £17 10s. Tobago, CA, 6d., bistre-brown, unused, with gum, £6 10s.; used, £4 7s. 6d.; Lady McLeod, dark blue, unused, £12 15s. Turks Islands, 1s., lilac, unused (?), £12 12s. Virgin Islands, 1s., crimson, *with central figure omitted*, unused, £21. New South Wales, 1d., Sydney View, Plate II., unused, £11; another, £6; 2d., blue, Plate I., unused, £12 5s.; another, £7 15s.; laureated 2d., stars in corner, unused, £7 10s.; 1854, 3d., green, error, wmk. 2, a trifle cut into, £5. Tasmania, 1d., blue, unused, with gum, £5 7s. 6d. Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow, unused and full gum, £9 5s. Western Australia, first issue, 2d., brown on red, unused, minute tear, £9 5s.; 1861, rough perf., 6d., purple-brown on blued, unused, full gum, £10 2s. 6d.; the 1s., green, unused, £4 5s.; 2d., mauve, error, somewhat heavy postmark, £5 10s.; a collection of 2,625 stamps for £32 closed the sale.

Sale February 1st and 2nd. A good useful lot of stamps. We notice: Great Britain, 1862, 1s., green with hair lines, unused and full gum, £10; 8d., brown-lilac, unused horizontal pair with full gum, £4. Schleswig-Holstein, first issue, 1 and 2 sch., a fine unused horizontal pair of, each with full gum, £5 10s.; a book containing 283 scarce and in demand stamps, £60. Ceylon, 1s., violet, star, block of sixteen, unused, fine, £6 6s. Hong

Kong, 96 c., yellow-brown, unused, £3 5s. A collection of Shanghai, 211 stamps, £10 10s. Zanzibar, provisional 2½, in red, on 1 a., unused vertical strip of four, showing two types, £7 10s. U.S.A. periodicals, 1879, set complete except 9 c., all unused and mostly full gum, £13 15s. British Guiana, 1862, 4 c., blue, trefoil, used, £4 15s. Trinidad, 1882, CA, 4d., grey, unused, strip of three, full gum, £3 15s. Queensland, first issue, 2d., blue, imperf., three fine *penmarked* specimens, used on piece, £7 5s.

* * *

MR. W. HADLOW'S sale, January 25th and 26th, comprised some good, useful lots, mainly of the wholesale order, and upon running through the catalogue we fail to find anything especially worth calling attention to in these columns.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON, January 30th and 31st. This sale comprised the collection of Mons. A. Le Conte. None of the lots appear to run into high figures. We notice the following: Belgium, 1850, wmk. with frame, 10 c., brown, unused, £2 4s. France, 1 franc, orange, unused, medium, £4 5s.; 1872–5, 15 c., brown on rose, error, unused, no gum, £5 5s.; 1876, 25 c., ultramarine, Type 1, unused, no gum, £2 4s. French Colonies, 1871–7, 4 c., grey, unused, part gum, £2 12s. 6d. Sweden, 1866, 17 öre, grey, unused, £2. Gold Coast, CC, 12½, 1d., blue, unused, 50s.; 20s., green and red, unused, £4 4s. Lagos, perf. 12½, 1s., orange, unused, £2 5s. U.S.A., 1851, 5 c., brown, unused, no gum, £5. St. Kitts, CA, 4d., blue, unused, £3 5s. Ceylon, 2·50, lilac-rose, perf. 12½, unused, £7 5s. U.S.A., 24 cents, *inverted centre*, medium, £12 10s. Collection of 2,978 stamps, £25.

This firm announce that their sale on March 20th and 21st will include a portion of the very fine collection of United States formed by Sidney Castle, Esq., and also a fine private collection by order of the trustee in bankruptcy of C. J. Duranty.

* * *

WE omitted to mention last month, in referring to the sale of well-known collections, that Consul von Muezzenbecher had also placed his stamps on the market. This collection, which is of quite a hoary antiquity, is one of considerable magnitude, a prominent feature being the large number of rare stamps on original covers. Herr Theodor Haas has recently remounted and rearranged the collection, which in some respects was perhaps hardly *fin de siècle*, but none the less embraces nearly all the rare stamps and some of the "great rarities."

* * *

MR. PAUL KOHL has been on a visit to philatelic circles in London, bringing with him a large portion of the celebrated Transehe-Roseneck collection. Many and valuable are the stamps therein contained, inclusive of some of the very rarest of all. One small book containing such trifles as the pair of 2 c., 1850, British Guiana, several Hawaiian, duplicate sets of Moldavian, *et cetera*, represented a fair-sized fortune. It cannot be gainsaid, however, from a collector's point of view—and the opinion is only given after personal examination—that the collection is more noteworthy from the aspect of value than that of Philately. The standard rarities are all there, frequently many times repeated, but the really difficult stamps, the minor varieties, and the evidence of long study are all wanting. No one who tries to build up a big collection rapidly can acquire at the same time the true inward graces of Philately.

Herr Kohl is making, however, very large sales from the collection; and, indeed, is so overwhelmed with orders and want lists, that he has been unable to satisfy the impatience of his customers. It is abundantly evident, despite the croaking in certain Continental circles, that the demand for *good stamps* is fully up to the supply. Modern South American issues, speculated United States Departmentals, or used 18 kreuzer Wurtembergs *may* be difficult to move at "catalogue prices," but there are other and better "cattle" than these.

* * *

THE HUNTER SALE.

THE most important event of the season in American philatelic circles has been the sale of the Hunter Collection at auction.

The sale, it seems, may be taken as fairly satisfactory on the whole, though bargains doubtless were numerous and inevitable in such a large accumulation of good things.

Condition, so important to collectors of the present day, told unmistakably. Almost every rare stamp in mint condition realised a good figure; while, we are told, all specimens with the slightest damage could only be moved off at a big fall in price. The owner, it is stated, will probably get as a net result an amount of money equal to about three times his total investment, and so may fairly be congratulated.

We append a list of some of the principal lines sold, and give the prices realised in English money approximately.

	£	s.	d.
Baltimore.—1846, 5 c., black on white, on original letter, cancelled . .	52	0	0
Brattleboro.—1846, 5 c., black on buff, No. 5 on plate, has small red pen-mark, cancelled . . .	72	0	0
New Haven.—1845, 5 c., red, original, a little rubbed at one side, otherwise fine, unused . . .	65	0	0
New York.—1845, bluish paper, 5 c., signed by Robert H. Morris, signature reading downward, cancelled . .	5	0	0
Ditto, ditto, the same signature, reading upward, cancelled . . .	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, blue paper, 5 c., unsigned, has writing on back, otherwise fine, unused	6	0	0
Providence.—1846, 5 c., black, on original cover, pen-cancelled . .	6	0	0
United States.—1857, 5 c., brick-red, brilliant copy, o.g. . . .	16	0	0
Ditto, 1869, 24 c., green and purple, medallion inverted, horizontal pair, cancelled	50	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 30 c., blue and carmine, flags inverted, cancelled . .	80	0	0
Ditto, 1873, State, $5, o.g. . .	19	0	0
Ditto, Carriers, 1851, Franklin, on original cover, cancelled . .	4	10	0
Ditto, ditto, very fine copy, on original cover, cancelled . . .	6	5	0
Ditto, ditto, New York, 1842–6, City Despatch Post, used provisionally by U.S. City Despatch Post, on original cover, cancelled . . .	10	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Ditto, ditto, 2 c. on 3 c., on original cover, the only copy known of this rarity, creased at left, otherwise fine, cancelled	53	10	0
Ditto, Entire Envelopes, 1860, 6 c., red on white (N. No. 43), unused	6	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 6 c., red on buff (N. No. 44), unused	9	5	0
Ditto, Locals, Adams and Co.'s Express, type L4, black on pink paper, cancelled	7	10	0
Ditto, ditto, D.F.B. City Express, 1 c., blue, unique, creased across corner and thin spot on face, unused	10	10	0
Ditto, ditto, D. O. Blood and Co., 1841, type L22, 3 c., red on white, on original cover, cancelled	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, Bouton's Franklin City Despatch Post, black on green, glazed paper, slightly cut into at bottom, on original cover, cancelled	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, Bouton's 1847, type L42, 2 c., pink, a little stained by gum, unused	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, Moody's Penny Dispatch, black on vermilion glazed paper, on original cover, cancelled	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, Overton and Co.'s Express, type L218, black on greenish, cancelled	5	17	0
Ditto, ditto, Priest's Paid Despatch, type L228, gold on bluish, on original cover, lightly pen-cancelled	6	5	0
Confederate States.—Greenwood, 10 c., black on bluish, on original cover, but unused	45	0	0
Ditto, Nashville, type A2, 10 c., green, tear at side, but nothing gone, cancelled	21	10	0
Ditto, Pleasant Shade, 5 c., blue, unused	13	5	0
Ditto, Tellico Plains, 5 c., red, no margins on two sides, unused	12	5	0
British Columbia and *Vancouver Island.* 1865, imperf., 5 c., rose, small margin at bottom and speck gone from lower left corner, cancelled	12	15	0
British Guiana.—1850, type A1, 2 c., black on pink, cut round, with fair margins outside the circle, neatly mounted, cancelled	351	0	0
Ditto, 1850, type A2, 1 c., magenta, block of four showing both types, lightly cancelled	28	15	0
Ditto, 1856, 4 c., blue, paper coloured through, wide margins, the two lower corners have been torn off and restored, but the design is untouched, on original cover, cancelled	89	0	0
Ditto, 1862, provisional issue, 1 c., pink, entire unsigned sheet, 12 stamps of type A6, 8 of type A7, and 4 of type A8, unused	43	0	0
Great Britain.—1840, 1 p., black, "V.R." in upper corners, Maltese Cross cancellation	12	0	0
Grenada.—1882, 1 p., orange and green (No. 18), manuscript surcharge in black ink, cancelled	7	10	0
Ditto, 1882, 1 p., orange and green (No. 18), manuscript surcharge in red ink, cancelled	11	0	0
Mauritius.—1848, bluish paper, 1 p., red (No. 9 on plate), early state, lightly cancelled	12	10	0
New Brunswick.—1851, 1 sh., bright red violet, fine margins on two sides, cut close on other two, very small thin spot on back, lightly cancelled	16	10	0
Roumania.—1858, 54 pa., blue on green, on original cover, lightly cancelled	18	10	0
Ditto, 1858, 108 pa., blue on rose, on large piece of original cover, lightly cancelled	34	0	0
Spain.—1853, Madrid, 3 c., bronze, cut close at bottom, o.g.	18	10	0
Switzerland.—Basle, 1845, 2½ r., o.g.	6	10	0
Ditto, Geneva, 1843, 10 c., yellow-green, both halves unsevered, on original cover, one has small tear in margin, but design untouched, cancelled	17	10	0
Ditto, Federal Administration, 1849–50, type A7, 4 c., large margins, on original cover, cancelled	20	10	0
Turks Islands.—1873–9, 1 sh., violet, perfs. touch design on two sides, unused	19	10	0
Ditto, 1881, 2½ p. on 1 sh., slate, type I., horizontal pair, blank margin at left, o.g.	16	15	0
Ditto, ditto, 2½ p. on 1 p., vermilion, type I., o.g.	4	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 2½ p. on 1 p., vermilion, type M, perfs. touch design on two sides, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 2½ p. on 1 sh., violet, type M, o.g.	5	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 2½ p. on 1 sh., violet, type M, perfs. clipped at bottom, o.g.	7	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 p. on 1 p., vermilion, type O, inverted surcharge, unused	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 p. on 1 p., vermilion, type Q, inverted surcharge, cancelled	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 p. on 1 sh., violet, type O, perfs. touch design on two sides, o.g.	5	0	0
Tuscany.—1852, 60 c., brown-red, cancelled	10	10	0
Western Australia.—1865–9, Crown and CC, perf. 12½, 2 p., pale lilac, error, cancelled	10	10	0

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. MARCH, 1900. No. 99.

Impending British Colonial Issues.

LORD SALISBURY'S significant declaration that "this country cannot assent to the future independence of the South African Republics" may be taken to absolutely predict the speedy restoration of British rule within these two countries. The supersession of the Orange Free State postage stamps will involve a similar condition to that formerly associated with its rebellious neighbour's issues of having been first Republican and then Colonial. It is, however, probable that the general run of "Great Britain and Colonies" collectors will not repeat the former mistake of leaving these outside the pale, but will forthwith include the "late" Orange Free State issues under the Colonial series.

The reissue of British stamps in the Transvaal will present a philatelically historic aspect, that we trust for the credit of the nation may always remain without a parallel.

1. Transvaal.
2. British Transvaal, (*a*) surcharged V.R. and (*b*) Queen's head.
3. Transvaal, Queen's head, surcharged for Republican use.
4. British Transvaal.

What a reflex of past maladroitness in the management of a Colonial Empire! We do not think, however, any Gladstone of the twentieth century will venture to allow a fifth series of stamps of the Republican order to be issued! Collectors of Colonial stamps may therefore feel reasonably safe in spreading their net to include the past issues of both countries—an action that will materially increase the total number of varieties. The general result will probably be increased attention to the British African stamps and the formation of a school of Philatelists whose attention will be devoted solely to the African or South African stamps of the British Empire. Having regard either to the past or the great future thereof, this new school will probably have plenty of varieties to absorb.

The Early Issues of Uganda.

By MRS. E. C. BAZETT.



THE inclosed correspondence, owing to its having been out to Uganda, and much delayed as well, is now some eight months old, and the discussions which led to my writing have died out, but it may nevertheless interest you.

The Rev. E. Millar, C.M.S., to whom I wrote, was the printer of the two first issues of the Uganda stamps, and therefore probably the best authority about them. Briefly, what caused me to write to him was having had offered to me, and seen, numbers of stamps whose authenticity I doubted.

The early issues marked with Kampala postmarks may have been, and probably were, stamps private people had had laid by. The Kikuyu postmark evidently has been done for collectors, the town Kikuyu not being in Uganda at all, but in British East Africa.

The Ankoli postmarks are now genuine enough, but at the time I wrote I do not think they were; in fact, I know they were not, as my son-in-law, who was at home with us then, was corresponding with the officer in charge of that district, and his letters bore no such stamp; he also stated there were no whites in the district.

The Ankoli was genuine enough, but at that time the die had not, I think, left Kampala (the headquarters of government in the capital), and it was probably applied there. The sender of one letter with disputed stamps happened to be a civil officer who was going to Ankoli district, so he may have had the die in his possession. You will see the first issue appears to have been about 2,000, and to have been issued in two sizes, but my own measure so erratically that I should not like to say what these sizes are.

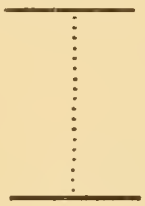
As to errors, their name is legion, if you take in all the slips of type. I have nothing I should class as an error, though I have a strip of the values 10 to 100, V.R. 96, of which the 100 and 20 are marked "U.R." with a "V" overprinted, and a used 60 which was printed "600" and the cipher struck out.

I have submitted the correspondence to your journal, as, of course, the early settlers in Uganda took no interest in Philately, and no records have been kept, so that each year that passes will make it more difficult to clear up disputed points; and I thought you were probably the best person to secure a record of anything which you might think worth recording about the Philately of the country. I may say I know many of the missionaries there, and my son-in-law has been in Uganda about eight years, so that if I can be of any service to you in helping to clear up the philatelic history of the country by inquiring amongst the old residents, I shall be most happy to do so.

"NAMIREMBE, MENGO, UGANDA, *June 7th*, 1899.

"DEAR MRS. BAZETT,—Your letter and paper of conundrums arrived here on the 5th inst., and I inclose the solutions of as many problems as I can solve.

"The question of the green ink on stamps is one I cannot solve. I never, to my knowledge, used any green ink; the violet ink ribbon looks greenish when new. The present line is written with a piece of new ribbon. I do not know whether you can see any difference. I do not know the difference between laid and wove paper, so could not answer that question. All the stamps were printed on the one kind of paper, and they were printed as wanted, hence variations; the first stamps were wider than the next lot. You may be able to tell forgeries by very carefully measuring the length of the stamp. For example, this is a forgery :—



"The length of the others, the real ones, is a very little shorter, perhaps this much (–).

"I inclose you a sheet of the paper from which the stamps were printed. It is one of the few I have left. I cannot illustrate my remarks by specimens, as the stamps of the early issues which I have are not accessible at the present time, though I hope to have them in England when I go there next year with the Katikiro. The Government here had arranged to supply me with some sheets of stamps of the early issues, and these I got on my return here. I see Stanley Gibbons, in the violet U.G. edition, does not quote 30 and 40 shell stamps, though I think these were printed specially for Dr. Ansorge and were never in circulation. I think you would be safe in saying 30 and 40 shell values were printed in the violet U.G. issue.

"On page one, March 15th is the first entry for stamps I have in my books, and I think the year was 1895, but I am not sure at all, though the probability is very strong—in fact, I am in my own mind certain the stamps were issued at that time. My account of stamps seems to me imperfect, as it only reaches to November 11th, 1895 (?), I suppose, and yet the printed stamps did not, I think, come in till the end of 1896.

"The stamps were printed twelve lines on a sheet and then a line upside down on the bottom of the sheet; this was done to economise paper.

"As regards stamps postmarked at Kikuyu. In my time the mails were not stamped with Uganda stamps for England, but I paid by cheque. After I had left, the archdeacon started stamping letters with Uganda stamps, but even then they were inclosed in a bundle for the agent at the coast, and never were the stamps even cancelled, as far as I know. When I came back I began to cancel all the stamps with a pencil on the home letters, and then addressed them to the agent in a bundle. A few letters were stamped with both Uganda and I.B.E.A. stamps, and went loose, but even then they would have been put in a bag and sent to the postmaster direct, and it is most unlikely that a roadside station like Kikuyu should stamp the letters. Anyhow, Kikuyu is no more an official stamp than Reading would be, and is no proof of genuineness. By the way, the Kikuyu stamp marks 'KIKURGU,' and not 'Kikuyu.' At least, as far as I know this is so; it used to be so, and I have a distinct remembrance of seeing the same stamp a few weeks back. "I remain, yours sincerely,

"ERNEST MILLAR."

A specimen of the only paper on which these stamps were printed was inclosed by Mr. Millar. It is of a thin and brittle nature, laid horizontally, with vertical lines about an inch apart, *i.e. vergé bâtonné.*

MRS. BAZETT'S QUESTIONS AND MR. MILLAR'S REPLIES.

1. *Q.* What date were the first Uganda stamps issued?
   A. March 15th, 1895.
2. *Q.* What were the values, and were they all typewritten?
   A. I am uncertain as to values, but think they were 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 100: and about six at 35 and 45 were printed.
3. *Q.* What colours were used? and what values in each colour?
   A. Violet, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 100, 30(?), 40(?); black, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60. I forget the colour of the 35 and 45; they were done for Dr. Ansorge.
4. *Q.* Were there any green typewritten?
   A. No; unless the green was due to the newness of the ribbon.
5. *Q.* Were all the values written on the same kind of paper?
   A. Yes.
6. *Q.* Was paper laid or wove?
7. *Q.* Were there any errors made which could increase the value of the stamp?
   A. Not intentional errors. In some cases the figures were misplaced.
8. *Q.* Have you any idea how many were issued?
   A. About 2,000, I should think; but I do not know.
9. *Q.* Were they made only by you, by one machine, and in one place?
   A. Only by me, on one machine, in one place.
10. *Q.* Were they ever stamped by a postmarking stamp? or how were used stamps marked?
   A. Used stamps were crossed with a pencil. Erasing stamps came into use in 1898, autumn.
11. *Q.* How far could these stamps carry letters?
   A. Anywhere in the Protectorate.
12. *Q.* Why were the colours changed?
   A. Because I put a different ribbon in my typewriter.
13. *Q.* Were these expended when the second, or 1896, issue came out?
   A. No.
14. *Q.* How were they typewritten? In blocks of one value separately, or in ribbons of increasing value, or sheets of each value separately?
   A. In ribbons sometimes, but more usually in lines, thus:—

5	5	5
10	10	10
15	15	15
20	20	20

Sometimes in the common values whole sheets, even. The first stamps were squarer than the next lot printed; 116 to the sheet, nine to the row. Next lot were 143 to sheet, eleven to row.

Second Issue, 1896.

1. *Q.* When did these come into use?
   A. About June, I fancy, but am not sure.
2. *Q.* How printed? Blocks, sheets, or ribbons?
   A. Ribbons and sheets and lines as before.

3. *Q.* What were the values?
   A. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, 100.
4. *Q.* What the colours?
   A. Violet, I think.
5. *Q.* Were they all typewritten?
   A. Yes.
6. *Q.* Were they all on the same kind of paper?
   A. Yes.
7. *Q.* Were there any errors?
   A. Accidental errors.
8. *Q.* Did they cease when the third issue came out?
   A. A few were printed afterwards.
9. *Q.* Did these stamps carry to the same distances as Issue 1?
   A. Yes.
10. *Q.* How postmarked or erased? Ever by a regular stamp?
    A. Crossed with a pencil. No erasing stamps here till autumn, 1898.

Third Issue, V.R.

1. *Q.* Where issued?
   A. At Government stations.
2. *Q.* Who made them, and where?
   A. C.M.S. press, Usoga, by Rev. F. Rowling.
3. *Q.* What was the difference between those with and without an "L"?
   A. Those with "L" were supposed to be for local use only, and those without "L" for the home mail.
4. *Q.* What difference in papers, and what values?
   A. 8 annas, 1 rupee, 5 rupees on better paper. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 annas, rs. 1, 5.
5. *Q.* Where and why were the "L's" discontinued?
   A. I suppose the "L" was useless.
6. *Q.* Were they typewritten or printed?
   A. Printed; "L" put on by Government.
7. *Q.* If printed, where and when?
   A. Usoga, 1896, autumn.
8. *Q.* Were any of these in use at the same time as the second issue?
   A. Yes.
9. *Q.* When were these first postmarked with a stamp?
   A. Autumn, 1898.
10. *Q.* Were they only "Kampala" stamped?
    A. No.
11. *Q.* Were there others stamped "Ankole," "Lubeva," or "Lubas" issued at same time?
    A. As soon as the dating and erasing stamps arrived they were put in use.
12. *Q.* Are either of the previous issues likely to have been *used* with these postmarks?
    A. Possibly, if anyone had stored them up.
13. *Q.* Will you explain why some people in England are selling stamps, which they call *tête-bêche*, or one row reversed head against head, or pairs side by side reversed?

(I have been told it was to use all the paper, the sheet being turned for the last row, and that one side of a sheet is printed and then turned and printed the other way,

so that central pairs are made from the cutting a pair each side of the centre divisions, one printing being thus upside down. These have been offered for sale at absurd prices.)

A. Ask the printer; it was only done for convenience of printing, or by an error of the boy. I send you two specimens of such stamps; the 3 anna style is the commoner of the two.

14. *Q.* Is Kikuyu in Uganda?

A. No.

15. *Q.* Is it in Postal Union? Does it belong to B.E.A.?

A. Yes. Yes.

16. *Q.* Are the Uganda stamps used on envelopes ever opened and stamped there? or are the stamps going the rounds, with Kikuru on them, only some that have been marked for sale to collectors?

A. Letters were stamped here with Uganda and B.E.A. stamps, the latter to be stamped at the coast. I have never *seen* a Kikuyu postmark on a Uganda stamp, and think it most unlikely, from what I know of Kikuyu, that anyone there would open the bags addressed to the Postmaster, Mombasa; they were probably stamped for collectors.

17. *Q.* Can you explain first issue stamps, said to be "a block of 50 value," sent to a dealer and postmarked "Ankole," date November or December, 1898?

Were these values printed in a block, or were they in ribbons of graduated value, like a strip I had sent me of yours?

A. I do not understand what you mean by a block. As far as I can remember, I never printed more than twenty-two 50 shell stamps on a sheet, as that value was not much used. These stamps must have been stored for years and then postmarked when the erasing stamp came up.

The Philatelists' War Fund.

THE AUCTION AT ST. MARTIN'S TOWN HALL, MARCH 28.

By M. P. CASTLE.

IT may be as well to explain the real genesis of this movement, which I am glad to say has had such a successful termination. Towards the gloomy close of last year, when Britain's arms seemed unable to achieve success, I happened to meet Mr. Walter Bull, of the firm of Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, the well-known auctioneers, and Mr. C. J. Phillips, the equally widely known Director of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. No three Englishmen, meeting together at such an anxious period of their country's history, could long refrain from discussing the war, and I then suggested that if all sections of stamp collectors and dealers were to combine and have a War Fund Auction, it would do good all round. We parted on the understanding that each should elicit opinions from friends, and I was soon informed by Mr. Walter Bull that many people approved of the notion, and would

support it if the movement was *initiated by the London Philatelic Society*. It was entirely in deference to this wish that the Metropolitan Society started the movement, and after Messrs. Walter Bull and H. R. Oldfield had been elected joint hon. secretaries, circulars were sent not only to every individual known to collectors, dealers, or auctioneers, but practically every Philatelic or Exchange Society in Great Britain. It is to be regretted that the provincial societies have not backed up the lead of the Metropolis, but I have thought it advisable to mention the initiatory details of the movement in order to clear the air of any suspicion that the London Society had any wish to arrogate to itself the functions of any other body.

Nearly three hundred people have generously supported the scheme, their contributions numbering, besides money gifts, 350 lots. The names of the great majority are given in an appendix to the catalogue, and will be seen to be especially comprehensive. Dealers and collectors have vied with each other in liberal contributions, and it is especially pleasing to note the co-operation of some of our foreign friends.

The catalogue is a handsome production (printed by the Crown Press, 13, Devonshire Street, E.C.), with its gold-lettered satined cover adorned with a portrait of Her Gracious Majesty beneath the gay colours of the Union Jack and Royal Standard. The reverse of the cover is ornamented with eleven of the stamps of Great Britain and Colonies, appropriately inclusive of the Transvaal, both surcharged "V.R." and with the Queen's head.

When Mr. Walter Bull ascended the rostrum at three o'clock on the 28th instant there could not have been present less than 100 ladies and gentlemen—a number that was largely increased as the afternoon wore on, until the room became densely crowded. No such attendance has ever been seen at any philatelic auction in this country. Among those attending I noticed Messrs. Hausburg, Gwyer, Hadlow, Blest, Pemberton, Giwelb, Peckitt, Oldfield, Napier (Lieut.), Tilleard, Field, Turner, Levy (Plymouth), Selby, Gordon Smith, Allison, Ehrenbach, Benjamin, Griebert, Barnsdell, Lloyd, Bacon, A. de Worms (Baron), Maycock, Reichenheim, Ewen, Evans (Major), Frentzel, Oliver, Ginn, F. R. Hall, Callf, Biggs, Nankivell, Westhorpe, Wickham Jones, Meyer, Cummings, Emerson, Anderson, Jones, J. W. Kuttner, and Willett, while many other well-known faces doubtless escaped my notice in the crowded room.

Mr. Bull commenced proceedings by a graceful little speech in which he commented upon everybody's services in the patriotic cause except his own. His remarks upon the origin of the auction were in conformity with those I have already made at the commencement of these notes, and he especially dwelt upon the loyalty with which everyone had endeavoured to contribute in some manner towards the success of the Philatelic War Auction. The support of the leading dealers and collectors was especially noteworthy, and liberal to the highest degree, while equally pleasing was the spirit which induced the vestry to forego their fees for the use of St. Martin's Town Hall, and the determination of the hallkeeper to supply all refreshments without charge. Mr. Bull then announced that the amount of cash donations to the fund amounted to over £60, and that a considerable sum was to be expected from the sale of the catalogues.

The sale then commenced, the first lot—of relatively little value—having a bidder at £5, who announced his intention to donate that sum to the fund if his bid was exceeded. Another patriotic spirit promptly bid £5 2s. 6d., and the fund at once benefited £10 2s. 6d.! This was the spirit that dominated the auction throughout, one and all seeming determined that the total realised should be substantial and satisfactory. Bids were taken that "fell with the hammer"; lots were bought that were not wanted by the buyer; many others were improvised by gentlemen in the room; and practically everybody stayed through the whole of the six hours of the sale, eager to the last minute to see that the total realised the desired four figures. When this result seemed to hang for a moment in the balance, an influx of fresh lots and bidders rapidly placed the verdict beyond doubt, and the room rang with cheers when Mr. Bull announced that the total of the lots sold, irrespective of donations, catalogues, etc., had passed £1,000.

It would appear that from all sources nearly £1,100 will accrue for the benefit of "Tommy Atkins"; and, as I have before ventured to urge, such a result will always be a striking memento of the patriotism of stamp collectors. In truth, no other section of the community can be more permeated with the extent and power of the British Empire.

I can but glance here at the results realised by the individual lots, of which full details will doubtless be given in the next issue. The highest price attained (£93) was for the 3 lire Tuscany—so generously given—which should have attained even a higher figure. The Trinidad set, given by H.R.H. the Duke of York, was knocked down to Mr. Hausburg, after a spirited competition, for £30, and the six volumes of the works of the London Philatelic Society, also signed by the Duke of York, realised the splendid aggregate of £36 15s. A pair of imperforate 1d., South Australia, unused, and a 6d., bronze, West Australia, also unused, realised £16 10s. and £16 respectively, Mr. Hausburg again being the purchaser, while Mr. Ehrenbach became the proud possessor of a huge sack of used English for the ridiculous sum of twenty-five shillings!

Mr. W. Hadlow kindly gave Mr. Bull a rest during a portion of the protracted proceedings, which were not terminated until considerably past nine o'clock. It then fell to my lot to express to the auctioneers, notably to Mr. Walter Bull, who with Mr. H. R. Oldfield had been joint Hon. Secretary, the gratitude of all present to him and those gentlemen for the great labours they had devoted to the patriotic auction, and their congratulations upon its very successful result. Needless to say that the heartiest accord was shown by every one present, which Mr. Walter feelingly acknowledged. The whole audience then sang the National Anthem, and even if somewhat exhausted we all departed with the happy consciousness that each had tried to do some "little thing" for the benefit of those that their fighting line of brothers "had left behind them."

I should add that a photograph was taken of the room, and that it will be on sale at 3s. 6d., of which 1s. goes to the fund, and that Mr. Wolfe very excellently recited "The Absent-Minded Beggar," with a successful collection of some six or seven pounds.

Philatelic Notes.

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

THE MOLDAVIANS OF 1858.

THE question raised as to the nature of the majority of the stamps of this issue—whether they are remainders or reprints—still forms the subject of discussion on the Continent. The latest contribution thereto emanates from the pen of Herr Sigmund Friedl in the *Briefmarken Offerten Blatt*, and despite the caution with which any statements made by such a notorious philatelic evildoer should be received, seems in the main to bear the impress of truth. Herr Friedl states that in 1890 and 1891 he purchased a remainder of all these values—some in sheets and some loose—that had originally come from the widow of Herr von Manovarda, a former Director of the Post of Moldo-Wallachia. Of the 80 paras on blue there were none, but of the 5 paras on the same paper there was a complete sheet. We have seen and held specimens of these latter, but neither the paper nor the impressions bear any resemblance to any other values or papers of the series; and it is generally believed that they are lithographic reproductions, probably the handiwork of Herr S. Friedl himself. There was but one *cliché* of each value made, and from these original dies the stamps were struck singly on small sheets in four rows of eight each. Owing to this fact and the consequent rapid deterioration of the dies, says Herr Friedl, it is difficult to find any two sheets exactly alike—a statement which will be borne out by every collector of these stamps. As regards the 5 paras without and with the small defect in the base line of the frame, Herr Friedl says that undoubtedly the first issue of this value was that without the break, but he holds that there can be no question of any second die, as this is the only variation, and that probably this small white spot is the result of some slight subsequent damage to, or defect in, the die. We are quite in accord with this supposition, nor do we believe, with Herr Friedl, there is any question of any reprints of this issue at all. The only stamps that are to be distrusted are the 5 paras on very blue (and silky-soft) paper, which, in our view, are forgeries.

DANISH PERFORATIONS, 1851 *TO* 1858.

THERE was a mystery about the perforation of the early Danish issues in the days when we first took to stamp collecting, and there clings a mystery thereto even now. It is well known that the first accepted authentic perforated issue of Denmark is that of 1864-8 of the upright rectangular shape, but it is almost equally well known that many of the varieties of the preceding issues are known perforated or rouletted. What,

however, does not seem assured is the due classification of these perforations into official, unofficial, and officious. Of the latter category there are assuredly many copies extant, and given the commonness of most of the used old issues of this country, there has been abundant material ready at the faker's hand. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, 1899, gives the following :—

Perforated Unofficially.

1851.	4 r.b.s., dark brown,	perf. 12.
1853–7.	2, 4, 8, 16 sk.	,, 10 to 14.
1858.	4, 8 sk.. .	,, ,,

Rouletted (? Officially).

1853–7.	4, 8, 16 sk.
1858.	4, 8 sk.

The last-named, 4 sk., is given (correctly) in two shades, and is of course that with the wavy-line spandrels, that preceding it having the dotted or "sanded" spandrels.

There are some of these quoted varieties that we have not yet come across in satisfactory condition, but we have recently been shown a number of specimens by a well-known collector that seemed, at first sight, calculated to remove all suspicion as to their genuine nature, whether official or otherwise. All were on portions of the original letter, in most cases with the obliteration *portant;* and our friend stated that they were, within his knowledge, torn off old letters from an office where the vices and virtues of philatelic requirements were utterly unknown.

The specimens were as follows, the postmarks that were legible being of the year 1855 :—

Perforated.

1851.	4 r.b.s., dark brown.
1853–7.	4, 16 sk.

Rouletted.

1853.	4, 8 sk.
1858.	8 sk.

As far as could be seen without removing the stamps, the perforations were uniformly 12½. In the roulettes, the 8 sk. of 1853 was composed of smaller incisions than usual, while the like value of 1858 was apparently exactly as the 4 sk. of this same issue (with wavy spandrels), which is the commonest of these series. The two first varieties in this list are occasionally to be met with, but all the four latter are rarely to be seen. In the writer's collection there are perforations gauging 10 and 11 × 10, which *may* be of the officious class. The perforation gauging 12½ would seem the most natural and fitting as that first subsequently officially employed, and, as in the case of the Tasmanian stamps, the unofficial perforations may ultimately have become legitimatised by official use. The examination of these recent specimens gives us good ground for belief that, except perhaps the 4 r.b.s. and the 2 sk. of 1853, all the remaining values exist both rouletted and perf. 12½, and that these varieties were the product of genuine requirements.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND REMAINDERS.

THIS fact—welcome to all sound Philatelists—which has already been described in these columns, does not seem to have been universally approved in the Dominion, judging by some of the local Press comments. In the eyes of collectors it was an eminently desirable step, and does something to rehabilitate the reputation of Newfoundland on the superfluous issues question. The *Weekly Philatelic Era* gives the following table of the several quantities destroyed :—

Scott's Catalogue.	Stock in hand Nov., 1899.	Numbers destroyed on Jan. 4th, 1900.	Numbers sold *ad interim*.
1 c., pale yellow-green, A17	64,000	None	64,000
2 c., orange, Type A19	74,000	49,717	24,283
3 c., Type A23 (lilac shades)	51,000	40,638	10,332
5 c., blue, 1887	109,000	104,569	4,431
6 c., deep pink, 1890	42,000	34,422	7,578
10 c., black, 1887	96,000	92,966	3,034
12 c., puce-brown, 1890	73,000	69,653	3,347
24 c, blue, 1866	29,000	27,162	1,838

"It will be seen from these figures that of most varieties but a comparatively small quantity was sold, and the total number upon the stamp market has been but little augmented; in fact, in one sense it has greatly decreased. Prior to this dealers could send to St. John's and buy these stamps in sets, and some values singly in quantity at face as they required them. Now the available supply has been decreased by the numbers destroyed, while the quantities sold, as indicated by the third column, it is fair to assume, are in the hands of dealers, collectors, and speculators, and can no longer be obtained at face."

Occasional Notes.

A PATRIOTIC DELAY!

OWING to the fixing of the Philatelic War Fund Auction for the 28th of this month, we have delayed the issue of the *London Philatelist* for a couple of days, in order that our readers, who hail from so many and widely-scattered portions of the globe, may as speedily as possible be made acquainted with the result of a sale that has awakened such remarkable interest in all ranks of collectors throughout the British Empire.

PHILATELIC ECHOES FROM THE WAR.

THE 4th Battalion of Royal Scottish Rifles, in which regiment Mr. Stanley Castle is a lieutenant, arrived at the Cape on the 21st inst., and, it is understood, will very shortly be attached to the Militia Brigade that is to form part of Lord Roberts's great invading army.

Philately is obviously one of the most cosmopolitan pursuits, and it has always been held that the obliteration of differing nationalities formed

one of its greatest charms. In the present red-hot patriotism of the British Empire, we collectors are glad to think that there are still some friendly and sympathetic nations despite the unmannerly and wholly unaccountable insults that the German and French peoples are casting at us. Numerous letters that we have recently received from the United States, Italy, Turkey, Greece, and other countries, breathe the most generous and intense sympathy with the British Empire.

A practical proof of a foreign Philatelist's goodwill is notable in the following letter to the *Daily Telegraph* of March 2nd. The identity of the generous donor is but thinly veiled, nor, we believe, is it the first time that he has lent a helping hand to the country in which "he never considers himself a foreigner." We shall assuredly never hereafter look upon our friend as a foreigner, while we trust that his eminently wise advice in the final sentence of his letter may be taken to heart by the powers that be.

"*To the Editor of 'The Daily Telegraph.'*

"SIR,—We have the pleasure to send you herewith a Bank of England note for £50, together with the copy of a letter from a friend of ours, 'A Law Student at a Belgian University,' who has requested us to hand this sum over to *The Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund. We may add that we are this day forwarding the like amount from the same donor to the Lord Mayor's Transvaal War Fund.—We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

"STANLEY GIBBONS (Limited), W. H. PHILLIPS, *Director.*

"391, STRAND, *March 1st.*

"In the letter above mentioned, 'Stud. Jurisprudence' wrote: 'I want this small token of my deep love for old England, which is almost my native country and Germany's historical ally and friend, to be offered on the occasion of the brilliant victory achieved in South Africa by Field-Marshal Lord Roberts and his gallant troops. My heart is bleeding from the most painful and incurable wound since a cruel and unexpected blow deprived me of my beloved brother, but that bleeding heart beats warmly for England, and, in its deep distress, it shares enthusiastically the joy of the whole British Empire, where I never considered myself, and never shall consider myself, as a foreigner, but as a devoted and affectionate son of the country. The stubborn and splendid resistance of England's gallant foe increases and magnifies the glory of the achieved triumph, and makes me still prouder of it. May the success gained on Majuba-day mark the end of those late reverses, which had filled my soul with grief and sorrow; and may those reverses, now blotted out, teach England that in future her Army must be, at any cost of financial or personal sacrifices, adequate to her glorious past, her present duties, and her future aims or trials."

Members of the Philatelic Society of India will be specially interested to learn that Major du Moulin, the late Secretary of the Dum-Dum Exchange Club, has also gone to the front with the Royal Sussex Regiment —writes the *Philatelic Journal of India.*

WAR STAMPS.

UNDER this heading the *Morning Post*, of March 9th, has a letter from Lord Bateman on which our contemporary expatiates in the orthodox meandering style of the modern leader writer, but apparently quite fails to grasp Lord Bateman's proposal, which was to tax the public—not the Philatelist—for the extra war revenues. However, we trust that neither will be called upon much further, but that the Transvaal itself shall be the milch goat.

We quote the leader of the *Post* in order to show how intensely interesting is the modern scribe when once he deviates from his simple daily routine of instructing the Government and managing the British Empire.

"*To the Editor of the 'Morning Post.'*

"SIR,—If the present ordinary postage stamp, price one penny, were to change colour and develop into a war stamp, price twopence, and if the present halfpenny stamp were to be increased in value to one penny, how much extra revenue would accrue to the Chancellor of the Exchequer? It would appear that such an indirect tax, payable by people at their own option, would bring in a substantial revenue, would relieve many prospective victims of the extra income tax, or a part of it, and hurt nobody in particular,—Yours, &c., "BATEMAN.

"SHOBDON COURT, SHOBDON, HEREFORDSHIRE, *March 8th.*"

"The suggestion of Lord Bateman is one that might wisely be adopted. The ways of the stamp collector are strange—there is no telling to-day what he will value most greatly in a year's time. Yet at least it is certain that if there were to be issued, because of the war, a penny stamp which was not lilac in colour, and for which twopence was charged, and a halfpenny stamp, not vermilion, which was likewise sold in the post offices at double its face value, he and the dealers, who live by an adroit study of his idiosyncrasies, would hasten to buy them in large quantities. It may be remembered by what methods money was raised when it was needed for the Rowland Hill Memorial. A special envelope was issued, bearing a rather primitive design and a penny stamp, which could be used postally, and containing a card on which a brief note might be written. On the day of its issue, post offices all over the kingdom were crowded with people who were eager to buy copies at fifteen pence apiece. The stamp collector is like all the other men who make collections—he is not greatly concerned to make it evident to the outsider why he is so deeply interested in the matters that engross him. If he is told, for example, that the design of such-and-such a stamp is very beautiful, he is apt to reply that the stamp itself is extremely common. If he is told that the design is ugly, he will very likely say that you are right, but that the stamp itself is almost priceless because the printer made the fourth letter in 'HALFPENNY' an 'E' instead of an 'F.' Still, there are moments when he descends from these austere heights, and is glad to be able to display a specimen which has some other right to be considered than that of mere rarity. In times of this sort he would be glad to possess a couple of stamps that would remind him of the days through which we are now passing, and of the way in which the nation has realised its duty. There are South American Republics the chief part of whose revenue is supposed to be earned by the manufacture of stamps for the albums of schoolboys. If Lord Bateman's suggestion were to be adopted, Philatelists all the world over would be practically compelled to contribute towards the cost of the war,

for they all need these stamps, and most of them would buy them at almost any cost. And why should not the enthusiast be used to the advantage of the nation?"

This last sentence shows that the writer has entirely missed Lord Bateman's point, but if the word "Philatelists" were deleted and "the public" substituted, there would remain one gleam of common sense in the article!

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA AND WAR STAMPS.

MR. D. S. ABRAHAM, the Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, writes:—

"I inclose you a cutting from *The Argus* of 27th inst., giving particulars of a new issue here. The Committee of the Society have met, and have forwarded a letter protesting against the issue, a copy of which I inclose. The issue is, according to the Hon. Postmaster-General, in commemoration of the colony of Victoria taking part in war for the first time. We await the reply from the Department before taking further action.

"'It will be remembered that in August, 1897, the then Postmaster-General issued special jubilee stamps in order to raise money for local charities, and that a sum of £3,000 was secured for that purpose. Mr. Watt, following the example of his predecessor, has determined to issue a special set of war stamps. The Government printer has been asked to call for competitive designs of a military character, and, as on the last occasion, prizes of five guineas will be awarded to those who submit the two designs chosen, and two guineas will be given for second prizes. Forty thousand penny and twenty thousand two-penny stamps will be printed, and it is the intention of the Department to retail them at the price of 1s. and 2s. respectively. The proceeds derived from the sale of the stamps will, after the amount of their face value has been deducted, be given to the Victorian Patriotic Fund. It is anticipated that the public will avail themselves of this opportunity of securing a unique class of stamps, and if all are sold, a net sum of £3,600 should be available.'"

"THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"243, COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE,

"*January 30th*, 1900.

"TO HON. W. A. WATT, M.P.,

"*Postmaster-General.*

"DEAR SIR,—I have the honour by direction to inform you that the Committee of the above Society has had under consideration the proposed issue of war stamps, to be sold to the public at a premium above the face value, such premium to be given to the well-deserving Patriotic Fund, and I am desired to inform you of the following resolutions passed by them:—

"'That the Committee of the Philatelic Society of Victoria regrets that the Hon. the Postmaster-General should have decided to issue the proposed war stamp, and that it enters its protest against the issue.'

"I am also desired to give you some of the reasons which have induced my Committee to pass such resolution.

"Firstly. The issue of a war stamp has only been made when war is in progress in the country issuing the stamp, and has never been issued in any part of the world except under such circumstances.

"The issue proposed by you is not even commemorative, but is professedly made to raise money.

"Secondly. The issue of a commemorative stamp is in direct contravention of the Washington Convention, to which this colony was a party.

"Thirdly. The proposed stamps could only be recognised in this colony, and the public can obtain no guarantee that foreign countries or even British colonies would

not tax the letters carrying these proposed stamps as unpaid letters, which course the postal departments outside Victoria would have a perfect right to pursue.

"This was as a fact done with the recent similar issue known as 'Hospital Stamps.'

"Fourthly. The proposed issue is an attempt to raise money by taxing one body of the community, viz. Philatelists, a course to which no other body of persons has been subjected, and for an object to which everyone ought to give voluntarily according to their means.

"The patriotism of Philatelists is not in question; they belong to all sections of the community, and are as patriotic as any other citizens.

"Fifthly. The similar issue in August, 1897, known as 'Hospital Stamps,' was discountenanced by Philatelists here and abroad, although it was not opposed by this Society for the reason that it was in aid of charity. The stamps were purchased by speculators owing to the fact that a few of a similar issue in Sydney had changed hands at an increased price.

"Such speculators have failed to gain by their action, as the stamps sold at 2s. 6d. can now be purchased at 1s. 6d. each, while a large quantity of the stamps sold originally at 1s. can be purchased at 6d. each, and if buyers were forthcoming, even less.

"At the present time a number of that issue still remain in stock in your Department.

"I respectfully submit these facts for your earnest consideration, and trust that the reasons submitted by me will be sufficient to induce you to alter your decision, and decide that it is inadvisable to issue the proposed War Stamps.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"D. S. ABRAHAM, *Hon. Secretary.*"

The action of the Philatelic Society of Victoria is highly to be commended, and may be hoped to produce in the official mind a sense of the fatuity of their proposal.

THE LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

MR. W. DENISON ROEBUCK writes from 259, Hyde Park Road, Leeds, on March 7th:—

"I have just seen your very kindly notice of us in the current number of the *London Philatelist*, with which our members are very much gratified.

"There are three records in our history of which we are proud.

"*First.* We are actually the senior, the oldest, provincial society now existing so far as we at present know, and we do not yield our claim of priority to Manchester, which is the *second* oldest. Of course, I am referring to provincial societies, for of course the London Society is the doyen and pioneer.

"*Second.* I believe we are entitled to the credit of holding the first exhibition of postage stamps open to the public on payment, at all events in the year of the jubilee of penny postage. Our exhibition was opened on the 5th of May, 1890, and was actually opened a few days before the London Jubilee Exhibition of the same year.

"In this connection it would be a matter of some interest to know whether, previous to the jubilee year, any *public* exhibition of postage stamps had been held. Of course, there have been private exhibitions, shows, or displays, at all times.

"*Third.* Leeds is the only place in Britain, and ours the only society, to hold a public exhibition of *fiscal* stamps. This we did in 1894 to celebrate the bicentenary of the first issue of fiscal stamps. It was a very good show, and, to a certain modest extent, it was international in character.

"As I said before, we feel rather proud of our record in these points; and we also take interest in possessing quite an excellent little philatelic library, which is open to our members and, to a limited extent, to the public also during all hours when the Leeds Public Reference Library is open, as our bookcase is, by the kindness of the Leeds Corporation, deposited under the charge of the Public Librarian."

MR. J. S. PURCELL'S SUCCESSOR.

WE are informed that Mr. Ernest Cleaver has been appointed Controller of Stamps and Stores in the Inland Revenue Department, and Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the Board of Trade, in the place of Mr. John Samuel Purcell, C.B. Mr. Purcell's name will always be held in grateful recollection by Philatelists as one who, despite the cares and responsibilities of official life, could still lend a friendly hand to the stamp collector. Mr. Purcell, who is retiring after forty-four years' service, was recently presented, at Somerset House, by the officers of his department, with a complimentary illuminated address and a service of plate, while he was subsequently entertained at a banquet in the "Whitehall" rooms, when a large number of public men assembled to testify the wide esteem in which the ex-Controller of Stamps was held. In the name of all Philatelists we tender Mr. Purcell our devout wishes that he may be spared for many years to enjoy his well-earned rest, and we look to see his name among those whom the Queen delights to honour!

PARCEL POST WITH THE UNITED STATES.

IT seems we may consider the arrangement of a parcel post with the United States to be within measurable distance. Philatelists and all in the stamp trade will be glad indeed to welcome such an undertaking, particularly if the registration facilities are also accorded. At present we cannot register a parcel to Canada, but have to be content with merely a certificate of posting; and, unless dealers run the risk of loss, the parcel has to be insured at Lloyd's, or elsewhere, at a cost for "out and home" of about four shillings per £100 of value.

PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

IN a letter recently received from Mr. D. S. Abraham, the Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, that gentleman writes:—

"It may interest you to know that a suggestion was made at our meeting last November by Mr. A. J. Derrick, and discussed at our December and January meetings, and finally decided, 'That a Philatelic Exhibition be held by the Society in May, 1900, to commemorate the Jubilee of Postage Stamps in Victoria.'

"A strange coincidence has happened, that the Sydney Philatelic Society have decided to hold one in August, neither Society having any knowledge of the other's movements. I will send you details of our scheme as soon as possible."

We can but wish all success to these proposals, which could not fail to benefit the cause of Philately among our gallant Australian friends.

Reviews.

MESSRS. MIRABAUD AND DE REUTERSKIÖLD'S SWISS BOOK.*

CRITICISM practically stands disarmed in the presence of this superb volume, while the reviewer is conscious of a danger with which he is but rarely confronted—the risk of too exuberant a eulogy! So long has this work been heralded that collectors, who were not behind the scenes, had almost begun to doubt whether some unforeseen incident had not rendered it impossible to be produced. It was, however, well worth waiting for, and will be welcomed alike for its literary and pictorial contents throughout the philatelic world.

The very interesting *précis* of the labours involved in the production of this work, written by M. Paul Mirabaud in the *London Philatelist* for last month, will have prepared our readers for something out of the common, but we are confident that when they examine these illustrations they will indeed exclaim—with Dominie Sampson—"Prodigious!" It is absolutely safe to assert that these representations of the Swiss Cantonal Stamps far surpass any reproductions of stamps that have ever been made, and, having regard to the colossal expense and labour involved, it seems almost equally assured that no future work will be produced on the same lines. So superb and realistic are these plates, that the collector of Swiss stamps is almost tempted to exclaim, "Why worry to collect used specimens and make up plates when the entire plates are here in *apparently mint unused condition?*" A possible practical result of this feeling may be that many a collector, who could ill afford to acquire all the early Swiss stamps, may content himself with the acquisition of this book as his first volume, and continue it with his collection of the silk threads (which are not pictorially represented) and the later issues. Nor can it be said that such a collection would not be of considerable interest. Why should the practically impossible acquisition of the two P.O., and say three or four of the rarest early prints of Mauritius, or the dozen or so of great rarities in Guiana or Hawaii, deter the collector of limited means? Were these rarities reproduced like the Swiss stamps, with immaculate fidelity and incapability of being put to fraudulent use, the "unwealthy" Philatelist could have his first issue of "Reproductions," and would thus bring a virtually complete philatelic collection of an otherwise tabooed country within his reach. We can but advise intending purchasers of Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld's work not to be deterred by the price at which it is on sale, *i.e.* £6 per copy, as we hear that it is already in brisk demand, and the edition is a very

* *The Postage Stamps of Switzerland*, 1843–62. P. MIRABAUD and A. DE REUTERSKIÖLD. Librairies-imprimeries reunies; Motteroz, Directeur, 2, Rue Mignon, Paris. 1899.

limited one. The total issue—all numbered—consists of 150 copies in English, 150 in German, and 200 in French, of which a good many are already appropriated, and it is obvious that no Philatelic Society's library can dispense with a copy of such a *pièce de résistance*. It is an open secret that an enormous sum has been expended upon the preparation of these marvellous illustrations, and that the retail price has been fixed rather with the idea of reducing the initial expenses than with that of making any profit. The work was exhibited at a recent meeting of the London Philatelic Society, and the opinion there emphatically and unanimously expressed, that Philately is under a deep obligation to Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld, is one that will find universal acceptance.

The illustrations to the volume consist of fourteen pages of the Cantonal and Federal issues, from the Zurich stamps to the Rayon series, and include the portrayal of all the types as set up, in the original colours, and in unused condition. M. Mirabaud has explained in this journal how this last apparently impossible effect has been attained, *i.e.* by the photographic reproduction of different portions of similar types that were untouched by the obliteration, and their super-imposition until all the design of the stamp could be represented in an apparent entirety as an unused specimen. It is difficult to imagine the colossal labour and enduring patience required to build up in this manner complete plates of types—some of them really rare stamps, as the first prints of the Poste Locale. Where all are so superb, it is hard to particularise, but perhaps Plate I., containing the several Cantonal stamps (with the types of the 4 and 6 Zurich) and the entire sheet of 100 types of the 5 c. Vaud, may be considered the most charming. Plate II., with fourteen unsevered specimens of the 5 c. Geneva, dark green, with the inscription at the top of the sheet, is also marvellous, the stamps seeming to invite lifting up by the pincers!

Although hardly so attractive in appearance, another instance of the extraordinary thoroughness of these illustrations is afforded in the exhaustive list of the Swiss obliterations, which gives facsimile reproductions of all the known Cantonal and Federal postmarks found upon the issues treated of, and with the explanatory letter text extends to no less than eighty pages. This portion of the work alone must have entailed exceptional labour, and some idea of the magnitude of M. Mirabaud's Swiss collection may be gathered from the statement made that "except where there is an indication to the contrary, all the obliterations and dates have been obtained from the collection of M. Mirabaud."

The work is divided into four sections: (1) Cantonal stamps; (2) Transitional stamps, known until lately as "Vaud," "Neuchâtel," and "Winterthur"; (3) Federal stamps, *i.e.* Poste Locale, Orts-Post, Rayons, and Silk Threads; and (4) Obliterations. It is obviously impossible to pass in review all the important facts and fresh information contained in this valuable volume, and we trust that every student of the Swiss stamps will be ere long enabled to refresh his thirst from the fountain-head itself. There are one or two discoveries or revelations which, in bare justice to the authors, should be proclaimed.

In Part I. we could call attention to the important account of the reprinting of the 4 and 6 r. Zurich as a very interesting addition to the history of these early Cantonals. We suggest, however, that the chapter on these stamps might have been amplified. There is yet a good deal to learn as regards the several printings of the 6 rappen, as to the variations of the lines dividing the stamps, as to the nature and variety of the impressions, and, above all, as to the question of the wear of the dies and the consequent retouches of the stone. In a work of such inclusive and scientific design, the several retouches of this stamp should surely have been described and illustrated. More definite information might also have been given, or at least attempted, as regards the numbers issued, as also on the relative rarity of both 4 and 6 r. with vertical or horizontal lines, the great scarcity of the 6 r. vertical (unused) being a hitherto unexplained factor. It is perhaps invidious to find any fault in so imposing a work, but we cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that Chapter I., dealing with these stamps—the first issue of the country—might have been considerably and advantageously amplified.

Much interesting information is given as regards the Geneva stamps. It is a pity that the recent discovery of the varieties of type of the "large eagle" could also not have been embodied, although here fortunately the splendid illustration, previously referred to, will largely fill the void.

Chapter II. contains what will generally be considered the *chef d'œuvre*, the re-formation of the sheet of the 5 c. "Vaud," or "Transitional Geneva" as it should be called. Aided in the first instance by the unique block of forty-eight of these stamps, unused, that graces the collection of Baron de Reuterskiöld, the authors have succeeded in plating the entire sheet of 100 stamps, each having a differently shaped numeral. One stamp has unfortunately hitherto defied acquisition, but as all the others have been verified, its exact position is defined. The difficulties encountered in this work are lucidly but modestly dwelt upon, and four plates of enlarged reproduction of the minute points of variance in the 100 stamps are most usefully appended. There can be no doubt that this building up of the original sheet of the 5 c. Vaud will always remain as one of the great monumental works of Philately, and, alone, would entitle its authors to the highest estimation of philatelic posterity.

The second most important and novel feature of the book relates to the Poste Locale, as to which the authors afford much fresh information. The revelation of the several printings of this stamp, notably that of the absolutely distinct first impressions, will be read with the greatest interest, and many a collector will sigh to think of the lost opportunities that have been his! Of exceptional ability and interest also is the treatment of the difficult question of the framed and unframed varieties of the cross, and the explanation given seems to us as far more feasible than any previous suggestion on this subject. The chapters devoted to the Rayons also enter fully into this difficult subject, and will repay the most earnest study.

The embossed stamps, or silk threads, are exhaustively considered, most of the official information being entirely new. In the light hereof, for the first time, something like order is evolved from the hitherto chaotic

description of these varieties. Collectors will learn with joy that these stamps can be classified in four distinct and defined sections, and that the relatively few departures therefrom are but the results of subsequent deterioration or "Errors" in the insertion of the threads. This portion of the work involved the examination and dissection of countless thousands of stamps, and has really constituted one of the great difficulties which had to be encountered—fortunately with such happy results. These silk threads will inevitably rapidly rise in philatelic estimation now that their proper classification has been solved.

There are many other points which we are precluded from dwelling upon within the limits of a *critique*, but which will be thoroughly appreciated by the readers of the book. We can but regret that the modern stamps were not included, as neither the labour nor expense would have been serious in proportion to that already involved, and we further think that a fuller description of shades in the various synopses might have been given. So much, however, has been done to delight every true lover of Philately, that it seems ungenerous to hint at any apparent deficiency, and we gratefully record our thanks to the authors for their profound and elaborate study. They may rest assured that long after they and we have passed away, *The Postage Stamps of Switzerland* will remain in high estimation as a record of brilliant and conscientious philatelic study, and of the most artistic and realistic illustrations that the world of stamp collecting has ever seen.

We should add that the printing by M. Motteroz, on hand-made vellum paper specially prepared for the work, is of the highest order of excellence, and that the size—large quarto—and general highly finished appearance present a truly imposing volume.

MORLEY'S TELEGRAPH STAMPS.*

This enterprising publisher has produced a handy and neat little volume embellished with 400 illustrations, which is apparently inclusive of the latest information on this branch of Philately. We must confess to but the scantiest knowledge hereon, but the Telegraph stamps of our own country have always excited the interest of collectors of the British issues, and their enumeration will be found of much interest. Telegraph stamps have always been singularly free from the taint of the S.S.S.S., and collectors thereof may possibly be encouraged by the revelation of the relatively few varieties of telegraph stamps extant. Mr. Morley modestly disclaims any degree of finality for his work, and wisely inserts throughout additional plain leaves for further discoveries. There is every indication that this little volume has been the subject of considerable work; it is at once compact, neat, and excellently produced, and we quite hope will repay the justifiably sanguine expectations of its author.

* *Morley's Catalogue of the Telegraph Stamps of the World.* Walter Morley, 15, Brownhill Gardens, Catford, London, S.E.

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. — The *Briefmarken Journal* reports a change of colour in the 2 cent value, and it is now to be seen in lilac and rose.

Adhesive.
2 cents, lilac and rose, wmk. CA; perf. 14.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The 3 cents single and reply post card is announced surcharged 2 cents in black.

Post Card. 2 cents on 3 cents, carmine.
2+2 c. on 3+3 cents ,,

CANADA.—The *American Journal of Philately* claims to have seen a specimen of the 2 cent on 3 cents numeral with inverted surcharge.

Adhesive.
2 cent on 3 cents with numeral, surcharge inverted.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The new penny Cape stamp has generally failed to give satisfaction, and its issue has provoked a great deal of hostile criticism, both from an artistic and from a political point of view.

South Africa states that "what has aroused the indignation of loyal colonists is the entire absence of any Imperial emblem. Such absence is painfully conspicuous in a year that has witnessed the fruition of a long-hatched plot against the integrity of the Queen's South African dominions. Is it accidental, or is it a natural sequel to the efforts of the Cape Ministry to dissociate the policy of the Cape Colony from that of the Imperial Government? The allegorical female figure that graced, or, as some think, disgraced the last stamp, has been excluded from the design of the present one. This is, perhaps, no serious loss, but the omission of the Queen's head is calculated to create a very bad impression. For aught that the stamp shows to the contrary, the Cape Colony might already be what the disloyal Dutch have aimed to make it, an integral portion of Paul Kruger's Afrikander Republic. All things considered, Mr. Somerset French's new design cannot be characterised as a happy one. It looks like an attempt to 'stamp' upon the loyalty of the Cape Colony. Mr. French would, perhaps, be well advised to stop the issue and destroy the plates, substituting some worthy symbol of Imperial unity like that adopted by Canada for her new postage stamp."

GOLD COAST.—We notice in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* that the adhesive 1s., green and black, of the De la Rue type, is now coming over.

We presume this is the No. 31 of Gibbons delayed in the issue.

Der Philatelist chronicles a 5s. and 10s. stamp of the De la Rue type in new colours.

Adhesives. 5s., green and lilac.
10s., green and brown.

GREAT BRITAIN.—An official envelope, which appears to be a new departure, has been submitted to us. It measures 8¾ inches by 3⅝, and bears the inscription, "On Her Majesty's Service" at the top, "The Surveyor of Taxes" in the middle, and the official number, "No. 215," in the lower left-hand corner. The point is that it bears the ordinary pink embossed stamp without die-number, which is usually dispensed with on official envelopes.

INDIA.—The *M. J.* mentions having seen a copy of the 2 annas Provisional Service Stamp, which was generally supposed to have been issued in 1867, postmarked, or upon an envelope dated November, 1866.

The envelope originated from a Government office at Allahabad, and was postmarked there "5" or "8" "Nov. 66," and has on the back the date-stamp of Rawal Pindee "9 Nov. 66."

From the same source we hear of a 1 anna receipt stamp being postally used in November, 1869. We have one before us on original, initialled "H.F.," and postmarked "RANCHI" 23rd Oct. 90, but we do not much like the look of it. Apropos of Indian stamps, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' find of two copies of the 4 annas of 1854 with *inverted head* on the same envelope, shown at a recent meeting of the London Philatelic Society, is of the greatest interest, and certainly goes far to prove that one entire sheet at least had the head inverted, and not only one stamp as was generally supposed.

Jhind and Nabha.—The *P. J. of India* states that the native States of Nabha and Jhind are about to get 100 sheets of ¼ anna stamps each; also that these stamps may be required for postal use.

Patiala.—From the same source we hear that the new post card, with the "East" omitted and the Royal Arms to the *left* of the inscription, has been surcharged for this State.

LABUAN.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim has discovered, so he informs us, some unchronicled varieties in the surcharged issue of 1893, viz. Six Cents on 16 cents, grey, surcharged sideways, reading upwards, and Two Cents on 40 cents, amber, with inverted surcharge.

Adhesives.

6 Cents on 16 c., grey; surcharged sideways.
2 ,, ,, 40 c., amber; with inverted surcharge.

MALTA.—*Ewen's Weekly S.N.* has information that farthing stamps are expected shortly to be placed in use for the purpose of prepaying local postage on newspapers, and that the ½d. and 1d. (and possibly eventually the other values) are going to have "Postage and Revenue" added to the inscription "Malta."

NEW SOUTH WALES.—It is reported that some of the current 1d. envelopes have had a second impression to make the value 2d. These may probably be considered of the compound or made-to-order variety, as in the case of the Tasmanians of a few years back.

Envelope. 1d.+1d., red.

NEW ZEALAND.—The design of the newly issued Postage Due stamp (see list on p. 23) consists of the value and "N Z" in a circle with "Postage Due" in label at bottom. Colours green, value in red; wmk. Star N Z; perf. 11.

NORTH BORNEO AND LABUAN.—Mr. J. M. Bartels gives early information that the 2 cents (stag) value of the former has been changed to green, and that in the case of Labuan the 2 cents (stag) and 5 cents (bird) now appear respectively in green and blue.

Adhesives.

2 cents (North Borneo), green.
2 ,, (Labuan) green.
5 ,, ,, blue.

QUEENSLAND.—The lately issued ½d. stamp has failed to give satisfaction, and there seems every probability of its entire withdrawal shortly. A correspondent, whose sources of information are of the best, writes:—

"You no doubt have heard ere this that the latest ½d. stamp has not found favour with the P.O. officials, as the sale of it has been stopped at the G.P.O. in Brisbane. The new Under-Secretary, Mr. Boden, is not a stamp collector, nor are the next half-dozen officers below him in status, but Mr. S. is a practical man and rather a lover of art, so the latest issue must have appalled him."

Our correspondent further writes:—

"During my last visit to Brisbane, I learnt from the Under-Secretary that all plates up to the present issue had been destroyed. In connection with the 2d., dark background on secret watermarked paper, which was issued last June, the history is as near as possible as follows: When the ½d. and 1d. secret watermarked paper was struck off, and the paper was condemned afterwards for postal purposes, the balance of it was used for striking off a number of the 2d., dark background. Why this was done was not fathomed by the P.O. people. However, the stock of it, on reaching the stamp office at the G.P.O., was condemned by the Under-Secretary, and the lot was 'shelved.' When Mr. Scott became head of the department, and stock was being taken, these became unearthed. Mr. S. thought it a pity to waste them, so he gave instructions that they were to be distributed to the country offices, and none were to be sold in Brisbane. This was done to stop any trafficking in them. Somehow a dozen sheets were left behind, for a dealer got most of them. Strange to say, very few were used, as postmarked specimens are rare."

SEYCHELLES.—Four new values are given in *Der Philatelist*—6 cents, 75 cents, r. 1.50, and rs. 2.25 of the current type.

Adhesives. 6 cents, carmine.
75 ,, yellow and lilac.
1 r. 50 cents, black and carmine.
2 rs. 25 cents, violet and green.

SUDAN.—The *M. J.* states that the authorities of this territory are (like those of Perak) selling off a quantity of used Postal and Telegraph stamps, but by tender.

This time the stamps are not in sealed packets, but open to the inspection of intending purchasers.

We may expect this practice to grow, and can only see an objection to it when stamps used on telegrams are included, to be passed off eventually, perhaps, as postally used.

TRINIDAD.—It is reported that the 3d. "Fee" stamp has been overprinted with the words "SURCHARGE POSTAGE" in black.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* has information that "the 3d. surcharged stamp announced for this island will not be issued, arrangements having been made which will render their use unnecessary, and they will be destroyed."

Does this information apply to the above stamp, or to the 3d. on 5d. *postal* lately chronicled, or to both?

Adhesive.
3d., lilac, "Fee" stamp, "Surcharge Postage."

TURKS ISLANDS.—We have seen it announced in the American journals that there is shortly to be a new issue for these islands.

It is expected that the coat of arms of the colony will be adopted for the design, and that 2s. and 3s. stamps (why not 5s., 10s., and £1 stamps while they are about it?) will be added to the set.

VICTORIA.—From various sources the information is given that the current 4d. adhesive is now coming in a brown, or brown-red, colour, and that two new post cards have been issued with stamps of the type of the new adhesives.

Adhesive. 4d., brown-red.
Post Cards. 1d., carmine.
1½d., red-brown on green.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* mentions having found quite recently three 1d. wrapper stamps in *blue*, probably issued some time in November. We agree with our contemporary in considering this a curious change in view of the Postal Union requirements.

Wrapper. 1d., cobalt on white wove (with border).

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—The type of the new unpaid stamps has been modified; the inscription in the oval is now in white letters on colour instead of the contrary, and the ornaments in the angles are slightly altered.

All the values exist imperf. for some occult reason that is beyond the power of a simple-minded Philatelist to discover.

BOSNIA.—The new Bosnian stamps are gradually appearing, and the *P. J. G. B.* reports having received the 3 heller in pale ochre.

Adhesive. 3 heller, pale ochre.

The *Briefmarken Journal* reports a new post card of 5 heller, olive-green.

Post Card. 5 heller, olive-green.

BULGARIA.—It is stated that the 2 and 15 stot. are now printed on thicker paper and in quite different shades, being in slate-grey and yellow respectively.

CRETE.—Dr. Socolis gives in the *M. J.* a translation of some Official Notices relating to the Retymno stamps, about which various contradictory statements have been made. These notices were published in a book (or Gazette?) entitled *Daily Orders of the Department of Retymno*, and are as follows:—

"Daily Order No. 166, Town of Retymno, June 30, 1899.

"§ 2. On the date of the installation of the provisional Post Office for the interior of the Department of Retymno (1/13 May, 1899), there being no lithographer in Retymno, we had three dies made for the manufacture by hand of the postage stamps required.

"According to the official report of the military officer in charge of the Post Office, the following stamps were thus made:—

1 metallik, green, 10,440.
1 ,, blue, 4,800.
2 ,, rose, 1,200.
2 ,, black, 12,965.

"There were sold to the public:—

1 metallik, green, 9,222.
1 ,, blue, 4,800.
2 ,, rose, 1,200.
2 ,, black, 11,675.

"The value of these stamps amounts to 39,772 metallik. The remainders are to be destroyed, viz.:—

1 metallik, green, 1,218.
2 ,, black, 2,290.

"As the manufacture of these stamps by hand was very inconvenient, new stamps were issued, of the values of 1, 2, and 4 metallik (4 metallik = 1 grossion). These stamps were lithographed in Athens, in six (6) different colours—red, blue, green, violet, orange, and yellow. The whole

quantity of these stamps was sold for 41,160 metallik, as follows:—

1 metallik, 6 colours, 980 of each = 5,880 met.
2 ,, ,, ,, = 11,760 ,,
4 ,, ,, ,, = 23,520 ,,

"As all the stamps of this issue were sold out, we ordered a fresh issue from Athens, which is now in use."

(The book does not contain a description of this new issue.)

"§ 3. For the purpose of destroying the 1,218 green stamps of 1 metallik, and the 1,290 black of 2 metallik, and also the three (?) dies with which these stamps were struck by hand, and the dies from which were lithographed" (from which the lithographic stones were prepared?) "in Athens the second and third issue (this is still in use), I appoint a Committee, composed of Lieutenant Selichoff, Director of the provisional Post Office, and Messrs. Nicolas Koronakis, Antonio Trifillis, and Themistocles Pappadakis, with Captain Theophilus Schoiesky as President, to destroy to-morrow, Thursday, 1/13 July, 1899, all these stamps, and they are to furnish me with a report accordingly.

"(Signed) TH. VON CHIOSTAK,
"Governor."

All this seems to show, adds our contemporary, that the stamps were manufactured under regularly constituted authority, and that the remainders and dies were destroyed with due ceremony. It was, however, plainly unnecessary to print each of the three values of the second issue (this is the Trident type without Stars at the sides) in six different colours, and this is sufficient, in our opinion, to throw some doubt upon the legitimacy of the whole affair.

We have seen large numbers of post-marked copies, palpably "done while you wait," and we have ourselves no faith in these locals, even under the distinguished patronage of Themistocles Pappadakis and Co.!

MONACO.—The usual change in the colours of the 5, 10 and 25 centimes to Postal Union requirements is daily expected.

ROUMANIA.—An error has been found in some of the recently issued 5 b. cards. The second word of the heading is spelled "Posalta" instead of "Postala." This information is given by the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

Post Card. 5 bani, green. *Error.*

SAMOS.—Some years back a set of stamps appeared for Samos, only to be generally discredited.

According to *Le Timbre-Poste*, a set has appeared of four values in two types of each value.

In design these stamps have a type-set border somewhat similar to the "grapes" British Guiana of 1862, with arms in centre. The inscription reads: "Postal Administration Interior," with "Samos" at foot. We chronicle this issue with all reserve.

Adhesives. 5 parades, black on grey-blue.
10 ,, ,, ,,
20 ,, black on white.
1 grosion ,, ,,

WURTEMBERG.—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles two new values, of the type of the 5 marks of 1881–3.

Adhesives. 30 pfennig, orange, figures in black.
40 ,, red ,, ,,

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—It is stated that a change will shortly be made in the colours of the lately issued 10 and 30 centavos for the reason that they resemble too closely those of the 1 and 5 centavos.

BRAZIL.—*Smith's Monthly Circular* mentions having received a permanent envelope of 200 reis of the current type, superseding the recent provisional. The current 20 reis postage is reported surcharged 50 reis; and the *M. J.* says it has been shown a copy of the 20 reis wrapper, No. 61, with the embossed head in the centre of the stamp *inverted*.

Adhesive.
50 reis on 10 reis, black on rose and blue.
Envelope.
200 reis, dull purple on white wove.
Wrapper.
20 reis, emerald on buff, head *inverted*.

CHILI.—On page 220 vol. viii. we printed a cutting from the *Philatelic Monthly*, bearing on a new issue of stamps for this country at an early date.

From *Mekeel's Weekly* we now learn that a contract has been placed with Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, and that the design *will not be changed*, but the colours and denominations will be altered.

A series of newspaper bands, of the values 2, 4, 6, 10, and 20 centavos, has been ordered.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—Messrs. Bright and Son have called our attention to a variety in the 2 centavo war stamps lately issued. One stamp in each sheet has a small "s" in "DOS."

We notice from *Mekeel's Weekly* that the 2 c. postal card (U. P. U.) which has been current since 1891, in black on buff, has now

been issued in black on white, being otherwise unchanged.

Adhesive.
2 centavos war stamp, with small "s" in "DOS."
Post Card.
2 centavos, black on white.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—The 1 cent. of the Commemorative issue of last year not falling in with the requirements of the Postal Union, a change in colour to green has been made, and a specimen from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. has reached us.

Adhesive. 1 centavo, pale green.

GUATEMALA.—From Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. we have received a provisional 1 centavo stamp for this year.

The 10 c., red, of the 1886-91 issue has been surcharged "1900, 1 Centavo," in black.

Provisional.
1 centavo on 10 centavos; surcharge in black.

NICARAGUA.—We can now give particulars of the Asenjo issue of officials.

Design figure of Justice, values and colours as follows, but the latter difficult to describe.

Officials. 1 centavo, lilac.
2 centavos, vermilion.
4 ,, olive.
5 ,, dark blue.
10 ,, mauve.
20 ,, brown.
50 ,, lake.
1 peso, ultramarine.
2 pesos, orange-brown.
5 ,, black.

SALVADOR.—There appear to be some new post cards issued for this country, and we take the following particulars from the *P. J. of G. B.*

Post Cards. 1 centavo, olive on salmon.
2 centavos, brown on green.
2+2 ,, ,, ,,
3 ,, blue on blue-grey.
3+3 ,, ,, ,,

The *American Journal of Philately* adds another value to the officials with the wheel surcharge.

Official. 1 c., brown, surcharged with a wheel.

UNITED STATES.—We mentioned in November last the probability that all stamps sent out to *first-class offices* in America would be overprinted with the name of the issuing office, as was formerly the custom in Mexico.

It seems rather an unlikely tale, but *Smith's Monthly Circular* reports having seen several values with the surcharge "MINNEAPOLIS," and heard of "MILWAUKEE WIS" in two horizontal lines.

URUGUAY.—The latest issued 2 c., 5 c., and 10 c. stamps have been overprinted "Oficial" in black.

Official. 2 centavos, orange; surcharge in black.
5 ,, dull blue ,,
10 ,, red lilac ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CAROLINE ISLANDS.—The old design German stamps has been seen surcharged "Karolinen Inseln" by Mr. Bartels. At least all the set from 3 pf. to 50 pf., except the 10 pf., and it is hardly likely the latter value has been omitted.

FRENCH COLONIES AND POST OFFICES.—*Alexandria.*—In addition to the set of adhesives chronicled there are also an envelope, post card, and letter card, with more to follow.

Envelope.
5 cents., yellow-green; red surcharge.
Post Card.
10 cents., black on pale green; red surcharge.
Letter Card.
25 cents., black on rose; red surcharge.

Dahomey.—A post card of 10 centimes has been announced.

Post Card.
10 centimes, black and blue on greenish.

New Caledonia.—The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles two new surcharges, viz. "N.C.E." in ornamental type, and large figure "5" in black, on the current 4 c. (Nlle. Caledonie et Dependances); and "N.C.E." in Roman capitals, and "15" in a single-lined circle, in black on the 30 c. Both exist normal and inverted.

Provisional Adhesives.
5 cents on 4 cents, violet on lilac.
15 ,, 30 ,, pale brown.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA.—The 5 pfennig single and reply German cards have been surcharged "Deutsch—Neu Guinea" in two lines.

Post Cards.
5 pfennig, green on chamois; black surcharge.
5+5 ,, ,, ,, ,,

LIBERIA.—Mr. H. L. Hayman has sent us specimens of the 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c. postals and officials printed in Postal Union colours.

Adhesives. 1 cent, green.
2 cents, pale red.
5 ,, pale blue.
Officials. 1 cent, green; surcharged "O.S." in red.
2 cents, pale red; surcharged "O.S." in black.
5 ,, pale blue ,, ,, red.

MARIANNE ISLANDS.—We see from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that the old design German stamps of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf. have been surcharged "MARIANEN-INSELN."

Before the Germans took possession of the Western Group in November the 5 centavos, rose, Philippine stamp of 1898 was surcharged "MARIANAS ESPAÑOLAS" with type, in violet, in two lines. The latter information is given by *Smith's Circular*.

MARSHALL ISLANDS.—The German papers state that the obsolete German stamps of 3, 5, 25, and 50 pfennig are now surcharged "MARSHALL-INSELN" instead of "MARSCHALL-INSELN."

Adhesives. 3 pf., black on brown.
5 pf. ,, green.
25 pf. ,, orange.
50 pf. ,, marone.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim calls our attention to some varieties of the 1d. on 3d., Plate I.

On a sheet of 240 stamps there exist two stamps with a variety in the surcharge, the "1" and "d" being 3 mm. apart, which do not seem to have been catalogued. One stamp appears in the right-hand corner in the first row of the top pane, and the second stamp in the same position in the right-hand bottom pane.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—Mr. J. M. Bartels has taken some trouble to investigate the matter of the 50 cent U.S.A. surcharged for use in these islands being found on both watermarked and unwatermarked paper.

It appears the mystery cannot be explained by the officers of the Bureau, but the fact remains, so it is stated, that there are both these varieties of this value surcharged "Philippines," and that the one is about as common or rare as the other.

Two envelopes and the 1 c. wrapper of the U.S.A. issue have been surcharged "Philippines."

Envelope. 1 cent, green on white; red surcharge.
2 cents, carmine on white ,,
Wrapper. 1 cent, green on manilla.

PORTO RICO.—It was announced some time ago that no more U.S.A. stamps would be surcharged for this island.

Now, it seems, a fresh supply of 1 cent and 2 c. adhesives, 2 cent and 5 cent envelopes, and 1 cent postal cards has been ordered to be surcharged "Puerto-Rico" (Spanish spelling).

PORTUGUESE INDIES.—A new post card is chronicled by the *P. J. G. B.*, viz. the ¼ tanga of the current design.

Post Card. ¼ tanga, green on buff.

SAMOA.—They are making the most of the opportunity left, and the *Australian Philatelist* is informed that the 2s. 6d. value has been overprinted 2½d., in black.

Provisional. 2½d. on 2s. 6d., black and mauve.

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.
Hon. Librarian—T. Maycock.

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

The ninth meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 16th February, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—E. D. Bacon, Rudolph Meyer, Franz Reichenheim, W. Schwabacher, J. A. Tilleard, Herbert R. Oldfield, R. Frenkel, T. Maycock, Edward J. Nankivell, Thomas W. Hall, Robert Ehrenbach, L. L. R. Hausburg, W. Silk, jun., Gordon Smith.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd February were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from the Vice-President, explaining the cause of his absence.

A specimen page of the new work upon Swiss stamps, published at the subscription price of 150 francs, was shown to the members, and it was resolved that a copy of the English edition should be subscribed for and added to the Society's Library.

The meeting then proceeded to inspect the stamps of the United States of Colombia, which were produced to the meeting by Mr. Oldfield; and after the usual vote of thanks had been passed to that gentleman, the proceedings terminated.

The tenth meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 2nd March, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—M. P. Castle, J. A. Tilleard, Gordon Smith, William Silk, jun., T. Maycock, C. Neville Biggs, Franz Reichenheim, Rudolph Frenkel, Rudolph Meyer, Herbert R. Oldfield, E. D. Bacon, Robert Ehrenbach, B. D. Knox.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th February were read and confirmed. The Hon. Secretaries of the War Relief Fund Committee reported that gifts had been received which they anticipated would realise a sum of not less than £1000 in aid of these funds, and that the date of the sale had been fixed for the 28th March.

A letter was read from Lieut.-Col. Harris resigning his membership of the Society, and the same was accepted with regret.

A letter was read from Mr. E. A. Elliott intimating his intention of presenting to the Society a framed print of the "West Country Mails at Gloucester Post Office," and the Hon. Secretary was directed to acknowledge the gift with thanks.

The election of members was then proceeded with, and after ballot the following gentlemen were declared to have been duly elected members of the Society:—Mr. Francis Apthorp Foster, proposed by Mr. Geo. R. Toppan, seconded by Mr. Alex. Holland; Mr. Manuel H. Lombard, proposed by Mr. Geo. R. Toppan, seconded by Mr. Alex. Holland.

The meeting then proceeded to inspect the magnificent collection of the stamps of the Dominican Republic shown by Mr. Ehrenbach, to whom a very hearty vote of thanks was tendered, and the proceedings then terminated.

Cardiff Philatelic Society.

President—Mr. Walter Scott.

The meeting fixed for the 13th February was greatly interfered with by the blizzard experienced on that day, only half a dozen members (including the President, Secretary, and Mr. G. E. Petty, the last-named being down for a paper on "The Stamps of Uruguay") braving the elements. However, it is an ill wind, etc., and the few members who met enjoyed a closer inspection of Mr. Petty's Uruguayan collection than would probably have been obtained at a larger meeting.

A very interesting time was spent in discussing the various issues, and Mr. Petty, who is thoroughly acquainted with the postal system of his country, imparted many items of useful information to the members present.

The March meeting, fixed for the 13th, was fairly attended, Mr. B. Rowland being down for a display of his stamps of Victoria. The President and Secretary also displayed their collections, and a very pleasant time was spent inspecting and discussing same. Mr. Rowland showed a good copy of the sixpenny orange, beaded oval, and the President showed fine copies of the 5s., blue on yellow, and sixpenny blue, watermark single-lined numeral 4. The Secretary's collection contained a copy of each of the two first-mentioned stamps.

The next meeting, on the 10th April, will be devoted to the stamps of France, Alderman Trounce, one of the Vice-Presidents, to introduce the display. W. A. Jutsum, *Hon. Sec.*

The Philatelic Society of India.

A General Meeting of the Society was held on the 30th January, 1900, at Mr. Larmour's residence, No. 60, Bentinck Street, Calcutta, at

six o'clock p.m. There was an almost full attendance of members at present residing in Calcutta, Lieut.-Colonel G. F. A. Harris being in the chair.

The following officers were elected for the year 1900: *President*—Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson (Lahore); *Vice-Presidents*—Lady Collen (Simla) and Messrs. C. F. Larmour (Calcutta), D. P. Masson (Lahore), W. Dorning Beckton (Manchester); *Editor of the Journal*—Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson; *Sub-Editor*—Mr. W. James (Calcutta); *Hon. Treasurer*—Mr. P. A. Selfe (the Bank of Bengal, Calcutta); *Hon. Secretary*—Mr. W. Corfield (25, Mangoe Lane, Calcutta); *Members of Council*—The above *ex-officio*, and Major L. E du Moulin (Aldershot), Major E. B. Evans (Sydenham), Major F. H. Hancock (Jullunder), Lieut.-Colonel G. F. A. Harris (Calcutta), Major C. H. I. Hopkins (Tynemouth), Professor O. V. Muller (Bombay), Messrs. G. A. Anderson (Bombay), J. Cornwall (Lucknow), W. S. Coutts (Penang), T. Hoffmann (Calcutta), C. F. Larmour (Calcutta), G. F. Melbourn (Tooting), Goodwin Norman (Calcutta), E. Sassoon-Gubbay (Calcutta), F. N. Schiller (Calcutta), J. A. Tilleard (London), and J. N. O. Thurston (Burmah).

Votes of thanks were passed to the retiring Hon. Treasurers, Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, for their services during the past year, and to all the members of the Society who had acted as honorary officers. Mr. Corfield, on behalf of the Treasurers, presented a provisional financial statement. Mr. Selfe placed upon the table an advance copy of Mr. G. A. Anderson's handbook on the stamps of Bhopal, which will be issued to members of the Society in the course of a few days.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. M. P. Castle, Editor of the *London Philatelist*, for a gift of forty-three sets of unbound volumes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (with supplements) of the *London Philatelist* for distribution to members of the Society. The late Secretary announced that he had presented complete sets (so far as they are now available) of the *Philatelic Journal of India* to Mr. J. A. Tilleard and Mr. G. Johnson, B.A., the Secretaries of the London and Birmingham Philatelic Societies, for the use of their libraries.

Mr. Corfield laid before the meeting a proposal for the amalgamation (under certain conditions) of the Philatelic Society of India with the Philatelic Society of London (the Society retaining its individuality as the Indian section of the London Society) on and from the 31st December, 1900, and stated that he had suggested a scheme with this in view to the President in Lahore, who had expressed his full approval of it. After a discussion the meeting cordially accepted the proposal in principle, and it was resolved that a special committee be appointed, consisting of Lieut.-Colonel Harris and Messrs. Corfield, Larmour, Masson, and Stewart-Wilson to approach the London Society by letter with the object of ascertaining if they would be prepared to entertain the proposal, and to report the result of their inquiries to the General Meeting of the Society to be held in March next. The terms of the letter will be published in the February issue of the *Journal*.

Mr. C. F. Larmour exhibited the silver medal he had been awarded for his exhibit of stamps at the recent Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, and Mr. Hoffmann exhibited his collection of British adhesives, which was much admired.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A GENERAL MEETING was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, March 6th, 1900. Present:—E. Bounds, W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Frentzel, G. Gaffe, G. Haynes, J. W. Jones, M. Z. Kuttner, E. A. Mardon, R. Meyer, H. R. Oldfield, Captain E. Stokes Roberts, J. O. Sell, C. R. Sutherland, A. G. Wane, H. A. Slade, and one visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

At the conclusion of routine business Mr. Herbert R. Oldfield gave a display of his collection of the stamps of Colombia, accompanied by explanatory notes on the different issues under examination. Needless to remark, nothing but perfect copies were exhibited, every variety of shade, paper, and even of error, being well represented. At the conclusion of the display the Chairman (Mr. G. Haynes) tendered the cordial thanks of the Society to Mr. Oldfield for his great courtesy in entertaining the members for the third time during the past two seasons, and hoped they might have the pleasure of welcoming him frequently in the future. The vote was ably seconded by Mr. J. W. Jones, who stated that the collection displayed that evening was unequalled throughout Great Britain. Mr. Oldfield responded in a characteristically modest speech, and the rest of the evening was devoted to private exchange and discussion.

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

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.
Hon. Secretary—G. FRED H. GIBSON, Kersal, Manchester.

THE tenth meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, February 23rd, when, in addition to the President, who took the chair, twelve members were present.

Mr. W. A. E. Moser was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Duerst read the second part of his paper on "The Stamps of Oldenburg," dealing with the second and subsequent issues.

AT the eleventh meeting, on March 9th, the President took the chair, and was supported by nine members. The President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Librarian, and Hon. Exchange Secretary were appointed a sub-Committee (three to form a quorum) for the revision of the Rules of the Society.

Mr. Munn read a paper on "South Australia," illustrating it by his collection.

The Collectors' Club.

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE forty-ninth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on January 8th, 1900. Present:—Messrs. Andreini, Bruner, Luff, O'Donohue, Perrin, and Scott. President Bruner called the meeting to order at 8.30 p.m. Mr. Scott read the Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $539·17, exclusive of U.S. bonds, which

was approved. Mr. Luff tendered the report of the House Committee, which was read and accepted. Messrs. Hyatt, Funke, Capen, and Serfling were declared to have been duly elected subscribing members of the Club. The following applications for membership were received and posted on the bulletin board: Col. H. O'Donoghue, subscribing member; proposed by P. F. Bruner, seconded by J. J. O'Donohue, jun. P. Elbert Nostrand, subscribing member; proposed by P. F. Bruner, seconded by Alex. Holland. The Special Committee, appointed to try to procure new quarters for the Club, reported having examined a number of buildings, but found nothing suitable, and asked to be discharged. Moved, seconded, and carried, Committee be discharged with thanks. Moved by Mr. O'Donohue, that a new Committee be appointed by the President to find a suitable building for the Club; seconded and carried. The President appointed as the Committee Messrs. O'Donohue, Luff, and Scott. Adjourned at 10 p.m.

THE fiftieth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on February 12th, 1900. Present:—Messrs. Bruner, Luff, Perrin, Scott, and Stebbins. The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences regarding the Club's proposed donation of a gold medal to be awarded at the Second Philatelic Exhibition. Moved, seconded, and carried, that an appropriation of twenty-five dollars ($25) be voted for the striking of a gold medal as suggested, and that the Treasurer mail a cheque forthwith for that amount. The Committee appointed having been unable to procure suitable quarters for the Club, the President and Treasurer were authorised to renew the lease of present building for another year. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $523·53, exclusive of U.S. bonds, was read and approved. Mr. Luff read the report of the House Committee, which was accepted. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. was tendered a vote of thanks for their kind donation of a bound volume of *The American Journal of Philately* for 1899. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried, it was voted that the pool table be re-covered. The names of five of the applicants for membership having been posted the required length of time, their names were balloted upon, and Messrs. Black, Braine, Nostrand, O'Donoghue, and Robinson were declared to have been unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary.*

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

SEPTEMBER sheets have been returned to members, and accounts duly submitted and settled. Total sales for that month amounted to £178 12s. 9d. October packets have returned from circulation, and will be distributed within the next few days.

One hundred and thirty-nine sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1,671 14s. 11d., were made up into three packets and despatched on the February circuit on February 23rd. Owing to catalogue changes, many members refrained from contributing sheets, but it is hoped they will remedy their omission for March. Many good stamps at reasonable prices were sent in, those first on the list having a good selection of real bargains. During the past month five new members have joined, and three applications were declined. For the future no packets will be kept in circulation for longer than thirteen weeks. Non-contributing members are welcomed, as good buyers are always wanted. For rules, etc., apply to the Secretary.

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. 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 EXCHANGE COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—As Secretary of the Exchange Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, I should like to draw the attention of members to the arrangements that have been made to facilitate the exchange of stamps among members of the Society.

Any member wishing to correspond with other members who collect or have duplicates of the countries in which he is interested, should write to c/o the *London Philatelist*, Effingham House, stating the names of the countries he collects and those of which he has duplicates. The latter will be noted in an address book, to which all members will have access. For the benefit of members unable to inspect this book, the names and addresses of those who have duplicates of any countries asked for will be forwarded on application.

The attention of members is also drawn to the fact that the Editor of the Society's journal has

offered a page, which will be divided into two columns, one for "wants" and the other for "offers," at a nominal charge of 2d. per line to cover cost of printing each month, for members' advertisements.

Members may publish their names and addresses, or may, if they prefer, use a number or letter, in which case answers to advertisements must be addressed to c/o the *London Philatelist*.

Yours faithfully,
L. L. R. HAUSBURG.

ROTHSAY, ST. GEORGE'S HILL,
WEYBRIDGE, *March 19th*, 1900.

THE COLLECTORS' CATALOGUE.

SIR,—An inspection of the last edition of Gibbons' Catalogue, Part I., induces me to write a few words on the question of a collectors' catalogue.

Without in any degree disparaging the numerous other excellent catalogues and price lists with which collectors are familiar, I think it will be agreed that almost from the first issue of Mr. Stanley Gibbons' list, some thirty years ago, "Gibbons" has been the standard by which English collectors have regulated their ideas of values. Until some ten years ago this publication showed a steady though gradual increase in the prices of all good stamps, and confidence in the future of Philately was felt by all collectors. Of course a true Philatelist is not supposed to be influenced by the money values of his stamps, and in one sense the supposition is true; but it would be absurd to deny that any collector was indifferent to the fact (as fact it has until recently been) that when death or other cause put an end to his personal enjoyment of his hobby, his stamps might be safely relied on to produce, as a whole, at least as much as he had spent upon them. A hobby with this recommendation (and there are few that can claim it) was sure to attract numerous votaries, and it did so. But some ten years ago the hitherto gradual increase in catalogue prices became a headlong rush. Stamps that for years and years had been priced at shillings jumped to pounds, and these jumps were repeated in successive issues of the Catalogue, till not only collectors but everyone else began to think that anything in the shape of a stamp was a little mine of wealth. This resulted in the incursion into our ranks of scores and hundreds of persons who, neither knowing nor caring anything about Philately, thought they had found in stamp speculating an easy way of getting rich. And many, no doubt, found it so, but three years ago the reaction came. Our oracle began to put prices down, and inverted the practice of jumping up by equally extensive jumping down. Not only did each successive edition of the Catalogue show these jumps, but the lists in the publishers' journal showed further reductions, sometimes even in the same month in which the Catalogue itself had appeared. In the Catalogue published last month this reducing system is still in full working order, and the result of all this has made itself painfully evident.*

Of course I do not presume to blame the publishers of the Catalogue for the line they have adopted. They know how to manage their business and what is best for it far better than outsiders can, and they have a perfect right to alter their quotations as much and as often as they choose. The outsiders, doubtless because they are outsiders, cannot understand the sudden fall in values, any more than ten years ago they understood the equally sudden rise, but the old feeling of reliance on "Gibbons" as a guide to prices is gone, and therefore if it is in any way possible to overcome the numerous difficulties in the way of issuing a collectors' catalogue I trust the Society will make an effort to do it. Without some reliable standard the general everyday collector is lost, and is apt to get disgusted with his hobby and give it up.

While on the subject of the fall in prices I should like to express my own opinion (with which others may or may not agree), that one material cause has been the unfortunate practice adopted by exchange clubs of requiring all stamps to be priced at double the sum they are to be sold for, and then deducting 50 per cent. discount from the figures marked. Exchange clubs have become so exceedingly numerous of late years (though a large proportion of them are now expiring) that it has become an accepted idea that any stamp can be procured through their medium at half catalogue prices. No doubt this has to some extent affected stamp dealers, and they have had to lower their quotations. But the exchange clubs still keep to the 50 per cent. system, and it is easy to see that if this sort of thing continues prices will be reduced to vanishing point. There appears to be absolutely no argument in favour of maintaining this illogical system of pricing in clubs except that they all do it. This is not a sufficient reason for keeping a mischievous practice on foot, and I think that the principal exchange clubs ought at once to take this subject into consideration and to decide that stamps are in future to be marked at nett prices. If some of the large clubs and societies were to make this change the smaller ones would rapidly follow suit, and so we should extinguish a custom which has, I am sure, done great harm to stamp collecting.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER SCOTT.

CARDIFF, *March 12th*, 1900.

* [We have omitted one or two sentences here that seemed to us hardly warranted by the existing facts, but we need hardly say that we sympathise strongly with Mr. Scott's views, and have repeatedly expressed similar opinions both in this journal and elsewhere, impressing upon members of the trade that, in their interests equally with collectors', *stability* and *confidence* are the essentials for the welfare of Philately.—ED.]

THE COLLECTORS' CATALOGUE QUESTION.

DEAR SIR,—On my return to Mexico I have read with much interest your paper on the Collectors' Catalogue question. My own impression is that such a work would be far more saleable than you seem to indicate. In order to open up the question without incurring too much expense, I would suggest that the Philatelic Societies throughout the world might be communicated with by means of a circular letter, asking them to communicate in turn with each of their members to obtain their views and support in the shape of a financial guarantee. It would seem to me that a very handsome catalogue might be produced to sell at a good profit for £5 or £5 5s., and I do not think such a price would be regarded as prohibitive by, say, 5,000 collectors.

Now with regard to delegates, practically all the world will be in Paris this year. Why not

take steps to arrange a fairly representative meeting to open up the subject? I have an impression that if the London Society would take the lead other Societies would be willing to prepare the lists for their respective countries, and with guarantees beforehand from collectors who would buy the work, there could be no loss. I would willingly guarantee £5 5s. and pay £1 1s. any time and further instalments as required, and in the case of Mexico, where we have at present no Philatelic Society, I would willingly contribute my quota in examining and correcting lists prepared for revision. (As I have not the pleasure of knowing you personally, I may say Mr. E. D. Bacon knows me.)

Page 325 (7). Surely the catalogue need not appear in *several languages*. English is taught even in our Mexican schools, and all our "5,000" collectors presumably read in that language. If not, then, French, the universal diplomatic tongue which everyone should read. There might be a glossary of technical terms in seven or eight languages. Hoping you may follow up this matter, I am, yours truly,

J. CHAPMAN.

CALLE REAL No. 1, COYOACAN, MEXICO, D.F., *Feb. 14th*, 1900.

[We thank Mr. Chapman for his spirited offer, nor have we any occasion to doubt his well-known philatelic knowledge, especially on Mexican stamps. Were his example largely followed the catalogue question could be tackled. We fear, however, that an unpriced catalogue would have but a slender sale. The real Philatelist and the Philatelic Societies would be purchasers, but the masses would still buy and use their Gibbons, Scott, or Senf, and still cavil at their quotations. —ED.]

"BELOW CATALOGUE PRICE."

DEAR SIR,—I have read Mr. Dorning Beckton's caution concerning a selection of Roumanian stamps sent him by a German firm.

Why is the name of the German firm not published? All German dealers are very much interested to know the names of such sellers living in Germany, who try to get rid of abroad the forged stamps which they dare not offer in Germany.

Mr. Beckton's form of caution, but more so the generalising editorial remarks, "being timely," and the "repeated personal experiences of the editor," are apt to injure the reputation of German dealers generally, those not exempted who are advertising in the *London Philatelist;* for the average reader will interpret such remarks as a general warning not to apply to or buy from German firms for stamp collections.

It is a long-established fact that dishonest dealers of *all* countries are in the habit of sending their forged, faked, cleaned, etc., stamps away from the country they live in; so while you are complaining of Continental dealers, the German buyers are being ransacked by English swindlers, and to a much larger extent than *vice versâ*, as the German collector has the unfortunate disposition of preferring everything coming from abroad to what he can get easier, and often better and cheaper, in his own country.

I trust you will insert these lines in your valuable journal. Yours truly,

ERNST STOCK.

STUELER-STRASSE 2, BERLIN, W.
March 20th, 1900.

[In response to Herr Stock's very reasonable protest, we are glad to say that the complaints in our last number as to the sending out of spurious or inferior stamps on the part of some German dealers do not refer to any of the well-known firms who advertise in the *London Philatelist*. In Mr. Stock's case, who is so well known as the purveyor of immaculate specimens, we can well imagine the shudder he would have at the bare insinuation. This journal would assuredly not accept any advertisement from a dealer who indulged in the practices complained of; and our readers may rest assured that the firms whose names appear in the advertising columns of this journal are, to the best of our knowledge, straightforward and honourable in their transactions. We think with Herr Stock that the names of the sinners *should* be published—*pour encourager les autres*.—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 have marked catalogues before us of sales since our last number, held by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson; Ventom, Bull, and Cooper; and W. Hadlow.

* * *

The following are some of the principal lots disposed of:—

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON, February 13th and 14th. Hat Duty Stamps, 1784, 3d., 1s., 2s., and 3s., £4 7s. 6d. Moldavia, 1854, 54 paras, used, £10. Madrid, 3 cuartos, mint, £12. Spain, 1852, 2 reales, vertical pair, used, £10 15s.; 1853, 2 reales, unused, no gum, £5 7s. 6d.; 1854, 1 real, pale blue, used, £5 10s. Zurich, 4 rappen, part gum, £27. Cape of Good Hope woodblock, 1d., blue, error, used, £50; 4d., red, error, used, £41. Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., orange (two), medium state of plate, used, £10; single copy, £5. British Columbia, 5 c., rose, imperf., penmarked, £17. Canada, 7½d., green, unused, £5. United States, 1869, 24 c. with *inverted centre*, minute tear, used, £16 10s.; State $5, part gum, £12 15s. Buenos Ayres,

4 pesos, used, medium copy, £6 15s. Peru, medio peso, rose, medium copy, used, £6 5s.

Sale March 6th and 7th. Austria, 1858, 2 kr., orange, unused, £4. Hongkong, 96 c., yellow-brown, unused, £4. Labuan, 81, in red, on 16 c., blue, unused, £3 10s. Mauritius, large fillet, used, medium, £10. An old collection in Lalliers brought £15, another in Imperial (3,556 stamps) £26, and one in German album (5,652) £45

* * *

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, February 15th and 16th. France, 1 fc., orange, used, very fine, £7 15s. Levant, 1865, 20 k., blue and red, unused, £6 6s. Naples, ½ tor., cross, full gum, £11. Spain, 1851, 2 reales, vertical pair, used, £37 ; 1852, 2 reales, used, £4 17s. 6d. ; 1853, 2 reales, used, £4. Madrid, 3 cuartos. *used on entire*, £16. Neufchatel, 5 c., unused, £11 : Winterthur, *pair*, used, £7 7s. Tuscany, 2 soldi (two) with 1 soldo, etc., used, £18 10s. ; 2 soldi, strip of five, used, £56 ; 60 crazie, unused, with gum, £18 ; another, used, £11. Cape of Good Hope, woodblock, 1d., red, pair, used, £14 ; 4d., deep blue, used, £8 15s. Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d. and 2d., early impressions, used, £14 ; 1d., red, earliest impression, two superb specimens, used, £26 5s. ; 1d., red, early impression, pair, used. £15 ; 2d., blue, earliest impression, very fine, pen-cancelled specimen, £13 ; another, postmarked, £12 5s. Canada, 12d., unused, full gum, £101 ; 7½d., green, unused, £6 10s. ; 10d., blue, unused, £5 15s. New Brunswick, 1s., used, £14 10s., £11 10s., and £10 ; Connell, 5 c., brown, unused and with gum, £28. U.S.A., 1869, 24 c., inverted centre, used, £24 ; 30 c., used, £96 ; reissue, 1869, set of ten, unused, £16 ; State 85, with full gum, £14. British Guiana, 1856, 4 cents, black on magenta, used, £21. St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., used, £13. Buenos Ayres, 4 pesos, unused, £21 ; a used specimen, £7. New South Wales, 1855, 5d., green, imperf., unused, with gum, £5. Tasmania, 1856–7, no wmk., 1d., brick-red, pair, full gum, £6 6s. Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow, unused, with gum, £11 2s. 6d.

March 1st and 2nd. A catalogue of good useful stamps, but containing little worthy of special note in these columns. A collection of 7,857 in Lincoln's album realised £110, and one in Imperial (3,200) £13.

* * *

Mr. W. Hadlow's sale of March 12th was also of the useful order, but included St. Vincent, 5s., star wmk., unused, £9 5s. Tasmania, 2d., green with serrated perfs.. two shades, used, £4 10s. A considerable portion of this catalogue comprised wholesale lots which it would perhaps be misleading to enumerate.

* * *

The Scott Stamp and Coin Company issued a fine catalogue for the 28th to 30th March. No less than seventy stamps are illustrated, and we hope to give a report in our next number.

No list has at present come to hand of the prices realised at the great sale in America of the Clotz envelopes and duplicates.

It is reported, however, that the prices paid were regarded as very high, the result apparently of a battle between the dealers and collectors. It is stated by the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that "in no case did the single specimens secure so much as twenty-five per cent. more than the same stamp sold for in quantity, a fact that proves that it is impossible for dealers to be able to replenish their stocks at a price allowing for a fifty per cent. discount from catalogue, or even a twenty-five per cent. profit in purchases."

* *

The sale of several millions of old Philippine stock is announced at the price of $50,300,00 (Mexican). This is indeed big business, and does not look as if Philately were played out. We hope "condition" will be found satisfactory.

* * *

The following shrewd estimation of the financial position in the future of the careful collector of good stamps and fine copies is so much in line with our own sentiments that we reproduce it from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of March 3rd for the delectation of our readers. As it doubtless emanates from the pen of Mr. J. W. Scott, whose connection with Philately extends more than a generation back, it is the more worthy of mental digestion and assimilation.

"It would be useless to enumerate every stamp likely to increase in value, because we should certainly make some mistakes, but there are certain broad lines on which the amateur can work with absolute certainty of success. Stamp collecting first attained prominence in 1863, but did not attain world-wide notoriety before 1870 ; therefore it is safe to say that no speculative stamps were issued before that period, nor were any large blocks of stamps bought and hoarded. Hence it is absolutely safe to purchase any stamps that had become obsolete before 1870. It is immaterial how high or low they may sell now, they will certainly show a handsome profit inside of ten years. Again, it takes very little thought to see that every series of stamps that was used up (which is proved by it having been replaced by a new issue) must be uniformly rarer unused than used ; five thousand to one would be a low estimate. Wealth is accumulating in all the countries in which stamp collections are commonly made, and as people get richer they become more fastidious, demand the best, and have the cash to pay for it. Therefore amateurs cannot do wrong in buying fine unused stamps of any old issues. The price is immaterial. The higher they pay is only an inducement for the dealer to ask more for the next one he secures, thus advancing the price of your property. A hint to the wise is enough. Fools cannot be taught."

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. APRIL, 1900. No. 100.

Finis Coronat Opus.

MONSIEUR JEAN BAPTISTE MOENS has made his final bow to the world of Philately. As announced elsewhere, his entire remaining stock has been disposed of to Herr Edvard Ruben, of Copenhagen, and after some forty years of honourable and arduous work M. Moens and his able coadjutor and relative, M. Hanciaux, pass from our view to enjoy a respite from their labours to which they are in the fullest sense entitled. It is an open secret that the members of the celebrated Brussels firm have not laboured in vain, but that their acute and far-seeing business methods have amply provided for their due enjoyment of the good things of the world. The wishes of all connected with stamp collecting in any form will assuredly be that M. Moens and M. Hanciaux may be spared for many years to enjoy the rest that is ever sweetened by the memories of bygone toil.

The services rendered to Philately by the Brussels firm have not infrequently been made mention of in this Journal, but it may be well to briefly bring before the younger generation of collectors the invaluable aid thus conferred to stamp collecting, and of which the older followers of the pursuit are fully cognisant. M. Moens, when he commenced his business some forty years since, evidently laid down prescient and eminently wise lines of conduct, which stood the test of time and apparently remained practically in force during the whole period that he was engaged in trade. The cardinal feature of his programme was evidently a systematic, general, and periodically recurrent importation of unused stamps from the Post Offices of the world. The retailing of these, as and when required, regardless of the period that might elapse before the demand arose, at certain fixed rates, increasing as time went on, produced at once a safe and sure investment. The utmost care was always exercised in the preservation of these imported stamps, so that they might reach the collector in their pristine condition—a

consummation that the experience of countless collectors will readily allow to have been fully attained. The observance of these simple rules during this long period of years has enabled M. Moens to carry on a large and world-wide business with honourable success to himself and complete satisfaction to his *clientèle*.

It is obvious that the observance of these three main conditions must have been a great boon to the collector of fine copies—whose name is fortunately nowadays legion indeed. As we have before written, it is indeed in a very large measure due to M. Moens alone that the very existence of almost numberless stamps in mint condition to-day is due. In many of the European and British Colonial stamps whole issues would have been missing, unused, except for stray unpostmarked copies, but for M. Moens' foresight. His confidence in holding on to stock that apparently was not in request, during long years, and his perfect system of preserving the unsevered specimens, have resulted in an enrichment of specialised collections that would have been absolutely unattainable under any other conditions. The faith exhibited in the ultimate recognition of sound issues of almost any country has doubtless—and justly—awarded to M. Moens a substantial guerdon, and it should afford a living lesson to other dealers that they will always be safe in investing in *sound* securities, and awaiting the popular appreciation that is always ultimately accorded to solid wares. As time goes on, so will general collecting become more and more impossible—if the bull may be excused—and Philatelists will, perforce, fall back upon still more restricted spheres. Periods and epochs of countries will be collected, and it may well be that twenty years hence a collection of the unused stamps of a group or country issued during the twentieth century may afford a result that will even favourably compare with the result of M. Moens' labours.

The changes that have come over stamp collecting during M. Moens' forty years' peregrination in the philatelic wilderness are indeed portentous, and even their briefest enumeration would exceed the limits of our space. When M. Moens commenced his business, if he at once carried out his system of importation, he could have purchased the rectangular stamps of Oldenburg or the Savoy Cross of Tuscany or Naples by the sheet, none of which would have been bad investments! Had he patiently waited a year or so he would have been able to strengthen his stock by the acquisition of the 1862 Provisionals of British Guiana or the Cape woodblocks, any or all of which in groups of four unused, would not lack purchasers to-day, even at considerably over their original value, plus accrued interest! Doubtless, however, in the case of these provisional or transitory issues, a supply was not always to be secured in time, and we doubt if M. Moens really ever held unsevered unused copies of the 3 lire of Tuscany, the Cape woodblocks, or the Savoy Cross of Naples.

Another remarkable contrast between forty years since and now is the colossal number of varieties that, in our judgment, constitutes one of the gravest dangers in the future of Philately. In 1860, probably a collection of 1,000 specimens, excluding shades, would have exhausted the known varieties, and it was the constant endeavour of dealer and collector alike to increase the number. It was this aspiration that doubtless prompted the

inclusion of proofs, essays, colour trials, and reprints in the collector's albums, and M. Moens, with others of his epoch, contributed to fill these blanks. None the less, however, can the issue of dealers' reprints be now looked at with a favourable eye, while the possession of the original stones or dies, *e.g.* Bergedorf, and their repeated use for preparing "reprints," are proceedings that would find universal condemnation at the close of the century. *Autres temps, autres mœurs.*

Two other excellent features—in the eyes of the collector—of M. Moens' system of business must be mentioned. The Brussels firm never varied their prices for any client, and as long as their catalogue was in issue, adhered as closely as possible to their published quotations. When a price was altered, it was gradually and sensibly effected, the opposite to the utterly reckless way in which prices are jumped up and down in modern catalogues. The second delightful custom—to the purchaser—was that the shades, pairs, or blocks could be picked out at discretion from the selections submitted—a true and perennial fount of joy and pleasant surprise to the eager Philatelist. In no other system, perhaps, will our esteemed friend be more missed and lamented than this, and we fear greatly that the degenerate dealer of the new century will prefer to price each specimen for all it is worth!

Other firms connected with our hobby will probably transcend M. Moens in the magnitude of their transactions, but it is absolutely assured that whether as regards the honourable conditions under which they have traded, or the invaluable services they have rendered to Philately by pen and purse, the firm of J. B. Moens, of Brussels, will always be regarded not only as the great pioneer stamp dealers, but as a bright example of how to be both successful traders and yet *sans peur et sans reproche.*

The Stamps of New South Wales.

SOME MORE RECORDS RELATING TO THE LAUREATED SERIES.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

THE increasing demand for postage stamps, and the difficulty experienced in coping with this demand by printing from the small plates of the first issue, impelled Mr. Raymond, Postmaster-General, to consider some means for securing a more rapid method of production. As early as 5th January, 1850, he called the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the difficulty, and suggested the advisability of obtaining three steel plates from England, containing at least one hundred impressions of each stamp.

However, England was a long way off, and the means of communication were very slow. The Postmaster-General, therefore, did not at the time further urge that his suggestion should be carried out. He appears to have taken steps to obtain estimates from local engravers as to the cost of making

steel plates containing a larger number of impressions than the "View" plates, for on the 28th October, 1850, he wrote to the Colonial Secretary, returning a tender from Mr. Robert Clayton, offering to engrave a steel plate for postage stamps, at the same time observing that from the trouble and disappointment sustained the previous year by Mr. Clayton's non-performance of the work he engaged to undertake, and the manner in which he engraved the one penny stamp then in use, he did not feel justified in recommending his employment on the present occasion. He took the opportunity, however, of reporting that he had communicated with several engravers with a view to obtaining steel plates for the postage stamps, and begged to submit an offer from Mr. Carmichael, who he believed to be the most competent engraver in Sydney, to furnish the plates according to a design accompanying the letter, or such other as might be decided upon, at twenty-five shillings each stamp. Although he considered the price high, he feared that there was no alternative but to accept the offer, Mr. Ham having intimated his inability to come up from Melbourne to undertake the work, as he had at first proposed, and his tender, even, was higher than Mr. Carmichael's. Mr. Raymond also stated that Mr. H. C. Jervis, the only other engraver he could find willing to execute the work, offered to do them at sixteen shillings each stamp, but as the threepenny plate then in use, furnished by him (Jervis), was certainly not a good specimen of engraving, he was unwilling to entrust the business to him.

In replying to a letter written by the New Zealand Government, asking for particulars respecting plates for postage stamps, Mr. Raymond threw a little more light on the matter. Under date 29th November, 1850, he wrote :—

"I do myself the honour to state that the engraver who is employed preparing new plates for this Department is willing to furnish three similar ones for the New Zealand Government, each containing twenty-five stamps, for £112 10/-, to be completed by the 30th November, 1851. . . . It will doubtless be in your* recollection that when the Act introducing the system of prepayment of postage by stamps was passed much difficulty was experienced in procuring plates, and the law coming into operation in little more than two months and a half after being assented to, it was found necessary as a temporary expedient to get three plates, containing twenty-five † stamps each, from three different engravers.

"These plates being on copper are objectionable, as they require to be renewed, and the impression thus becomes altered.‡ It was therefore determined to get three steel plates, adopting the Queen's head, with New South Wales Postage as the design, and Mr. Carmichael, who is the best engraver in Sydney, is now engaged upon them, but they will not be completed before the end of June, when he will be prepared to undertake those for the New Zealand Government, should they be required."

Hence it appears evident that the design referred to in the letter of

* This letter was written to the Colonial Secretary, N.S.W., to enable him to reply to the communication from New Zealand.

† This is slightly inaccurate, the 2d. plate having only twenty-four stamps.

‡ It is interesting to note the expression of this objection as to the alteration of impression. Considering the variation, more or less marked, existing between each individual impression on the plate, one would have thought that the slightly more marked variation produced by the retouching would have passed unnoticed!

the 28th October, 1850, consisted of a "Queen's head" with the inscriptions "NEW SOUTH WALES. POSTAGE," and, presumably, the value in words. The omission of the name of the colony, in an Anglicised form, from the "View" stamps seems to have caused some comment, and it was determined to leave no room for doubt in future issues. It was hardly to be expected that *all* the colonists were sufficiently versed in Latin to understand that "NOV. CAMB. AUST." meant "New South Wales."

On the 13th November, 1850, Mr. Raymond wrote to Mr. John Carmichael with reference to a personal interview he had had with him relating to the engraving of the plates, acquainting him that the sanction of His Excellency the Governor had been received to accept his amended tender to engrave three steel plates, each containing respectively fifty postage stamps of one penny, twopenny, and threepenny, of the design and description with which he had been furnished. Mr. Carmichael was informed that the plates were to be completed to the satisfaction of the Government on or before the 30th June, 1851, to which effect he would be required to enter into a bond or agreement should the same be considered necessary by the Crown Solicitor.

This guarantee as to due execution was evidently considered desirable; a bond was prepared and forwarded by the Crown Solicitor for execution. Some time was spent in fruitless negotiations, and on the 15th February, 1851, Mr. Raymond wrote to the Crown Solicitor:—

"Referring to your letter of the 22nd November, forwarding a bond for the signature of Mr. John Carmichael for the due completion of plates for postage stamps, I do myself the honour to inform you that, having called upon Mr. Carmichael to execute the same, he refuses doing so. I therefore beg leave to return the bond and tender."

Dr. Houison states that Carmichael "was deaf and dumb, but evidently had a will of his own." Subsequent events point rather to his having well-grounded doubts as to his own ability to carry out the work within the specified time, as it was not until the 16th July, 1851, or sixteen days after the expiration of the period stipulated for the completion of all three plates, that the Postmaster-General was able to "submit for the inspection of His Excellency the Governor-General the new plate for the twopenny postage stamps, with a proof of the same."

On the 9th June, 1851, Francis Lewis Shaw Merewether, Esq., was appointed Postmaster-General.

The Postmaster-General forwarded at the same time the old twopenny plate, which was unserviceable, in order that it might be condemned. As there was not more than a week's supply of the twopenny postage stamps printed, Mr. Merewether stated that it would be necessary to immediately bring the new plate into use, but conceived that before doing so it would be necessary to publish a notice describing the alteration in the design of the stamp.

That His Excellency the Governor-General lost no time in giving his approval is well known. In 1886 Major Evans described this very proof sheet,* across the face of which was written: "51/6960. Approved. See

* *Philatelic Record*, vol. viii. p. 196.

Governor-General's Minute on the Back." The endorsement referred to was, "Approved by my Minute on 51/6960 of this date, C. F. R., 17th July, 1851." This proof sheet had been removed from the records, and the finder had cut it up, evidently with the view of removing those impressions which had escaped the inscription, and could consequently be disposed of at an enhanced figure as "unused." When the sheet reached Major Evans it consisted of thirty-nine specimens, all cut separate, with the exception of one pair. Curiously enough, these stamps had been previously offered to me by Mr. W. F. Petterd, of Launceston, who had received them from a correspondent in Sydney. My philatelic eyes not being fully opened at that date, I saw nothing singular in a lot of "Twopenny Laureates" scribbled over with the broad marks of a quill pen, and stuck anyhow on a sheet of paper. I returned them to Mr. Petterd without attempting to decipher the inscription, or even thinking that the markings contained anything coherent. My feelings when Major Evans's paper appeared, and I discovered what I had missed, may well be imagined! *

The notification which Mr. Merewether pointed out would be necessary duly appeared in the *Government Gazette* of the 25th July, 1851, as follows:—

"Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney,
"*24th July*, 1851.

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"Referring to the Government Notice, dated 22nd December, 1849, respecting the issue of stamps, in accordance with the tenth clause of the Act of the Governor and Council, 13th Victoria, No. 38, intituled, '*An Act to establish an uniform rate of Postage, and to consolidate and amend the Law for the conveyance and postage of Letters*,' His Excellency the Governor-General directs it to be notified that it has become necessary to provide new plates, on which, instead of the present design, there will be engraved the Queen's head, with a laurel wreath and the words 'New South Wales' in the border.

"2. Twopenny stamps with the above design will immediately be issued.

"By His Excellency's command,
"E. Deas Thomson."

This notice was repeated verbatim in the *Gazettes* of the 29th July, 1st and 5th August, 1851, the error made in omitting the word "be" in the second paragraph remaining unnoticed.

On the 29th July, 1851, the Postmaster-General forwarded Carmichael's account for the twopenny plate to the Colonial Secretary. In submitting this claim, Mr. Merewether referred to Carmichael's tender to furnish three plates for the sum of £150, and suggested that, as he refused to enter into any engagement for the fulfilment of his tender, it might be desirable, before any payment was made, to obtain some guarantee that the other plates would be completed. Carmichael preferred a further claim of £10 for engraving the words "New South Wales" on the twopenny stamps. Mr. Merewether stated that he was informed that these words were in the original design, and as a matter of right, therefore, Mr. Carmichael seemed to have no claim to this extra sum.

* This plate was made up again to the original state by the selection of stamps of similar shade by Mr. M. P. Castle, and was included in his Australian collection.—Ed.

Carmichael resisted the second attempt to obtain a guarantee for the completion of the other two plates, but the Inspector of Stamps (Mr. Manning) having assured the Postmaster-General that he was satisfied Mr. Carmichael would complete the other plates according to his engagement, Mr. Merewether recommended the payment of £50 for the twopenny plate, and as the claim for extra remuneration for alterations had been reduced to £5, he did not see any objection to that additional allowance.

This completes the records relating to the twopenny of the Laureated series, so far as regards its preparation and issue in its original state.

I have made a very careful search in the Post Office Letter Books, but can find no trace of any communication referring to the completion and handing over of the one penny plate. However, the approximate date of its completion is shown in the following notice, published in the *Government Gazette* of the 23rd December, 1851 :—

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"*20th December*, 1851.

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"Referring to the Government Notice of the 24th of July last, His Excellency the Governor-General directs it to be notified that one penny stamps of a new plate, on which, instead of the present design, there will be engraved the Queen's head, with a laurel wreath and the words 'New South Wales' in the border, will be immediately issued. "By His Excellency's command,

"E. DEAS THOMSON.

Notwithstanding Mr. Raymond's disparaging remarks with reference to Jervis's engraving of the threepenny "View" plate, it stood wear and tear better than the other two values, and in November, 1851, Mr. Merewether spoke of it in terms of high approval. He said: "The present plate is copper, and though in use for nearly two years, and has never been repaired, may be said to be as good as when delivered by the engraver. Being well cut it would last many years longer."

This fact, and the necessity arising for the immediate provision of a sixpenny plate, account for the long time which elapsed before the third of the plates, contracted to be supplied not later than the 30th June, 1851, viz. the threepenny, was delivered.

The following letter relating to the sixpenny plate is quoted in full :—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, *8th March*, 1852.

"SIR,—In order to afford greater facility for the affixing of the required value of stamps on letters chargeable with high postage, and also for the payment of the fee of sixpence on registered letters, I do myself the honour to recommend that a sixpenny stamp should be struck off on copper in the Colony for immediate use.

"2. The demand for these stamps will be comparatively so limited that a copper plate, if well engraved, will last for a considerable time. The threepenny stamp plate, although it has been in use for two years, is still perfectly good.

"3. I propose that the plate should contain twenty-five subjects, which will be sufficient to enable the Inspector of Stamps to meet the demand for these stamps for a considerable time.

"4. A design which I enclose was prepared by the late Inspector, Mr. Manning, for a sixpenny stamp, but it is not so difficult of imitation as the design recently adopted for the other stamps, and I am therefore disposed to recommend that the latter should be selected, with the necessary substitution of sixpence in strongly marked characters.

"5. Mr. Carmichael, by whom the other plates have been engraved, will execute this at the rate of 10s. 6d. per subject, according to Manning's design, and at 16s. a subject if the Queen's head design be preferred. The cost in the former case will be £13 2s. 6d. and in the latter £20. The cost of this plate can be charged on the sum of £100 which was voted by the Legislative Council for 'providing and renewing plates for postage stamps,' independently of the £600 voted on the Supplementary Estimate for the plates, etc., to be obtained from England.

"I have, etc.,

"T. L. S. MEREWETHER."

Dr. Houison, in his *History of the Post Office*, speaks of designs for sixpenny and one shilling stamps, which had been engraved (as essays) by Carmichael, and illustrates them. Both of these essays bear a Crown as a central design. The original designs, says Dr. Houison, were drawn by James Raymond, the Postmaster-General. Mr. Merewether speaks of the design he submitted as having been prepared by Mr. Manning, the Inspector of Stamps. It is hardly likely that two sets of designs were furnished by Post Office officials for the same purpose, and I am inclined to believe that Manning designed these Crown stamps at Mr. Raymond's instigation.

There are no Post Office records relating to the submission and approval of proofs from the sixpenny plate, but the new stamps were duly gazetted in the following notice :—

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"*30th April*, 1852.

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"His Excellency the Governor-General directs it to be notified, that in pursuance of the provisions of the 15th clause of the Act of the Governor and Council, 15th Victoria, No. 12, intituled, '*An Act to consolidate and amend the Law for Conveyance and Postage of Letters*,' a plate has been approved for sixpenny stamps, of the same design as the penny and twopenny stamp now in use.

"Sixpenny stamps with this design will be immediately issued.

"By His Excellency's command,

"E. DEAS THOMSON."

Dr. Houison gives the date on which this stamp was gazetted as 8th May. As in all cases the Laureated stamps were issued on the date of the public notice, the date of this value may safely be altered to 30th April.

It is worthy of note that the recommendation of Mr. Merewether, that the word "Sixpence" should be in strongly marked characters, was faithfully carried out by the engraver.

On the 1st May, 1852, Mr. Merewether was appointed Auditor-General, and Major W. H. Christie succeeded him as Postmaster-General.

The urgently required sixpenny stamp having been provided, it might naturally have been concluded that the engraver would at once fall to and complete the threepenny plate, which was originally to have been ready by the 30th June, 1851. However, this was not the case, for nothing further was heard of the plate until the 29th September, 1852, when the Colonial Secretary made inquiries when it would be ready. Major Christie, in reply, stated that the engraver had promised that the plate would be completed by the 10th of October. Evidently the Major was not acquainted with Mr. Carmichael's little idiosyncrasies, otherwise he would have been more guarded in accepting his assurances. The 10th of October came and went, but the long-promised threepenny plate was still incomplete. The Colonial Secretary again wrote on the fourteenth of that month, asking when the plate would be forthcoming. Major Christie appears to have tried to stir Carmichael up to a sense of his duty, but without avail, for on the 25th October he had to write to the Colonial Secretary, informing him that the plate for the threepenny postage stamps was not yet completed, but the engraver had now promised it by the 1st of November. The Major added that these annoying delays had not occurred from neglect in the Post Office.

Carmichael's promise again proved to be of the piecrust order, and it was not until the 27th November that a proof from the plate was submitted for approval. The Governor gave his approval on the 1st December, and the issue of stamps was gazetted as follows:—

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, SYDNEY,
"*2nd December*, 1852.

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"His Excellency the Governor-General directs it to be notified, that in pursuance of the provisions of the 15th clause of the Act of the Governor and Council, 15th Vict., No. 12, intituled, 'An Act to consolidate and amend the Law for Conveyance and Postage of Letters,' a new plate has been provided for threepenny stamps of the same design as the penny, twopenny, and sixpenny stamps now in use.

"Threepenny stamps with this design will be immediately issued.

"By His Excellency's command,
"E. DEAS THOMSON."

On the 3rd December, 1852, Major Christie forwarded duplicate sheets of the threepenny postage stamps which had just been struck off from the new plate for transmission to England. This was done in connection with the proposal to obtain a supply of "threaded" or watermarked paper from England, hereinafter referred to.

The remaining value of the series, the eightpence, is referred to only in the following letter, there being no other records to be found in the Post Office:—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, 13*th January*, 1853.

"SIR,—Referring to the notice of the 24th ultimo, respecting the prepayment of letters to the United Kingdom, I have the honour to bring under the notice of the Governor-General the expediency of having an eightpenny stamp for issue to the public, this being the rate of postage on letters by private ship.

"2. This stamp is also desirable for the quadruple postage on inland letters, and will thus relieve the great pressure on the twopenny stamps.

"3. I beg, therefore, to recommend that I may be authorised to obtain a copper plate containing fifty labels of the value indicated for immediate use, at a cost not exceeding £26 5s., to be charged against the sum voted for providing and repairing postage stamp plates, and that a steel plate containing 100 labels may be ordered from England. "I have, etc.,

"W. H. CHRISTIE."

Carmichael had apparently forfeited all claim to consideration, owing to his dilatoriness, and the work of engraving the eightpenny plate was entrusted to H. C. Jervis, the engraver of the threepenny "View." The plate was ready on the 13th May, and the issue of stamps was gazetted as follows :—

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"*16th May*, 1853.

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"His Excellency the Governor-General directs it to be notified, that in pursuance of the provisions of the 15th clause of the Act of the Governor and Council, 15th Victoria, No. 12, intituled, '*An Act to consolidate and amend the Law for Conveyance and Postage of Letters*,' a plate has been provided for eightpenny stamps of the same design as the other postage stamps now in use.

"Eightpenny stamps with this design will be immediately issued.

"By His Excellency's command,

"E. DEAS THOMSON."

The series of Laureated stamps having been completed so far as it was then intended to furnish them, the following notice was published in the *Gazette* :—

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"*4th July*, 1853.

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"Notice is hereby given that stamps of the undermentioned values can now be procured at the General and all country post offices, as well as at the several sub-offices and receiving offices, viz. :—

"One penny postage stamps.
Twopenny ,,
Threepenny ,,
Sixpenny ,,
Eightpenny ,,

"Plates for fivepenny and one shilling stamps have been ordered from England, and will be issued on their arrival in the Colony.

"W. H. CHRISTIE, *Postmaster-General*."

The twopenny steel plate had been in use just two years, when the Inspector of Stamps found it necessary to report to the Chief Secretary that it had become so worn from constant use that it would shortly be necessary to have it repaired. In reply to this communication the Colonial Secretary wrote, under date 8th August, 1853 :—

"Sir,—I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 53/29, reporting that the steel plate for printing twopenny postage stamps has become from constant use so worn that it will shortly be necessary to have it repaired, and in reply I am directed to inform you that under the circumstances represented in your communication, His Excellency the Governor-General approves of your employing Mr. H. C. Jervis to engrave a new copper twopenny plate, as nearly similar as possible to the steel plate now in use, at an expense of £40, and also to repair the steel plate for the sum of £40, to be charged against the amount voted for this service in the contingencies of the Stamp Department.

"I have, etc., for the Colonial Secretary,

"W. Elyard, Jun."

On the same date Mr. Elyard wrote to the Postmaster-General, inclosing a copy of the foregoing letter.

I have found no further records relating to this copper plate twopenny stamp, which, as is well known, was the variety with six-rayed stars in the angles. Nor have I been able to find any further reference to the retouching of the twopenny steel plate, referred to in the foregoing letter, nor to the retouching of the sixpenny plate, which doubtless was effected about this time by Jervis.

On the 11th June, 1852, Major Christie wrote to the Colonial Secretary a letter with reference to procuring postage stamp plates and paper from England. The following paragraphs, which relate to the paper for the Laureated series, are quoted :—

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 25th ultimo, No. 52/74, informing me that His Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to approve of the suggestions contained in my predecessor's letter of the 30th April last, No. 56, for procuring plates, papers, etc., for postage stamps from England. . . .

"4. I beg also to transmit duplicate sheets of the one penny and twopenny stamps to be forwarded to England, together with two copies of the estimates annexed to my predecessor's letter of the postage stamps required to meet the demand for two years, and of the cost of providing the books, colours, etc., to be procured from England.

"5. So soon as the threepenny stamps now being engraved by Mr. Carmichael are struck off, I shall not fail to transmit duplicate sheets to be forwarded to Mr. Barnard. The designs for these stamps have already been approved of in your letter, No. 50/200, dated 21st November, 1850."

As we have already seen, the duplicate sheets of the threepenny stamps were forwarded for transmission to England on the 3rd December, 1852.

On the 30th January, 1854, in notifying the issue of the new sixpenny and one shilling stamps (large square design), the Colonial Secretary announced :—

"It is further notified that for the future all stamps will bear a watermark on each label of the value indicated by each respective stamp, with the exception of the eightpenny, the new paper for which has not yet arrived from England."

As the notice above referred to provided for the supersession of the sixpenny of the Laureated series, the only stamps of that series to which the notice relating to watermarks could refer were the one penny, two pence (Plate I., retouched), and three pence.

In order that collectors may learn how narrowly they escaped having to provide space for another value of the Laureated series I will quote the following correspondence.

In a letter dated 30th April, 1852, Mr. Merewether said :—

"4. I recommend that plates for sixpenny and one shilling stamps, engraved on steel and with elaborate workmanship, so as to give security against forgery, should be forwarded from England."

And on the 12th May, 1852, his successor, Major Christie, wrote :—

"Referring to the letter from this office of the 30th April, No. 52/56, in which it is proposed that a plate for shilling stamps should be obtained from England, I have the honour to inform you that in consequence of representations which have been made to me of the difficulty of affixing a sufficient number of the stamps now in use on parcels passing through the post, I consider it necessary that shilling postage stamps should be issued as soon as practicable.

"2. Mr. Carmichael, by whom the other plates have been engraved, will execute the one now required on copper, of the same pattern as the sixpenny stamps, with the necessary substitution of the words 'One Shilling' in strongly marked characters, for £20, being at the rate of 16s. a label, the plate to contain 25 labels.

"3. The cost of this plate can be charged against the sum of £100, which was voted by the Legislative Council for providing and renewing plates for postage stamps during the present year."

That the Governor-General did not think the locally engraved stamp would be sufficiently protected against the danger of imitation is shown by the following letter, addressed by Major Christie to the Colonial Secretary :—

"General Post Office, *29th May*, 1852.

"Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 26th instant, No. 52/77, in reply to mine of the 12th instant, in which it is stated that His Excellency the Governor-General does not consider it expedient that a plate for one shilling stamps should be ordered in this Colony, as it is considered that forgery would be encouraged if stone* plates of this value were engraved similar to those already in use for stamps of lesser value.

"2. I beg to state that the proposal made in my letter of the 12th instant was for a steel plate,* and that Mr. Carmichael, who has already engraved the sixpence and the other stamps, is probably the only person in the Colony who could execute these.

"3. For engraving on copper plate Mr. Carmichael's charge is 16s. each Queen's head; for engraving on steel, which is afterwards hardened and is therefore more durable, the charge is £1 per Queen's head.

"4. As it will probably be a twelvemonth before the plate from England can arrive, and the demand for stamps of greater value than 6d. has become great and urgent in consequence of the numerous packets of gold that pass through the Post Office daily, I am induced to request that His Excellency will be pleased to reconsider his decision, the more so as I doubt not that Mr. Carmichael would make no extra charge for an alteration in the shape of the stamp, and in the design itself, that would obviate any possibility of the stamps of lesser value being used, even if the difference of the colouring did not obviate this objection."

This appeal, however, was in vain, and nearly two years elapsed before New South Wales possessed a shilling stamp.

* This is inaccurate.

The Philatelists' War Fund.

WE are glad to hear that the result of this auction, announced in our last issue, will be even more favourable than was anticipated. In reply to our inquiry, Mr. Walter Bull, who so kindly auctioneered, writes us :—

"I am sorry that I am not able to give you exact figures as to the catalogues, photographs, etc., for the moment, but I think the following will be, however, very near the mark :—

	£	s.	d.
Total realised by the sale	1,002	16	0
Amount received for catalogues up to date . .	30	6	0
Donations	67	1	0
"Daily Mail Fund" recitation . . .	5	17	9
Photos . . . about	2	5	0
	£1,108	5	9

This latter item will, I think, be increased to £3 or £4. You will see, therefore, that we are well over the £1,100. There are amounts coming in nearly every day for catalogues, and sometimes further donations."

We understand that the question of the distribution of the proceeds will come before the Committee in course of time; but we cannot help thinking that incomparably the larger amount should go to the real *National* Fund at the Mansion House, say—Lord Mayor's Fund, £1,000; *Daily Telegraph* Fund, 2,000 shillings; *Daily Mail* A.M.B. Fund, balance, say £10.

The photographs of the room taken by the London Stereoscopic Company have now been received, and considering that they were taken by flash-light, are very successful, and will hereafter prove an interesting souvenir. Several members of the London Philatelic Society have, it is true, a decidedly "shady" appearance, and in one instance a conspicuous injustice is done to one of the fair sex; but, on the contrary, many of the portraits are remarkably clear. It would perhaps be advisable for the Stereoscopic Company to issue a smaller size, unmounted, suitable for binding up with the catalogue, which would doubtless also still further help to swell the fund. Some of the principal lots were mentioned in Mr. Castle's report last month, but the following are perhaps also worthy of being recorded :—

Great Britain, horizontal pair of V.R.'s, £17, mint and cheap. Wmk. large Crown, inverted, 1d., black, horizontal pair, full gum, £4 10s. 1d., red, on Dickinson paper, unused, horizontal pair, £3 10s. Octagonal issue, 10d., brown, plate 3, unused, with gum, £3. £5, orange, unused, mint, £5 5s.; this came direct from the Post Office, hence the "unused, mint"! 1867–69, 10d., red-brown, plate 2, £8 10s.; this was a heavily postmarked specimen, or

would have gone far higher. Gibraltar, 1st issue complete, in unused horizontal mint pairs, £8 15s.; these "rapidly appreciating" stamps are frequently sold in sets singly, but pairs have not turned up: someone has been far-seeing if they have these in stock! Saxony, 3 pf., red, unused, part gum, £4 8s.; this was *not* a grand copy. Zurich, 4 rappen, type 2, horizontal lines, used, £10; a very cheap stamp. Ceylon, 2s., blue, "Service," imperf., with gum, £7 15s.; there was a long and (to the spectators) amusing contest between two bidders before this lot was secured. Straits Settlements, 1892–4, error, surcharge omitted, 32 c., carmine-rose, unused, £14. St. Helena, C & CC, perf. 14, 6d., milky blue, unused pair, £5 5s. Soudan, an envelope, franked with 1, 2, 3, and 5 mils., posted in Khartoum, with certificate of Hon. Secs., £1 12s.; this envelope contained a donation to the Philatelists' War Fund, and in the name of Charity it was sold for this low figure. British Columbia, perf. 14, 10 cents, unused, £4 10s. The $1, green, same perf. and unused, £5 10s.; the mighty are indeed fallen, but these stamps should be worth far more than these prices. New Brunswick, 1s., unused (?), small margins, £7 5s., and a used copy, £5 10s. Newfoundland, 1s., carmine, used, slight crease, £7 12s. 6d. Nova Scotia, 1s., used, £6 5s. and £5 5s.; all rather less than more fine! Nevis, 6d., litho, full gum, £6; an entire unused sheet of the 1d., bright red, perf. 11½, full gum, £5; and the 6d., green, of 1883, unused, with gum, £4 7s. 6d. St. Vincent, 5s., Star, unused, £10, £10. Turk's Islands, 1s., lilac, used, £12 10s. Pacific Steam Navigation Company, 1 real, blue, with Lima postmark, £5.

Amongst the unenumerated lots, a collection in envelopes (4,000) brought £10 10s., and one of entires realised £6 10s. A great many collections, albums, and books were also sold.

Occasional Notes.

THE RETIREMENT OF M. J. B. MOENS.

On more than one occasion we have referred to the impending retirement of the *doyen* of stamp dealers, and we now learn, with many regrets, that this is a *fait accompli*. An announcement is made by M. Moens in the current number of his journal that "the liquidation of his stock has been brusquely terminated by the sale of the whole of the remaining adhesives and entires." It had been anticipated that a long period would have elapsed before this extensive stock had all been dispersed, but M. Moens triumphantly asserts that, owing to the marvellous manner in which his clients have rallied round him (may we add, also owing to the excellence of his wares?), the entire liquidation of his stock has been consummated within five months. The purchaser is the well-known Copenhagen dealer, M. Edvard Ruben (Gothersgade, 63), to whom M. Moens refers the many applicants whose wants he has been unable to supply. It appears that M. Ruben has been for a long while a sapient absorber

of the Brussels stock, and has now, doubtless even more wisely, decided to acquire the balance. The *Timbre-Poste*, now in its thirty-eighth year of existence, is to be continued until the end of the year, but it is earnestly to be hoped that this really valuable journal will be continued under the management of some able Philatelist or society on the Continent. We refer elsewhere to M. Moens' labours.

THE PARIS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

We read that the work in connection with this important Exhibition is well in hand, the "central bureau" having been installed and in active operation since the twentieth of last month. It is a significant sign of the magnitude of the work that M. Albert Coyette, the President of the Société Française de Timbrologie, who is the leader of the Exhibition labours, has been compelled by the "occupation of his multiple functions" to resign the editorship of the *Revue Philatélique*. We wish all success to the Paris Exhibitions, Universal and Philatelic, and earnestly hope that British and French may meet there in amicable intercourse and mutual respect. It has been recently and most wisely said on the Continent that were England and France to quarrel *others* would reap the benefit. Let both nations show the world that we are not such fools!

PHILATELIC ECHOES FROM THE WAR.

The stamps of the late Major Myers, who (says the *S. C. F.*) perished at Colenso, and not at Spion Kop, as generally believed, were dispersed by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson on the 3rd and 4th of this month. The collection was a general one and contained a number of fine Colonial stamps, for which between seven and eight hundred pounds were realised.

Although not a collector, the fact of the departure of so important a personage, in the eyes of collectors, as the Postmaster-General to the seat of war, should be placed on record in philatelic circles. We have been privileged on several occasions to meet the Duke of Norfolk, and all who have shared our experiences will agree that a more simple-minded, unassuming or charming man could not exist. It speaks volumes for the other side of His Grace's character that he—the premier nobleman and Earl Marshal of Great Britain—should lay aside his cabinet rank and go out to assist his country as a simple captain of his Sussex volunteers. The Duke of Norfolk has been an exemplary Postmaster-General whose régime has permitted many important reforms, and Philatelists will join in the fervent wish that he may be spared to render many future services to his country.

Lieutenant Stanley Castle is with his regiment, the Scottish Rifles, in Kimberley, where we hear they may either garrison the town or co-operate with Lord Roberts's forward movement.

Lieutenant Eric Hausburg, the brother of Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, who was safely through all the fighting at Spion Kop and round Colenso, is now happily recovering from an attack of dysentery.

DEATH OF MR. C. H. COSTER.

WE have to announce, with much regret, the death of yet another eminent American Philatelist. The name of Mr. Coster is, perhaps, not very familiar to the modern school of collectors, but in years past he was reckoned as one of the pioneers of the science in the States. Increasing calls upon his energies had of late years compelled his partial abstention from stamp collecting, but he has left an enduring record of his philatelic research. *Les Postes privées des Etats Unis d'Amerique*, published by M. J. B. Moens in 1882, was the production of Mr. Coster, and has always deservedly held high rank as a standard work on the difficult subject of the American local stamps. We are indebted to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* for the following interesting paragragh :—

"Mr. Charles Henry Coster died Tuesday morning, March 13th, at his residence, 37 East 37th Street, Manhattan, New York City. Mr. Coster had been ill for a week with pneumonia, but it had not been thought to be serious. Mr. Coster was born in Newport, R.I., July 22, 1852, and from boyhood to his death had been active in New York business circles; he was a member at his death of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and was a director in no less than forty-five separate corporations, among which was the Panama Railroad. In former years Mr. C. H. Coster was a studious Philatelist, a charter member of the National Philatelic Society of New York, and far in advance of those times, his devotion to U.S. locals was distinctly marked, and his researches finally found the Press. His book on locals stands to-day a classic to which all students of Philately who wish information must turn. This book came out in 1876, and is now rare. Mr. Scott republished it in his 'Revised List,' but it is scarce even in this form, and is eagerly sought at auction sales. A French edition, which is in some respects better than the first edition, was published by Moens late in the seventies. Notwithstanding the years which have passed, Mr. Coster's work in Philately will remain a standard work—a basis to which all writers on U.S. locals must turn for data on which to base their new works, and he 'builded better than he knew.'"

M. ADRIEN CHAMPION.

THE name of this gentleman is sufficiently familiar with the older band of Philatelists, and it would appear that he is still very much alive and still pursuing the uneven tenour of his ways. The *Revue Philatélique Française* relates that very suspicious doings have been lately attributed to a firm trading in Paris as Haüf and Co., and that its signatures were all curiously in the writing of M. Champion. The identity being acknowledged, an appeal was made to our *confrères* not to divulge the matter, in consideration of future better conduct, which request was, very considerately, granted. This promise, it seems, according to our contemporary, was but lightly and very ungratefully held. A French collector lately received a book containing 192 stamps emanating direct from M. Champion, of which "no less than 76 were either faked or forged." The Société Française de Timbrologie, who have very properly taken the matter up, issue a warning to all collectors to be on their guard, and we consider it our duty to emphasise this admonition on this side of the Channel.

THE UNUSED COLONIAL REMAINDERS.

IT is not surprising that the collecting world should be somewhat disturbed at the apparition of long obsolete stamps in quantity, but all cause for surprise hereat may apparently be dismissed. If the following record be a truthful one, the lack of proper supervision of what is the practical equivalent of currency, is nothing short of scandalous:—

"Ernest George Buck, thirty-two, of Ravigny Gardens, Putney, and Charles Rowley, thirty-one, of Westover Road, Wandsworth, pleaded guilty at Clerkenwell Police Court on the 12th of this month to stealing and receiving four British Central Africa 10s. stamps, the property of the Colonial Government. In consequence of complaints from Crown agents in the colonies that a large number of unused colonial stamps were being sold in London, inquiries were instituted which led to the arrest of the prisoners. At Rowley's lodgings were found several hundred pounds' worth of Colonial stamps, mostly of the Federated Malay States. He said he had received them from Buck, who was an inspector in the Colonial Office. Both were formerly fellow-clerks in the War Office. Mr. Ricketts, for the prisoners, made an appeal for clemency on account of their former good character. The effect of a conviction would be the loss of their army pensions. Mr. Horace Avory, for the prosecution, also hoped the magistrate would take a merciful view. Mr. Chapman asked what was the total value of the stamps stolen, and receiving in reply the statement that it was over £1,200, said the charge was a very serious one, and that he could not pass a less sentence upon each prisoner than six months' imprisonment with hard labour."

AUSTRALIAN STAMPS IN THE FUTURE.

THE presence of the Australian delegates in London at the present juncture, assembled with intent to complete the arrangements for a Federated Australia, cannot but afford food for reflection to those collectors whose energies are absorbed in the collection of the issues of Oceania. Difficulties there may be in the way, both of British and Antipodean origin, but the spirit of federation is in the air, and it is assuredly but a question of time—and doubtless a short time—before the erstwhile colonies of Australia are amalgamated in a Commonwealth, Dominion, or Federation. Among the many important changes that will then take effect will be a consolidation of the postal system and the adoption of a common denomination for prepayment thereof. As in all previous cases of supersession of issues—notably in those of the Leeward Islands—an immediate and important rise in the value of the stamps will take place. This augurs well for the many collectors in this country and abroad who have always favoured and accumulated the stamps of the Australian colonies. No group in the world presents more interesting and varying conditions, and in none have the "discoveries and resuscitations"—to quote the old *Record* term—been more numerous or less final.

There are some excellent and pithy comments hereon in the *Monthly Journal* for March, by our esteemed correspondent Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, who naturally adopts a rosy estimate as to the future of "Australians." In some journals, of late years, there has been a disposition to talk of the

fallen prices or "slumps" in Australian stamps—an estimate of affairs that we have never been able to adopt. One exception there is—that is the used Sydney Views in poor to medium condition. From various causes these were rained upon the London Auction Market for a while, and the vast majority offered being distinctly not fine, were sold at very low rates. The supply, however, of even these has dried up during the last year or so, and to-day it is safe to assert that *really fine* used Sydneys are worth as much as they ever were. The fallacy always underlying the proper estimation of Sydney Views (and the writer has some experience therein) was the failure on the part of auction catalogue compilers and readers to differentiate between "early impressions" and "fine," as against "worn plates" and "heavy cancellations." There is almost as much difference in condition of the plate in the case of the Sydneys as in that of the native Mauritius—and the public financial appreciation of *this* difference is marked and decisive. Beyond these "Views," in our opinion, scarcely any of the better Australians have either deserved or suffered any appreciable diminution of value. In the presence of impending federation and the growing appreciation of the Australian issues, their future should be very bright. The prosperity of one's old friends is always a very pleasing factor in life!

CAPE TO CAIRO "POST."

THE announcement in the daily papers that the first postal missive to be conveyed over the route of the proposed Cape to Cairo telegraph line has just been delivered in England is a little previous! It is a post card, and bears the official postmarks of Nyassaland, Yoro, Omdurman, and Cairo. Mr. A. J. Swann, of the British Central Africa Administrative Staff, was the sender, and Mr. Grogan, the conveyer, of this interesting little pioneer of British enterprise. It is clear that Mr. Swann was his own postman, but the fact is an interesting one to place on record in view of future developments, and it is pleasant to learn that it has been accepted by the Queen, to whom it was offered by Mr. Swann through the medium of the Foreign Office. Mr. Swann, who has been engaged in pioneer work in Equatorial Africa for the past eighteen years, is now representing Great Britain on the Anglo-Portuguese Boundary Commission, at work in East Central Africa.

THE BROOKLYN PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

THIS exhibition duly opened on the evening of the 3rd of last March, as foreshadowed in the *Journal*, and would appear to have been very successful. The great desire is to popularise the pursuit and extend the knowledge of its existence and advantages to the millions who know it not. Judging by the critiques from the popular Press quoted in the columns of the United States Philatelic papers, these Brooklyn exhibitions would seem to be of great service. The *Brooklyn Citizen* says that—

"The collection of stamps on view is marvellous from a connoisseur's standpoint, and the total monetary value of the entire collection is estimated to be worth about

$75,000. Nearly every kind of stamp ever issued may be seen, and the exhibits hail from nearly every section of the country. They have sent their exhibits, all nicely mounted and in frames, hoping to win prizes, which are to be awarded on Wednesday afternoon.

"One of the collections which attracts great attention is that of H. E. Deats, of Flemington, N.J., valued at over $20,000. Nearly every stamp used by the late Confederacy is found in the collection. M. H. Lombard, secretary of the Boston Philatelic Society, has the finest collection of stamps of France and her colonies ever seen in Brooklyn. The Twentieth Century Philatelic Club, whose members are mostly boys, have contributed 'Dewey's Arch' in varied stamps.

"Clarence H. Eagle, of Manhattan, is showing what is considered one of the finest collections of internal revenue stamps to be found in the world. Some of the unique features of the exhibit are inverted revenue stamps in pairs and strips. Another interesting collection is that of the Columbian Stamp Company, of New York. In it are shown all the postage stamps of the South African (Transvaal) Republic. Dr. W. J. Gascoyne, of Baltimore, Md., has contributed stamps of the British colonies in Africa in conjunction with John D. Miner, Jr., of New York, and H. R. Mackay, of Brooklyn. P. F. Bruner, the president of the Collectors' Club, of Manhattan, has a fine collection of stamps of Switzerland. M. C. Berlepsch, of Kingsbridge, N.Y., has a complete set of all the stamps of the United States, while Josiah M. Fiske, of Manhattan, has a complete set of the stamps of Cuba and Porto Rico. David S. Wells also exhibits these countries. Ernest R. Ackerman, of Plainfield, N.J., is exhibiting what is considered the finest collection in the world of stamps of Norway and Sweden. He will send his collection to the Paris Exposition."

Mr. Deats' well-known collection of Confederates was naturally the Triton among the numerous minnows, and if competing should secure the grand prize.

"His exhibit occupied twenty-four large frames, and contained among its superb array of Confederates," says *Mekeel's Weekly*, "Athens, 5 cent, purple, strip of four on cover; Athens, 5 cent, red, *tête-bêche* pair. Baton Rouge, 2 cent on original cover; 5 cent, Type 2, on o.c.; 5 cent, Type 2, error, on o.c.; 5 cent, Type 3, on o.c.; 5 cent, Type 3, on o.c. Beaumont, 10 cent on pink, o.c. Danville envelope, buff and amber; 5 cent, adhesive. Fredericksburg, 10 cent. Goliad, 5 cent, 10 cent. Lenoir, 5 cent on o.c. Knoxville envelope, 5 cent, blue on white. Livingston, 5 cent on o.c. Marion, 5 cent on o.c. Lynchburg, 5 cent envelope on amber. Macon, 2 cent on o.c.; Type 3, on o.c. Lynchburg, 5 cent envelope, black on amber. Memphis, 5 cent envelope on wove orange. Petersburg, reconstructed sheet of ten varieties. Mobile, 2 cent, pair on o.c. Pittsylvania, 5 cent on o.c. Pleasant Shade, 5 cent, unused. Rheatown, 5 cent on o.c. New Orleans, 5 cent, red on blue; 5 cent, red on white. Tellico Plains, 5 cent, 10 cent. Salem, Va., 10 cent on o.c. Spartanburg, S.C., 5 cent, two copies, and many stamps in entire sheets."

Reviews.

MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING'S CATALOGUE.*

TRULY of the making of catalogues there is no end, and the reviewer passeth on from one to another, nor knoweth what he shall say afresh! In days of old a new catalogue was *an event*, but now that so many important firms of dealers not only have each their own catalogue and "standard" of prices, but reissue it every year, and even divide it up, it is difficult to find fresh points that will interest a reader—which, we take it, is the main object of a review. Critiques that are dry are assuredly not read, and are but as a drop of water in the desert of indifference. For this reason it has always been our object to make a review of any philatelic work not a mere record of omission and commission, but an article containing some grains of interest to the digester thereof. In the case of catalogues this is obviously difficult, and in the past, as now, if we have refrained from any elaborate analysis of these price lists it is from this ground and assuredly not from any failure to appreciate their many merits. The extremely low price at which these works are published also practically ensures their purchase at all collectors' hands, and renders any lengthened description needless.

Messrs. Whitfield King's Catalogue excludes "minor and complexing varieties of type, perforation, surcharge, etc.," and is specially adapted for the general or non-advanced collector. The issue of a second edition at so short a space from the first must be held as a convincing testimony to the success of the venture, and we have to congratulate the publishers thereupon, as also upon the manifold improvements effected in the new edition. Many of the lists of countries have been entirely rewritten, and throughout the catalogue bears the impress of careful emendation. Even with the exclusion of "complex varieties," or entires, it takes 350 pages in double column to include all that would satisfy the simplest dreams of the generalist! The illustrations are good, the type is remarkably clear, and the arrangement of issues very simple; so that the *Standard* should certainly satisfy the requirement of that large class who collect only the broad varieties of the postage stamp.

MR. WESTOBY'S (THE LATE) STAMPS OF EUROPE.†

A pathethic interest naturally attaches to the thirteenth and final instalment of this remarkable and delightful work. To the deep regret of all his readers, Mr. Westoby was not spared to see his final "copy" put to press,

* *The Universal Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World.* Second Edition, 1900. Whitfield King and Co., Ipswich.

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

but it is gratifying to learn that the manuscript had all been prepared, and this having been entrusted to reverent and capable hands to revise, the last work that emanated from the author's deep-stored mind will be presented intact for the guidance of future students of Philately.

The present instalment is an especially interesting one, and again reveals that remarkable power of blending a profound knowledge of history, geography, typography, and Philately with irreproachable literary taste, that has formed so delightful a feature in this history of the stamps of Europe. The general impression that would probably be gathered by a non-philatelic reader of this work would be that the collection of the stamps whose history is portrayed must indeed be a fascinating pursuit, while to the actual collector it must in sooth be at once guide, philosopher, and friend.

The thirteenth portion finishes the history of the Swiss stamps, and includes that of Turkey (rather more fully worked out than in some other instances, but still not yet inclusive!), Thessaly, Tuscany, Two Sicilies, and Wurtemberg. In the case of the Two Sicilies, *i.e.* Naples, Sicily, and the Neapolitan provinces, Mr. Westoby is naturally *chez soi*, and the remarkable chapter of history so closely attaching to the Naples stamps is delightfully treated. A useful Appendix is also given.

In the matter of paper, printing, and general appearance this book is quite charming, and may be said to have entirely answered the purpose for which it was avowedly written—to popularise the study of stamps and to educate the non-advanced collector. It is, however, as we have before remarked, much to be regretted that the illustrations were not reproduced from perfect and unused specimens.

No more fitting or eloquent eulogium of the last work of Mr. Westoby could be penned than that contained in the Preface to the volume, emanating from the pen of His Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C. We venture, therefore, to quote this *in extenso*, and are sure that the evident feeling that underlies its touching words will find a responsive echo among very many of our friends and readers.

"Mr. Westoby had completed the MS. of this work within the last few weeks of his life, and the final sheets have been seen through the press by me, at the request of his family. This, the latest work of one of the most accomplished and certainly the most sound of philatelic writers, is a worthy monument to his memory. In it he has popularised the subject he treats of, while the advanced specialist will find indubitable proofs of the master hand that, alas! will no more instruct and delight.

"Of the many services to the science rendered by him, none is more noticeable than the present work, in which the fruit of his long experience, and the results of his matured judgment, are placed before the student with all the author's accustomed perspicuity and skill.

"Other writers there may be more elaborate and technical, other descriptions more diffuse and detailed, but for a manual combining precision with accuracy, succinctness with clearness, it will be difficult to find an equal, and impossible to find a superior.

"FREDERICK A. PHILBRICK,

"(Past President of the Philatelic Society, London.)

"*February*, 1900."

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

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

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—The *M. J.* is informed that 1d. stamps ran short at one of the offices, and that 2d. stamps were cut in half and used for the lower value, but that this action was not authorised or recognised. Our contemporary mentions that a block of the 2d. has been seen, No. 57 in the Catalogue, on which the surcharge is so misplaced as to read "Bechuanaland—British" instead of "British Bechuanaland."

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—A 2s. stamp, according to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, of the current set and same design as the other high values, has been added to the set.

It is stated in the *M. J.*, on the authority of Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., that both the £10 and £25 stamps (Type 5 in Gibbons') with and without watermark have been received, used and unused.

Adhesive. 2s., olive and black; current type.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—Telegraphing from Mafeking under date of March 24th, Reuter's correspondent states that "siege postage stamps have been issued, and a regular system of despatch runners has been instituted. The four stamps are surcharged a higher value with the words, 'Mafeking besieged.' Letters may now be posted in the town to the outposts or any other part of the defences."

The following interesting information is given in the *M. J.*:—

"A correspondent at Bulawayo informs us that during the siege of Mafeking, the Postmaster of which place is distributer of stamps for the British Bechuanaland Protectorate, one of the offices in the latter territory ran out of stamps, and was supplied with stamps of the B. S. A. Company. These stamps were not surcharged in any way, but it is reported that some ingenious person has overprinted certain B. S. A. stamps with the words, 'Bechuanaland Protectorate,' and as these are being offered for sale as provisionals, it is well to warn our readers that this surcharge is a fraud."

The *Globe* is responsible for the statement that 3d. stamps have been issued in Mafeking bearing the portrait of Baden-Powell. We presume the Orange (Free) State provisionals will bear the portrait of Lord Roberts!

[ORANGE FREE STATE.]—Very interesting information is given, which appears to be inspired, in the *Standard* of April 21st, and from a philatelic aspect is of the highest importance as denoting the latest accession to Great Britain and Colonies. The paragraph in question states that

"Lord Roberts's Provisional Government has, of course, commandeered the Post Office of the Republic, and with this operation has come a necessary change in the issue of postage stamps, which is exciting great interest among stamp collectors. All the existing issue of the stamps of President Steyn's Republic are now surfaced with the letters 'V. R. I.,' printed in black ink, and marked with the amounts at which they will henceforth be recognised by the Imperial Government. Except in the case of the threepenny stamps no change has been made in their face value, but the threepennies have been written down to a nominal value of twopence-halfpenny to correspond with the twenty-five centimes of the Postal Union. When the stock which Lord Roberts's Provisional Government has seized is exhausted another

issue will be made, the exact design of which is not yet settled. Stamp collectors are, however, already on the alert, and the remaining stock of Orange Free State stamps, like most other things connected with the late Bloemfontein Government, will have very soon something a good deal more than their face value."

Messrs. Bright and Son have now shown us specimens of these late Orange Free State ½d. and 1d. postals, surcharged "V.R.I." and value in Roman capitals. We also understand that the 2½d., 4d., and 6d. values have been overprinted in like manner.

Adhesives. ½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. on 1d., violet.

CANADA.—It is reported that the 3 cents, 6 cents, and 15 cents are no longer issued to post offices, and even that they have been withdrawn.

There should be a considerable number of the 6 cents, if not the other values, left as remainders, and it is of interest to consider how this surplus stock will be dealt with.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—A correspondent informs the *M. J.* that he has met with the 1d. on 1½d. card, with two bars (No. 12 in Gibbons'), bearing a double impression of the surcharge, one partly over the other.

FIJI.—The colour of the ½d. current stamp has been altered from grey to dark green.

Adhesive. ½d., current type, dark green.

GIBRALTAR.—*Morocco Agencies.*—The 5 cent wrapper has been seen surcharged for use in Morocco with the London overprint.

Wrapper.
5 c., green on buff, with London surcharge.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Before these lines are in print the ½d. green stamp will be in circulation, and we have been favoured with an "early view" of a copy, which is in a dark blue-green colour, but in other respects similar to its predecessor. We may have, however, to wait for the summer to be well advanced before the new 1s. makes its appearance.

The following notice has been issued to Postmasters:—

"A new halfpenny stamp (green in colour) will be ready for issue to Postmasters, etc., on requisition about the middle of April next. The new stamps should not be sold to any persons before the 17th April. On and after that day they may be sold, when specially asked for, at all offices where they are in stock; but the existing stock of the present (red) halfpenny stamps should be disposed of at each post office before the new green stamps are generally sold.

"A new one shilling bi-coloured postage and revenue stamp will also be issued about Midsummer next, when the stock of the present single-coloured one shilling stamp will be becoming exhausted. The stock of the present one shilling stamps should be sold out; but, as these stamps bear a considerable resemblance to the new green halfpenny stamps, and as these two kinds of stamps will for some period to come be on sale together, care must be taken to prevent mistakes. A further announcement will be made stating when the new shilling stamp will be ready for issue."

The ½d. post card with abbreviated instructions, mentioned on page 52, has also been issued in reply form.

Adhesive. ½d., blue-green; wmk. Crown; perf. 14.
Post Card. ½+½d., brown on white (Court size).

P.S.—The new halfpenny stamps were issued on the 17th as promised.

The space between the upper and lower panes is occupied by "line blocks," and the Jubilee line runs across from one pane to another, as well as going round each pane. The account letter is R.

Other changes are impending, says *E. W. S. N.*, as "the ½d. and 1s. I. R. Official, 1s. Government Parcels, ½d. Army Official, and ½d. O. W. Official will also eventually change their colours, although doubtless the change will only take place when the stocks of the old colours are exhausted. In this connection it may be mentioned that of the 6d., grey, I. R. Official, the first and only supply, which was *printed* in 1882, has not yet been exhausted, although eighteen years have elapsed. This stamp, by the way, is interesting as being the only one now issued bearing a plate number (excepting, of course, the £5, orange, which still has plate No. 1 in the top corners)."

HONG KONG.—Up to lately and for about thirty-eight years this colony managed to get along without issuing any envelopes or wrappers, though it has had a fair share of post cards.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* announces a 2 cent wrapper in the same design as the regular postage.

Wrapper. 2 cents, green.

INDIA.—*Chamba.*—The *M. J.* mentions that this state has been supplied with some official stationery. The envelopes have Type 2 of the surcharge and Sun, with "Service" added above, all in *black*, and the service post card of India, No. 57, has received a similar surcharge, but without the word "Service."

Envelopes. (Official.) ½ a., green on laid.
1 a., brown on wove.
Service Card. ½ a., ultramarine on toned paper.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The *Australian Philatelist* gives particulars of some Parliamentary Envelopes of 1d. and 2d. values in two sizes, note and letter or foolscap. Our contemporary states "they bear the current stamps impressed in the right upper corner, without overprint." In the centre of the envelope is "On Public Service only," and in the left upper corner, "This Envelope can only be lawfully used by Members of Parliament, and only on public business. The public are cautioned against using it under any circumstances." The inscriptions are in black.

Official Envelopes. 1d., rose; two sizes.
2d., blue ,,

NEW ZEALAND.—*Smith's Monthly Circular* states that a post card has appeared with a view in the left lower corner, the whole printed in dark green.

Post Card. 1 penny, dark green on buff.

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.—From the same source we hear the current 1s. stamp has been received on *watermarked* paper.

Adhesive. 1s., black; wmk. Crown C A.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.—A set of stamps of the De la Rue Colonial type has been announced. The following are the values and colours given by a contemporary :—

Adhesives.

½d., lilac and green.	6d., lilac and violet-blue.
1d. ,, red.	10d., green and brown.
2d. ,, yellow.	1s. ,, black.
2½d. ,, blue.	2s. 6d. ,, blue.
5d. ,, brown.	

SEYCHELLES.—In addition to the four new stamps chronicled on page 87 the Continental journals give a 2 cents, green and orange, of the current type.

Adhesive. 2 cents, orange and green.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The current 1d., rose, has been seen surcharged "O.S." in thin capitals in black.

Official. 1d., rose, surcharged "O.S." in black.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Quite recently the 5 cents was reported issued in plum colour, and now it is announced in several journals to be coming in black-blue.

Adhesive. 5 cents, black-blue.

Malay States.—Le Timbre-Poste chronicles additional values of Negri Sembilan, also some high values of Perak with the overprint "FEDERATED MALAY STATES" in two lines in black.

Adhesives.

NEGRI SEMBILAN.	PERAK.
5 c., olive and lilac.	$1, green and emerald.
20 c., green and ochre.	$2 ,, carmine.
50 c., green and black (?).	$5 ,, ultramarine.
	$25 ,, ochre.

TASMANIA.—Notice has reached us that the new Pictorial issue, consisting of eight values, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., and 6d., can now be purchased at the office of the Agent-General for Tasmania, Westminster Chambers, 5, Victoria Street, London, at 2s. per set. Only complete sets may be had, and no discount or bonus is allowed for quantities.

There is also a fresh issue of letter cards, in sets of six, with views of Tasmania on the backs, to be had at 1s. 3d. per set.

TONGA.—It would appear from a contemporary quoted by the *M. J.* that the king, in order to avoid trouble, political or other, has taken a second wife, a lady of the name of Ofa.

Probably to avoid jealousy between the ladies or their friends a second marriage stamp has had to be created by overprinting a stamp or stamps "TL-TO."

Further interesting information is given that "one stamp in each block of thirty" of the "T.L. 1 JUNE 1899" issue shows the date "1889."

TRINIDAD.—It would seem from general report that the lately chronicled 3d. on 5d. stamp is not to be put into circulation after all, and that it was prepared without the knowledge of the Colonial Postmaster-General. It is stated that only the usual Postal Union copies were sent to Berne and so distributed, and a few retained for the Official Collection in Trinidad.

The 3d. "Fee" stamp, with "SURCHARGE POSTAGE," chronicled on page 87, may also be struck off the list, as it seems it was not a fiscal stamp overprinted "SURCHARGE POSTAGE," but an unpaid letter stamp converted into a fiscal.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* states that the current 5s. stamp has changed its colour to mauve.

Adhesive. 5s., current type, mauve.

VICTORIA.—The *Australian Philatelist* states, on the authority of Mr. D. S. Abraham, that it has been decided to issue the war stamps. The protest of the Philatelic Society of Victoria (see page 78) has, therefore, apparently been of no avail.

ZULULAND.—Some interesting figures are given in *Morley's Philatelic Journal* relating to the stamps of Natal and of Great Britain, overprinted for use in Zululand.

The following is a list of the different

values surcharged, and we are told "to bear in mind that all values were used for fiscal as well as for postal purposes; the figures given represent in each case the number of stamps *actually sold.*"

OVERPRINTED NATAL STAMPS.

½d., green	11,245
1d., lilac	120,224
6d. ,,	6,325

The 6d. was chiefly used for revenue purposes.

OVERPRINTED BRITISH STAMPS.

½d., vermilion	268,224
1d., lilac	459,776
2d., green and carmine	31,987
2½d., blue on blue	28,544
3d., brown on yellow	11,949
4d., green and brown	20,250
5d., lilac and blue	6,428
6d., purple and red	11,405
9d., purple and blue	3,701
1s., green	4,564
5s., carmine	998

Most of the 5s. stamps were used fiscally.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—To the list of unpaid stamps given on page 24 must be added a 3 and 5 heller value.

We have also to chronicle a reply post card and wrapper.

Unpaid Letter Stamps. 3 heller, brown.
5 ,, ,,

Post Card. 5+5 heller, dark green on yellow.
Wrapper. 2 heller, grey-green.

BOSNIA.—Another value of the new issue is chronicled, viz. the 5 heller, green.

The Continental journals give the following list of the new stamps issued, or due shortly:—

Adhesives.

1 heller, black.	20 heller, rose.
3 ,, yellow.	25 ,, blue.
5 ,, green.	30 ,, brown.
6 ,, brown.	50 ,, violet.
10 ,, red.	

There will also be journal stamps of 1 and 2 heller, post cards 5 and 10 heller, both single and reply, an envelope of 10 heller, and letter cards of 6 and 10 heller.

BULGARIA.—We had seen it reported in one of the journals that the 2 and 15 stot. had been printed on thicker paper and quite different shades, and so included this information in our last.

We now notice in the *M. J.*, taken from other sources, that the 1 and 10 stot. have been printed on paper described as "Cellulose" (granite), in grey and yellow respectively, the *colours given for the* 2 *and* 15 *stot.* Perhaps some of our readers will kindly elucidate the mystery.

CRETE.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us a set of stamps of nine values, 1, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 lepta, and 1, 2, and 5 drachma.

The 5 and 20 lepta have for design, we presume, the head of Mercury, the 1 and 50 lepta a warrior, the 10 and 25 lepta a full-face portrait of Prince George, the 1 drachma might represent Cupid, the 2 drachma one of the ancient kings of Crete, while the 5 drachma, a handsome stamp, has St. George and the Dragon in the centre in black.

The five higher values are further surcharged in black or red "PROSORINON" or "PROVISIONAL," so it is stated. All are unwatermarked and perf. 14½. The shades of the 10 and 20 lepta are far too much alike.

Adhesives.

1 lepton,	brown.
5 ,,	green.
10 ,,	red.
20 ,,	rose-red.
25 ,,	blue, with red surcharge.
50 ,,	mauve ,,
1 drachma,	lilac, with black surcharge.
2 ,,	brown ,, ,,
5 ,,	green and black, with red surcharge.

FRANCE.—The French papers state that a stamp of 2 francs of the current type may be expected early this month, and also that the reply card of 15 centimes now appears in blue on buff instead of black on pale green. It appears that the stamps of the new type are to be in the following colours: 10 c., red, 15 c., lilac, 20 c., bistre, 25 c., blue, and 30 c., red. (*R. P. F.*)

Post Card. 15+15 centimes, blue on buff.

GERMANY.—From the same source we gather that a Postal Union card of the new type, value 10 pfennig, has appeared. The high values of the new adhesives are expected to be issued shortly.

Post Card. 10 pfennig, carmine on cream.

ICELAND.—*Der Philatelist* announces a 10 aur Post Card similar to the 10+10 aur card of 1892.

Post Card. 10 aur, carmine on white.

PORTUGAL.—The 25 reis post card is now printed on buff instead of grey.

Post Card. 25 reis, rose on buff.

WURTEMBERG.—A 5 pfennig reply Post Card has been issued with an altered inscription on the second half.

Post Card. 5+5 pf., green on white.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—We appear to have missed noting the issue of the 20 reis postage due stamp of the current type, but the changes have been so numerous of late in this country's stamps that they have been

difficult to follow. A 10 reis is also chronicled.

There is some talk of postals of 3, 5, and 100 milreis being issued shortly, but we can hardly think the 100 milreis value is necessary.

Postage Due. 10 reis, green; current type.
20 reis ,, ,,

CHILI.—The *R. P. F.* describes the design of the new issue in course of preparation as with portrait of Columbus with value in all four corners. Colours, etc., as follows:—

Adhesives. 1 centavo, green.
2 ,, carmine.
5 ,, blue.
10 ,, violet.
20 ,, black.
50 ,, brown.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. four stamps to complete the set of the commemorative issue of last year.

Adhesives. 20 centavos, brown.
50 ,, yellow-green.
1 peso, black on slate-blue.
2 ,, brown.

MEXICO.—The obsolete issue, *unwatermarked*, has been completed, so it is reported, by the issue of the 5 pesos, rose.

Adhesive. 5 pesos, rose; Type 1895; unwatermarked.

PANAMA.—*Ewen's Weekly* reports a new provisional.

Owing to the stock of 5 centavos being exhausted, diagonal halves of the 10 c. are being used as 5 c. stamps.

URUGUAY.—Another value is reported surcharged "Oficial" in black; this time the 1 peso, brown and blue of 1897, has suffered.

Official.
1 peso, brown and blue of 1897, surcharged "Oficial" in black.

VENEZUELA.—To the list of stamps mentioned on page 56, surcharged "Resellada" and the initials "R. F. M.," must be added the following:—

Adhesives. 2 b., yellow; black surcharge.

ESCUELAS.

5 centimos, grey; black surcharge.
10 ,, green ,,
25 ,, blue ,,
50 ,, orange ,,
1 bolivar, violet-brown ,,

A new issue is in course of preparation.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—A correspondent informs the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that "there are two varieties of the 1897 surcharge in *both* large and small figures. The difference consists in the distance between the Chinese surcharge and the figures of value below; in one type it is about a half wider than in the other. Complete sets of both large and small figures have been seen with both types of surcharge."

COREA.—*Le Timbre-Poste* states that the 1895 issue of stamps has had its inscription altered by means of characters in red at the ends of the upper and lower labels, so as to signify "Empire" of Corea instead of "Kingdom" of Corea.

The new "U.P.U." issue is making its appearance, and two values have been seen.

Adhesives.
5 poon, of 1895, yellow-green, and red surcharge.
10 ,, ,, blue ,,
25 ,, ,, lake ,,
50 ,, ,, reddish purple ,,
2 cheun, blue, new "U.P.U." issue.
3 ,, red ,, ,,

FRENCH COLONIES AND POST OFFICES.—*Alexandria.*—We find the 10 cent. post card has been issued also in reply form.

Post Card. 10+10 c., black on blue, red surcharge.

Dahomey.—The *Briefmarken Journal* gives a list of stamps of the usual colonial type for this colony, but for some reason the 1 centime, 3, 25 centimes, and 5 francs are not included, though the 75 centimes is. The 25 centimes value has been announced for some time.

Djibouti.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the new 40 cent. stamp of the 1894 type to replace the provisional issued last year.

Adhesive.
40 c., yellow and blue, on quadrillé paper; imperf.

French Congo.—A full set of stamps, from 1 centime to 5 francs, in three designs, is in course of preparation, so the *Monthly Journal* informs us; also that the designs are by M. Paul Merwart, the engraving (in line) by M. Benjamin Damman, and the printing by the firm of Chassepot. We suppose, therefore, a handsome and, let us hope, necessary set will be the result.

New Caledonia and Vathy.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 5 cents. for each of these places, printed in the yellow-green shade.

Adhesive. 5 centimes, yellow-green.

Port Said.—It appears from the French journals that there have been some very unsatisfactory features in connection with the recent issue of this French consular office. The whole stock of fresh surcharges was apparently appropriated by those "in the know," and neither the outside public

nor collectors could get a single copy. Exorbitant prices were asked, at first up to 40 francs apiece, but these fictitious prices have since crumbled away. M. Marconnet, in the *Echo de la Timbrologie*, mentions the receipt of a letter with no less than twenty-five of these unobtainable (?) specimens affixed thereto, and it seems that the stamps are now rapidly being filtered out wholesale. As our contemporary observes, such occurrences are a grave scandal and a hurt to collectors, and deserve to be "shown up." We only trust our French friends will push the matter and bring it before the Government, as was done here in the case of Ceylon.

The 5 c. French envelope is reported surcharged for this place.

Envelope. 5 centimes, yellow-green; red surcharge.

JAPAN.—An envelope in the new design in two sizes is chronicled by the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, and *Ewen's Weekly* states that a limited number of memorial stamps will be issued in commemoration of the wedding of the Prince Imperial.

The 3 sen denomination is honoured and will be printed with red ink, showing the design of a letter-box and wine-cup.

Envelope. 3 sen, new design, violet.

MARSHALL ISLANDS.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that only the 10 and 20 pf. with the spelling "Marschall" were ever issued. The 5, 25, and 50 pf., with the spelling corrected to "Marshall,' are the only ones as yet issued, the 10 and 20 pf. of the first issue with the former spelling being still in use.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have kindly sent us a specimen of a military service frank used on letters from the Free State burghers at the front.

The stamp is oblong shape with ornamental type border, large size, black on yellow, and perf. 12.

The inscriptions read — "COMMANDO BRIEF, O. V. S., FRANKO," in three lines in black. Specimens have been seen cancelled "Modder River," etc.

SIAM.—The *M. J.* gives further interesting information on the various surcharges of this country, and we cannot do better than copy it *in extenso*:—

"A correspondent at Bangkok has very kindly sent us notes of a number of minor varieties of the numerous surcharges that have been produced there of late years. The surcharge shown in Type 24 exists with a much larger space between the figure and the word. There are several varieties of the 4 Atts on 12 atts; Type 35 exists in entire sheets, but there is a smaller type, with 'Atts.' as in Type 34, in which there are two minor varieties of the letter 't,' one with the tail more turned up than the other. These letters 't' exist both in separate sheets and also mixed together in the same sheet, and in the same word, so that we may assume that there were at least four printings of these 4 Atts on 12 atts. On the sheets with small type and both letters 't' with tails turned up there is a stamp with no stop after 'Atts,' and it is this type also of which copies exist with double surcharge.

"The '3 Atts.' on 12 atts exist both with the surcharge as shown in Type 34, and with much greater space between the figure and the word; these appear to be some of the settings used for the 4 atts, but the latter is not, we gather, found with the wide spacing, though the small figure and word are not so close together as the large.

"We described some of the varieties of the 1 Att on 12 atts in September last; this also shows in different printings variations in the space between the figure and word, and in the letters 't'; the same letters are used in the '2 Atts' on 64 atts.

"In the 10 Atts on 24 atts, No. 53, the only prominent variety shows the letter 's' upside down; the letters 't' appear all to be of the type with turned-up tails, and a little unevenness may be found in the setting, as is also the case with the others.

"The same correspondent sends us the new cards, 1½ atts and 4 atts. The stamps on both are of similar type to the current adhesives, but the lower value shows the head almost full-face, while the higher shows it in profile; the formula in each case is the same as upon the earlier issues for inland and foreign postage, but both values are the same size.

"*Post Cards.* 1½ atts, red on *yellow*; 141×91 mm.
4 ,, carmine on *cream* ,,
4+4 ,, ,, ,, ,,

SURINAM.—It would appear that the authorities in Surinam, having a quantity of the old 40 and 50 cents and 1 gulden and 2½ gulden stamps with head of the king left on hand, have had them surcharged respectively 25, 25, 50, and 50 cents, specimens having been shown us by Messrs. Bright and Son. It is reported that persons wishing to secure specimens of these wonderful stamps had to make application in writing, and of course take their chance of the quantity not being sufficient to go round. Doubtless there will be buyers, and we fear plenty, for this rubbish.

Adhesives. 25 cents on 40 cents; head of king.
25 ,, 50 ,, ,,
50 ,, 1 gulden ,,
50 ,, 2½ ,, ,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

Honorary President—Baron de Worms.
President—M. P. Castle.
Hon. Secretary—Baron A. de Worms, 27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

The fourth meeting of the season 1899–1900 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday, February 13th, at 8.15 p.m., when five 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. H. R. Smith was unanimously elected a member of the Society. The President then exhibited his extremely fine unused collection of the stamps of Denmark and Iceland, and gave a short description of the most interesting points of each issue. Among the two first issues of Denmark he showed some superb unused pairs, and said that they were very rare in that condition.

The fifth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel on Tuesday, March 13th, at 8.15 p.m. Seven members and one visitor attended. The chair was taken by the President, and, the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. H. H. Scott was unanimously elected a member of the Society. The Librarian having suggested that the Society should purchase a copy of Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld's new book on Swiss stamps, a discussion took place with regard to the high price of the work, and the matter was therefore adjourned. A display of general collections ensued, but Mr. H. R. Smith was the only exhibitor. He showed two large volumes, containing many fine specimens and scarce varieties, among which was the rare Spanish error, 2 reales, blue, of 1855, in a strip with two of the 1 real. The Hon. Secretary showed his unused collection of the British Colonies in West Africa.

Cardiff Philatelic Society.

President—Mr. Walter Scott.

This Society held its last meeting for the 1899–1900 session on the 10th April, when a goodly proportion of members assembled.

Alderman Trounce, one of the Vice-Presidents, gave a very interesting paper on the "Stamps of France," and displayed his collection. He mentioned one pecuniary advantage possessed by France with regard to post cards and wrappers; viz. no charge beyond the face value of the stamp impressed.

Several of the members exhibited their collections, and altogether an excellent opportunity was afforded for the inspection of fine copies of every known variety in the home country and the early colonies.

The next session will open in October, when the annual meeting will be held.

W. A. Jutsum, *Hon. Secretary.*
371, Cowbridge Road, Cardiff.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A General Meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, April 3rd, 1900, at 7 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. G. Gaffe (in chair), W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Frentzel, T. W. Hall, J. W. Jones, M. Z. Kuttner, E. A. Mardon, F. Reichenheim, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, C. R. Sutherland, C. C. Tait, and A. G. Wane.

Mr. Franz Reichenheim was duly elected an ordinary member of the Society, and, in acknowledging the same, expressed his readiness to show his collection of German stamps next season. Mr. Reichenheim's offer was gladly noted. Mr. T. W. Hall then showed the first portion of his collection of Argentine stamps, as the time at his disposal did not permit of the display of the later issues. A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Gaffe, and seconded by Mr. Jones, was passed for the admirable display and paper. Mr. Hall responded in felicitous terms, and gratified members with a promise to show his Peruvian stamps on a future occasion. A vote of sympathy on a recent bereavement suffered by the Hon. Secretary was carried. Thanks to Messrs. Gaffe and Sutherland for acting as Chairman and Secretary respectively closed an enjoyable meeting at 9.30 p.m. Private exchange and discussion followed.

H. A. Slade, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
Ingleside, St. Albans, *April 5th*, 1900.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Hon. Secretary—G. Fred H. Gibson, Kersal, Manchester.

The twelfth meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, March 23rd. The President took the chair, and there were eight other members present.

The President gave an account of the sale of Mr. Petri's stamps, at which he was present. Many of the stamps were bought by members of the Society.

Mr. North read a paper on "Postage Stamp Portraits," in which he pointed out that the first portrait to appear on any stamp was that of the Queen on the 1d., black, which is practically the same as the one which now appears on the stamps of this country. All the colonies, with the exception of Western Australia, have made use of portraits of the Queen at various ages, and Canada and Newfoundland of those of other members of the Royal Family. The 10d. and 17 c. of Canada show a likeness of Jacques Cartier, which is the only portrait of a civilian appearing on a colonial stamp actually issued. He also alluded to the numerous portraits on the stamps of various countries, and showed that even in Mohammedan countries the teaching of the Koran, which forbids portraiture of any kind, has been disregarded by the Shah of Persia and the Sultan of Zanzibar.

In the discussion which followed, it was mentioned that no stamp bearing a portrait of the Queen has been issued by the Cape of Good Hope.

AT the thirteenth meeting, on April 6th, the President was in the chair, supported by eight members.

The date of the annual meeting was fixed for May 11th.

The Hon. Librarian's report showed that during the past three months *The London Philatelist*, *The Monthly Journal*, *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, have been regularly supplied, and a number of publications given to the Society by Mr. Beckton and Mr. Abbott.

The President read a paper dealing with the first issue of Roumania, going fully into the question of the minor varieties, and pointing out how the values can be plated. He also dealt with certain specimens (including the 3 paras, bright orange), which differed in type from the normal stamp, and gave reasons why he considered all such as forgeries.

Fine collections of these stamps were displayed by Mr. Coote, Mr. Duerst, and the President.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

SALES on October packets amounted to £114 7s. 4d., a very fair average. November packets are expected to return from circulation within a few days, and sheets will be returned and accounts submitted with the least possible delay.

Four packets containing 187 sheets, valued in the aggregate £1,919 14s. 3d., were made up for the March circuit and despatched by the 26th of that month. Some very fine selections of colonials were contributed, and prices, speaking generally, were moderate. It should be borne in mind that a great demand exists for the rarer varieties in good condition at reasonable prices. The club offers a capital medium for the disposal of such stamps, as many non-contributors are large buyers. Commencing from January in this year no packets will be kept in circulation for more than thirteen weeks, and fines will be enforced for avoidable delays of the packets. Responsible collectors of all grades will be welcomed to the club on production of satisfactory references. Application for rules, etc., to be made to the Secretary.

H. A. SLADE, *Secretary*.

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS.

The Collectors' Club.

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE fifty-first meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, March 12th, 1900. Present: Messrs. Bruner, Calman, Luff, O'Donohue, Perrin, Scott, and Stebbins. The monthly report of the Treasurer, showing a cash balance of $605.01, exclusive of U. S. bonds, was read and approved. Mr. Luff's report of the House Committee was accepted. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Secretary notify all members in arrears, calling their attention to Section 4 of the By-laws. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. John N. Luff for his generous donation to the club of seven volumes of *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*.

The names of six applicants for membership having been posted the required length of time their names were balloted upon, and Messrs. Bitar, Catrevas, Bronson, Herzog, M'Lellan, and Smith were declared to have been unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club.

ALBERT PERRIN, *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 sale of the Gallatini Collection at auction in New York is stated to have been very satisfactory, prices showing advances from those realised at late sales, and the highest of the season by fully ten per cent.

The following is a list of some of the principal lots sold, reduced, approximately, into English money:—

$5, State, £22 15s.; U.S.A., 1 c., blue (1851), unused, Type 1, £10; 1869, 15 and 24 cents, with inverted pictures, £17 15s. and £18 10s. respectively; 1861, 3 cents, unused, 7 guineas, and the 30 cents, unused, £19 15s.; Brattleboro, £82; Baltimore, 5 cents, £32 15s.; Millbury, £104 15s.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale of March 20th and 21st. The following lots catch the eye upon scanning over the catalogue:—U.S.A., 1851, 5 c., brown, unused, no gum, £4 14s.; 1861, 5 c., dark mustard, unused, mint, £5 5s.; another, ordinary shade, unused, £3; 3 cents, *scarlet*, unused, no gum, £12; 5 cents, brick-red, unused and gum, £6 17s. 6d.; 1869, 15 c., blue and brown, with inverted centre, used, £17. Newspaper Stamps, 1875–9, 1 cent to $60, complete, unused, £11. The remainder of this sale is made up mainly of bulky lots, not easily described. A collection of 2,545 brought £16.

Sale April 3rd and 4th. Spain, 3 cuartos, bronze, used and heavily postmarked, £8 5s. Afghanistan, Abassi, purple, a vertical pair, unused, £15; the ½ rupee, purple, and 1 rupee, purple (2), in a vertical strip of three, unused, £12; 1 rupee, brown, a vertical pair and a

single, showing the three types, unused, £6 10s. Cape, woodblock, 1d., red, used, fine, £5 10s.; 4d., dark blue, used, good medium, £3 17s. 6d. Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., orange on slightly bluish paper, fine colour and specimen, £6 12s. 6d.; 2d., blue on slightly bluish, early impression, used, £6 15s.; Natal, first issue, 6d., green, used, fine, £3 12s. 6d.; 9d., blue, cut close, used, £6 10s.; 1s., buff, used, good copy, £7 10s.; 1s., green, Postage, used, £4 10s. British Columbia, 5 c., imperf., unused but cleaned, £6 17s. 6d. New Brunswick, 1s., used, good copy, £12 5s. Newfoundland, 6½d., scarlet, unused and fine, £6; 1s., orange, used, but cut close, £6. U.S., Justice, 90 cents, unused, no gum, £4. Nevis, 6d., green, unused, with gum, £4 5s. St. Vincent, pair, 1d. on half 6d., unused, £11 10s.; 4d. on 1s., unused, £9. Antioquia, first issue, 5 c., green, used, £5 5s.

* * *

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale of March 15th and 16th included the fine Italian collection of the late Mr. E. Petri. Oldenburg, ⅓ gr., black on green, used. £4. Modena, 1 lira, black, *used*, £3 and £2 15s. Tuscany, 2 soldi, brick-red, and one fine horizontal pair, used, £15 15s.; other pairs, £10 10s. and £8 5s., of course not so fine; 60 crazie, used, fine, £15 10s., and a fine used specimen of the 3 lire, £45. A quantity of Modena errors, from the Petri Collection, sold at very fair prices, although, in relation to their real rarity, they should have gone still higher. The scarcest of these, the inverted 5 before Cent. 40, Provisional Govt., unused, of which it is stated only two specimens are known, brought £10 10s. Gold Coast, 1d., CA, blue, with gum, £4 17s. 6d. Lagos, 5s., blue, full gum, £5 5s. Mauritius, large fillet, fine, £12 10s. Natal, 1st issue, 1d., blue, horizontal strip of three, used, £8 15s. Reunion, 30 c., uncancelled, £45 10s; another, penmarked, £31. Barbados, large Star, 4d., dull vermilion, full gum, £4 12s.; CC, 12½, 6d., orange, unused, £4 8s.; 1d. on half 5s., used, £5 10s. British Honduras, 6 cents on 10 cents, mauve, unused, horizontal pair with red surcharge, inverted, £14. St. Vincent, 5s., Star, full gum, £10.

* * *

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, April 5th and 6th. Great Britain, £5, strip of three, postally used, £4 12s. 6d.; pair, £3, and a single specimen, £1 12s. each. Finland, 1867–70, 10 p., purple-brown on grey, error of colour, unused, £2 12s. Saxony, 3 pf., red, used, £3 15s. Spain, 1853, 2 reales, used, £3 15s., and a vertical pair, used, £6; Madrid, 3 cuartos, bronze, used, on entire, £10. Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf., used, £8; 8d., brown, imperf., used, £8 17s. 6d. Philippine Islands, 1863, 2 reales, blue, block of four, unused and gum, £4 15s. British South Africa, £50 on £2, used (? fiscally), £3 7s. 6d.; the set of 1891 provisionals, unused, £3 7s. 6d. Cape, woodblock, 1d., red, unused, £3; also used, £3; 4d., deep blue, used, £8 and £3 10s., but the former superb; 1880–81, tall, narrow 3 on 3d., *inverted*, used, £3 5s. Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., red on bluish, early state, vertical pair, used, £6 10s.; 1d., red, early state, horizontal pair, £5 10s.; 2d., blue, early state, used, £5 10s.; 2d., blue, error PENOE, used, £10. Natal, 1s., green, curved surcharge in red, used, extreme corner gone, £18 10s. Transvaal, 1d., red on blue, twice surcharged, poor specimen, used, £4; 6d., blue on blue, fine roulette, with inverted surcharge, used, £4; a collection of this country, 1,168 in number, £12. U.S.A., complete set of Periodicals, 1 c. to $60, unused, £11; Justice, complete, unused, with gum, £8. Barbados, 5s., rose, unused, £3. British Guiana, 1856, 4 cents, magenta, clipped, used, £5. St. Vincent, ½d. on half 6d., unused strip of four, one with the fraction bar missing, £7 10s.; 4d. on 1s., used, £7 15s. Buenos Ayres, 3 pesos, green, used, £3. Peru, Medio Peso, rose, £8. Queensland, 1868–79, perf. 12, 4d., yellow, unused, £3 10s.

Collections sold as follows:—3,923 (entires). £38; 7,806, £105; 3,000, £14; 2,660, £11; and 2,671, £13.

* * *

Mr. W. Hadlow, April 9th. A catalogue of good, useful, and mostly large lots. We fail to notice any line calling for special notice.

* * *

A new advertiser with a familiar name appeared in our last issue—Mr. J. W. Jones, so long known to collectors in connection with Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' premises in the Strand. Mr. Jones has started in business on his own account, having had, as we regret to hear, to "lie by" for some months on account of illness. There is still ample room for straightforward and polite dealers in London, and we doubt not but that Mr. Jones' long and intimate knowledge of stamps will stand him in good stead. It would appear that fortunately there is a solid foundation on which to build in the shape of "fine old general collection." The premises secured are convenient and commodious, being situate at 61, Cheapside, on the first floor.

* * *

The question of "collectors' price catalogues" and dealers' catalogues still goes merrily on in various journals, but no one "seems to get forruder," as Mr. Punch says. As instances of the unreliability of the latter that have recently been brought to our notice we might mention:—

1. Stamps and catalogues of the same firm, prices of the former 150 to 200 per cent. above the latter.

2. Quotations in two or three catalogues for a certain rare set of stamps average *one-eighth* of the price that has been offered and refused.

3. Prices quoted in a catalogue for one stamp that is absolutely unique (and which copy will never be sold), and in another case for a stamp, unused, of which eight or nine copies are known used but is absolutely unknown unused. One stamp is "priced" double that of the other. Puzzle—find which is which and which is right!

* * *

Prices for current values.—A well-known French dealer in Paris now advertises that he will supply all French colonial stamps now in issue at the following rates:—

8 per	cent.	above face	for orders up to	50 frs.
5	,,	,,	,,	100 ,,
4	,,	,,	,,	200 ,,
3	,,	,,	,,	above 200 ,,

The home stamps will be supplied at face value.

It was thought that the new movement to supply current values at low rates, initiated by Messrs. Cameron and Co., and improved upon by Mr. H. L. Ewen, had established a bottom rate of profit, but it is evident that the future new issue trade is going to be conducted upon a very narrow margin of advantage to the seller.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. MAY, 1900. No. 101.

A Change of Ownership in a Collection.

WHEN in February we indited a short article on the "Dispersal of Collections" and emphasised the ease with which large and valuable collections had changed hands, we little recked that the next change would be one that would come so much nearer home. In this case, however, there is no occasion for the ugly word "dispersal," and the absence thereof has been a very important factor herein. The announcement made elsewhere by Messrs. Hamilton-Smith of the sale of the writer's collection of unused European stamps to a private collector is one that cannot be treated altogether as a private matter, however anxious we are in this journal to exclude all personalities. It would be considered strange if so large a transaction were allowed to pass without comment, and rumour would be busy with assumed motives and imaginary effects, were not some attempt made to place the operation in its proper light.

The personal aspect of the matter may be briefly dismissed, nor would we allude thereto at all were we not advised that the omission would be liable to misconstruction in the positions that the writer is privileged to hold. It must be, therefore, clearly stated that the sale of the collection was unforeseen, nor hardly even contemplated in its entirety, but the unexpected arrival of a willing purchaser, in the guise of a fellow-Philatelist, who would hold and continue the collection, was an offer of a nature that could hardly be lightly passed over. There will be neither weakening in the ties nor waning of interest, but there may haply be a transfer of affections.

As regards the public appreciation of this matter, we would caution the unwise or unreflecting against falling into the error that the sale of a large collection either necessarily depresses the market or reflects any want of confidence on the part of the seller. In this, as in all other cases

(see pages 33, 34 of this year's *London Philatelist*), there is an equivalent to the seller in the fresh buyer—nothing is altered—only the holdership is changed. When a well-known Australian collection was sold some five years since there were not wanting those who hinted that the rats desert the sinking ship and that the palmy days of Australians were gone for aye. Needless to say, those were apprehensions not shared by us, and events have proved how utterly baseless were such suppositions. The stamps of the Australian Colonies—especially in view of the approaching Federation, which will have a common issue for postal purposes—have a future before them that cannot be excelled by any other group of stamps. The fact that the same arguments might and may be now used as regards European stamps, forms the burden of our remarks as regards the manner in which this transaction affects the philatelic public. In our view the increasing multiplicity of issues, as we have argued *usque ad nauseam*, will inevitably confine the advanced and specialist collector more and more to definite and restricted limits or areas of collecting. In the selection of such, among a very wide field, he will inevitably favour those without "a past," and whose philatelic careers have always been free of any deviation from straightforward and honourable conduct. Prominent among such are the vast majority of European states, whose standard in the world is so high as to preclude all stooping to the petty devices by which the smaller principalities do not hesitate to enrich their exchequers. In many cases the "rarities" are not to be found among the used, but the truth is surely dawning on the modern specialist that there is as much interest in hunting for a stamp that is very rare unused—if of little value used—as there is in procuring a used face rarity. The essence of stamp-collecting interest is in the quest after the difficult—the difficulty has only to be discovered to induce prompt attempts at solutions thereof. Many of the European countries in unused condition (*e.g.* Belgium, Holland, France, Finland, Denmark, or Portugal) have a brilliant future before them. The stamps are at last being surely and rapidly appreciated, and the stocks—of really fine specimens—are vanishing with an astonishing celerity, and we are convinced that the collection of unused European stamps affords as sure a ground and as delightful an occupation as almost any other philatelic division that could be named.

The older school of collectors, almost "before our time," always highly esteemed Europeans, even when they were, to a great extent, far less difficult of attainment—mainly thanks to M. Moens—and now that this grand old stock has been dispersed it will be found increasingly hard to make fine collections—a fact that, as we have previously urged, should tend to increase their popularity.

Ten years' intimate acquaintance with this class of stamp has but served to increase the writer's confidence therein and his deep appreciation of its philatelic excellence.

The Philatelic War Fund.

THE final meeting of the Committee of this Fund was held at Effingham House on the 18th May, and was numerously attended, both by the collecting and dealing fraternity. Mr. Castle occupied the chair, and the Honorary Secretaries presented their balance sheet—if such a term may be fittingly used where no liabilities exist and all are assets! The total result of the auction sales, donations, etc., is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Result of auction	1,011	14	0
Sale of catalogues	30	18	0
„ photographs (commissions, 1s. each) . .	4	12	0
Donations	98	8	6
Collection at auction for A.M.B. Fund . .	5	17	9
	£1,151	10	3

The last-named item naturally is given to the *Daily Mail* Fund, leaving £1,145 12s. 6d., which the Committee, in accordance with the original announcements, agreed to divide between the Lord Mayor's and the *Daily Telegraph* Funds—each of these units receiving £572 16s. 3d. The distribution of the former was left to the Lord Mayor's discretion, coupled with the wish of the Committee and subscribers that, as far as possible, the amount should not be funded. The great sympathy of all present with the gallant defenders of Mafeking, whose relief synchronised with the meeting, was also expressed; but it was felt that the allocation to them of any portion of the donation might also safely be left to the discretion of the Mansion House. Among the latest accessions to the Fund was the handsome contribution, forwarded per Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of £30 from M. Philippe la Renotière, accompanied by a graceful expression of sympathy, which elicited the cordial approval of the meeting. Hearty votes of thanks to the two Honorary Secretaries were carried unanimously and duly acknowledged, Mr. Walter Bull, in his reply, expressing his appreciation of the great support that had been given by all sections of Philately.

The Philatelic War Auction has undoubtedly been a great success, and we shall all of us feel the happier for having endeavoured to support a truly national and patriotic cause.

The History of the German Colonies and German Post Offices in Foreign Countries, and their Different Issues of Stamps.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on the 27th April, 1900.

By FRANZ REICHENHEIM.

CONSIDERING the political situation of Germany in the time before 1870, there could not be any colonial undertakings but those of single German states.

The most remarkable colonisation on the part of a small German state was the following :—

On 1st January, 1683, the Elector Frederic William of Brandenburg, the so-called "Great Elector," bought from native chiefs a small territory on the coast of Guinea, hoisted the Brandenburg flag, and built the Fort Friedrichsburg, of which small ruins are still in existence. This possession, however, was sold in 1718 by the grandson of the Great Elector, Frederic William I., second King of Prussia, to the Dutch Government for 7,200 ducats (£1,800) and twelve slaves, as he was unable to hold it against Holland without a strong fleet.

Only through Germany's political union, and the creation of the German Empire, was she enabled to acquire colonies.

I. On 9th April, 1883, the German merchant Adolf Luederitz, of Bremen, bought from native chiefs, for 200 rifles and 2,000 mrk. (£100), the Bay of Angra Pequena, on the south-west coast of Africa, and on the 1st May and 25th August of the same year the rest of the land, extending for about twenty geographical miles from the coast, between Orange River and 26° south latitude; and giving it the name Luederitz Land, placed it under the protection of the German Empire on the 24th April of the following year. On 24th August, 1884, this territory—and all other territories purchased by German subjects on the same coast between Orange River and Cape Frio (19° south latitude), except Walfish Bay and Guano Islands, belonging already to Great Britain—was created a German colony, and named "Deutsch Südwest Africa." The first Governor of this colony, and at the same time Imperial German Commissioner for all German possessions on the West Coast of Africa, was Dr. Gustav Nachtigal, the well-known African explorer.

Afterwards the northern frontier touching the Portuguese colony Angola was regulated by treaty of 30th December, 1886, with Portugal; and the eastern and southern frontier towards Cape Colony, Bechuanaland, and Zambesi, by treaty with Great Britain of 1st July, 1890, by which Heligoland was ceded to Germany. This German territory comprises about 322,500 square miles, with about 200,000 inhabitants, of whom, in 1899, 1,557 were Germans, and

1,840 other white people, and extends from the Orange River to the Kunene River, whereas the eastern frontier runs along the 20° east.

The principal town and residence of the Governor is Windhoek, about 190 miles from the coast on the Swakop River.

There were in 1899 twenty post offices in this colony, of which many little ones are managed by non-commissioned officers and corporals of the garrison; the oldest post office being at Otyimbinque, opened on 16th July, 1888.

All the post offices in the German colonies and foreign countries are under the control of the Chief Postal Administration of the Rhine Province at Cologne (Ober Post Direction Cöln).

Before I begin to give a description of the different issues of stamps for this colony, I may mention that all I have to say about the print of the different colonial issues and the use of German stamps without surcharge refers to all German colonies.

All stamps used in German colonies and German post offices in foreign countries, with and without surcharge, as well as the issue in course of preparation, are printed at the Imperial Printing Works in Berlin (Reichs Druckerei), and errors, defective or inverted, or local surcharges are luckily not known.

As soon as the Imperial Government had taken over a tract of country and created it a colony, or granted a charter, they used in the first years the German stamps of current issue without surcharge; but even after the issue of special stamps for colonies many values of German stamps without surcharge were and are still used, although the same values exist surcharged with the name of the colony; and as none of the special surcharged issues for the colonies and German post offices in foreign countries contain the 2 mrk. value, this stamp appears when used out there always without any surcharge.

The postage fee between Germany and her colonies, as well as between the colonies themselves, was based, up to the 1st May, 1899, on the Postal Union system; however, since last year the 1d. system, for once not "made in Germany," was adopted. The postage fee in each colony, however, is based on the inland postage, therefore the sets contain the 3 pf. value as well.

For German South-West Africa the first special issue of stamps was put into circulation in 1897, consisting of the following four values only:—3 pf., brown, 5 pf., green, 10 pf., rose, 20 pf., blue, of the German Empire issue of 1889, surcharged in black diagonally from the left bottom corner to the right upper corner in two lines—"DEUTSCH-SÜDWEST-AFRICA" in three words. According to official information as published by the "Germania-Ring" in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, the two values of 25 pf. and 50 pf. have been similarly surcharged in a very small quantity and sent to the office of the International Postal Union at Bern, but have never been issued.

In 1898 appeared the second issue of stamps for German South-West Africa, which comprises all the usual values from 3 pf. to 50 pf. of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged in black, diagonally as before, "DEUTSCH-SÜDWESTAFRICA," but this time in two words, a peculiarity of the German language to form long words.

New sets of stamps, comprising the values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, and 80 pf., 1, 2, 3, and 5 mark, are in course of preparation for all German colonies. The lower values up to 80 pf. will be in the same colours, size, and perforation as those of the German Empire issue of 1900, and show in a frame the picture of a steamer with three masts and two funnels, the royal yacht *Hohenzollern*, nearly "bows on," steaming to the left. The mark values will have the same colours, size, and perforation as the high values of the German Empire issue of 1900, and show the same steamer nearly "broadside on" accompanied by two other vessels, also in a frame. The name of the colony appears on all the values in a ribbon above the picture, the lower values having the word "PFENNIG" in a ribbon between the numerals which appear in the two lower corners, the four high values the numeral and the word "MARK" in two lines, on a shield in the two lower corners of the stamp.

II. A few months later than the acquisition of Luederitz Land, on 5th July, 1884, the above-mentioned Dr. Nachtigal concluded a treaty with the King of Togo, through which the coast of about thirty-five miles between 1° 14′ and 1° 38·5′ east on the Gulf of Guinea was declared German territory. On 14th and 28th July, 1886, and 1st July, 1890, treaties regulating the western frontier towards the Gold Coast were concluded with Great Britain, and on 9th July, 1897, the eastern frontier was fixed by treaty with France, whose colony Benin touches the German property on this side. The so-regulated German possession comprises now 31,800 square miles, under the name of "Togo." The first capital and residence of the Governor was Sebbe, but was changed for the present one, Lome, on account of its healthier climate. The second important town is Klein Popo. Post offices only existed in these two places in 1898, the first being opened in Klein Popo on 1st March, 1888.

The first special issue of stamps for this colony appeared in 1897: the German stamps of 1889—3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf.—diagonally surcharged in black, from the left bottom corner to the right upper corner, "TOGO."

III. The third German colony, also on the West Coast of Africa, is Kamerun.

At the beginning of July, 1884, a Hamburg firm bought, on the Bay of Biafra, the districts of Bimbia, Kamerun, Malimba, Klein Batanga, Plantation, and Kribi, which were taken at once under the protection of the German Empire on 14th July, 1884. During 1885 German protection was extended, through treaties with native chiefs, into the interior, and on 29th March, 1887, Great Britain relinquished her rights in favour of Germany with regard to Ambas Bay and Victoria. The northern frontier towards Lagos was fixed by different treaties with Great Britain—29th April, 7th May, 1885; 27th July, 2nd August, 1886; 1st July, 1890; 14th April, 1893—and the southern and eastern frontiers regulated by treaties with France of 24th December, 1885, and 15th March, 1894. By all those treaties the German colony Kamerun comprises now about 195,000 square miles, with about 3,000,000 inhabitants, of whom, in 1898, 324 were white people, and amongst them 254 Germans. It extends along the Gulf of Guinea from 2° 21′ to 4° 40′ north, and in a north-east direction to the Tsâde Lake, bounded on the west by the Oil Rivers Protectorate, whereas the eastern frontier runs, roughly speaking, along the 15° east longitude. The colony is divided into four districts—

Kamerun, Edea, Victoria, Kribi. Each district has its post office in its capital of the same name, the oldest being in Kamerun, opened 1st February, 1887.

The first special issue of stamps was here, also, put into circulation in 1897, comprising the usual values of the 1889 issue—3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf.—and surcharged in black, diagonally from the left bottom corner to the right upper corner, "KAMERUN."

Although the German Post Office Regulations strictly forbid the use of bisected stamps, however, on the 3rd October, 1898, about 100 pieces of diagonally-cut stamps of 20 pf. passed through the post in Kamerun, each half stamp actually paying the postage fee of 10 pf.

The "Germania-Ring" is of opinion that those bisected stamps were not a necessity, as the postage fee could easily have been made up by two 5 pf. stamps or combinations of other values for higher postage, or stamps could have been procured from the neighbouring post office of Victoria, if there were really no 10 pf. stamps in stock at Kamerun on that day; but Dr. F. Martin, of Munich, a civil servant at the time and the sender of the envelope you have before you, protests most emphatically in a letter just published by him in one of the magazines, saying that the stock of the 10 pf. as well as the 5 pf. was nearly exhausted shortly before the 3rd October, and the Postmaster endeavoured to purchase from large firms any quantity of those values they could spare; but as the homeward mail had to be made up by 5 p.m. on the 3rd October, and the steamer from Germany, usually arriving the day before and bringing a new stock of stamps, was by chance this time not due till the following day, he could not manage to obtain sufficient 5 or 10 pf. stamps to satisfy the public demand on mail day, and was obliged to bisect about fifty 20 pf. stamps, which, however, were not issued to the public, but affixed by the post office officials themselves, principally to picture cards requiring 10 pf. postage. Dr. Martin admits that he affixed stamps in value of 30 pf. only to his letters to compel the Post Office to complete the fee by adding half a 20 pf. stamp; but I think every collector would have done the same. The "Ober Post Direction" in Cologne at once made inquiries into the matter, but did not reprimand the Postmaster, as he was really unable to obtain anywhere 5 pf. or 10 pf. stamps in time—the next post office, Victoria, being two days' journey, and the cost of procuring any stamps from there amounting to more than £5.

However the case might be, the bisected 20 pf. stamp really paid the postage of 10 pf. on the 3rd October, 1898, and can therefore be looked upon as a great rarity.

IV. On the East Coast of Africa German trade was well established when, in April, 1884, Dr. Carl Peters and a few other gentlemen founded in Berlin the "Society for German Colonisation," with the intention of acquiring land on the East Coast of Africa. As soon as that Company had received subscriptions amounting to 65,000 mrk. (£3,250) Dr. Peters and three other German gentlemen started at once for Zanzibar under assumed names, and secretly concluded in six weeks twelve treaties with native chiefs of Usagara, Useguha, Ukami, and Nguru, and purchased a territory of about 54,000 square miles. Dr. Peters returned to Berlin as soon as possible, and managed to obtain on the 27th February, 1885, from the German Government

for his Company, now called "German East Africa Company," an imperial charter—the first one ever granted by Germany.

On 1st January, 1891, this property, as well as ten miles of land from the coast—from the mouth of the River Umbe to Tunghi Bay—which was ceded by the Sultan of Zanzibar to Germany, was taken over by the German Government and turned into a German colony, under the name of "Deutsch Ost Africa." Through treaties with England (29th October and 1st November, 1886; 1st July, 1890; 25th July, 1893) and with Portugal (30th December, 1886) the German colony Deutsch Ost Africa comprises the enormous area of 384,000 square miles, between the coast (5°–9° south), the Victoria Nyanza, Tanganyika, and Nyassa Lakes, with about 4,000,000 inhabitants, of whom, in 1898, 664 were Germans and 116 other white people. The colony is divided into twenty-two districts; the principal town and residence of the Governor is Daar-es-Salaam, with about 10,000 inhabitants and a very excellent harbour.

Each district has a post office in its capital, the oldest being in Dar-es-Salaam and Bagamoyo, opened on the 4th October, 1890.

The first issue of special stamps for German East Africa took place in 1893, when the following five values of German stamps of 1889 were put into circulation:—

2 pesa, "2" horizontally surcharged in black at the foot of the stamp, on 3 pf.
3 „ "3" „ „ „ „ „ on 5 „
5 „ "5" „ „ in black a little above the pf. value, on 10 „
10 „ "10" „ „ „ „ „ on 20 „
25 „ "25" „ „ „ „ „ on 50 „

Before a second special issue of stamps for German East Africa was issued, in 1896, different essays containing the values 3, 5, 10, 20, and 50 pf. were made to state which way the surcharge "DEUTSCH OSTAFRIKA" and currency should be placed, so that it is readable when obliterated. The well-known stamp dealer, Mr. Philipp Kosack, of Berlin, has kindly lent me five different types of essays, some of them obliterated in Berlin for trial.

1. Vertically surcharged on the left side "DEUTSCH-" reading upwards, on the right side "OSTAFRIKA" reading downwards, and currency as in the first issue.

2. "DEUTSCH-OSTAFRIKA" in two lines horizontally above the currency.

3. "DEUTSCH-OSTAFRIKA" curved surcharged above the currency.

4. "DEUTSCH-OSTAFRIKA" in diamond type in one line horizontally above the currency.

5. Surcharged in black diagonally from the left lower corner to the right upper corner in three lines, the first one showing the numerals, the second one the word "DEUTSCH-OSTAFRIKA," the third one the word "PESA." This type was adopted.

V. The next oldest German colony is New Guinea, situated in the South Pacific Ocean, between the equator and 8° south and 141° and 160° east longitude.

On 17th May, 1885, an imperial charter was granted to the German New Guinea Company for its possessions situated on the north coast of New Guinea, and in the Bismarck Archipelago.

This charter was extended on 13th December, 1886, for the northern group of the Solomon Islands. After the conclusion of treaties with Great Britain of 25th and 29th April, 1895, and 6th April, 1896, the possessions of this Company comprise:—

1. *Kaiser Wilhelm's Land.*—The north coast of the island of New Guinea, from 141° east to Mitre Rock (8° south), in area about 100,000 square miles, with about 100,000 inhabitants. The principal stations are Stephansort, Friedrich Wilhelmshafen, and Konstantinhafen.

2. *Bismarck Archipelago.*—That covers all the little islands off the coast of German New Guinea, and all the other little islands in a north-east direction between the equator and 8° south, and between the 141° and 154° east longitude, about 20,000 square miles.

The principal station, and at the same time the residence of the Governor for the whole colony, is Herbertshoehe, on the Gazelle Island.

3. *The north-east part of the Solomon Islands, about 9,000 square miles.*—Of the last islands, Choiseul and Isabel were ceded to Great Britain by the Samoan Treaty last year. All those three tracts of land were placed under imperial administration on 27th March, 1899.

The number of inhabitants of the Bismarck Archipelago and the Solomon Islands together is estimated at about 80,000 to 100,000.

There is only one post office in this colony, at Stephansort, opened on 14th December, 1889.

German New Guinea received its first issue of stamps in 1897, consisting of all the six values of German stamps of 1889 from 3 to 50 pf., surcharged in black diagonally from the left lower corner to the right upper corner, in two lines, "DEUTSCH-NEU-GUINEA."

VI. The Marshall Islands, between 4° 30′ and 12° north, and between 161° and 172° east longitude, were placed under German protection on 15th October, 1885, and the island of Nauru on the 16th April, 1888. According to the treaty with Great Britain of 16th April, 1886, the German sphere of interest was extended over the West Ralik and East Radack group of islands, the Brown and Providence Islands, and the above-mentioned island of Nauru, between the Marshall and Solomon Islands; altogether about 160 square miles of land, with 13,000 inhabitants, of whom forty-three were Germans, and 121 white people, on 1st January, 1898.

The private company—Jaluit Company—bears the cost of administration of the islands.

The principal stations are on the islands of Jaluit, Jalwor, Majuru, Likieb, and Nauru.

Only one post office exists on the islands—on Jaluit, and is managed by the harbour-master.

Before the American-Spanish War a regular mail service by sailing-boats, between the islands and the Spanish colony Ponape, was in existence, but has been stopped since the war, and the delivery and despatch of letters are, up to the present time, quite dependent upon the accidental arrival or departure of a vessel.

The North German Lloyd purpose calling at these islands at regular intervals shortly, in connection with their China-Japan service.

The first issue of stamps was made in 1897, and comprises the six values of German stamps of 1889—3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf.—surcharged diagonally in black in one line, from the left lower corner to the right upper corner, "MARSCHALL INSELN."

From the publication of the "Germania-Ring" we learn that of these values the 5, 10, and 20 pf. only have ever been officially sent to the post office at Jaluit. The values of 3, 25, and 50 pf. are to be looked at as essays. Eight hundred sets of them were sent to the office of the Postal Union at Bern in 1897, and two lots sold in Berlin to two dealers in spring, 1897, and autumn, 1899, but none officially issued. If these values, however, are found with genuine obliterations, they were bought from dealers and sent out privately for obliteration, and the Postmaster in Jaluit allowed them to pass through the post if the postage fee was covered by the 5, 10, or 20 pf. stamps, as the Post Office did not suffer thereby.

The second issue, German stamps of 1889 in a new type of surcharge, was sent out at the beginning of last September, and sold at the Jaluit post office since 27th September, 1899. The difference between the first and second issue is that the word "MARSHALL" is written with "SH" only.

Up to the present time the values of 3, 5, 25, and 50 pf. only have been issued, surcharged in Type II. Perhaps the 10 and 20 pf. will follow as soon as the stock of the first issue of these values is exhausted; if not, the steamer issue takes the place of the combined issues of Types I. and II.

VII. Whereas all the other German colonies are trade colonies, and managed by the Colonial Department of the Foreign Office, the following, Kiautschou, in China, is solely a military station and coaling depôt for the German navy, and placed by order of the German Emperor of 27th January and 1st March, 1898, under the Admiralty ("Reichs Marine Amt").

After the conclusion of peace at Schimonoseki of 1895 between China and Japan, Great Britain, Russia, and Germany tried to get ports for coaling stations in China on a long lease. For a long time Germany had been coveting the Bay of Kiautschou, in the province Shangtung, 36° north latitude, 390 miles north of Shanghai, for this purpose, and tried negotiations for its purchase with the Chinese Foreign Office, but did not succeed. When, in the beginning of November, 1897, two German missionaries were murdered by a crowd of fanatics in this province, this event was used as a pretext, and a German squadron, under Vice-Admiral von Dietrichs, appeared before Kiautschou, landed troops, occupied the most important points round the bay, and hoisted the German flag on the 14th November, 1897. After long negotiations between China and Germany, a treaty was signed on 6th March, 1898, by which the Bay of Kiautschou, a small piece of land round the bay, the necks of land south and north of the bay, and the little islands in front of it, were leased to Germany for ninety-nine years. It was further stipulated that all the land twenty-eight miles round the German possessions should be neutral, and China should never be allowed to issue any orders or rules, or make any alteration in this district, without Germany's permission.

The Governor of the colony is a captain in the navy, and the garrison is composed of a battalion of marine infantry and a detachment of marine artillery.

The principal town is Tsintau (Tsinglau).

There is only one public post office in this colony, at Tsintau; but as in many of the forts round the bay are so-called "Marine Feldpost" offices established, stamps are also found with this obliteration.

The first issue of stamps—the usual German set of six values of 1889 surcharged diagonally in black, in the usual way, "CHINA"—appeared in 1896. The steamer issue for this colony is in course of preparation, but will appear with the name "KIAUTSCHOU," not "CHINA."

VIII., IX., and X. When, in 1885, Germany tried to take possession of the Caroline Islands, west of the Marshall Islands, between the equator and 10° south and 143° and 165° east longitude, Spain suddenly claimed older rights on the islands; and after some long discussions between the two Governments concerned, it was agreed to leave the decision with Pope Leo XIII., who declared that those islands belonged to Spain, but Germany should be allowed to establish a naval and coaling station there, and German merchants acquiring land and residing there should have the same political rights as Spanish subjects.

I remember well having seen caricatures of two little girls, Germania and Hispania, quarrelling over a little doll (Caroline) till the father decided that the doll belonged to Hispania, but that Germania had the right to play with it. And Germany played quite nicely with that little doll Caroline till 30th June, 1899, when, through a treaty between Spain and Germany, the Caroline, the Mariane (except Guam), and Pala'u Islands were sold to Germany for 25,000,000 pesetas (£1,000,000).

The just-mentioned Mariane Islands, with about 15,000 inhabitants, are situated north of the Caroline Islands, and consist of a great number of small islands, of which the Guam Island was ceded to the United States by Spain after the late war.

The islands of Pala'u are seven in number, with an area of 193 square miles, and situated west of the Caroline Islands.

The Caroline Islands, with about 35,000 inhabitants, are divided into two parts, East and West Caroline Islands, and the most important one is the island of Yap, in the West Caroline group. All the three groups are at present administered by the Governor of German New Guinea, and divided into three districts:—

(1) East Caroline: principal station Ponape.
(2) West Caroline: principal station Yap.
(3) Mariane Islands: principal station Saypan.

Post offices exist on the East Caroline Islands: in Ponape, since 15th October, 1899; in the western group, on the island of Yap, since 7th November, 1899; and on the Mariane Islands, on the island of Saypan, since the 22nd November, 1899. On the islands of Pala'u no post office has as yet been established.

There have been issued the two complete sets of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged in black diagonally, as usual, "KAROLINEN," "MARIANEN," which Mr. Kosack has kindly lent me.

No stamps have yet been issued for the islands of Pala'u.

XI. The youngest German colony is Samoa, a group of islands in the

South Pacific between 13° and 15° south and 171° and 172° 30′ west longitude, where the German flag was hoisted on the 1st March this year, after Great Britain and the United States (which together with Germany had governed these islands for a long time) had relinquished their rights through the Samoa Treaty of 1899, Germany ceding to Great Britain the islands of Choiseul and Isabel of the Solomon group, and to the United States the islands of Tutuila, Manua, and Rosa, and relinquishing her rights over the Tongan group in favour of Great Britain.

The two principal islands now belonging to Germany are Upolu (with the chief town Apia) and Savaii.

Up to the present time the Post Office in Apia uses the German stamps of 1889 without surcharge; but the values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf. have just been issued surcharged diagonally "SAMOA," lent to me by Mr. Kosack.

German post offices, as well as post offices of other European Governments in foreign countries, were established in countries which had no postal institution of their own, or did not belong to the Postal Union, or of which the postal institutions were not reliable enough.

I. The first country in which foreign post offices were established was the Turkish Empire. The Sultan was very pleased to grant permission about thirty to forty years ago for establishing post offices on the part of other European Governments in his empire, as there did not exist reliable postal institutions, and he knew perfectly well that it would be of great interest for his country to have them.

The oldest of such German post offices in the Turkish Empire is that at Constantinople, opened on the 1st March, 1870; then followed the post office at Jaffa, opened in autumn, 1898, on the occasion of the visit of the German Emperor; and on 1st March, 1900, those at Smyrna, Beirut, Jerusalem, and Pera.

The postage fee between all German post offices in foreign countries and Germany is based on the Postal Union system.

For fourteen years the stamps of the mother country, the issues of the North German Confederation of 1869 and of the German Empire from 1872 to 1880, were used in Constantinople without any surcharge, but by-and-by it was discovered that big quantities of stamps were bought by the public solely for the purpose of making remittances to Germany, buying stamps out there through the rate of exchange a little cheaper than face value, and avoiding the fee for money orders.

This discovery was the reason that the German Government issued on 25th January, 1884, a special set of stamps of four values of the 1880 "PFENNIG" issue, each value surcharged in black at the foot of the stamp with the approximate value in Turkish currency, showing the word "PARA" or "PIASTER," with the numeral before and after it.

The set consisted of the following values:—

10 para on 5 pf., lilac.
20 „ „ 10 „ carmine.
1 piaster on 20 pf., blue.
1¼ „ „ 25 „ brown.
2½ „ „ 50 „ olive and myrtle-green.

The value 1 piaster on 20 pf. exists also equally surcharged in indigo-blue, and, unused, is the rarest stamp of this issue.

There exist two types of surcharge of the 1¼ piaster on 25 pf.:—

Type A. "1¼" surcharged exactly on the "25," so that the distance between numerals and the word "PIASTER" is 1 mm. each.

Type B. "1¼" surcharged a little more to the left, and on the other side to the right, so that the distance between numerals and the beginning of the word "PIASTER" measures nearly 2 mm.

In the 2½ piaster on 50 pf. we find the stamps in the lighter shades surcharged in dead black, and the darker shade in shiny black.

As the German post officials are strictly forbidden to sell the 2 mark stamp to the public, and have to affix this stamp themselves to letters or parcels requiring this fee, this value cannot be used for remittances, and is therefore still in use out there without surcharge.

When, on 1st October, 1889, the new type of stamps was issued for the German Empire, this set, except the 3 pf. value, was also surcharged for the use of the German post offices in Constantinople, similarly to the first series, with the exception that the numerals

1¼ piaster on 25 pf.
2½ „ „ 50 „

are placed a little above the word "PIASTER" on each side, and comprises the following values:—

10 para on 5 pf., green, yellow-green.
20 „ „ 20 „ carmine, rose.
1 piaster on 20 pf., blue (two shades).
1¼ „ „ 25 „ orange-yellow.
2½ „ „ 50 „ lake-brown and chocolate.

This set is now used at all German post offices in the Turkish Empire.

It is intended to surcharge some of the new German stamps of 1900 for use at the post offices in the Turkish Levant, and so the set of 1889 will soon be replaced by them.

II. In China there exist three German post offices—in Shanghai, opened 16th August, 1886; Tientsin, opened 1st April, 1893; and Chefoo, opened in 1895.

At Shanghai the German stamps of 1880 and 1889, and at Tientsin and Chefoo those of 1889, were used without surcharge till 1898, when the unsurcharged stamps were replaced by the above-mentioned issue for the German colony China, and in future the new German stamps of 1900 will be issued surcharged "CHINA."

III. The German post offices in Morocco were opened on 20th December, 1899, in Tangiers and six other towns; and a special series of stamps—German stamps of 1889, surcharged "MAROCCO" and its currency—was issued for them on the same date.

As the seven post offices have between themselves the inland tariff for postage, we find here also the lowest value (3 pf.) of the 1889 German issue surcharged.

The whole set comprises the values :—

3	centimos	on	3 pf.,	brown.
5	„	„	5 „	green.
10	„	„	10 „	carmine.
25	„	„	20 „	blue.
30	„	„	25 „	orange-yellow.
50	„	„	50 „	red-brown.

The surcharge is in black and runs across the stamps from the left bottom corner to the right top corner, in two lines, the first line showing the word "MAROCCO," the second line the numeral and the word "CENTIMOS." For these post offices some of the new values of the German Empire issue of 1900 will also be surcharged with name and currency of Morocco.

For much of the above information I am indebted to *Deutscher Kolonial-Kalender*, by Gustav Meinecke; *Deutschlands Kolonien*, by Dr. Kurt Hassert; the publications of the "Germania-Ring" in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* (Hugo Krötzsch); and the kindness of Dr. F. Kalckhoff, of Berlin.

Occasional Notes.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S WORK ON AFRICA.

As announced elsewhere, Part II. of this important work was placed on sale early in the month, and we are requested to inform our readers that it can be forthwith delivered to any applicant. It would be as well that Philatelists who may desire copies should make early application, *as the supply is limited.*

Copies of the book have already been sent to all the members of the London Philatelic Society whose subscriptions for the current year have been paid.

THE DINNER OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The arrangements for the celebration of this function have now been completed by the Dinner Committee, and we are desired to state that it will be held at the Café Monico, Shaftesbury Avenue, on Wednesday the 13th June. Tickets, price 7s. 6d. each (exclusive of wine), can be obtained from the Dinner Committee at Effingham House. Early application is desired in order to complete the necessary arrangements.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

We are desired by Mr. C. Neville Biggs, the indefatigable Hon. Treasurer of the London Philatelic Society, to notify to all and sundry that after June 15th next his address will be 16, Pelham Crescent, South Kensington.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

EXCHANGE MEETINGS.

DURING the session 1899–1900 four exchange meetings were held on February 23rd, March 23rd, April 20th, May 18th. The average attendance was between twelve and thirteen, and the net value of the stamps that have changed hands was about £55.

A large number of rare and medium stamps have been offered at most reasonable prices, and members who do not usually attend the ordinary meetings would find exceptional opportunities at the exchange meetings of adding to their collections good stamps at prices considerably below those charged by dealers.

"MADE IN GERMANY."

THE Berlin Imperial Philatelic Museum, under its new conductor, Herr Geheim-rath Hennicke, has lost no time in making itself unpopular with the philatelic section of the community in the capital. To the astonishment of the Berliners, the two "Post Office" Mauritius have suddenly made their appearance in the national collection; but after a closer inspection —*O monstrum nullâ virtute*, etc.—these stamps proved to be "made in Germany"!

It seems difficult for us wicked Islanders to grasp, but our German friends absolutely abhor these things, and prefer the English Colonial make! We are glad to learn that some "good can come out of" Britannia! The Berlin Club members are justly wroth at the idea of their Government exhibiting forgeries, having borrowed the originals from a French dealer (M. Bernichon) to copy from. The Gallic merchant can afford to hold what the Teutonic Government cannot afford to buy! Poor Germany!

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S NEW GALLERIES.

THE hand of the British workman has lain heavy on No. 47, Leicester Square, for many months, and the shade of the late Sir Joshua Reynolds would be hard put to it to recognise his former habitat. Perhaps, however, he might complacently smile to recognise his own portrait, painted in the flesh by himself, which now occupies the post of honour in the centre of the large gallery, formerly the studio of the great painter.

The alterations of Messrs. Puttick and Simpson include the building of two large and airy galleries, expressly contrived to suit the arrangements of auctions and the comfort of those who attend them. These rooms are 20 feet in height, and are respectively—the larger one 50 × 30 feet—intended for the sale of pictures, instruments, furniture, etc.; and the smaller one—40 × 30 feet—for that of stamps, coins, books, medals, etc. The fittings and accommodation of these beautiful rooms are most luxurious, and the impression conveyed on entering them is one of comfort and refinement—very far removed from the ordinary associations of a sale-room. They assuredly offer a tempting lounge to the stamp collector, and it may be that when, as seems now probable, stamp auctions are conducted at civilised hours—

i.e. before dinner—it may be *the* thing for the Philatelist to drop in and spend an hour—or a pound—or two.

Messrs. Puttick and Simpson have assuredly the handsomest sale-rooms in London, and we trust their enterprise may meet with a fitting reward.

DEATH OF DR. RICHARD FRANZ.

WE deplore to have to record the loss of yet another first-rank Philatelist. Dr. Franz, of Leipsic, was perhaps best known in this country to the leading specialists and the large dealers, but on the Continent he had a reputation as wide as it was deserved.

The Doctor had only taken to Philately in the late afternoon of his life. Educated to the science of surgery, he had taken high degrees, and was for many years in practice as a consulting physician and surgeon. An unfortunate accident, arising out of his professional duties, resulted, a few years since, in his retirement from his practice. He almost immediately took up stamps seriously, and by dint of prodigious study, with the aid of truly remarkable powers of observation and deduction, he speedily rose to a prominent position among even the foremost German Philatelists. We have had many occasions, personally and in correspondence, to ascertain the breadth of his views in general and the accuracy of his diagnosis in particular. In the *minutiæ* of stamp collecting, *e.g.* such as the knowledge of the relative rarity of particular shades or the scarcity of especial obliterations, Dr. Franz may truly be said to have had no superior. The Doctor not only traded in stamps, but he loved them as well, and was never weary of discussing the thousand and one points that are of philatelic—as apart from financial—interest to the earnest student. His personal qualities endeared him to all comers—a man of great amiability and charm of manner. Dr. Franz was a member of several of the leading Continental societies, and was a frequent and valued contributor to the German philatelic journals, especially the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, which so worthily occupies the position of the premier German stamp journal, and whose staff will sadly miss the Doctor's able co-operation.

Dr. Franz, who had resided in Leipsic for many years, removed to Wiesbaden some two or three years ago, but even residence in that charming and health-giving *Kur* could not preserve so valuable a life. After a long and painful illness, borne with exemplary fortitude, Richard Franz passed away there on the 18th of last month. Men of his intellectual calibre are rare in philatelic—or any other—circles, and we deeply regret to have to record so grievous a loss in the personnel of stamp collecting.

PHILATELIC ECHOES FROM THE WAR.

LIEUTENANT ERIC HAUSBURG (who is a collector of many years' standing) has now arrived in this country per the steamer *Kildonan Castle*, and has made satisfactory progress in the recovery of his health. He has brought home a good few philatelic curiosities.

Major E. B. Evans has been also re-enlisted in his country's service, and has been called out in the Army Reserve, to resume his old duties as an officer in the Artillery.

Lieutenant Stanley Castle has recently sent long and interesting letters from the front, from which it appears that he is in the column moving up *viâ* Boshof and Fourteen Streams, under Lord Methuen's command. Despite open-air sleeping, scorpions, rides on traction engines, and outpost duty, it is satisfactory to know that Mr. Castle's health and spirits are unexceptionable, and that he is rejoicing in the prospect of being privileged to take part in the grand march on Pretoria.

One of the letters sent by Lieutenant Stanley Castle was more fortunate than those referred to in the following paragraphs from the London papers. It was forwarded by the ill-fated *Mexican*, but beyond apparent submersion has suffered no damage. The letter in question, posted in Kimberley March 30th, arrived in England April 28th, and bears in large red capitals in two lines the inscription, "Recovered from wreck of *Mexican*."

"The Postmaster-General has received information from the Cape Post Office that the whole of the parcel mails from South Africa, and the greater portion of the bags of printed matter, were lost when the *Mexican* foundered. Forty-two bags of letters were also lost. Of these three were from the Cape Colony, and included one bag from the army, and thirty-nine were from Natal, and included twenty-three from the army.

"That branch of the General Post Office which deals with incoming foreign mails was exceptionally hard pressed on Saturday by the arrival, in addition to the ordinary Cape mail, of the brine-soaked bags recovered from the wreck of the *Mexican*. These bags contained some thousands of letters from soldiers at the front, and presented an appearance of limp dejectedness not unmixed with pathos. When the bags were opened the work of the sorters was increased, owing to the briny moisture having cemented the letters together, each letter having to be forcibly separated from its neighbour."

We hear that considerable quantities of the V.R.I. orange stamps were thus hopelessly spoilt.

Mr. W. P. Cohen, the Hon. Treasurer of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society, writing to us from East London under date of April 20th, says:—

"The inclosed is part of the local paper's correspondent's war news, and I thought that it might be of interest to the monthly journal. I hear unofficially that the $2\frac{1}{2}$ of the British surcharge on the Orange Free State is not to be had in Bloemfontein at present."

The paragraph in question refers to the issues of paper money, which have been illustrated in *Black and White*, and are highly creditable to their illustrious designer, Colonel Baden-Powell himself, and goes on to say that the requisite

"photo paper being scarce, Captain Greener, chief paymaster to the garrison, prepared a ferro-prussiate paper; therefore these notes have a blue tint, but the effect is good. By the same method we have also produced three penny postal stamps with the head of Colonel Baden-Powell in the centre. Mentioning this reminds me that an enterprising Philatelist got an application through to the postmaster for a supply of the surcharged stamps we have been using."

The *Morning Leader* correspondent, writing from Bloemfontein on April 14th, sends the following humorous description of the Philatelic Tommy Atkins:—

"We have given war a pause. This is breathing time. And here is the effect of it. Instead of an army of warriors we have in Bloemfontein an army of collectors. I believe it was the issue of the famous 'V.R.I.' surcharge on the Orange Free State postage stamps that made us declare ourselves. We had made a secret sin of the craze of collecting.

"I think the collecting craze started with the amassing of shoulder-strap badges by Colonial girls. . . .

"Next came the collection of shells. This was a costly business. But worse than the cost was the weight of the relics.

"Then came a third craze, also beyond 'Tommy's' means. It was the hoarding of Transvaal coins. Golden sovereigns and half sovereigns—except the 1892 issue of the former, in which the waggon has shafts instead of the disselboom characteristic of the country, and which fetch £12 10s.—are freely exchanged for British gold of the same value. Pennies sell for 30s. or £2; 'tickeys' or 3d. pieces obtain fabulous prices, as well as 5s. pieces, though most of the silver coinage is at a discount. . . .

"But when stamps became the popular hobby, 'Tommy' was there with the rest. He can be found making queue with the rest at the post office counter buying 'V.R.I.' surcharged stamps of values between ½d. and 5s. After he has secured his curio, possibly a dozen to distribute amongst friends at home, he is invited outside to examine whether he has obtained 'dotless' specimens. Of course, he hasn't. These are rare. They have thrown town and garrison into perfect turmoil, which Mr. Mortimer Menpes graphically describes in the *Friend*. On my return from Cape Town, the only intelligible word I could detect in the buzz that emanated from the centre of the group was 'Dot.' I passed on to another group where the same 'dot' arrested my attention; then to a third which was also 'dotty,' until, feeble and bewildered, I helplessly wandered about on the verge of 'dottiness' myself. Finally I pulled myself together again, and blind to all danger, plunged into a group of 'dotters,' grasped one of them by the arm, and in reply to my appeals heard him hiss as he roughly shook me off: 'Surcharged stamps, you fool, misprinted without dots!' Then I understood."

It would seem that the future value of the provisional British Orange State will be heavily discounted, and that "V.R.I." does not necessarily stand for "very rare indeed," as there seem to be plenty about, and the *Times* correspondent at Bloemfontein (April 20th) says:—

"At present the chief source of revenue is from the surcharged postage stamps, which are being eagerly bought by collectors."

CUBAN PHILATELIC DEFALCATION.

A QUESTION indirectly affecting the *status* of Cuba has arisen in the island. Owing to the issue of obsolete stamps from the Cuban Post Office, there have been defalcations exceeding in amount a hundred thousand dollars—an incident quite in the old Spanish style. These having been discovered, a prosecution has been instituted by the United States; but the person responsible, who is an American, claims that he cannot be punished here for a

theft committed in Cuba, and cannot be prosecuted there under the United States Postal Laws. To meet this point his extradition is sought under the old Spanish statutes, which may give him twelve years instead of five, the United States maximum for the offence alleged. Most interesting legal questions were raised. The trial of an American by Americans without *habeas corpus* or a jury is unprecedented. The prosecution is proceeding in order to obtain extradition, as though the *status* of Cuba was unaltered. New York and Washington seem more interested in the question than Havana; but this is because critics of the Administration are making it a campaign matter.—*Standard*, May 15th.

STOLEN AUCTION LOTS.

MESSRS. PLUMRIDGE AND CO., under date of April 26th, write us as follows, and we trust that publicity will effect the end desired :—

"We have very good reason to suppose that the lot mentioned in the inclosed circular was abstracted while the lots were on view at the office. If, by any chance, you happen to hear of similar stamps being offered for sale, perhaps you will very kindly communicate with us at once. We may mention incidentally that all the stamp auctioneers have been victimised in the same way lately.

"We should esteem it a very great favour if clients, who bought lots in the last Sales (44 and 45), would look through their purchases in order to see if Lot 327 was included in error. This lot was missing at the time of the sale, but was offered and sold at £14 10s. on the supposition that it had been inclosed in error with some other lot. Unless it is found the auctioneers have, of course, to make good its loss, as they are fully responsible for all property while in their possession.

"PLUMRIDGE AND CO, 63, 64, *Chancery Lane, W.C.*

"DESCRIPTION OF LOT 327.

"327. QUEENSLAND: Wmk. star, imperf., 2d., deep blue, a lightly cancelled horizontal strip of three, two of the stamps being superb large margined copies, and the other very fine."

THE PARIS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

THE Committee announces the satisfactory progress of the arrangements for the Exhibition, and especially call attention to the elaborate precautions taken at the Pavilion of the Horticultural Society in the Rue de Grenelle for the due safeguarding of the stamps to be shown.

A considerable number of extra medals are announced, M. J. Bernichon heading the list, and patriotically offering handsome recompenses to the students of French stamps. The Netherlands Philatelic Society, M. Van Hoek of Rotterdam, and many others figure in this—the first—list of additional medals.

We hear from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that the exhibit of the U.S. Government is now ready, and that the

"official collection of United States postage stamps, which has been so beautifully mounted by Mr. Mandel, of New York, is now at the Department waiting to be

framed and put under glass. It is truly a beautiful lot, and with very few exceptions complete. A number of rare specimen surcharges are to be seen, including the Omaha and Columbian sets. Possibly the greatest gems in the collection are the 15, 24, and 90 c. stamps, inverted centre, of the 1869 issue in unused condition; these appear to be the reissue of 1875, but I did not have an opportunity to make a careful examination." (Reissue inverted!)

THE STAMP TRADE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

AN Association has been formed, of which the following gentlemen are Directors: E. J. Cooper, G. C. Ginn, W. Hadlow, F. H. Oliver, H. W. Plumridge, C. T. Reed, T. H. Thompson. Mr. J. Crawford is the Secretary, and the Registered Office is at 361, Strand, W.C. The nominal capital is £1,050, divided into 1,000 shares of £1 1s. each, and no member is entitled to hold more than one share, his liability being restricted to the amount of his holding. The annual subscription (after current year of membership) is £1 1s.

The objects to be obtained are thus stated: This Association has been formed for the purpose of protecting and furthering the interests of persons dealing in and collecting stamps. To collect debts for members, and to assist in the recovery of stamps belonging to members from persons wrongfully in possession of them. To procure and diffuse information as to postage and other stamps and the sound principles of trading in them, and to keep for the information of members a register of all persons reported or known to the Association as being worthy or unworthy of credit. To assist members in appeals against legal decisions adverse to the general interests of the trade. To give and receive advice respecting, and circulate cautions against, the numerous frauds and deceptions which are continually being perpetrated upon stamp dealers and collectors, and to concert and promote measures for their protection. To take notice, and action if deemed necessary, in the event of the trade being misrepresented in the public Press or elsewhere, and generally to deal with any subject affecting the general interests of the trade.

Fortnightly meetings of the Association will be held for the purpose of buying, selling, and exchanging stamps, which members may attend. Members will be entitled to make not exceeding ten inquiries or applications for debt in any year, for which coupons will be supplied free, and to make further inquiries at a fee of one shilling each. This scale applies to inquiries or debts in the United Kingdom. Foreign inquiries will be quoted at special rates. A charge of ten per cent. will be made on amounts actually recovered through the instrumentality of the Association or paid direct to members should the debt not exceed twenty pounds, and five per cent. on all sums so recovered should the debt exceed that sum. Two and a half per cent. will be charged on the value, to be fixed by the Directors, of all goods recovered in detinue or otherwise.

All information communicated to and by members shall be considered strictly confidential, and the names of parties affording information will not

be divulged. Members will be afforded facilities in recovering debts by legal process under the conduct of the solicitor, at a reduced scale of professional charges approved by the Directors. It is incumbent upon members to report to the Secretary, immediately after the perpetration or attempted perpetration of any fraud, theft, or deception, the full particulars of the case, together with the names or aliases, and addresses of the parties, and all possible information calculated to establish their identity. Any person over twenty-one years of age is eligible for membership. Applications for membership should be sent in writing to the Secretary, who will furnish applicants with full particulars and all necessary information.

We understand that this Association, whose objects cannot fail to meet with general approval, will probably absorb the existing Philatelic Protection Society.

Reviews.

THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S STAMPS OF BRITISH AFRICA.*



LTHOUGH the delays in the production of the second part of this important work have been as regrettable as they were in truth insuperable, its ultimate appearance could hardly have been effected at a more fitting time than the present. The eyes of all parts of the British Empire are strained towards South Africa, where history is to-day being so rapidly made, and the names of the countries that figure in this instalment are household words on the lips of the million. Griqualand East and West, Matabeleland, and Natal, all appear in this volume, while Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, Madagascar, and Mauritius contribute to the building up of an important work that should worthily stand comparison with any of its predecessors emanating from the same source. It is a curious and suggestive alphabetical coincidence that Orange (Free) State follows next, and Swaziland and Transvaal also come in the next division. It is probable, therefore, that the third part of *British Africa* will at least be equal in importance to, and more transcendent in interest than, any preceding portion of the volume. The book, as a whole, will undoubtedly be of great and permanent interest, and we cannot too earnestly urge upon intending purchasers—beyond, of course, the Society members, who receive their copies free—to lose no time in securing it. The issue is strictly limited, and, like many of the Society's previous works, will assuredly be almost unattainable at no distant period.

It would hardly become us either to criticise or dilate upon the merits of *British Africa*. It is undoubtedly good and sound work, worthy of the past traditions of the London Philatelic Society. The stamps of the several

* *The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards, and Telegraph Stamps of the British Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates in Africa.* Part II. Compiled and published by The Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C. 1900.

countries are exhaustively treated, and are all illustrated in the context, which extends to some 180 pages. There are, besides this, thirteen sheets of mezzotype illustrations and a sheet of coloured autotypes. The latter are representations of re-engraved plates of the 1848 issue of Mauritius, which Major Evans most generously placed at the disposal of the Publication Committee. The preface conveys the thanks of the Committee to H.R.H. the Duke of York, M. la Renotière, Messrs. H. J. Duveen, Vernon Roberts, and many other gentlemen who have contributed to the success of the work by the loan of stamps or the giving of information, and lays especial stress upon the services of Mr. E. D. Bacon. It is to the self-denying and protracted labour of Mr. Bacon that the appearance of this part is mainly due. The preparation of most of the Preliminary Notes, the composition of the paper on "The Stamps of Natal," the verification and completion of the lists for the printers, and the practical compilation of the post cards and envelopes, all stand to the credit of Mr. Bacon, who is thereby entitled to the sincere appreciation and gratitude of every member of the London Society. The printing by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., and the autotype illustration by the London Stereoscopic Co., are highly satisfactory —a verdict that we are confident will be extended to the work in its entirety by all its readers.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

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

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—More provisionals! The *M. J.* writes as follows:—

"A correspondent has very kindly shown us a half of the 4d., No. 64, divided vertically and postmarked 'Palapye Station 13 DE 99.' It was evidently affixed at the post office, as by the side of it, on the envelope, are written the initials 'A. M.' (as far as we can make them out), 'Postmaster.'"

Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg sends us the following Cape stamps, surcharged in two lines of capitals, in black, with value and "Z.A.R." All four specimens are postmarked "VRYBURG, Dec. 12th, 99," and are probably unofficial.

Adhesives. (*? Official.*)

½ pence, on Cape halfpenny, green (1896-8).
1 pence ,, 1d., carmine (1893).
2 ,, ,, 6d., mauve (1885-90).
2½ ,, ,, 2½, blue (1896-8).

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We notice in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of April 21st that Mr. Bartels reaffirms the statement that a 2s. value in olive and black has been issued.

Many journals are reporting a 10s. value in the same colours—olive and black—and the *Australian Philatelist* announces having received the latter value.

Mr. M. Giwelb has shown us copies of the £10, vermilion, and £25, blue-green, of the

1895 type, wmk. CC and Crown *sideways*, perf. 14.

Adhesives.

£10, vermilion, type 1895, wmk. CC and Crown sideways, perf. 14.
£25, blue-green, type 1895, wmk. CC and Crown sideways, perf. 14.

CEYLON.—The *P. J. of India* has received a copy of the new brown 2 cents value surcharged "On Service."

Service Stamp. 2 cents, brown.

FIJI.—The *Australian Philatelist* has had submitted a 6d. of the current issue *printed on both sides*, and a 2d. in a lighter shade of green.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We have the announcement that when the present supplies of the current 4½d. stamp are exhausted, no further will be printed, as it is no longer required for the 2 lbs. "Parcel Post." On the other hand it has its uses for single registered foreign letters.

An esteemed correspondent writes us as follows :—

"The 'Jubilee lines,' as between the panes of the new green ½d. stamp, are also between the panes of the last printings of the 1d., and will appear in due course.

"This new fad will ultimately be extended to the 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., and the new 1s. ; this latter is in the same colours as the current 4½d. (which is to be withdrawn), and will, as now, be in sheets of 240, not in small sheets like the 4d. or 10d. Of the Official Stamps, the only new one, *at present*, will be the ½d. *green* Army Official, there being large stocks of the other ½d.'s and of all the 1s.'s. The 2½d. Army Official is practically obsolete."

Our correspondent, writing later, states :—

"There are two 'external' varieties of the new ½d. green stamp. 1. With a white space running right across the sheet, between the panes, *exactly as in the recently superseded vermilion stamps*. 2. With line blocks, etc., as already described in the *L. P.*

"Both of the above are lettered 'R.' I understand that practically all the first variety were sent into the country. The new sheets of the 1d., purple, with line blocks as in the second variety of the ½d., will not be out for some time.

"The new 1s. will be identical in design to the one now current, but bicoloured, green and carmine, and this issue will probably take place some time next month."

HONG KONG.—The *M. J.* has seen the two halves, separate, of the 3+3 c. card surcharged "4 cents" in *black*. The overprint, it is stated, seems to be in the same type as that previously applied in *red*, and the word "Reply" on the second half is crossed out.

Post Cards. 4 c. in black on first half of No. 13.
4 c. ,, ,, second ,, ,,

INDIA.—An illustration of a new 6 annas stamp is given by the *M. J.*, reporting, on the authority of *Le T.-P.*, that it has been, or is about to be, issued, though prepared some years back.

The watermark and perfs., it is stated, are the same as those of the other current values.

Adhesive. 6 annas, bistre.

Kishengarh.—We lately chronicled some stamps for this country, but our list was, it appears, very incomplete.

In the pages of the *Philatelic Journal of India* for March a much longer list is given, and the following is a copy :—

Adhesives. ¼ anna, green ; perf. and imperf.
¼ ,, carmine ,, ,,
½ ,, yellow-green ,, ,,
½ ,, ultramarine ,, ,,
½ ,, carmine ,, ,,
½ ,, purple ,, ,,
½ ,, olive-green ; perforated.
1 ,, purple ; perf. and imperf.
1 ,, rose-lilac ; imperf.
1 rupee, blue-green ; perf. and imperf.
1 ,, yellow-green ,, ,,

MALTA.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. a specimen of the new 1d. envelope of the De la Rue type, printed in carmine-rose on white.

The envelopes are stated to be in three sizes, as given below :—

Envelopes.

1d., carmine-rose, on white laid paper.
Sizes : Thick paper, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3$, and $3\frac{5}{8} \times 3\frac{5}{8}$.
Thin paper, $6\frac{1}{8} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$.

NATAL.—We take the liberty of making the following cutting from the April *M. J.* :—

"A correspondent, who is in one of the regiments in this colony, sends us some interesting curiosities in the shape of Transvaal stamps used at Natal post offices, and a Natal stamp with a Boer postmark—surcharged stamps apparently he has not met with. He had seen the Postmaster of Newcastle, who told him that he managed to remove all the postal property from his office, but that the Postmaster at Dundee had such short notice that he was able to save nothing except the cash. Accordingly we have before us a 1d. Natal stamp, postmarked 'P. K. Newcastle 30 10 99,' all in one straight line across stamp and envelope, in *black*, and a 1d. current issue of the S. A. Republic postmarked 'New Castle—Nov. 1899.,' in two lines, in *violet* ink ; 'P. K.' stands for 'Post Kantoor' (='Post Office'), and both of these marks were no doubt makeshifts. At Charlestown a more elaborate date-stamp was used, consisting of a double-lined transverse oval, with 'CHARLESTOWN' in a curve at the top and the date in a straight line across the centre ; we are

shown this struck in *rose* across a ½d. and a 1d. of the S. A. Republic on the same cover, dated '10 JAN. 1900'; whilst on two similar stamps we find the ordinary 'DUNDEE—NATAL' mark, in a circle, in *black*.

"Our correspondent also tells us that some roughly printed pictorial post cards were got up in Ladysmith during the siege; but they, of course, have no stamps upon them, and as there were no mails running at the time, either locally or to the outside world, '*post* cards' is perhaps hardly a correct term to apply to them. He adds a little cutting from a paper, which shows that the two Republics have joined their forces and fortunes *postally* as well as otherwise:—

"'Pretoria, 20th' (February?). '(Special). —The Postmaster-General notifies that letters from the occupied colonial territories can be stamped by both Free State or Transvaal stamps.'"

NEW ZEALAND.—On page 23 we gave a list of the values of the new Postage Due Stamps, and we notice several journals include in their lists a 3d. value.

The 9d. value, in purple, it is stated, will soon appear with a red coat, though possibly khaki would be a more suitable colour for our Australian colonies to adopt as opportunity presents itself.

Postage Due. 3d., green and carmine.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us specimens of the ½d. and 2d. of the 1898 issue, in new colours, locally printed; also the 4d. in the design of the 1d. value of 1898. The 1d. value is now printed in the design of the 4d. of 1898. The new ½d. is watermarked N Z and Star; but we find the 2d. and 4d. to be without watermark.

Adhesives.

½d., yellow-green; type 1898; perf. 11.
2d., mauve; ,, ,,
4d., yellow-brown and blue; type 1d., 1898; perf. 11.

NORTH BORNEO.—The 2 and 5 cents of Labuan, and 2 cents of North Borneo, were recently reported as changed in colour, and we wondered why North Borneo should be content with the smaller value only in altered garb.

The *A. J. P.* and other journals, however, now chronicle the two stamps for each country, and so, therefore, we list—

Adhesive. 5 cents, blue.

ORANGE FREE STATE (THE LATE).—In addition to the values surcharged "V.R.I.," mentioned on page 119, we have now received specimens from Mr. Franz Reichenheim, Mr. M. Giwelb, and Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, as follows:—

Adhesives. 2d., in black, on "Twee Pence," lilac.
2½d. ,, on "Drie Pence," blue.
3d. ,, on ,, ,, ,,
4d. ,, on "Vier Pence" ,,
6d. ,, on "Zes Pence," rose.
6d. ,, on ,, ,, blue.
1s. ,, on "Een Shilling," brown.
5s. ,, on "Vyf Shillings," green.

All the specimens we have seen up to the present have no stop after the value, except the 1s. stamp, and this we have only met with a stop after 1s.

We also notice in the ½d. and 1d. values before us that the periods between V·R·I· are all placed *higher* than in the other values.

It will be noticed that the 6d. value has been changed to blue, ready, doubtless, to take the place of the old rose stamp in use so many years.

It would also appear that errors are to be found, a few of which we copy (*M. J.*).

Errors.

No stop after "V." ½d, 1d., 2½d.
,, ,, "I." 1d.
"I." missing. 1d.
With "R I." close together. 1d.

SOUTH AFRICA.—*Black and White* illustrates the Mafeking Besieged Stamps.

The surcharge is in capitals—"MAFEKING BESIEGED"—in two horizontal lines, with value between.

Adhesives. 1d. on Cape ½d., green.
3d. ,, 1d., carmine; 1893 type.
6d. ,, 3d., magenta.

All increased values; but why the Mafeking Post Office surcharged 3d. on 1d., when the 3d. stamp was still in stock, is a mystery to anyone who does not know the value of provisional issues!

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Perak.*—From *Ewen's Weekly* we gather that the proprietor has just received a supply of the "Tiger Head" type, 25 and 50 cents values, in new colours.

Adhesives. 25 cents, green and carmine, C A.
50 ,, green and black ,,

SUDAN.—An Official Stamp has been issued. It is stated that the 5 mil. of Egypt, surcharged for use in this territory, has been perforated with the letters "S G" for use on official correspondence.

The Egyptian cards of 4 mils., with the usual surcharge, are also reported issued.

Official Stamp.

5 mils. of Egypt, with surcharge; perforated "S G."

Post Cards.

4 mils., Egyptian cards, with surcharge, carmine-rose.
4+4 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

TASMANIA.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim and Messrs. Smyth and Nicolle have kindly sent specimens of the new issue. The designs are given on each stamp as follows:—

Adhesives.

½d., green (Lake Marion).
1d., rose-lake (Mount Wellington).
2d., mauve (Hobart).
2½d., deep blue (Tasman's Arch).
3d., brown (Spring River, Port Davey).
4d., orange (Russell Falls).
5d., ultramarine (Mount Gould, Lake St. Clair).
6d., lake (Dilston Falls).

TRINIDAD.—It is reported that the 5 pence and 10 shilling stamps of the current issue have been withdrawn from circulation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The 2d., yellow (of the 1899 issue, we understand), has for some time been withdrawn from issue, and a reversion to the old grey colour has taken place, on the old C A and Crown paper. The *Australian Philatelist* furnishes the information.

Adhesive. 2d., grey.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—A contemporary adds an 8 heller value to the Unpaid series.

It is possible this may be a misprint, unless the sets on offer on the Continent are incomplete, or the postal authorities in Austria considered the set without this value was too small to meet Philatelists' requirements.

BAVARIA.—Two high values, 3 and 5 marks, and a 2 pf. single and reply post card have appeared.

The adhesives are of the type of the 1 mark of 1874, watermark vertical wavy lines and perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesives. 3 marks, olive-brown.
5 ,, light green.
Post Cards. 2 pf, grey on buff.
2+2 ,, ,, ,,

BOSNIA.—We have the new set before us, and find the colours agree with the list given on page 121.

The 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 20, and 50 heller are perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, and the 25 and 30 heller measure $10\frac{1}{2}$.

CRETE.—We are told by the *Monthly Circular* that the 4 (5?) higher values of the lately issued set were surcharged in red first, and afterwards changed to black.

The unsurcharged values were intended for use locally, and the surcharged for franking letters to Greece, as Crete had not entered the Postal Union.

It is also stated that the series had been perforated with the letter X for fiscal use, and that a post card, with the portrait of Prince George, has been issued.

Post Card. 10 lepta, brown-red on buff.

FRANCE.—We have to thank Mr. Franz Reichenheim, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., for sight of the new 2 francs lately issued.

Current design, colour bistre on bluish tinted paper, and a pair submitted bear the control letter "O."

Adhesive. 2 francs, bistre on azure; perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

The *R. P. F.* announces definitely that the following colours have been selected for the impending new issue: 10 c., red; 15 c., orange; 20 c., violet-brown; 25 c., dark blue; and 30 c., lilac.

GERMANY.—It appears that the new 2 pf. adhesive, reported on page 54, is in the type of the 1889 issue, and that a new 2 pf. single and reply post card for local use has been put into circulation.

We think the high values of the mark set may be now in use, a copy of the 1 mark having reached us as a remittance.

Post Cards. 2 pf., dull blue on bluish.
2+2 ,, ,, ,,

ITALY.—*Le T.-P.* has received a new reply card. It is the 10 centesimi of 1898.

Post Card. 10+10 centesimi, carmine on green.

SPAIN.—It is some time since we had any novelties, beyond change of colour, to record for this country.

Le T.-P. illustrates a 15 cent. stamp, the forerunner doubtless of a full set.

The baby's head has at last made way for that of a youth! The young King's portrait is a pleasing one, and the stamp is inscribed, "Espana" above, "Sello" at left, "Postal" to right, and "Cent." below, with the value in each bottom corner.

Adhesive. 15 centimos, blue; perf. 14.

WURTEMBERG.—New post cards, single and reply, of 2 pf. value, have been issued here.

Post Cards. 2 pf., grey on cream.
2+2 pf. ,, ,,

AMERICA.

CHILI.—The 2 centavos of the new issue mentioned on page 122 is before us, and it is reported that the whole set and some new stationery have already been put into circulation.

The adhesive is, we think, an improvement on the issue we have been accustomed to so long. The portrait of Columbus is larger than in the old issues: value in all four corners, "Chile" in curved band at top, with "Colon" in small letters on the bust. On the right side, "Porte Franco," on the left, "2. Correos 2," and "Centavos" at foot. Rouletted.

The list of stationery with bust of the Republic in relief is given by *Mekeel's Weekly* as follows:—

Registration Envelopes. 15 centavos, violet.
20 ,, black.
Letter Sheet. 5 centavos, violet.
Wrappers. 2 centavos, green.
20 ,, black.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—Our American contemporaries announce other provisionals or war stamps.

This time it is the turn for Cucuta.

These stamps are described as follows :—

"Arms in centre, surrounded by circular inscription 'Estados Unidos de Colombia,' 'Gobierno Provisirio—Correos' above, '10 cvos' (and we presume '5 cvos' for the lower value) below, and is printed in black on pink paper, perforated vertically, and imperf. horizontally."

Adhesives. 5 cents, black on pink.
10 ,, ,, ,,

GUATEMALA.—It is now announced that the 5 c., purple, has been surcharged "1900-1-Centavo," similarly to the 10 c. listed on page 89.

Provisional.
1 centavo on 5 centavos, purple ; red surcharge.

MEXICO.—It is reported that the current issue has been surcharged "Oficial" in black, and the following values are already chronicled :—

Officials. 1 centavo, green.
2 centavos, vermilion.
15 ,, lilac and brown-lake.

PERU.—A change in colour of the 10 cent. adhesive has taken place ; it is now black instead of yellow.

A letter card of 3 centavos is announced.

Adhesive. 10 centavos, current type, black.
Letter Card. 3 centavos, vermilion on white.

SALVADOR.—The 1 cent. stamp of the 1898 issue has been surcharged "1900," and the remaining values will doubtless follow in due course.

Adhesive.
1 cent., vermilion, of 1898 ; surcharged "1900" in black.

UNITED STATES.—Regarding the probable overprinting of the American stamps with the name of the issuing office, and the mention on page 89 of certain specimens having been seen, the *American Journal of Philately* writes :—

"We have discovered that our contemporary (the *I. B. J.*) has been led astray by specimens of the regular postage stamps, cancelled in sheets in advance for the benefit of publishers and business houses who mail large quantities of pamphlets."

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* gives the following list of the proposed designs for the Buffalo Exposition issue.

On one stamp will be engraved a picture of an American lake steamer ; another will include a picture of some modern express train ; a third is to depict a bridge over Niagara Falls and the Falls themselves, if a suitable picture can be obtained ; a fourth will include a view of the canal locks at Saulte de Sainte Marie ; the automobile is to be the subject of the fifth. All these subjects, it is said, typify artificial aids to commerce, if not to Philately!

URUGUAY.—A change is expected in the colour of the 5 mils. stamp issued last year.

According to the *A. J. P.*, Messrs. Waterlow and Sons have on hand an order for four millions of the new shade of colour.

We have since received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. a 5 mils. in orange, which is probably the stamp above referred to, also 7 and 20 centesimos of 1890 in new colours.

Adhesives. 5 mils., orange.
7 centesimos, rose-lake.
20 ,, pale blue.

VENEZUELA.—Single and reply post cards of the 1899 type are reported ; inscription and frame in black.

Post Cards. 10 centimos, red on white.
10+10 ,, red on lilac.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CONGO FREE STATE.—The lower values of the current set are about to change their colours, if they have not already done so.

The inscription on the 10 centimes, single and reply card, has been altered.

Adhesives.
5 centimos, green and black.
10 ,, carmine and black.
25 ,, blue and black.
50 ,, reseda and black.

Post Cards.
10 centimes, red on buff, with altered inscription.
10+10 ,, brown and green on rose ,, ,,

DUTCH POSSESSIONS.—*Curaçao, Dutch Indies, and Surinam.*—According to the American journals, the full set of surcharged stamps of the current home issue has not hitherto been given.

From *Mekeel's Weekly* we take the following as the complete set :—

Adhesives.
10 cents on 10 cents, grey-lilac.
12½ ,, ,, 12½ ,, blue.
15 ,, ,, 15 ,, yellow-brown.
20 ,, ,, 20 ,, yellow-green.
25 ,, ,, 25 ,, carmine and blue.
50 ,, ,, 50 ,, bronze-green and brown.
1 gulden on 1 gulden, bronze-green.
1½ ,, ,, 2½ ,, brown-lilac.
2½ ,, ,, 2½ ,, ,,

EGYPT.—The 4 millièmes card has appeared in reply form.

Post Card. 4+4 millièmes, carmine-rose.

FRENCH COLONIES AND POST OFFICES.—*Dahomey.*—The complete set of 1 centime to 5 francs, according to *Le T.-P.*, has been issued, and also an envelope of 15 centimes.

Adhesives.
1 centime to 5 francs in the usual colours.
Envelope. 15 centimes, blue on azure.

French Congo.—Le T.-P. illustrates the new stamps we referred to on page 122. The set will be handsome. So were most of the Seebecks.

Port Said.—There is some stationery to be noted.

Envelope. 15 centimes, blue on green.
Post Cards. 10 c., black on green.
10+10 c., black on blue.
Letter Cards. 15 c., blue on grey-blue.
25 c., black on rose.

GERMAN COLONIES.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim has kindly shown us complete sets of the 1889 issue of the mother country—3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf.—surcharged diagonally in black "Karolinen," "Marianen," and "Samoa," and informs us, on the authority of the "Germania-Ring," that the 5 *pf. as well as the* 10 *and* 20 *pf.* were surcharged "Marschall" for the Marshall Islands, and *issued.*

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.'s remarks bearing on the subject will be found on page 123.

Some post cards have also been chronicled as follows :—

Caroline Islands.

Post Cards. 5 pf., green.
10 pf., carmine.
10+10 pf. ,,

Marshall Islands.

Post Cards.
(With the new spelling.)
5 pf., green on buff.
5+5 pf., ,, ,,
10+10 pf., carmine on buff.

PHILIPPINES.—Some U.S. post cards have been surcharged for use in these islands.

Post Cards. 1 cent, black.
2 cents, blue.
2+2 ,, ,,

PORTO RICO.—The proprietors of the *American Journal of Philately* appear to have made an important discovery in their stock, a 20 cent. stamp of the issue of 1882 printed in the colour of the 80 cents.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 1 cent, green, U.S.A. stamp with the surcharge "Puerto Rico."

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* thinks that probably after all "Porto Rico" (the English and American way of spelling the name of this West Indian island) will be adopted if a surcharge be needed at all in the future.

PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS.—*Funchal* and *Ponta Delgada.*—As in the home country, the 25 reis post card is now printed in buff instead of grey.

Post Card. 25+25 reis, rose on buff.

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.
Hon. Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

W. B. AVERY.	E. B. EVANS.
E. D. BACON.	T. W. HALL.
W. D. BECKTON.	T. WICKHAM JONES.
R. EHRENBACH.	GORDON SMITH.

THE eleventh meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 16th March, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present :—M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, T. W. Hall, Herbert R. Oldfield, Rudolph Frentzel, Franz Reichenheim, T. Maycock, William Silk, jun., W. Schwabacher, L. L. R. Hausburg, J. A. Tilleard, C. Neville Biggs, B. D. Knox.

Visitors :—H. E. Hitchins, Capt. I.S.C.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March were read and confirmed. The Hon. Secretary read a letter from Mr. A. B. Slater, jun., regretting that his official duties compelled him to give up collecting and tendering his resignation, and the same was accepted with regret. It was resolved that the next meeting of the Society should be held on the 30th March, and that the following meeting, in consequence of the Easter holidays, should be postponed until the 27th April, and that an Exchange Meeting should be held on Friday, the 20th April.

The Vice-President then gave a display of the 1854-62 issues of Switzerland, with notes and comments upon the work on Swiss stamps by Messrs. P. Mirabaud and A. de Reuterskiöld. Mr. Castle called attention to the fact that the silk threads on these stamps had passed through three distinct periods, viz. :—

1. The Munich printings and the first impressions made at Berne upon thin paper, with a dark emerald-green silk thread.

2. Printings made in Switzerland, in which a distinct coloured thread was used for each value.

3. The last period, where resort was again made to a green thread for all values, but not an emerald-green shade.

Mr. Castle concluded his notes by moving a resolution to the effect that this Society was impressed with the magnificent work which had been undertaken and successfully carried through by the authors of this book, which would be an important

addition to the Society's library, and the value of which the members fully appreciated.

The resolution having been carried, the proceedings terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the Vice-President.

THE twelfth meeting of the season 1899–1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 30th March, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—E. D. Bacon, A. de Worms, P. de Worms, Baron de Worms, Robert Ehrenbach, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frentzel, Franz Reichenheim, W. Schwabacher, George B. Routledge, T. Maycock, Charles G. Daun, Thos. Wm. Hall, W. Silk, jun., C. McNaughtan, E. P. Airlie Dry, G. Owen Wheeler, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, C. Neville Biggs, L. L. R. Hausburg, B. D. Knox.

Visitors:—John Reed, and A. A. Levi.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and the reading and confirmation of the last minutes were postponed until the next meeting.

The business of the evening consisted of a paper by Baron P. de Worms, entitled "Notes on Ceylon Stamps," containing much novel and valuable information in regard to several of the issues of this colony, including some corrections in the dates usually assigned to the appearance of some of the stamps. The most important of the discoveries announced related to the fact that in the first pence issues, with the Crown CC watermark, two distinct series of all the values except the ½d. and 1s. are to be found, owing to a change of paper being necessary in order to fit the plates, the stamps having been first printed in sheets containing four panes of sixty labels, and afterwards in sheets of one pane of 240.

The paper was illustrated by a display of the magnificent collection of Baron A. de Worms, which was much appreciated by the members attending the meeting.

On the motion of Mr. G. Owen Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, the cordial thanks of the Society were voted to Baron P. de Worms for his most interesting paper, and to Baron A. de Worms for kindly producing his collection for inspection by members attending the meeting.

THE thirteenth meeting of the season 1899–1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 27th April, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, B. D. Knox, Franz Reichenheim, Thos. Wm. Hall, Herbert R. Oldfield, W. Schwabacher, Rudolph Frentzel, Edward J. Nankivell, L. L. R. Hausburg, J. A. Tilleard, C. Neville Biggs, Rudolph Meyer, T. Maycock, W. R. Lane Joynt.

Visitors:—E. H. Hitchins, J. W. Jones.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meetings held on the 16th March and the 30th March were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. Ernest A. Elliott, accompanied by a framed print of "The West Country Mails leaving Gloucester Coffee House, Piccadilly," and the Hon. Librarian was directed to write Mr. Elliott acknowledging his gift, with the thanks of the Society.

A letter was also read from Mr. Toppan, accompanied by a bound copy of the work on American Revenue Stamps, prepared by Messrs. Toppan, Deates, and Holland, and presented by them, and the gift was directed to be acknowledged with thanks in the usual way.

The meeting then proceeded with the election of Mr. E. B. Greenshields, who, after ballot, was declared duly elected.

A paper was then read by Mr. Franz Reichenheim, entitled "The History of the German Colonies and Post Offices in Foreign Countries, and their Different Issues of Stamps." Mr. Reichenheim, in the course of his paper, furnished very complete and very interesting information in connection with the various German colonies, and produced various maps and numerous stamps fully illustrating the various points brought out by him. Some of these stamps had been lent by Mr. Kosack specially for inspection by members of the Society.

At the close of the paper a vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Tilleard, and seconded by Mr. Oldfield, and after various remarks by Messrs. Joynt, Nankivell, and Castle the resolution was unanimously passed, and suitably acknowledged by Mr. Reichenheim. The members also expressed their appreciation of the kindness of Mr. Kosack in lending the specimens which he had sent to Mr. Reichenheim for the purpose of illustrating the paper.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Hon. Secretary—
Mr. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

MARCH 1st. Display: "British Guiana and West Indies," by Mr. W. T. Wilson.

Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau and D. T. Lacunza were unanimously elected members. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Philatelic Society of India, and Wilmot Corfield, Esq., for vols. 1 and 2 of the *Philatelic Journal of India*. One guinea was voted to the London Society's Transvaal War Fund. The English Edition of *Swiss Stamps* was ordered to be purchased for the library. Mr. Wilson then gave a splendid display of the stamps of British Guiana and the West Indies, fifteen of the circular stamps of British Guiana being shown on original covers and other rarities in exceptional numbers and condition.

APRIL 5th. Philatelic Discussion. Mr. G. W. Martin was unanimously elected a member.

Brighton Philatelic Society.

Hon. Secretary—BARON A. DE WORMS,
27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE sixth meeting of the season 1899–1900 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday, April 10th, at 8.15 p.m., at which eight members were present. The President took the chair, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, he showed a copy of Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld's book on the stamps of Switzerland, and made a few remarks on the elaborate manner in which the work had been compiled, and on the wonderful way in which the stamps were reproduced. The President also gave a very interesting account of the "Silk Thread" issues of Switzerland, which he illustrated by his extremely fine collection. He said that several shades in the first set were very

scarce unused. A vote of thanks was accorded to the President.

THE seventh and last meeting was held at Markwell's Hotel on Tuesday, May 8th, at 8.15 p.m., when eight members and one visitor were present. The chair was taken by the President, and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the officers and committee were all re-elected for the ensuing year. Mr. J. A. Asser was also unanimously elected a member of the Society. Mr. H. R. Smith read a few notes on the 1869 issue of the United States, which he illustrated by several specimens from his collection.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening. The President (Mr. P. J. Lloyd) occupied the chair. The display, as appointed, was "Great Britain," and of these Mr. Dalton exhibited about 150 sheets, showing specimens of every issue, with varieties of shades in each, some of them being very rare. Also the British stamps with colonial postmarks on were of much interest, bearing evidence of the extent of our empire and the presence of our representatives in remote places. The inspection of Mr. Dalton's sheets fully occupied the attention of the members for the evening, till it was too late to examine the other collections brought up, among which may be noted specially Mr. T. C. Cartwright's specimens of envelopes embossed to order with double and treble stamps. Also a collection by Mr. Way of postal caricatures, as suggested by the Mulready envelopes, of which several specimens were shown. The next and last meeting of this season will be held on the 17th inst., the subject for that evening being "Chili."

Herts Philatelic Society.

THE annual dinner was held at Anderton's Hotel on Tuesday, May 1st, 1900. Present:—Messrs. M. P. Castle (in the chair), Louis E. Bradbury, W. A. Boyes, E. Bounds, W. G. Cool, E. P. Airlie Dry, R. Ehrenbach, R. Frentzel, G. Gaffe, W. Hadlow, G. Haynes, J. W. Jones, E. A. Mardon, R. Meyer, F. Reichenheim, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, C. R. Sutherland, A. G. Wane, F. A. Wickhart, H. A. Slade, and four visitors.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the Chairman gave the toast of the evening, "The Herts Philatelic Society," in felicitous and flattering terms. Mr. G. Haynes replied in a comprehensive and interesting speech. He referred to the courtesy shown, and assistance rendered, by the Vice-Presidents and the honorary members in the matter of displays, etc.; and in making a statement as regards the present position of the Society, he mentioned that the muster-roll contained the names of ninety-seven members, that the average attendance at meetings was upwards of sixteen, that the gross value of packets in the Exchange Section was £2,932 18s. 6½d. from October, 1899, to April, 1900, and that the gross sales for the same period were £324 8s. 11d.; and, most important of all, that the financial position of the Society was entirely satisfactory.

The Chairman then gave a display of his collections of unused stamps of Saxony, Oldenburg, Wurtemberg, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Needless to say, these treasures were greatly appreciated by those fortunate enough to inspect them, and on the proposition of Mr. W. Simpson, a hearty vote of thanks was carried unanimously to Mr. Castle in his double capacity as chairman and exhibitor. A vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary for his services during the past season was proposed by Mr. Sutherland and carried, and was directed to be noted on the minutes. An enjoyable evening terminated at 10 p.m.

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

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS, *May 4th*, 1900.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.
Hon. Secretary—G. FRED H. GIBSON, Kersal, Manchester.

THE fourteenth meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, April 20th, the President being in the chair, and ten other members present.

The date of the annual meeting was altered from May 11th to May 4th.

Mr. Abbot proposed, Mr. North seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that a silver medal should be offered to the committee of the forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition in Paris for the best single exhibit in Class III., Division 2.

Arrangements were made for the summer meetings, annual picnic, etc.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

NOVEMBER and December accounts have been submitted and paid, and sheets duly returned. Sales for those months were £147 15s. 5d. and £153 13s. 3d. respectively. January packets have returned from circulation, and will be broken up and distributed with the least possible delay. The new rule limiting the circulation of packets to thirteen weeks is now in operation, and seems to have won universal favour. The only drawback would appear to be that sales will rule smaller, as the list of non-contributing members who see the packets has had to be curtailed. Unless directions are received to the contrary, such members will in future only see one packet every month.

One hundred and thirty-seven sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1,713 14s. 10d., were made up into three packets and sent on the April circuit by the 28th. One packet was devoted entirely to sheets valued at £5 gross and upwards, and it is hoped that all members will contribute to this packet, at any rate occasionally. Many rare stamps, in good condition, were offered at reasonable prices, and good sales should result. During the past month nine applications for membership have been received, and one resignation has been accepted. Philatelists of all grades are welcomed on production of satisfactory references, and copies of rules, with full information, can be obtained on reference to the Secretary, H. A. Slade, 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.*

MESSRS. G. HAMILTON-SMITH AND CO. announce in the present number that they have effected the sale to a client of the entire unused European collection of Mr. M. P. Castle.

* * *

MR. ERNST STOCK, who is so well known to English stamp collectors, and who, by his long residence in an English colony and perfect command of the language, might really be mistaken for our countryman, informs us that he has taken an important step. His business has so grown of late years that he finds his present premises in the Stueler Strasse quite inadequate, and has therefore removed to far larger premises, where all his correspondence and business will be carried on. The premises selected are in the Mohren Strasse, No. 53, first floor, which almost adjoins the ever-busy Friedrich Strasse, and is in the very heart of the German metropolis. The Stueler Strasse was ever for us a distant and a weary pilgrimage, and we, like others, shall far more readily visit Mr. Stock in his new abode.

* * *

MR. CARL WILLADT, of Pforzheim, now one of the most prominent of the Continental dealers, has opened a branch business in Geneva at No. 9, Rue de Commerce, which will be under the management of M. Victor Sauer, himself a well-known Swiss dealer, of whom we have bought many Swiss stamps. Mr. Willadt has always made a speciality of the stamps of Switzerland, and it is quite in keeping that he should seek a *pied-à-terre* in its chief town.

* * *

THERE is a somewhat remarkable veering round of the financial philatelic wind in the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*. In season and out of season the cry from Berlin has been, How are the mighty (stamps) fallen, and the heathen (collectors) made afraid! The *D. B. Z. now* seems to have arrived at the conclusion that it is only the *Spekulants* in Heligoland, late Leewards, etc., and the holders of inferior copies (sidled off on club or exchange society sheets), that have suffered. The recent large and important sales that have taken place are held as instances of the solidarity of good stamps. All of which conclusions we have, with others, humbly and diligently preached and practised for the past few years, only to be received with the contemptuous derision of those who in Germany knew so much better than we could in this comparatively uncivilised and impecunious little island.

Those who really have fine things, whether in stamps or any other form of collecting, very rarely suffer by depreciations of value. The mild-mannered collector, who either buys from small dealers or "picks up" inferior copies at "sixty per cent. below Senf," is the person who ultimately goes to the wall, and having lost two or three hundred marks on his collection fills the philatelic journal of his fatherland with lamentations over the Decline and Fall of the Philatelic Empire.

The awakening of Berlin is like the vision of Saul of Tarsus—sudden, acute, and apparently sincere; but what manner of vision has caused the conversion?

* * *

MARKED catalogues have reached us from Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, of April 26th and 27th, and May 10th and 11th; Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, April 24th and 25th, and May 8th; and Mr. W. Hadlow, of May 1st.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER, April 26th and 27th. The following lots call for notice: Iceland, entire unused sheets of each of the 20 aur, purple, and 40 aur, green, £30. A collection of Greece (337), mostly unused, £20 10s. Afghanistan, 1295, Shahi, black, unused (2), £5 each. British Honduras, 6, in red, *inverted* on 10 c., used on entire (2), £5 each; and the same stamps, but with black surcharge (2), also £5 each. New South Wales, 1885, 5d., green, imperf., unused, with gum, but very slightly creased, £5 5s. Queensland, first issue, 2d., blue, horizontal pair, and a single specimen, used on piece, £9 9s.; and the 6d., green, unused, with gum, but slightly creased, £8 15s. Collections (8871). £125; (7560), £63; (6130), £33; (1968), £9; (3520), £10; (1799), £9; and 3217 on loose leaves, £20.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER, May 10th and 11th. Gaboon, first issue, complete, used, £3 5s. Nossi-Bé, unpaid letter stamps, 1891 and 1892, complete, used, £3 6s. British Bechuanaland, £5, lilac, unused, £5 10s. and £5; 1888 issue, 4d., lilac, red surcharge, an unused block of twelve, £6, and five unused horizontal pairs, with gum, £5; 1888 and 1889, with further surcharge of "Protectorate," 1s., 2s., 2s., 6d., 5s, and 10s., all unused, with full gum, £20 5s.; another set, £13; the 2s., green, a fine, unused, horizontal pair, full gum, £5; 2s. 6d., green, unused, full gum, £3 3s.; 2d., lilac, an entire unused pane of sixty, showing the rare "2" variety, £7; 3d., lilac, an entire unused pane of sixty, £33; 4d., lilac, black surcharge, an unused corner block of sixteen, £13 15s.; 4d., lilac, red surcharge, an unused half-sheet of sixty, £15 15s.; 6d., lilac, an entire unused pane of sixty, £5 7s. 6d; ½d., vermilion, surcharged "Protectorate," an unused half-sheet of one hundred and twenty, but with smaller P and clearer type, uncatalogued, £30; an unused half-sheet of one hundred and twenty, with similar surcharge, but *inverted*, £43 10s., whilst blocks of eight, six, three singles, and a pair of similar stamps, used, brought £3 15s., £2, £1 10s., and £1 respectively; an unused part sheet of seventy-two, with "Protectorate" in

larger letters (Gibbons' No. 47), £31 10s. British South Africa, 1891, provisionals, the set unused, MINT, £4 4s. Cape, 4d., wood block, with re-touched corner, used, £4 4s. Griqualand, "G" in black, on 1d., red, an unused part sheet of seventy-two, showing six varieties of "G," £6 17s. 6d.; another part sheet of one hundred and six, with eight varieties of "G," £9; and an unused pane of sixty (seven varieties of "G"), £6. Orange Free State, 3d. on 4d. (Gibbons' No. 15), unused, horizontal strip of four, *mint*, £3 12s. 6d. Space prevents our giving more than a synopsis of this important sale of Mr. Tamsen's stamps.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale, of April 24th and 25th. British Bechuanaland, 1887, £5, lilac, unused, *mint*, £5 15s. Cape, wood block, 1d., red, used, £4 7s. 6d. Collections of Griqualand (53), £8; and Transvaal (152), £17. British Columbia, $1, perf. 14, unused, £4. New Brunswick, 1s., no margins, used, £5 17s. 6d. United States, *Providence*, 1846, an entire uncut plate of eleven 5 cents, and one 10 cent, full gum, £8 7s. 6d.; 1851, 5 c., brown, unused, no gum, £4 12s. 6d.; 10 cents, green, a strip of three, unused, with gum, but slightly creased, £5; 1861, 5 cents, mustard, unused, no gum, £3; 1869, 24 cents, with *inverted* centre, used, but partly re-perforated, £10 10s. St. Vincent, no wmk., 1d., rose, with compound perfs., used, £6 12s. 6d. Turks Islands, 1881, 2½d. on 1s., dull blue, Gibbons' type 10, unused, *mint*, £9. Collections (5010), £28 and (4150) £26.

May 8th. Great Britain, 1d., black, a block of twelve, unused, *mint*, £11 10s. Holland, first issue, 5, 10, and 15 cents, blocks of four each, unused, *mint*, £7 5s. Tuscany, white paper, 1 quatt., black, block of twenty-four, unused, £10 5s. Ceylon, 8d., imperf., used, £12 5s.; another, not so fine, £6 17s. 6d. Nova Scotia, 1s., cold violet, used and fine, £12. St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s., used, £8 5s. Collections (3271), £15; (2116), £11 10s., and a small book of good stamps (262), £7 10s.

* * *

THE one hundred and fiftieth sale of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., on March 28th, 29th, and 30th, 1900, was of an important nature. The 539 lots offered on the first night sold for the sum of £1816, thus establishing a record of the largest amount ever realised at a single night's sale. We quote the following, putting equivalent English quotations:—

	£	s.	d.
Providence.—Entire sheet, eleven 5 c. and one 10 c., o.g.	9	9	0
St. Louis.—Grey-lilac paper, 10 c., black, type III., cut close at top, and only small margins on other sides, unused	21	10	0
Ditto, pelure paper, 10 c., black, type I., on original cover, has slight crease from folding, otherwise fine, pen-cancelled	121	0	0
Ditto, pelure paper, 10 c., black, type II., on original cover, outer line at right partly cut away, fine margins on other sides, very lightly pen-cancelled	125	5	0
Ditto, pelure paper, 10 c., black, type III., on original cover, has crease from folding, otherwise fine, pen-cancelled	125	5	0
Ditto, pelure, 10 c., black, type III., small piece of outer line missing at one corner, otherwise good, cancelled	78	0	0
United States.—1861, 3 c., scarlet, no perfs. at right, and a few clipped at bottom, otherwise fine, unused	8	5	0
Ditto, 1869, 15 c., brown and blue, with inverted medallion, strong colour, very fine, cancelled	23	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 24 c., green and purple, with inverted medallion, not very well centred, but fine, lightly cancelled	26	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 30 c., blue and carmine, flags inverted, has lost a perf. from right margin, rather light colour, otherwise fine, cancelled	66	15	0
Ditto, Navy, 2 c., green, error, three perfs. broken, otherwise very fine, unused	5	15	0
Barbados.—1878, 1d. on halves of 5 sh., unsevered pair, reading downward the figures "1" have slanting serif, one has a slight tear at the edge, but it does not injure the appearance of the stamp, otherwise fine, cancelled	19	0	0
Brazil.—1844-6, 600 r., black, very fine copy, with extra wide margins on two sides, cancelled	5	15	0
British Guiana.—1850, 12 c., black, on thick dark-blue paper, a trifle cut into at bottom, otherwise brilliant copy, lightly cancelled	15	15	0
Ditto, 1856, 4 c., light magenta, has been torn in two, and very neatly rejoined, fine margins, lightly cancelled	10	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., dark magenta, has good margins on three sides, has slight crease, but otherwise in fine condition, lightly cancelled	21	0	0
Ditto, 1862, provisional issue, 1 c., black on rose, unsevered imperf. strip of four, two of type 6, one of type 7, one of type 8, unsigned, part o.g.	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, provisional issue, 2 c., yellow, type 6, very fine copy, showing roulettes on three sides, cancelled	4	12	0
Ditto, ditto, provisional issue, 4 c., blue, type 10, small margins, but fine, cancelled	12	10	0
British Honduras.—1888, perf. 14, small surcharge, 2 c. on 6 p., uncatalogued variety "2," with curved tail, very fine, o.g.	4	10	0
Bulgaria.—1884-5, 5s. on 3os., fawn and blue, black surcharge, used on original cover, with 1881, 10s., very fine, cancelled	12	15	0
Canada.—1851, laid paper, 12 p., black, has two pin holes and two tears, but nothing gone except small piece of frame-line, cancelled	35	10	0
Cape of Good Hope.—1861, wood block, 1 p., blue, error, no margins, so lightly cancelled as to appear almost unused	50	5	0
Ditto, 1861, wood block, 4 p., red, error, no margins, otherwise fine, cancelled	58	10	0

	£	s.	d.
Colombian Republic.—1863, 20 c. and 50 c, red, vertical strip of three, the middle stamp being the error 50 c., probably unique in this condition, fine, o.g.	46	15	0
Gold Coast.—1884-91, Crown and CA, 1 p., blue, very small thin spot, otherwise very fine, o.g.	6	10	0
Guadeloupe.—Unpaid letter stamp, 1878-9, 40 c., blue, on very small piece of original cover, very fine, cancelled	9	15	0
Labuan.—$1 on 16 c., blue, manuscript surcharge in red, very fine, o.g.	11	0	0
Ditto, 1883, 2 c. on 16 c. (type A5), very fine, cancelled	7	10	0
Mauritius.—1848, bluish paper, 1 p., red, early state of plate, very fine, lightly cancelled	7	15	0
Ditto, 1858, 1 p., scarlet, vertical pair, with enormous margins, very fine, cancelled	10	17	0
Ditto, 1858, 1 p., scarlet, pair and single copy, on original cover, bright colour, cancelled	10	0	0
Ditto, 1876, red surcharge, ½ p. on 9 p, lilac, wide margin at left and perfs touch design at bottom, otherwise very fine, o.g.	7	15	0
Ditto, envelope, 1890, 50 c. on 8 c., blue, the rare variety, very fine, unused	6	10	0
Natal.—1857, 6 p., green, extra wide margins, has small crease and two thin spots, otherwise very fine, lightly cancelled	6	0	0
Nevis.—1879, lithographed, 4 p., yellow (No. 3 in plate), fine, unused	7	5	0
Ditto, 1879, lithographed, 6 p., olive-grey (No. 2 in plate), very fine, part o.g.	6	10	0
New South Wales.—1850, 3 p., myrtle-green, on yellowish wove paper, very fine, cancelled	7	10	0
Prince Edward Island.—1861, 2 p., rose, rouletted, small ink spot on face and three small tears, but nothing gone, cancelled.	11	0	0
Reunion.—1852, 15 c., black on grey-blue, slightly soiled near lower edge, but apparently unused	43	0	0
Ditto, 1852, 30 c., black on grey-blue, small piece restored near the upper left corner, stained by gum, but apparently unused, fine	36	10	0
Roumania.—1858, 27 pa., rose, small piece torn from one corner before the stamp was used, otherwise very fine, extra wide margins, cancelled	38	0	0
Ditto, 1858, 108 pa., blue on rose, wide margins at sides, but thin on back, which does not affect the appearance of the stamp, otherwise very fine, cancelled	29	15	0
Saxony.—1851, ½ ng., pale blue, error, has slight crack resulting from the heavy gum, otherwise extremely fine	43	10	0
Two Sicilies.—Naples, 1860, ½ t., blue (arms), brilliant copy, lightly cancelled	15	7	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.

UNWATERMARKED STAMPS OF TUSCANY.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—In my article on the proofs of the stamps of Tuscany on white wove unwatermarked paper, published in the *London Philatelist* for August, 1899, I pointed out the existence of a specimen of the 4 crazie, green, bearing the cancellation formed by the capitals S^A F^A (abbreviation of the words *Strada Ferrata*, or railway) inclosed in a single-lined oval.

I have now before me another copy of this value in exactly the same shade, and also the following—2 crazie, blue; 6 crazie, slate-blue—printed on the identical kind of paper, and bearing the same cancellation in black.

I have also been informed by a friend that a 9 crazie stamp, bearing the circular postmark *Livorno, 1. . . Mar. 1858*, exists in a well-known collection.

The S^A F^A cancellation was used by the *Societa della Strada Ferrata Leopolda*, who, according to a convention dated September 5th, 1855, had the right to convey letters on its own lines, an authorisation that was withdrawn by a notification dated April 4th, 1860.

The existence of the specimen bearing the Leghorn date stamp, however, clearly demonstrates that a few unwatermarked stamps passed also through the Grand-Ducal post.

Very truly yours,

EMILIO DIENA.

ROME, *May 16th*, 1900.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. JUNE, 1900. No. 102.

The Omniscience of the Press.

CARLYLE'S oft-quoted sneer at the folly of the bulk of the inhabitants of the British Isles—despite its apparently unjust universality of application—has yet a substratum of truth that may have been the cause of its survival. The Latins had it that "no one is wise at all hours," and this may well be the hidden meaning of the Sage of Chelsea's sweeping denunciation. The population of this country are generally by no means fools when they are engaged upon their own business, and it is only when the hour comes that they are occupied with affairs that are not directly their concern or occupation that the folly peeps out.

It is the proud privilege of the Press to supply these deficiencies by the saving power of its many virtues and general omniscience, and to supply the missing links of wisdom in its readers' minds. "You can't get high æsthetic art like trousers ready-made," sings W. S. Gilbert, but no such fallacious doctrine is entertained within the four corners of our leading daily papers. The strategy of a general, the trimming of a "tricorne" hat, the policy of a nation, or the true appreciation of a stamp collection, are all within the striking power of the Nasmyth hammer of the Press, nor is there scarce a subject under the sun on which its scribes are not prepared to indite almost "while you wait." The general public, fortunately, has either not the time or ability to prove in what direction this "omniscience" is shaky, and hence a large proportion of daily printed matter is accepted as fresh and true information by the reader, without any undue sifting of the wheat from the chaff. It is only when the members of the Fourth Estate condescend to particulars that they get into trouble. Airy directions as to the management of an empire are less susceptible of direct controversy than the misstatement of stubborn fact. In the case of Philately

the daily Press is generally intensely funny—the crude way in which members of the trade are allowed to adroitly advertise themselves, the fairy tales as to the collections of emperors, financiers, or "Parisian amateurs," the fallacious values attributed to stamps, and the absolutely inverted estimate of the *motif* of a Philatelist are familiar to us all. Truly, a little knowledge—on all subjects—is a dangerous thing!

The unsought and widespread publicity given to the recent sale of a collection has resulted in a fine flight of these "wild duck," while as a minor result, letters from old ladies, distressed fathers, needy Scotchmen, and precocious boys have rained down upon the unfortunate vendor. A collection of 500 was offered for £1,000; a lot of "the old red stamps postmarked" were declared worthy of a large sum; while the amount demanded for a penny black was almost a king's ransom! So with the Press comments, apparently no statement bearing on the subject was sifted or rejected, with the result that many of the paragraphs are indeed passing strange. Perhaps the first prize for fecundity of imagination and intellectual grasp of the subject might be accorded to the *Express*, *videlicet*:—

"How to Provide for Old Age is a problem that occasions disquietude to many worthy people. One excellent method apparently is to form a stamp collection and sell it, as a Brighton magistrate has just done, for £30,000. Decidedly, as the prop of old age for a frugal man, the stamp collection is difficult to lick."

The last sentence is as cryptic as it is elegant, hence we are not quite clear what *is* to be licked. Were the stamp collection so treated, the frugal prop of old age would be sorely shaken. The automatic old age philatelic provider is, however, delicious. Old bonnet-boxes and sacks will surely be at a premium to afford safe resting-places for the halfpenny reds and penny lilacs of our daily correspondence that have but to be garnered by willing hands to ensure a happy competence when the day of toil is o'er. Like all great ideas, and—as the *Express* also doubtless thinks—like the Philatelist himself, the thing is sweetly simple. To ensure the "prop of old age" but two things are requisite—patience and a willing purchaser, but the old age pensioner will have to learn the art of waiting!

Dinner of the London Philatelic Society.



THE last occasion on which a Dinner of the Society was held was during the London Exhibition, nearly three years since, although some months later many members assembled round the festive board on the occasion of the presentation of testimonials to Messrs. Tillcard and Gordon Smith in recognition of their labours at the Philatelic Exhibition.

In olden days the Society was not infrequently the guest of its President or Vice-President, but with its modern extension these charming social *réunions* became naturally impracticable. It is perhaps to be regretted that

this function should not be made an annual one—to be held after the election of officers, which might well take place at the commencement of the season.

According to the present system, a long period of inaction follows the election of any new office-holder, and we think that this is hardly wise, as the iron is better struck when hot.

Owing to the fact that the Dinner was held somewhat late in the year, and that several well-known members were prevented by absence from attending, the number present was smaller than usual, but a very enjoyable evening was passed by those who were present.

The Café Monico once more demonstrated the excellence of its cuisine, the Dinner being all that the most fastidious epicure could desire, while the entertainment for the mind provided by the energetic Dinner Committee was equally successful, Miss Edith Cox's songs and Mr. W. G. Churcher's clever recitations very materially enhancing the enjoyment of the proceedings.

The Vice-President of the Society occupied the chair, the Vice-Chairmanships falling to Messrs. T. Wickham Jones and C. Neville Biggs, who, with Mr. H. R. Oldfield, the Assistant Honorary Secretary, comprised the committee entrusted with the arrangements. In proposing the loyal toasts, the Chairman called attention to the continued interest displayed in the Society by the President, H.R.H. the Duke of York, as recently evinced in his co-operation in the Philatelic War Fund, his remarks hereon eliciting the cordial approval of those present. In proposing the toast of the Philatelic Society of London, Mr. Castle drew attention to the fact that the year 1900 was the thirty-first of the life of the Society, and referred to the great debt of gratitude that it owed to its early founders and leading officials, calling attention to the necessity of having younger and earnest workers to take the places of the veterans as they passed away from the front ranks. Mr. Castle also dwelt upon the advantages and delights afforded by scientific specialising, but strongly insisted upon the necessity of having passed through the primary course of general collecting, without which it was difficult to acquire true appraisement or a correct appreciation of relative philatelic value. The recent history of the Society was so ably embodied in the Report of the Honorary Secretary (see pp. 165–71) as to require but scant comment at the speaker's hands; but he drew the most favourable augury as to the continued well-being and success of the Society.

Messrs. Gordon Smith and H. R. Oldfield respectively responded for the members and officials in their usual effective manner, and other toasts followed.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON THE PAPER ON

The History of the German Colonies and German Post Offices in Foreign Countries.*

BY FRANZ REICHENHEIM.

MR. WHITFIELD KING has kindly drawn my attention to the erroneous statement *re* Post Offices in German New Guinea, and I find an omission after paragraph 3, on page 135, which should read :—

"There is only one Post Office in this colony, at Stephansort, opened on 14th December, 1889, still in existence of those opened in the years 1888-9, the first ones having been at

Finchhafen, opened 15th February, 1888, closed March, 1891 ;
Hatzfeldthafen, opened 1st April, 1888, closed 30th September, 1891 ;
Kerawara, opened 4th April, 1888, closed June, 1890;
Konstantinhafen, opened 15th May, 1888, closed 30th September, 1891.

Four other Post Offices now exist, which were subsequently opened at Herbertshoehe, Berlinhafen, Matupi, and Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen."

Mr. Whitfield King is also quite right with regard to the error on page 140: "Morocco, *50* centimos on 50 pf., red-brown," which should read "*60* centimos on 50 pf., red-brown."

Dr. Kalckhoff, of Berlin, kindly informs me that, according to the latest inquiries, not only the 5, 10, and 20 pf. of the Marshall Islands, surcharged in Type I., but also the 3 pf. value of this type, have been officially issued, and adds that the postal authorities will probably now issue the other values (25 and 50 pf.) surcharged in Type I., as they do not like that stamps sold and sent to Bern by them should be looked upon as "Essays," and being less valuable than as if they were really issued.

The 10 and 20 pf., surcharged in Type II. of the same colony, have now also been issued as stated by me under "New Issues."

Some of my German friends object to the expression "Essays" (although the "Germania Ring" makes use of this word) for the two above-mentioned values (25 and 50 pf.) of the Marshall Islands, surcharged in Type I., as well as for the 25 and 50 pf. German South-West Africa, surcharged in Type I., as these values, although not officially issued, but sent to the office of the International Postal Union at Bern, may be used for postage, and I should use the expression, "Prepared, but not issued."

* These notes are supplementary to the paper read before the London Philatelic Society by Mr. Reichenheim, on 27th April, 1900, and published in our last issue.—ED.

The same remark refers also to the 25 pf. value of German South-West Africa, surcharged in Type II.

The German stamps of 1889, surcharged "China," were originally intended for use at the German Post Offices in Shanghai, Tientsin, and Chefoo; but as it happened at the time when the stamps were ready that Kiautchou became a German colony, they were put into circulation also there.

I have further to rectify the statement, which I gathered from a German newspaper, that the German Post Offices in the colonies and foreign countries are under the control of the Chief Postal Administration of the Rhine Province at Cologne ("Ober Postdirection Cöln"). According to Dr. Kalckhoff's information, those in Africa were lately still under the control of the "Ober Postdirection" at Hamburg, and those in Asia and the South Pacific under the control of the "Ober Postdirection" at Bremen; and Dr. Kalckhoff has not heard that any change has as yet taken place.

The postage fee between Germany and her colonies, as well as between the colonies themselves, is still cheaper than our 1d. system, as the fee for letters up to 20 gr. (about ½ oz.) is 10 pf. (1d.), and over 20 gr. to 250 gr., 20 pf. (2½d.); post cards, 5 pf. (½d.), etc.

I am further indebted to Dr. Kalckhoff for a complete list of the German Post Offices now in existence in the colonies and foreign countries:—

A. COLONIES.

I. German South-West Africa.

Otyimbingue, opened 16th July, 1888, closed 13th October, 1891, and transferred to
Windhoek, opened 18th October, 1891, with agencies at Hohewarte and Seeis.
Cap Cross.
Gibeon.
Gobabis.
Gross-Barmen.
Keetmanshoop.
Lüderitzbucht, with agency in Bethanien.
Okahandja.
Omaruru.
Otjimbingue, opened 1st July, 1895; name now spelled with "j" instead of "y."
Outjo.
Rehoboth.
Swakopmund.
Warmbad, with agencies in Ukamas and Romansdrift.
Okombahe, Maltahoehe, } opened 1899.
Kubub, Waterberg, Grootfontein, Otavi, } opened early in 1900.
Haris, opened 18th February, 1900.
Marienthal, Kuis, } opened February, 1900.
Hatzamas, opened June, 1900.

II. Togo.

Klein Popo, opened 1st March, 1888.
Lome.

III. Kamerun.

Kamerun, opened 1st February, 1887.
Victoria, opened 12th December, 1888.
Kribi.
Rio del Rey.
Buea, opened early in 1900.

IV. German East Africa.

Bagamoyo, opened 4th October, 1890.
Bukoba.
Dar-es-Salaam, opened 4th October, 1890.
Iringa.
Kilimatinde.
Kilossa.
Kilwa.
Langenburg.
Lindi.
Marangu.
Mikindani.
Mohorro.
Moschi.
Mpapua.
Muanza.
Pangani.
Saadani.
Songea, opened 13th May, 1899.
Tabora.
Tanga.
Ujiji.
Wilhelmsthal, opened 30th April, 1899.
Muhesa, opened June, 1900.

V. German New Guinea.

Stephansort, opened 14th December, 1889.
Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen.
Berlinhafen.
Herbertshoehe.
Matupi.

VI. Marshall Islands.

Zaluit.

VII. Kiautchou.

Tsintau (Tsingtau).

VIII. Caroline Islands.

Ponape, opened 15th October, 1899.

IX. Mariane Islands.

Yap, opened 7th November, 1899.

X. Pala'u Islands.

None as yet.

XI. Samoa.

Apia.

B. FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

I. Turkish Empire.

Constantinople.
(*a*) Galata, opened 1st March, 1870.
(*b*) Stamboul, opened 1875.
(*c*) Pera, opened 1st March, 1900.
Yaffa, opened 1st October, 1898.
Smyrna, opened 1st March, 1900.
Beirut „ „ „
Jerusalem „ „ „

II. China.

Shanghai, opened 16th August, 1886.
Tientsin, opened 1st April, 1893.
Chefoo, opened in 1895.
Hankow, opened 1st April, 1900.
Foochow, probably opened soon.

III. Morocco.

Tangiers and six others, opened 20th December, 1899.

There have also been German Post Offices in

I. Zanzibar.

Lamu, opened 22nd November, 1888; closed 31st March, 1891.

Zanzibar, opened 27th August, 1890; closed 31st July, 1891; having used unsurcharged German stamps of 1880 and 1889.

II. Tongan Islands.

Tongatabu, opened September, 1886; closed April, 1893. This Post Office was in connection with the agency of the North German Lloyd, of Bremen, managed by their agent, and officially named "Postdampfschiffsagentur" (Royal Mail Steamship Agency). But as the Tongan Government introduced the Post Monopoly for letters shortly before the German Post Office was established, the latter was only used for parcel post purposes, and it is therefore very probable that only the 10 pf., 20 pf., 50 pf., and 2 mark stamps (unsurcharged) of the issues of the time being were in use there.

Report read at the Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society, London,

FOR THE SEASON 1899–1900.

By J. A. TILLEARD, Honorary Secretary.

THE season 1899–1900 comes to a close with this evening's meeting, and it is once more my privilege to present my report dealing with the work of the Society in the past year.

In the period which has elapsed since the resumption of business in October last, sixteen ordinary meetings have been held, the average attendance of members being sixteen, or a somewhat smaller number than that of the past few years. At seven of these meetings the names of candidates for election to membership have been submitted to ballot, with the result that there has been an accession of twelve members to the ranks of the Society, being exactly double the number elected in the previous season. The new members are: Messrs. W. W. Corfield, E. Sassoon Gubbay, Sidney Castle, D. P. Masson, G. Alston, E. P. Airlie Dry, F. Reichenheim, P. J. Bruner, F. A. Foster, M. H. Lombard, E. B. Greenshields, and the Earl of Crawford.

I regret that owing to a misunderstanding the name of Mr. S. G. Stein was included in the resignations mentioned in my last report. The error was duly acknowledged and rectified at the first meeting of the season, and the name has to be taken into account for the purpose of comparing our roll of membership with that of the previous year.

The result of this comparison is that the number of members is now two less than at the end of the season 1898-9, the losses from death or resignation being fifteen in all.

In this number are included the names of those who have died, viz. Messrs. W. A. S. Westoby, Douglas Garth, C. P. Krauth, F. R. Fraser, and Major W. J. Myers, who was killed in fighting our country's battles in South Africa. The resignations recorded are those of Messrs. E. L. Waterlow, W. Matthews, R. Pearce, J. S. Lambert, C. J. Lambert, F. E. Owen, G. S. Bird, W. Herrick, A. B. Slater, jun., and Lieut.-Col. Harris.

The name of Mr. Westoby is a household word amongst collectors of stamps throughout the world. He became a member of the Society in 1880, but I believe he had been a collector and a writer from 1862 down to the date of his death. None who have studied the many productions of his pen on philatelic subjects can have failed to see the hand of the master in all that he undertook, and his loss is one to be deplored, not only by this Society, but by all true Philatelists.

In the case of Douglas Garth we mourn the loss of a friend whose untimely death has caused a void in the ranks of the Society which it is difficult to fill. For some time prior to the end of 1888 he acted as Honorary Assistant Secretary of the Society, and from that date until May, 1894, he filled the office of Honorary Secretary. It was my privilege to act as his assistant, and, having had exceptional opportunities of judging, I can unhesitatingly say that he was an ideal Secretary for a Society such as ours at that period of its existence. Courteous and gentle in all his dealings with his fellow-members, endowed with a charm of manner which endeared him to all who were associated with him, and ever ready to promote the welfare of the Society whose interests he had so much at heart, it will be long before his memory will be effaced, and we shall always think of him with affection and esteem.

The resignation of Mr. R. Pearce involved a vacancy in the Council. He was elected to membership early in 1890, and served for nearly six years as Honorary Assistant Secretary. By his retirement the Society lost the services of an efficient officer; and the announcement of his resignation, owing to the sale of his collection, was received with much regret by his fellow-members.

During the past season the following papers have been read at meetings of the Society, viz. by the Vice-President, "The Collectors' Catalogue Question," "Notes on the Early Issues of Belgium," and "The Stamps of Portugal"; by Mr. Gordon Smith, "The Provisional Halfpenny Surcharged Stamps of Natal"; by Mr. T. W. Hall, "The Early Issues of the Argentine Republic"; by Baron P. de Worms, "Notes on Ceylon Stamps"; and by Mr. F. Reichenheim, "The History of the German Colonies and Post Offices in Foreign Countries, and their Different Issues of Stamps." The stamps shown in illustration of these papers, including the collection of Ceylon formed by Baron A. de Worms, comprised in most instances the finest collections extant of the various countries dealt with in the papers, and their inspection added material interest to the valuable contributions to the proceedings of the Society provided by the members referred to.

I shall, I feel sure, be excused for calling special attention to the papers of Baron P. de Worms and Mr. F. Reichenheim, the latter being one of the members elected in the period covered by this report. It is a matter

of gratification to be able to record the reading of papers by two members who have not before put into writing for the benefit of their fellow-members the results of their investigations in the field of Philately, and the Society is to be congratulated on the work they have shown themselves capable of producing.

Excellent alike in matter and style, and containing, as they do, evidence of considerable philatelic instinct and research, the papers in question were listened to with the greatest interest and attention. The manner in which they were received is the best answer to those who pretend that the efforts of the younger members of the Society are viewed with scarcely disguised contempt, and are subjected to hostile criticism by the older or more advanced students, upon whom the Society is in the habit of relying for the production of papers. It has been truly said, and it cannot be too often repeated, that one of the great charms of the pursuit of Philately is that only in very rare instances, if at all, has the final word been said on the stamps of any country. In most cases there are many points and questions requiring further elucidation, and affording a wide field for closer investigation. There are also still many countries whose philatelic history, as apart from a mere catalogue, remains to be written, and the reception accorded to the papers which have called for these remarks will, I trust, encourage others of our younger members to add to our enjoyment and edification by embodying the results of their studies in papers to be read, or notes for discussion, at our meetings.

Displays have been given, by Mr. Ehrenbach, of the stamps of Natal and the Dominican Republic; by Mr. Oldfield, of the stamps of the United States of Colombia; by Mr. Passer, of the stamps of Austria; and by the Vice-President, of the early issues of Switzerland in illustration and explanation of the great work on Swiss stamps by Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld. The interest shown by members in the displays has been well maintained in the past season, and emphasises the value of this feature of the Society's work.

Early in the season a proposal was made for the establishment of an exchange system in connection with the work of the Society. The subject was very fully discussed in general meeting, and it was considered that it would not be practicable for the Society to undertake the work on the lines of ordinary exchange clubs. Arrangements were, however, made for a revival in a modified form of the facilities formerly afforded for personal exchanges between members, but with a settlement of accounts direct instead of through the officers of the Society. With this view it was determined to hold special meetings for exchange purposes once in each month, and several evenings have accordingly been devoted to this object. The average attendance has been from twelve to thirteen members, and a considerable amount of business has been transacted, to the mutual advantage of those taking part in the exchanges effected. For the convenience of members unable to attend the meetings, a register has been provided, in which entries are made of offers and requirements, and by this means members can be placed in communication with one another and can personally carry out the desired exchanges. Up to the present

time very little use has been made of the register, but it may be that its advantages are not yet sufficiently widely known, and I anticipate that next season it will be more resorted to by members as a medium for exchange.

The Publication Committee has had a busy time, although its labours have been considerably lightened by the kindness of Mr. E. D. Bacon in taking upon himself a considerable portion of the work. The publications produced since my last report have been the great work of Messrs. Hastings Wright and Creeke on the stamps of the British Isles, and the second part of the Society's work on the stamps of the British Colonies, etc., in South Africa. The latter has been presented as usual to all members whose subscriptions have been paid, and I have no doubt that the copies available for the general public will be disposed of within a very short time, the edition being limited to 600 as in the case of Part I.

The book already runs to nearly 250 pages, besides the numerous plates of illustrations, and the concluding portion, with its appendix bringing the first two parts up to date, will without question also form a bulky volume, as it will doubtless be necessary now to include the stamps of the two Dutch Republics which have given us so much cause for anxiety since war was declared in October last. The coming season will no doubt see the completion of the work, and as there will then be no further material for publication settled by the Society, it will be necessary on resuming our meetings to consider what further lists should be taken in hand, and the manner in which they should be prepared and revised.

Apart from the ordinary business of the Society there has been very little calling for the special attention of the Council in the past year. A matter of some importance has, however, just arisen in the proposition of the Philatelic Society of India for amalgamation with the London Society. The scheme raises questions of great moment, and it would be premature to go into details until the committee to whom it has been referred for consideration has made its report, which will be presented to the Society early next season.

The retirement of Mr. R. Pearce, before referred to, caused a vacancy in the Council, and I regret to say that our friend Mr. Wickham Jones does not propose to offer himself for re-election, as his engagements do not permit him to devote such attention to the work of the Society as he feels ought to be given by a member of the Council. Major E. B. Evans, who has had to resume his military duties, also desires to be relieved, for a short time only I may hope, from serving as a member of the Council in the coming season; and Mr. Gordon Smith, although still willing to serve on the committee with which he is associated, is unable for private reasons to continue to act on the Council during the next year.

With these exceptions I understand that the present members of the Council are willing to serve again in their respective offices, should it be your desire that they should do so, although each and all of them are quite prepared to withdraw from nomination if it should be felt that any changes would conduce to the greater welfare of the Society.

I understand from the Honorary Treasurer, whose opinion on such a point is entitled to the highest credit, that the finances of the Society are in a sound and satisfactory condition, and the accounts which will be dealt with to-night will doubtless satisfy us that this is so. I hope that it may be found possible to publish in an early number of the *London Philatelist*, for the benefit of members unable to attend the meetings, an abstract of the accounts, a course which, probably by inadvertence, was omitted last year.

There is one matter on the subject of finance which appears to me to require attention, viz. the question of the arrears of subscriptions due. It may perhaps be thought desirable to ask the new Council to enforce more strictly the provisions of Article 26 of the Society's statutes. The number to be dealt with is not very large, and it would seem to be better to submit to a reduction in our roll of membership than to continue to have on our books the names of those who habitually neglect to conform to the rules provided for the general benefit.

The part taken by the Society in the arrangements for the auction for the benefit of the War Funds justifies a reference to this event, in dealing with the work of the Society during the year. The results exceeded the most sanguine expectations, and a very substantial addition was made to the funds, which deserve the support of all patriotic subjects of the Queen. The cordial co-operation in the scheme by all sections of Philatelists, and particularly by members of the stamp trade, was highly appreciated by the Society, and ensured the success of the undertaking. The only subject for regret in connection with the sale is the fact that, with one or two notable exceptions, the provincial societies, as such, did not give the support which it was hoped would have been forthcoming. I have heard it said that there was a feeling that our Society desired to have the whole credit of the undertaking. If anyone has ever harboured such an idea, I would wish to assure him that nothing was farther from the thoughts of members of this Society. We welcome the support and assistance of other societies, and we recognise the value of the good work they do, and we are always willing to work with them, and to acknowledge to the fullest extent whatever may be done by them in the general interests of Philately.

Outside the immediate circle of the Society many events have occurred which are worthy of being placed on record in my report of the doings of the year.

The subject which is uppermost in our minds at the present time—the war in South Africa—has reached a stage which marks an epoch in history, and the incidents of the war are not without their effect upon Philately. Already we have seen the addition of a new possession in the Orange River Colony, accompanied by the issue of stamps denoting the occupation, in the name of the Queen, of the territory of a republic which, having no quarrel with our country, has chosen to throw in its lot with our enemies, and has had to pay the penalty of extinction as an independent state. The events of the past few days are doubtless, also, the prelude to the annexation of the territory of the South African Republic, and the British flag will once more wave supreme over the Transvaal, never again, let us hope, to be lowered

or degraded as in the past. Those who collect the stamps of the British Empire will consequently have to include in the future two new colonies, embracing a large and interesting philatelic addition to a field of study which is already found almost too wide to be undertaken in its entirety, even by the most advanced specialist.

The International Philatelic Exhibition at Manchester, referred to in my last report, was duly held, and proved the great success which was anticipated, reflecting the highest credit upon the Manchester Society and its officers, by whom the work was undertaken.

The changes made and contemplated in the stamps of our own country constitute an event which is worthy of notice. The fourpence-halfpenny value, being no longer required, is to be withdrawn, and the colours agreed upon by the countries comprised in the Postal Union for the denominations of stamps most ordinarily employed, necessitate apparently a change in our own one halfpenny, one penny, twopence, and one shilling values, and may possibly lead to still further changes. The alteration has already been effected in the halfpenny stamps, and that for the one shilling has also been decided upon; and essays of colour for the other two values mentioned have been prepared, and were shown by H.R.H. the Duke of York at a recent meeting of the Society.

The arrangement and classification of the adhesive stamps of the Tapling Collection has been completed during the past year, and Mr. E. D. Bacon is to be congratulated on the termination of his arduous task, and is entitled to the thanks of all Philatelists for the admirable manner in which he has fulfilled the responsible duties entrusted to him, and for the part he has taken in the arrangements which, it is understood, will be made by the Trustees of the British Museum for enabling the collection to be available for reference by the public.

The retirement of Mr. J. B. Moens, after a long and honourable career in the stamp world, is a matter which should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. Those of us who have been privileged to have dealings with him—and who has not at some time had this pleasure?—have never had cause to regret the experience, and all Philatelists will join in all good wishes for the health and happiness of Mr. Moens in his retirement.

A change has lately taken place in the important and responsible office of Controller of Stamps. Mr. J. S. Purcell, who so long and ably occupied this position, has retired into private life, taking with him the heartiest goodwill of all his friends, including the members of our Society, who are mindful of the many services and the great assistance rendered by him in connection with our studies and work. To the expression of our gratitude in this respect we may be permitted to add our congratulations on the increase of rank and honour recently bestowed upon Mr. Purcell by Her Majesty the Queen.

The sale of a well-known collection of European stamps at a figure far exceeding anything hitherto paid for any specialised collection is a matter of importance in the events of the past year. Owing to the ever-increasing difficulty in obtaining stamps in fine condition, it is doubtful if such a magnificent collection could again be formed, and it is highly

satisfactory to know that it will remain in this country and will not be broken up, but will be retained in its entirety.

My remarks would not be in any sense complete without a reference to two notable examples out of the many literary productions of the year. The magnificent work on the stamps of Switzerland by Messrs. Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld is without doubt the most luxurious and complete philatelic publication which has ever been issued. The well-known ability of the authors is a sufficient guarantee that nothing is lacking which could by any possibility have been ascertained in regard to the history of the stamps described. No expense has been spared in the production of the work, and the beautiful illustrations are veritable works of art, and such perfect representations of the original stamps, that it is no wonder that the collection of the stamps themselves has been said to be almost a work of superfluity to the fortunate possessors of a copy of the book. We are proud to be able to claim one of the joint authors, Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, as a member of this Society.

Another remarkable production, a perfect monument of research, is the work on the United States Revenue Stamps, compiled for the Boston Philatelic Society by Messrs. G. L. Toppan, H. E. Deats, and A. H. Holland, all of them members of our Society. I am told that the collection of the materials for this book has involved a labour extending over six years, and I am assured by those who are competent to judge that the results are a perfect and complete history of the extremely difficult subject dealt with.

Many other items of importance to Philatelists are doubtless worthy of mention, but I am reminded that, in recording the work of the Society, it is not usual to make more than a passing reference to general matters, and I fear that I may have already trespassed too much upon your patience in dealing with what occur to me to be the principal points of interest arising in a somewhat eventful year for Philately.

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 1900-1901.

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. | R. Meyer.
E. D. Bacon. | L. L. R. Hausburg. | F. Ransom.
W. Dorning Beckton. | C. E. McNaughtan. | H. J. White.

J. H. Abbott.
E. R. Ackerman.
Major J. G. Adamson.
C. R. Aldrich.
Dr. W. H. Allchin.
Geo. Alston.
P. J. Anderson.
J. M. Andreini.
W. Armistead.
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F. W. Ayer.
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W. Barnard.
A. R. Barrett.
G. B. Barrington.
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Mrs. C. A. Baynes.
R. H. Beamish.
W. D. Beckton
W. Beckwith.
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C. N. Biggs.
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Dr. A. Boswell.
F. Breitfuss.
P. F. Bruner.
Dr. T. J. W. Burgess.
F. F. Burghard.
M. Burnett.
Lieut.-Col. St. L. Burrowes.
M. P. Castle, J.P.
S. M. Castle.
Sidney Castle.
A. W. Chambers.
J. H. Chapman.
W. L. Chew.
Major Chichester.
G. Churcher.
Sir Jas. R. Andrew Clark, [Bart.
H. R. G. Clarke.
H. Clotz.
F. O. Conant
Capt. M. W. K. Connolly.
M. S. Cooke.
Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart.
Surgeon E. Cooper, R.N.
Captain F. Cooper, R.A.
W. W. Corfield.
C. B. Corwin.
W. Cowland.
The Earl of Crawford, K.T.
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.
Edwd. Pole Airley Dry.
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.
H. Ferrier-Kerr.
O. Firth.
Rev. T S. Fleming.
F. A. Foster.
C. E. Fox.
H. Fraenkel.
R. Frentzel.
W. Gaddum.
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.
E. B. Greenshields.
H. Grey.
A. G. Griffith.
E. Sassoon Gubbay.
T. W. Hall.
J. H. Hallett.
W. Harrison.
J. J. Haupt.
L. L. R. Hausburg.
Surgn.-Major A. W. Haviland.
E. Hawkins.
J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.
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.
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.
H. Kropf.
A. B. Langridge.
J. G. Langton.
Philipp La Renotiére.
C. F. Larmour.
F. A. Larmour.
E. Lentz.
E. Levy.
C. Lindenberg.
P. J. Lloyd.
B. Loewy.
M. H. Lombard.
H. Loveridge.
H. F. Lowe.
E. C. Luard.
C. J. Lucas.
A. A. Lyall.
H. H. Lyman.
D. J. Macfie.
T. E Madden.
Dr. F. Mallman.
J. N. Marsden.
Mrs. Marshall.
C. F. D. Marshall.
D. P. Masson.
Major A. B. Maxwell.
T. Maycock.
C. E. McNaughtan.
G. F. Melbourn.
J. W. Mercer.
R. Meyer.
Dr. G. Michelsen.
H. M. Millington.
J. B. Moens.
Major C. J. Everitt Mumby.
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.
Lieut. B. Oxehfvud.
J. V. Painter.
H. G. Palliser.
W. R. Palmer.
Prince Doria Pamphilij.
A. D. Park.
A. Passer.
Dr. A. G. Paterson.
W. Patterson.
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.
Franz Reichenheim.
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.
Gordon Smith.
J. E. Sparrow.
A. H. Stamford.
S. G. Stein.
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. Tollhurst.
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.
T. Martin Wears.
Consul E. F. Weber.
L. S. Wells.
F. West.
A. E. L. Westaway.
Mrs. Weston.
G. O. Wheeler.
H. J. White.
W. E. Williams.
A. H. Wilson.
W. T. Wilson
H. Winckmann.
N. H. Withee.
Baron de Worms.
Baron A. de Worms.
Baron P. de Worms.
G. H. Worthington.

Philatelic Notes.

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

SAMOA'S FIRST ISSUE.

THE international difficulties arising out of a tripartite sovereignty, and their subsequent solution by our withdrawal and the division of interests between the United States and Germany, have done much to create a demand for these stamps. The first issue has long been a vanishing quantity, and a find such as that detailed in the following paragraph contributed to *Mekeel's Weekly* by their San Francisco correspondent is of considerable interest. It appears that the 1d., 6d., and 5s. have been found imperforate, and will be difficult additions to make in completing a collection of the Samoan stamps.

"In a recent consignment from a foreign correspondent Mr. William J. Gardner received, among other desirable things, one entire sheet of the 6d., lilac, first issue, Samoa, imperforate; one entire sheet and a block of four of the 1d., blue, first issue, Samoa, imperforate; a block of four 5s., green, first issue, Samoa, imperforate. Mr. Gardner is not collecting the stamps of this country, so, as is his wont, turned them over to some of his fellow-collectors with others. It was not until they fell into the hands of Mr. Max Ettinger that their real value was apparently appreciated. He at once sent for Mr. A. H. Weber, whose expert knowledge of all stamps is highly valued, and the find was pronounced something unique, as it was the first lot found without perforations, in unbroken sheets, each sheet containing ten stamps. A close examination showed that the 6d. were of the first printing, and that the other two values were of the second printing. Subsequently the find was divided among the following collectors: H. J. Crocker, A. H. Weber, C. Eschman, and Max Ettinger, some securing blocks and some pairs."

Occasional Notes.

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

WE are desired to say that, owing to absence from home, the Expert Committee will be unable to receive any stamps for expertising during the months of July and August next.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

WE are desired by Mr. C. Neville Biggs, the indefatigable Hon. Treasurer of the London Philatelic Society, to notify to all and sundry that he has removed to 16, Pelham Crescent, South Kensington.

THE PARIS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

WE have received from Mr. Albert Coyette the following information respecting the forthcoming Exhibition, which he has been desired to send by the Committee of Organisation, and to which with pleasure we give the desired publicity:—

"This Exhibition, open from the 28th of August to the 9th of September, organised by the Société Française de Timbrologie, has been placed under the high patronage of Mr. Léon Mougeot, Under Secretary of State of Post and Telegraphs of France, and will be held in the French National Society of Horticulture Buildings, No. 84, Rue de Grenelle, Paris. One hundred horizontal show-cases and 1,200 vertical frames are available to exhibitors. All the stamps shown will be insured against fire, while all necessary care will be taken to assure perfect safeguard and vigilance.

"The international jury comprises the best-known philatelic experts of the whole world. There will be numerous rewards (gold, silver, and bronze medals), and a distinct competition for collectors and dealers.

"The Exhibition promises to be a grand success; the admittances are already numerous. We advise collectors and dealers to ask for the prospectus and regulations of the Hon. Secretary of the Exhibition, Mr. Albert Coyette, 138, Rue de Rivoli, Paris.

"Applications for admission are receivable up to June 30th. Persons wishing to correspond in English can write to Mr. Geo. P. Grignard, member of the Committee, 48, Rue St. Ferdinand, Paris. Those desiring to correspond in German can write to Mr. Gustave Beil, member of the Committee, 64, Rue de Batignolles, Paris.

"Twelve show and sale rooms are reserved in the Exhibition halls for dealers desiring to sell stamps to visitors. Only subscribers to these salerooms will be allowed business transactions on the premises of the Exhibiton."

AN ABSENT-MINDED MEMBER!

WILL the member of the London Philatelic Society who, some weeks ago, sent an amount, packed in an incandescent burner case, to the Honorary Treasurer, send his name, etc., to Mr. C. N. Biggs, 16, Pelham Crescent, South Kensington, as the source of the remittance cannot be traced?

THE U.S. BOOKS OF STAMPS.

"THE little stamp books were placed on sale on Wednesday, April 18th, and if the experience of the Post Office in this city can be taken as a sample of the reception which will be accorded them throughout the country, the experiment is a sure success. The books were placed on sale in the morning, and by noon the supply was exhausted. Only 350 books were allotted to the main office, and 200 of the 25 c. books were sent to the principal sub-stations. The books containing 48 c. worth of stamps went off quite slowly, and were not in much demand, but the quarter books went off like hot cakes," says *Mekeel's Weekly*.

Their reception, however, is somewhat of a mixed nature. The *Chicago Post* lets itself thus loose :—

"The Secretary of the Treasury has met the demand for the removal of stamp boxes by buying back bonds, and we think that if people will only buy the postage stamp books in large quantities the Government will be enabled in a few years to reduce a little of the stamp taxation. The beauty of these stamp books is that they are so ingeniously constructed as to permit the stamps to stick to the paper in an incredibly short time; in fact, the purchaser may easily stick up a dollar's worth of stamps in two hours by carrying the book in his pocket, thereby rendering them unfit for use, and largely increasing the national revenues. Of course Uncle Sam never refunds money for worthless goods, and, so far as we can judge, the sole purpose of these much-advertised stamp books is to get money under amusingly false pretences and conduce to general profanity. We repeat that we hope everybody will buy at least one book. He should then buy another, but we fear he will not. It may be decorous, but it is not sweet to be fooled, even for one's country."

PRECANCELLED STAMPS.

LABOUR-SAVING devices connected with the Post Office are always of interest to our readers, and where the scheme shows on the stamps the interest is of additional value to stamp collectors. About fifteen months ago a large Eastern firm notified the Post Office that they proposed mailing several million circulars, which would, of course, strain the service of the largest office in the country. To lighten the labour it was suggested that the stamps be supplied in sheets already cancelled, and as all important firms keep their list of correspondents by towns and states, it would then be able to deliver the mail in sacks ready for delivery to the proper trains without any additional work to the Post Office. The advantages of the plan were at once apparent, and it has been copied at various offices from time to time.

The following examples have come under our notice :—

Attica, Ind., 1 c., horizontal.
Boston, Mass., 1 c., 2 c., horizontal.
Burlington, Vt., 1 c., vertical.
Danbury, Conn., 1 c., horizontal.
Lyner, Mass., 1 c., horizontal.
Milwaukee, Wis., 1 c., vertical.
Minneapolis, 1 c., 4 c., diagonal.
Moline, Ind., 1 c., horizontal.
Racine, Wis., 3 c., 5 c., vertical.

The Metropolitan Philatelist.

PHILATELIC ECHOES FROM THE WAR.

MR. ERIC HAUSBURG, who was invalided home after going through the Spion Kop and other engagements in the Natal campaign, is happily now almost recovered under the fostering care of his brother, Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, recently elected on the Council of the London Society.

Mr. Victor Tapling, the cousin of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., has also returned from his South African expedition, and happily none the worse for his experiences.

Lieut. Stanley Castle has been appointed to the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers ("the Fighting Fifth"), and has had temporary command in the field of a company of this celebrated line regiment.

The Boer seems "slim" enough to know that there is value in the Mafeking Besieged Stamps, as Lady Sarah Wilson writes that her letters, intercepted by the enemy, were all deprived of these stamps, which she had herself affixed. This is borne out by the *Pall Mall Gazette's* correspondent's Mafeking letter of 20th May, wherein he states that the

"Bechuanaland Rifle Volunteers discovered all Snyman's private and other correspondence in the laager immediately after the flight of the Boers. The papers included a number of telegrams and other official documents from Pretoria, which were very interesting and useful to us. Among the remainder was a despatch to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which had been taken from a runner who was captured on May 2. It spoke of the pantomimic and comic-opera character of the Boer attacks, and ridiculed their operations and reflected upon their pluck. Snyman had written no comments upon the despatch, but he had cut the surcharged siege stamps off the envelope! Perhaps he is a Philatelist."

Our contemporary's estimate of the virtues (?) of a Philatelist would appear "away down," as the Americans have it. Sliman—we mean Snyman—would appear to have equal merits as a Philatelist or a fighter, according to Commandant Eloff, whom he cruelly left in the lurch at the final assault on Mafeking.

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.—In addition to the four stamps surcharged "Z.A.R.," mentioned on page 148, we notice two other values of Cape stamps similarly surcharged, chronicled in the *Monthly Circular*, viz. 2 pence on 2d., brown, and 2½d. on 2½d., olive-green. It is stated that only 2,500 copies were issued altogether, and only a small portion of these were used for postage, the remainder, of course, being bought up by speculators. This is a very doubtful issue at best, but in the meantime we had better chronicle it.

We notice in the *M. J.* that a copy has been seen of the 2d. British Bechuanaland, with value surcharged in figures (No. 35 in Gibbons'), in which the figure "2" has a curly tail and is shorter than the ordinary type. It is stated that there was one of each of these in each pane of sixty.

Adhesives. 2 pence on Cape 2d., brown.
2½ ,, ,, 2½d., olive-green.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We had some doubts whether the announcement made in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of a 2s. value in olive and black was correct, thinking it might be a printer's error for 10s., the value given in many journals.

The latter value has reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., and we find it type No. 7 of Gibbons', colour olive and black, wmk. Crown CC, and perf. 14.

Adhesive.

10s., olive and black, wmk. Crown CC; perf. 14.

CANADA.—We have the 3 cents Letter Card surcharged in black "2 c."

Letter Card.

2 c. on Three Cents, carmine on blue.

CEYLON.—Mr. G. C. Alston has kindly sent us a copy of the new 6 cents envelope for foreign postage.

The design is similar in every way to the 5 cents, blue (Gibbons' No. 21); colour brown.

Envelope. Six cents, brown.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The ½d., green, Army Official, has appeared, and a specimen has reached us from Mr. Franz Reichenheim.

Official. ½d., green, Army Official.

HONG KONG.—The *M. J.* states "the surcharges on the cards have got a little mixed, of course. A correspondent sends us a specimen of the first half of the 3+3 card, surcharged '4 cents' in *red*, sloping from upper left to lower right, and the same in *black* from lower left to upper right."

Post Card.

4 c., in red and black, on first half of No. 13.

INDIA.—The *P. J. of India* states that "it has been decided that the Indian Post Office will fall into line with that of other countries in the matter of the colour of its ½, 1, and 2½ annas stamps. Unfortunately this involves a change in the colour of the ¼ and 2 annas also. We fancy that it will be years before we see the 2½ annas in its new dress. The stock in hand of this stamp was estimated to last something over two years while it was the stamp used for all foreign letters. Now that the Imperial Penny Postal Union has started, the stock is likely to last indefinitely. The colour of the ¼ anna stamp has not yet been decided. A light brown shade was objected to by the contractors as liable to confusion with the 8 annas stamp by artificial light. It is probable that a slate-grey will be fixed on. The others are to be:—½ anna, yellow-green (like current 2½ annas); 1 anna, carmine (like current ¼ anna); 2 annas, violet; and 2½ annas, blue."

Bussahir.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a set of stamps stated to be for *this* year. The design seems to be the same as that of 1896, but a change appears to have been made in some of the colours and possibly monogram. The four lower values are pin-perforated about 15–16, and the four higher denominations range apparently from 7–9½.

We make the values, shades, and colour of monogram as follows:—

Adhesives.

¼ anna,	red,	monogram in green;	pin-perf. 15–16.
½ ,,	blue	,,	rose	,,
1 ,,	sage-green,	,,	,,	,,
2 annas,	orange	,,	green	,,
4 ,,	violet	,,	,,	perf. 7–9½.
8 ,,	brown	,,	,,	,,
12 ,,	green	,,	rose	,,
1 rupee,	blue	,,	,,	,,

Duttia.—The *Monthly Circular* mentions having received an envelope of ½ anna of the current type, on laid paper (size $4\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{5}{8}$). The usual seal is impressed in blue-black below the stamp. Also a reply card of ¼ anna (stamp of current type) in red on buff, from which single cards appear to be made simply by tearing the halves apart.

Envelope. ½ anna, green on white.
Post Card. ¼+¼ anna, red on buff.

Kishengarh, it is stated, will in future print its stamps in the following colours:—¼ a., rose; ½ a., blue or green; 1 a., rose; and 1 rupee, green.

JAMAICA.—We are sorry to find this island issuing a pictorial or commemorative stamp, probably the forerunner of a set.

Messrs. Bright and Son have submitted a copy, and we find it is of large size, 1d., lake, wmk. Crown CC, and perf. 14.

The design is a picture of "Llandovery Falls." *Adhesive.* 1d., lake; perf. 14.

MAURITIUS.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* is informed that a new series up to 10 rupees is in preparation, and the *M. J.* has received the current 8 c. card surcharged "2—Cents," in black, in the same type as that employed for the 6 c. on 8 c. last year; the original value on the stamp, and the words "Union Postale Universelle" at the top of the card, are cancelled with *black* bars.

Post Card. 2 c., in black, on 8 c., rose on buff.

NATAL.—According to a South African paper, copies of the 1d. Natal stamp surcharged "Z.A.R." have been seen, but we have not yet heard of any having arrived on this side, and very much doubt whether any have officially franked correspondence.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The 10s. bill stamp, surcharged "Postage," has been received by Messrs. Gibbons, Ltd., with a fresh variety of compound perforation.

Adhesive. 10s., violet and carmine; perf. 12×11.

NEW ZEALAND.—The 6d. value, according to the *Monthly Circular*, has been changed in colour to pink, and we have

another value (8d., green and carmine) to add to the Postage Due list, with the information that a new set of the "Due" stamps will shortly be issued which will be *sold to the public.* The recently issued envelopes are stated to be exactly the same in design as the adhesive labels, and are "printed on the envelopes, the result being unsatisfactory." The colours are:—½d., purple-black; 1d., pale carmine; and the 2d., pale lake—a temporary issue, doubtless.

Adhesive. 6d., pink.
Postage Due. 8d., green and carmine.
Envelopes. ½d., purple-black.
1d., pale carmine.
2d., pale lake.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Five post cards, according to the *M. J.*, have been surcharged "V.R.I.," and some other varieties or errors have come to light.

In the adhesives a 1d., brown, and 1s., orange, with the "V.R.I." surcharge, are known, but of very doubtful character.

The following paragraph is also from our contemporary:—

"One of Mr. Wyndham's letters went down in the *Mexican*, and arrived in a somewhat washed-out condition, but we have been able to decipher it. He adds that the surcharged 1d., *brown*, and 1s., *orange*, are of somewhat doubtful character. Of the former stamp about ten shillings' worth were in the hands of a bank at Bloemfontein, the manager of which got permission to have them made available for use. They were never regularly issued to the public, and the same seems to be the case with the 1s., *orange*. He also states that there were two settings of the surcharge used for the ½d. and 1d. stamps, the second of which shows no errors, but the stops are all of a wrong fount, and, we gather, are higher up than they ought to be.

"Another correspondent tells us that he obtained, amongst other things, from a son who is with his regiment at the front, a block of the ½d. on 3d. of 1896, some of the stamps in which bear double, triple, and even quadruple overprints, and amongst them is a figure '2' that is broader than any of those shown in the Catalogue."

Adhesives.
Surcharged "V.R.I."
1d. on 1d., brown (doubtful).
1s. on 1s., orange ,,
Errors.
No stop after "V."
2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., rose; 6d., ultramarine; 1s., brown, 5s.
No stop after "I."
½d., orange.
No figures.
½d., 6d., rose; 6d., ultramarine; 1s., brown.
No letter "S."
1s., brown.
Post Cards ½d. on ½d., rose.
½+½d. on ½+½d., green.
1d. on 1d., orange.
1+1d. on 1+1d., brown.
1½d. (? 1½d. on 2d., mauve).

SARAWAK.—Yet another value to add to the late new issue.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a 20 cent stamp, colour bistre-brown, value in lilac. The following is from the *M. J.*:—

"A correspondent here tells us that a sheet of the 12 c. of the 1871 issue was surcharged '2 CENTS' upside down, and sold to a Chinaman who used a considerable portion before the error was noticed. How many copies out of the hundred were saved we are not told."

Adhesives.
20 cent, bistre-brown, tablet in lilac; perf. 14.
2 c. on 12 c., red on lilac-rose of 1871; surcharge inverted.

SEYCHELLES.—Writing in *Morley's Philatelic Journal* of this month, Mr. O. Firth claims to have discovered two types of the current 4 cent stamp.

We take the liberty of copying Mr. Firth's interesting description of the differences he has pointed out:—

"TWO TYPES OF THE 4 C., CARMINE AND GREEN, SEYCHELLES POSTAGE STAMP.

"On looking through a number of the 'small head De la Rue' colonial stamps, with circular frame, the writer was struck by the apparent differences between the heads, both of different impressions of the same stamp, and of the different values, as well as by indications that such differences extended to the octagonal-framed stamps, such as those of the Leewards. The difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of all these stamps induced him to confine examination to the Seychelles stamps, in the first place, and the following notes on the 4 c. value are the result.

"It should be most distinctly understood that the following description applies to the two specimens only, and it is very likely that *all* the characteristics may not be found on every copy of the two types. Perhaps the safest guide would be to take the *character* of the nose as the salient feature, calling Type 1 'aquiline' and Type 2—shall we say '*retroussé*'? It should also be understood that while two types of most of the other values probably exist, the differences, while generally of a similar nature, are not to be described in detail in the terms of the following notes.

Type 1.

"1. The fillet of the crown ends before reaching the background lines, and the thin upper line of it continues to the right beyond the vertical line which closes the front jewel division.

"2. The lines of shading across the nose all reach the thick outline of the eye-ball, the lowest of the four forming by its continuation the uppermost line of shading across the cheek below the eye.

Type 2.

"1. The thick lower line of the fillet connects with one of the background lines, and the upper one stops at its junction with the vertical line.

"2. The two lower lines fail to reach the thick one, and the lowest appears as if it would terminate somewhat *above* the line of the cheek shading.

Type 1.	Type 2.
"3. The nose, as a whole, is of a refined order, and somewhat aquiline in type; it is outlined only by the cessation of the background lines until quite near the tip, where a rather light line begins to connect the horizontal lines at the *first* horizontal line above the tip of the nose itself, and continues to the base of the neck, where it joins one of the background lines, forming therewith a somewhat acute angle.	"3. The nose is made to appear as having a blunter tip by the outline, which is thicker than in Type 1, and seems to begin one line higher, ending by a curving angle at its junction with the horizontal line at base of neck.
"The curved line from the upper lip, extending across the cheek, is almost joined by the curved line forming the upper outline of the lower lip; under this latter line the shading is 'split,' a companion line proceeding from the small solid block of colour which accentuates the under lip.	"The lower line is further away from the upper, and is not 'split,' a solid patch of colour resulting.
"4. At the back of the head the uppermost line of the chignon thins off very considerably, and, curving downwards, goes to form an inner line of the curl shading; the short background line, although reaching it, nevertheless does not appear as though a continuation of it.	"4. The line is somewhat more decided, and is rather a continuation of the short background line, though the thin line of curl shading does continue from it.

"5. The pendent curl is formed by different lines of shading in the two types, the chief exterior difference being the continuity of the background line, which touches the bottom of the curl in passing in Type 1, but shows a breach of continuity in Type 2. The difference of the other lines will be appreciated by a comparison of the enlargements, which clearly show the different disposition of the lines of shading."

SOUTH AFRICA. — *Mafeking.* — Messrs. Bright and Son have shown us the 4d. British Bechuanaland stamp (Gibbons' No. 53) surcharged "MAFEKING BESIEGED, 1S."; and from *Ewen's Weekly* we hear the 3d., lilac (Gibbons' No. 13), has also been converted to a 6d. "siege" stamp.

Adhesives.

Surcharged "Mafeking—Besieged."

6d. on 3d., lilac, British Bechuanaland; No. 13 Gibbons.
1s. on 4d. ,, No. 53 ,,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Negri Sembilan.*—Three provisionals are announced in a contemporary as novelties, but, unless we are mistaken, two have been known some time, and are catalogued in Gibbons'.

The third appears new to our pages, and so we give it.

Adhesive.

4 cents on 5 cents, ultramarine (tiger head type); black surcharge.

TONGA.—The *A.J.P.* has received a specimen of the 7½d. stamp of the current issue with the head *inverted*, and is informed that one sheet was found with this variety.

Our contemporary points out that it is a rare occurrence for an error of this kind to appear in the printings of Messrs. Waterlow and Son.

Adhesive.

7½d., green and black (?), with inverted head.

VICTORIA.—It is interesting to hear through *Mekeel's Weekly* that the designs adopted for the "war stamps" are briefly as follows:—

The 1d. stamp (to be sold for 1s.) will show the Victoria Cross, the spaces between the sections of the Cross being filled in by a crossed rifle and sword. The 2d. stamp (to be sold for 2s.) will show a rocky kopje, from the summit of which a picket and two mounted scouts are scanning the horizon across a rolling veldt. No colours yet announced. Philatelists will leave these labels alone, we should think.

The following is a cutting from the *American Journal of Philately*:—

"WAR STAMPS. THE VICTORIAN ISSUE. CONFINED TO THE COLONIES.

"An important inquiry has been made concerning the issue of war stamps by the Victorian Government. The question is: Will the issue be recognised as stamps, or will they be accepted to frank letters to South Africa?

"The Deputy Postmaster-General, Mr. Outtrim, was asked by the *Herald* to elucidate the matter. He explained that the issue was of 20,000 twopenny stamps and 40,000 penny stamps, the use of which was limited to the colonies. This is done under the regulations of the International Postal Union, which lay down that any stamps of a 'commemorative' or similar character are not to be used for international services. The Deputy Postmaster-General thinks this restriction was put in for the benefit of Philatelists. 'At all events,' he said, 'the Philatelists do not recognise this issue of ours, and it is hard to understand why they should oppose it unless for the reason that it will take £3,000 from the public. Very few of the public charity issue were used, most people keeping the stamps as a souvenir, and I suppose it will be the same with the war stamps.'"

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—The new Austrian 5 heller stamp has been seen perf. 12½ × 10½, and the 30 heller is believed to exist in the same condition.

We have also to chronicle a 10 heller envelope, two letter cards, and two post cards.

Adhesives. 5 heller, green; perf. 12½ × 10½.
30 ,, red-violet ,, ,,
Envelope. 10 heller, rose on white; two sizes.
Post Cards. 10 heller, rose on buff.
10+10 ,, ,,
Letter Cards. 6 heller, orange on green.
10 ,, rose on grey.

The new Unpaid Stamps are to be found with various perfs. Mr. Franz Reichenheim sends us the following:—

2 and 5 heller, perf. 10½; 4, 6, 10, 15, and 20 heller, 12½; and 1, 3, 12, 40, and 100 heller, 12½ × 13.

We notice the value 8 hellers, chronicled in more than one of our contemporaries, is not included in this set.

AUSTRIAN LEVANT.—The following is a list of the stamps of the mother country surcharged in Turkish currency for use in the Levant. All surcharges in black.

Adhesives.

10 pa. on 5 heller, green.
20 ,, 10 ,, rose-red.
1 pi. on 25 ,, ultramarine.
2 ,, 50 ,, blue.
5 ,, 1 kr., rose-red.
10 ,, 2 kr., grey-violet.
20 ,, 4 kr., green.

Wrapper.

10 pa. on 5 heller, green.

Post Cards.

20 pa. on 10 heller, rose on buff.
20+20 ,, 10+10 ,, ,,

Letter Card.

1 pi. on 25 heller, dark blue on grey.

BAVARIA.—*Le T.-P.* states that the post cards of 3 pfennig, single and reply, have had an additional 2 pfennig stamp impressed on them in grey in the place of black.

Post Cards.

3+2 pfennig, yellow-brown and grey.
3+3+2+2 ,, ,, ,,

BELGIUM.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim kindly sends us the 1 franc and 2 francs in fresh colours. The Sunday coupon is still retained.

A change in colours is expected in the 10c., 50 c., and 1 fr. Unpaid Stamps, and the 10 cent. Post Card is now in carmine colour, like the 10 c. adhesive.

Adhesives.

1 fr., orange; perf. 14.
2 fr., lilac on white; perf. 14.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

10 centimes, carmine.
50 ,, grey.
1 franc, ochre.

Post Card.

10 centimes, carmine.

BULGARIA.—The *American Journal of Philately* mentions having seen the following values on the new paper:—

Adhesives. 1 s., dull lilac.
5 s., yellow-green.
10 s., salmon.
15 s., yellow.
25 s., dull blue.

CRETE.—It is stated in *Le T.-P.* that the Italian 25 centesimi stamp is to be surcharged 1 piastra for use in the Italian Post Office in Crete.

DENMARK.—Two new stamps in the new currency have been received by the publishers of the *P. J. G. B.*, and a full set may, of course, be expected very shortly. Design is stated to be the same as that of the 5, 10, and 20 ore of 1885.

Adhesives. 1 cent, green.
5 cents, blue.

FRANCE.—When chronicling the 2 francs stamp last month we stated that the control letter was O.

Mr. Franz Reichenheim has kindly pointed out that we were wrong, and that the number "nought" shows that the special sheet from which the pair we described were taken was printed in 1900. Our correspondent may possibly be able later on to give some further interesting information on the subject of numbers showing the year of issue of French stamps.

ROUMANIA.—It is reported that an additional 5 bani stamp has been printed at left of the 5 bani cards, as the postage on letter cards has been raised to 10 bani.

Letter Card. 5+5 bani, green on grey.

SERVIA.—Another value, the 15 paras, lilac, according to the *Monthly Circular*, has been issued on ordinary paper without silk threads.

Adhesive. 15 paras, lilac, on ordinary paper.

TURKEY.—The 20 paras stamp of the current type, which was first placed in circulation in 1892, has since then appeared in rose, but some shipments which we (*The American Journal of Philately*) have recently received show all shades of violet-brown. It is evident that some change of colour has taken place, although we are not able to determine the exact shade which is supposed to be the normal one.

Adhesive. 20 paras, violet-brown; perf. (?)

WURTEMBERG.—*Smith's Monthly Circular* states a stamp of 2 pfennig has been issued for municipal service, and another for ordinary official use, perf. 11 × 11½; also two post cards to correspond.

Official.

2 pfennig, greenish grey (AMTL. Verkehr).
2 ,, ,, (Portopfl Dienstsache).

Official Post Cards.

2 pfennig, greenish grey on cream (two varieties).

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—The following are varieties of perforation, according to the *Monthly Circular*, which have not yet been described:—

Adhesives. 20 reis, blue and yellow; perf. 6.
100 ,, black and rose ,, 9.
200 ,, ,, yellow ,, 9 × 11½.
300 ,, ,, green ,, 9.

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—*Cucuta.*—The *A. J. P.* states that a 20 cent. value of the late provisional has appeared, and the *Revue Philatelique Française* also lists 1 and 2 centavo values.

Adhesives. 1 c., yellow, provisional issue.
2 c., rose ,,
20 c., yellow ,,

Panama.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a Provisional Registration stamp, typographed, black on pale green. The new stamp is somewhat similar to Gibbons' Type 51, but it has "Panama" reading upwards at left, "Colombia" at the top of the right portion, and "10 Centavos 10" below.

The *M. J.* gives another provisional for similar use, but issued before the one described above. The ordinary 10 cent. postage stamps were surcharged "R" in black, and at the time of use with a notation number in blue.

Registration Stamps.
10 c., orange, surcharged "R" in black.
10 c., black on pale green.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—Stamps of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo values have been found necessary, and the *A. J. P.* publishes the copy of a decree to prepare 100,000 of each denomination.

MEXICO.—Further values of the 1899 issue are announced surcharged "Oficial."

Officials.
3 centavos, brown; black surcharge.
5 ,, blue ,,
10 ,, orange and lilac ,,

PARAGUAY.—We understand a new issue has been expected lately.

A correspondent of Messrs. Bright and Son has written them as follows :—

"I have the pleasure in advising you that the Paraguayan Government on the 14th of this month (May) will surcharge without fail 19,975 stamps of 30 cts. postage, green, with '5 cts. Provisorio,' also 9,975 of 50 cts. (a new stamp) with '10 cents. Provisorio.'"

SALVADOR.—The 2 centavos, green, of 1899 reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. surcharged "1900—1 centavo" in two lines.

The *Monthly Circular* announces the Postage Due stamp of 1899 also overprinted "1900" in black for use during the current year.

Adhesive.
1 centavo on 2 c., green, 1899; surcharge in black.

VENEZUELA.—The three higher values of the Escuelas set—3, 10, and 20 bolivars—have received the "Resellada" surcharge.

Escuelas. 3 bolivars, red; surcharged "Resellada."
10 ,, violet ,, ,,
20 ,, red-brown ,, ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—It is reported that the 1 cent and 5 cents have had their colours changed to green and blue respectively, in order to fall in with the Postal Union requirements.

Adhesives. 1 cent, current type, green.
5 cents ,, blue.

JAPAN.—The new Wedding Stamp has reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

It is a large rectangular label, described as follows :—

The Japanese inscription on the right side means, "For the celebration of H.I.H. the Crown Prince," and on the left side means, "Imperial Japanese Post." The large box in the centre of the design is meant to be the box for the sacred cake to be offered to the imperial sanctuary after a marriage. The small box is a letter box which is used for sending communications for the arrangement of matrimony between parties concerned.

The two characters in the lower corners of the stamp are 3 sen.

Messrs. Bright and Son have shown us this stamp surcharged for use in the Japanese Post Offices in China.

Adhesives.
3 sen, carmine-rose; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
3 ,, ,, ,, surcharged for China.

MARSHALL ISLANDS.—Referring to page 123, we beg to state that we have received from Mr. Franz Reichenheim specimens of the 10 and 20 pfg. surcharged "Marshall-Inseln."

Adhesives
10 pfg., red, German surcharged "Marshall-Inseln."
20 ,, blue ,, ,, ,,

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—A permanent set is being prepared. The 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 cents have a view of the Bay of Manila, the 15 and 30 cents a map of the archipelago, and the 1, 2, and 5 dollars an historical subject.—*Monthly Circular.*

PORTO RICO.—The 2 cents U.S.A. surcharged "PUERTO-RICO" has reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

It has been announced that this surcharge has been seen on the other values, which we now list.

Adhesives.
5 c., blue, U.S.A.; surcharged "PUERTO-RICO."
8 c., puce ,, ,, ,,
10 c., brown ,, ,, ,,

Unpaid Letter Stamps.
1 c., lake, U.S A.; surcharged "PUERTO-RICO."
2 c. ,, ,, ,, ,,
10 c. ,, ,, ,, ,,

Post Card.
c., black on buff, U.S.A.; surcharged "PUERTO-RICO."

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's auction closed with sales by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, June 7th and 8th; Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, June 12th; and Mr. W. Hadlow, June 20th and 21st. Sales will reopen, as announced, early in September.

* * *

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER, June 7th and 8th. Gaboon, first issue, complete, 44s. Réunion (21), including errors, 52s. 6d. Roumania, 1864, laid paper, 3 and 30 paras, unused, 42s. British South Africa, set 1891 provisionals, unused, mint, 90s. Boer Republic, 1887, set of eleven stamps, 3d. to £1, on straw, unused, 58s. Cape of Good Hope, 1s. yellow-green, a block of seven, used on piece with 4d. and 6d., 77s. 6d.; provisional, tall narrow "3" on 3d., lilac-rose, *inverted*, used, 67s. 6d. Griqualand, large "G" surcharges, a nice collection of forty-three, used and unused. £6; small capital "G" on 5s., orange, unused, with gum, and twice surcharged, 72s. 6d. Lagos, C. and CC., perf. 14, 1s., orange, with full gum, £6 15s. Natal, surcharged "POSTAGE" in tall capitals, 1s., green, used, £7 10s. Niger Coast, ½d., in violet italics, on 2d., unused, 45s.; ½d., in green italics, on 2½d., blue, unused, 46s.; and 1s., in violet, on 2d., unused, 36s. Orange Free State, provisionals, 4d. on 6d., rose, the four types, used, 42s. Transvaal, ½d. on 1s., green, a block of four showing the *tête-bêche* variety, uncancelled, 77s. 6d.; 2½d. on 1s., green, unused corner block of twelve, including the error, "2/½," all with inverted surcharges, £10 10s.; similar blocks of nine, but without the error, 42s. each; £5, green, a fine horizontal pair, used, 40s.; issue 1895, ½d. on 1s., green, unused block of six, including the error "Pennij," 57s 6d.; and the ½d. on 1s., green, twice surcharged, 40s. U.S.A., 1855, reprints, perf. 12, 5 c., 30 c., and 90 c., unused, 88s. Argentine, 1891, 20 pesos, green, used, 42s.

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON, June 12th. British Bechuanaland, 1900, Baden-Powell's provisional surcharged "Mafeking Besieged," 1s. on 4d., brown and green, used, £6 15s. Canada, 10 c., violet, block of six, unused, 50s. U.S.A., 1856, 90 c., blue, used, £3. Barbados, 5s., rose, Star, unused, no gum 45s. Nevis, CA, 6d., green, heavily cancelled, 63s. New South Wales, laureated, no wmk., 3d., green, unused, but cut into, 65s.; ditto, 8d., yellow, unused, slight cut at left, £12 12s.; 1s., red, diadem, imperf., unused, slightly cut into, 65s. A number of collections sold, the best apparently being one of 3,370 varieties in Imperials for £18, and another in Oppen's (1,107) £11 15s.

* * *

THE Scott Stamp and Coin Co.'s last sale of the season contained the celebrated Deats Collection of revenues.

The result is stated to be very satisfactory, prices ruling from 20 per cent. under to 50 per cent. over catalogue.

So few of our readers—at least on this side—are interested in fiscals, we do not append a list of this sale.

The past auction season in the States appears to have been very good, though our own has undoubtedly suffered from the war. However, we may expect the coming season will find South African affairs more settled, and an improvement will certainly follow in the philatelic market here.

* * *

REUTER'S Special Correspondent, dating from Mafeking on the 11th of May, a week before the relief, says: "There is at present a great postage stamp 'boom' here, and rare varieties are fetching as much as two guineas each." These are doubtless the stamps referred to last month, "Mafeking Besieged," and will probably be highly prized, not only by Philatelists, but by members of the general public, as mementoes of the war. At the recent sale of Messrs. Puttick and Simpson a specimen changed hands at about three times the Mafeking price.

* * *

THE opinion of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that a collection of "beauty spots" will find followers is one that will find endorsement in this country. Handsome engravings and taking designs will be found useful baits to attract the unwary outsider into the philatelic trap, from which—fortunately for the pursuit—there is little hope of egress. Like the harmless household fly in the plate of succulence, each effort but increases the power of attraction! "The Jamaica and Tasmania 'picture' stamps are now on the market, and will doubtless prove good sellers. Governments are beginning to find out that it pays to make the postal issues attractive, both on account of the extra money it brings to the treasury and the advertisement it gives the showplaces of the country. It will not be long before we get a new class of collectors who will make a speciality of these interesting picture stamps, beautiful in themselves and interesting as showing the principal beauty spots of the world."

* * *

THE market outlook in the States would seem to be a favourable one according to American advices. The visible supply of U S. stamps, unused, would seem to be small in relation to the supply, and smart rises in the better sorts are to be apprehended. The J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., referring to their last auction for the winter season, state that "the prices realised were very good, and showed a marked increase over the earlier sales of the season, verifying our prediction earlier in the year that there would be a steady rise in prices as the season advanced. We look to see much higher prices when auctions are resumed in the fall. One peculiarity of the sale was the great increase of out-of-town buyers. In the earlier sales of 1899–1900 the bulk of the buying was for city collectors, whereas nine-tenths of the last sale was for outside account."

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. JULY, 1900. No. 103.

Old Lamps for New.

FROM the perusal of the Council list of the London Philatelic Society for the year 1900–1 in our last issue (p. 172), it will be seen that there are important changes in the *personnel* of that body, though the officers have been re-elected without exception. Although it may well be that there are other men as good and true to fill their places, the members have doubtless herein exercised a salutary discretion. It is among those members of the Council not forming part thereof in virtue of being officials that the most striking change has occurred, and we have to regret the absence of well-known and esteemed names, only four of last year's members still figuring on the list. Mr. Pearce, the ex-Assistant Hon. Secretary, retired some months since, and Messrs. T. Wickham Jones and Gordon Smith, and Major Evans, have all, for various and sufficient reasons, been reluctantly compelled not to again stand for election. We also much regret to notice that the name of Mr. Thos. W. Hall is absent from this year's Council, and both on the score of his abilities as Philatelist and his conscientious hard work in the interests of the Society we trust it will not be long before he again rejoins the ranks of the Council.

It is obvious that these "Old Lamps" are neither wickless nor deficient in oil, and it is in the best interests of every member of the Society that we urge upon the new members of the Council the necessity of carrying on the good work of their predecessors with all the traditional energy of the new broom. The names of the new members of the Council—Messrs. Harold J. White, L. L. R. Hausburg, C. E. McNaughtan, R. Meyer, and F. Ransom—all represent in various measure the three main essentials placed in their relative order of importance in an officer of the Society: (1) Attendance; (2) Philatelic ability; (3) Stamps; and we sincerely hope that their record on all three heads will justify the wisdom of the members in their election.

Transition is inevitable in the life of a Society, and those who in the past have striven for the changes that have been such material factors in the present development of the Society will gladly associate themselves in any further developments emanating from fresh blood, which may tend to increase and strengthen its position.

It must, however, be remembered that the London Philatelic Society is the *doyen* of all such bodies the world over, and that under its august Presidentship it must exercise a greater caution in its evolution than a Society of a more mushroom growth. It should be borne in mind that mere numbers mean nothing—there are striking indications of this on the continents of Europe and America—the aim should be general efficiency and the aggregate power of the members' philatelic abilities and collections. Above all, workers are wanted.

Notes on Ceylon.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on March 30th, 1900.

By BARON PERCY DE WORMS.



LTHOUGH not myself the possessor of a collection, I have nevertheless taken a keen interest in stamps, and having had the opportunity of studying my brother's collection of Ceylon, I ventured to make a few notes on the stamps of that colony. These notes, I trust, may prove of some slight interest, as I believe they include some points not found in the work published by this Society in 1892.

It has not, I think, been pointed out that the lettering of the word "CEYLON" on the 4d., 8d., 9d., and 2s. is larger in each succeeding value.

A few years ago some specimens of the 6d. were discovered on *bleuté* paper without watermark, but in the same colour as the issued stamps. They are no doubt proofs, and very probably account for the non-existence of plate proofs of this value in black.

The Imperforate Issue.

The 6d. is chronicled as having been first sent out to the colony on May 14th, 1858. A pair on *bleuté* paper is here shown, postmarked "London, January 28, 1858." These stamps must, therefore, have been issued at the end of 1857.

I have never come across a specimen of the 9d., brown, with satisfactory margins, and in consequence have some doubts as to its existence.

The 1s. 9d. is said to have been despatched to the island on one occasion only, viz. February 7th, 1859, when 5,000 stamps were sent out. It appears probable that further consignments were forwarded, as this value is the commonest octangular stamp, especially unused, and all the other values were sent out more than once and in larger numbers. It is the only one of that shape found in two distinct shades, viz. green and yellow-green, and the

earliest mention of the latter shade that I know of is in the *Philatelist* of September, 1867. I have never seen the yellow-green stamp postmarked otherwise than with an oval of thick bars, having the letter "A" in the centre. This obliteration is, as a rule, found on the later stamps of the "Crown and CC" issue, which were in use about 1867. The fact of there being two shades, one of which was used at so late a period, tends, I think, to show that the 1s. 9d. was printed and sent out on more than one occasion. This may account for the 1s. 9d., perforated, not having been issued.

The Perforate Issue.

Specimens are occasionally met with perforated compound on the same side. This is due to the irregular spacing of the perforating needles.

The stamps with rough perforations are placed before those which are clean-cut. As all clean-cut specimens are in the shades of the imperforate issue, whilst the later shades are only found with rough perforations, most probably the clean-cut appeared first.

I might here point out that the colours of the 4d., clean-cut and rough, are reversed, evidently by an oversight.

The 8d., brown, with clean-cut perforations, and the 1s., perforated twice horizontally, are shown.

The 10d., perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, is chronicled, but its existence is very doubtful.

The "No Watermark" Issue.

This set was undoubtedly issued in 1862. I have here the 9d., dated "29/12/62."

In the *Philatelic Record* of March, 1889, Mr. Thornhill described the 1s., watermarked with the letter "D." I have since found all the other values, with the following letters and figures:—

Value.	Watermark.	Value.	Watermark.
1d. (pair)	TH	6d.	R
5d.	H	1s.	D
6d. (pair)	TH	6d.	62
6d.	ND	9d. and 1s.	18

The figures are evidently the year of manufacture of the paper, which is believed to have been made by T. H. Saunders. This is practically certain to be correct, as that name comprises all the above letters in the proper order, and the initials, T and H, are larger than the other letters.

The 1d. is also found with a very irregular perforation, gauging about $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Copies of the 5d., perforated twice vertically, and of the 1s., imperforate, are shown. The latter is probably a proof.

The $\frac{1}{2}$d. value, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, is included with this set, but as it does not vary in length, is never found watermarked, and has a perforation of a gauge different from all the other values, I have come to the conclusion that this stamp is printed on the same variety of paper as the imperforate $\frac{1}{2}$d. of 1858.

The "Crown and CC" Issue.

It has long been known that this issue varies considerably in substance of paper and length of stamp. Some years ago, noticing that these stamps

have two varieties of watermark, I was prompted to closely examine the numerous shades of each value, and thus discovered that the issue consists of two distinct series, which are printed on different varieties of paper having different watermarks, and producing stamps of different lengths.

The paper first used is rather thinner and softer than the second. The sheets are watermarked in four panes of sixty Crowns and CC arranged in ten horizontal rows of six. The panes, which are each inclosed by a single line, are divided vertically by a plain strip 10 mm. broad, and horizontally by a strip 25 mm. broad, watermarked "Crown Colonies" in outline block capitals. These words also appear twice in each of the side, but not in the top or bottom margins.

The average length of the Crowns and CC is 22½ mm., and the vertical distance between them 1½ mm.

Owing to the plates being constructed in one pane, the values on this paper are printed without regard to the watermark. As the stamps measure 26 mm. and the space between them 1 mm., it follows that each stamp has one complete Crown and CC and about 3 mm. of the next. The difference in length between the stamps and watermarks is partly made up by including the strip containing the words "Crown Colonies," but there still remains a balance of about 35 mm. I believe this was obtained by printing the first and last rows of stamps more or less on the top and bottom margins of the sheet. This view is somewhat confirmed by the numerous copies found only partially watermarked. The tenth and eleventh rows have parts of the words "Crown Colonies" as a watermark.

The space of 10 mm. dividing the panes vertically is also included, but as the difference amounts to less than 1 mm. per stamp, it is almost too slight to be measurable.

The second paper is hard and tough as compared with the first, and to some extent resembles that of the "no watermark" issue. The sheets have 240 Crown and CC watermarks in twenty horizontal rows of twelve not divided into panes, the whole being inclosed by a single border line. All four margins contain the words "Crown Colonies." The Crowns and CC are 21 mm. long and are 6 mm. apart vertically, as they are spaced horizontally so as to equal the breadth of a stamp, it will be seen that specimens on this paper have exactly one watermark, and that it was evidently specially watermarked to fit the plates.

The two papers are easily distinguished by the distance between the watermarks and the shape of the C's, which are oval in the first and circular in the second.

Copies on the first paper are not less than 26 mm. long, whilst those on the second do not exceed that length. As in the case of the "no watermark" issue, this variation in length is caused by the different nature of the two papers.

With the exception of the ½d. and 1s., all values were printed on both papers. Certain shades exist only on the first paper, and others only on the second, a few, however, are found on both; these can be distinguished by the watermark.

The earliest specimen on the first paper I have seen is a 6d., dated

February, 1864, and on the second is a 10d., vermilion, postmarked "Kandy, February 11th, 1867." This paper must therefore have come into use about the end of 1866.

In 1867 two values were entirely changed in colour, viz. the 2d. to maize and the 5d. to olive-green. They exist in the new colours on both papers, and are respectively chronicled in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of August and October, 1867.

The 5d., first paper, is shown dated "Colombo, June 29th, 1867," and the second paper "London, December 2nd, 1867."

I have seen pairs of the 6d., 9d., and 2s. in all the shades of the stamps as first issued on wove unwatermarked paper, imperforate. They appear to be proofs.

The following imperforate proofs exist:—

First Paper.	Second Paper.
½d., lilac, deep lilac.	1d., pale blue, deep blue.
2d., grey-green, maize.	6d., dark brown.
5d., olive-green.	9d., dark brown.
	10d., orange.

The 2d., maize, has the watermark inverted, and the 5d. is not in quite the same shade as the issued stamp.

The ½d. exists only on the first paper, possibly owing to the different mode of printing this value.

A scarce variety is the 1d., first paper, in dark indigo, perforated 11½.

The 1s. value was only printed on the second paper. This is accounted for by the issue of the large stock of star watermark 1s., discovered in 1862, the last supply of which was sent out on September 1st, 1866, and would have lasted about three months. The second paper, as already shown, was in use towards the end of that year, so the following supply of the 1s. value would be printed on that paper.

The 1d. of 1868 is also found imperforate.

First Paper.	Second Paper.
½d., mauve, lilac, deep lilac.	½d. None.
1d., dark blue, indigo.	1d., pale blue, Prussian blue.
2d., yellow-green, deep green, grey-green, emerald-green, maize.	2d., maize, olive-yellow, orange-yellow.
4d., lake-rose, pale rose.	4d., light to dark rose.
5d., light to dark carmine-brown, dark sage-green, light sage-green.	5d., light sage-green, olive-green, myrtle-green.
6d., brown, bistre-brown, chocolate, deep brown.	6d., deep brown, red-brown.
8d., light to dark carmine-brown.	8d., light carmine-brown, deep carmine-brown.
9d., brown.	9d., bistre-brown, deep brown.
10d., vermilion.	10d., vermilion, orange.
1s. None.	1s., lilac, light to deep violet.
2s., dark blue.	2s., pale blue, ultramarine, Prussian blue.
1d., indigo, perf. 11½.	

The order of this list is probably that in which the stamps were issued.

The Service Stamps.

The word "SERVICE" on the 2d., 6d., 8d., 1s., and 2s. varies in length from $12\frac{3}{4}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm. These values are all on the second paper.

The shade of the 2s., imperforate, is rather darker than that of the perforated stamp.

The Cents Issue.

The following, watermarked Crown and CC, are found used, I believe, only on newspapers, with a broad ink line down the stamp:—

2 c., brown, perforated 14 and $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
4 c., lilac-rose.

8 c. should be added to the imperforate varieties.

2 c., 4 c., and 2 r. 50 c. all exist perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and the 32 c. is found perforated $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. The two last were not issued in this condition.

A block of five of the 20 c. on 64 c., comprising three horizontal rows, is shown with double surcharge on the centre row and single on the others.

The 32 c. surcharged 5 c., 20 c., and 25 c. is found in dark grey, a shade which is not known unsurcharged.

10 c. on 24 c., green, and on 64 c., perforated 14, are surcharged at the bottom, whilst the 10 c. on 24 c., purple-brown, and on 64 c., perforated $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, have the surcharge in the centre. The last-named is scarce used.

15 c. on 16 c. has the new value either in the centre or at the bottom. There is a variety with the first "E" of "FIFTEEN" in smaller type than the rest of the word. This is also found in these two positions.

The 1 r. 12 c. in figures on 2 r. 50 c. is watermarked sideways.

The 1 r. 12 c. stamp of 1887 is found on both *bleuté* and white papers watermarked sideways, and on white paper watermarked upright.

A variety of the 5 c. on 15 c. has the "s" of "Cents" inverted.

The 1 r. 12 c., surcharged "Service," has the watermark either sideways or upright. The variety on *bleuté* paper is not known with this surcharge.

The "Postal Commission," italic type, is found on the 4 c., rose, in black, and on the 4 c., lilac-rose, surcharged twice, once in black and once in blue.

The following varieties of the Roman type exist in black on the 4 c., both lilac-rose and rose:—

1. The first "s" of "Commission" inverted.
2. The "s" of "Postal" inverted.
3. "Cents" spelled "Ceuts."

No. 3 is not an inverted "n."

The "Pence" Issues of the Envelopes.

The embossed head of the 1d., Dies I. and II., and of the 2d. is not identical with that of all the other values. The chief points of difference are as follows:—

1d. AND 2d.	OTHER VALUES.
Six pearls and four stars in diadem.	Seven pearls and five stars in diadem.
Four pearls in comb.	No pearls in comb.
Hair divided at the point.	Hair not divided.
Die number.	No die number.
Neck curved at base.	Neck straighter at base.

The small pearls in the diadem of the 1d. and 2d. are less numerous than in the other values.

Die I. of the 1d. has a white speck on the solid groundwork, between the "Y" and "L" of "CEYLON." This mark is absent from Die II.

The 4d. and 5d. have respectively sixty-four and sixty-two pearls in the oval.

The 8d. and 2s. differ somewhat in design. In the 8d. the inner frame and value are straight, while in the 2s. they are both curved.

It is stated that these envelopes were sold only in packets. A band from a packet of the 1d. value is shown, which gives the price of one as 1¼d., two 2¼d., and so on up to twelve, thus showing that the 1d. could be obtained singly.

Proofs of the 4d., 6d., 8d., 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. are shown in the colours of issue, and of the 4d., also in dark blue, on thick glazed *wove* paper. The 4d., pink, 8d., 1s. 9d., and 2s. bear the word "Specimen" in manuscript.

The 1s. die appears to have been damaged, as this value nearly always has the design broken at the extreme edge, between the letters "A" and "E" of the word "POSTAGE." The proof described above and an impression on an envelope with the B flap ornament are the only specimens I have seen without this defect.

The following unchronicled varieties are shown: 2d. with the laid lines running from the right upper to the left lower corner of the envelope; both B and C flap ornaments exist. 8d. and 9d., B flap ornament, laid vertically; the 6d., C flap ornament, laid vertically, which is given only on the authority of Moens, is also shown. This variety is mentioned in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of December, 1869, vol. vii. p. 188.

The paper on which the second issue of the 6d. and the 10d. are printed is watermarked "De La Rue & Co.," with the date "1867" underneath. Both values are found with and without parts of this watermark.

Notes on the Stamps of Uganda.

A Paper read before the Leeds Philatelic Society, March 21st, 1899.

By T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH, Hon. Sec.



I HAVE been interested in the stamps of this British Protectorate from their first issue, and a short time ago I had the pleasure of seeing my esteemed friend the Rev. F. Rowling, of the Church Missionary Society (who has returned from Uganda on leave of absence), and of gaining some authentic information regarding them. I desire to acknowledge his courtesy in furnishing me with all the details in his power.

When first these primitive labels made their appearance in England they were received with something like contempt, and held up to ridicule, while the editor of one of the leading philatelic journals facetiously suggested that

the "U.G." might just as well stand for "U. Goose" as "Uganda"! However, this state of feeling has changed, and they have been given a place in the programme of the Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, and are thought worthy of being advertised as rarities—as, indeed, some of them undoubtedly are.

I cannot ascertain the exact date of the first issue, but it must have been early in 1895, as I have an envelope received by Mr. Rowling at Lubas, Busoga, on the back of which he has made the following memo.:—

"13/4/95. Our Uganda POST. This is from the Ven. Archdeacon Walker, just come in this evening. The U.G. is for Uganda: the 50 for 50 Shells (4d.) postage from Mengo here. The 25 must be the new rate (2d.): probably they thought 50 too high, as I did. You see it is 'stamped' with a pencil: a × in ink was the last one I received."

This issue was typewritten in grey-black for the Government authorities by the Rev. E. Millar, at Mengo, on very thin white laid paper; imperforate and ungummed. The design consisted of "U.G." in the upper corners, with the value in shells (native currency) in numerals in the centre; shape, upright rectangular, measuring 24½ to 25 mm. × 17½ to 23½ mm. The stamps were divided by dashes, like roulette marks, placed much closer at the top and bottom than at the sides. They are often found stained by the gum, which was "original," being used direct from the plant. There was a legend on the margin of the sheet indicating the number and value of the stamps contained therein, to save time in ascertaining the total value of the sheet, which consisted of stamps of various values. I possess only fragments of this legend, such as "22 Stam," "11 at 25," "Shells," etc. These stamps were available for postage throughout the entire Uganda Protectorate, where any post had been established, the rates being according to distance—roughly speaking, 25 shells per ounce per 100 miles. I give the values as catalogued:—

*5 shells	30 shells
*10 „	35 „
*15 „	40 „
*20 „	*50 „
*25 „	*60 „

I have only seen those starred.

I have also the following provisionals, but of course there may be others:—

10 on 50
15 „ 50
25 „ 50
50 „ 60

This issue, fortunately, is the only one which includes any of these objectionable surcharges.

Subsequent Notes.

Collectors of Uganda stamps are greatly indebted to Mrs. Bazett for the interesting information she has published in the March number of the

London Philatelist; among other items, for the exact date—March 15th, 1895—of the first issue.

It will be seen from the measurements I give that some of the stamps of this issue are quite as narrow as those of the second (violet) issue. The colour may best be described as a dull olive-green.

Second Issue.

Design as first; colour changed to violet. Typewritten by Mr. Millar on thin white laid paper; imperforate and ungummed; probably issued towards the end of 1895, as I have one of the first issue used and dated October 14th, 1895. The size is much more uniform, measuring 25 × 17½ mm.

Values.

5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, and 100 shells, of which I possess all, *used*, except the 100.

Variety.

20 shells. Two "G's" in right-hand top corner; one crossed out.

Subsequent Note.

It will be seen from the above that the 30 and 40 shells values marked with a "?" on page 68 (March, 1900) *were* issued and used. It does not appear from Mr. Millar's letter which issue the 35 and 45 values printed for Dr. Ansorge belong to, and they do not seem to have been postally used.

Third Issue.

Exact date of issue not known, but probably early in 1896. Typewritten in violet on thin white laid paper; imperforate and ungummed. Size, 25 × 17½ mm.; design, at top "V.96.R"; centre, figures of value; bottom, "UGANDA." The stamps are separated by *apparently* continuous lines at top and bottom, and by dashes at sides like roulette marks.

Values Catalogued.

5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 100 shells.

Fourth Issue.

In the *London Philatelist* for May, 1897, in the list of New Issues may be found the following:—

"UGANDA. We have received specimens of another issue for this territory, the postal arrangements in which have met with such success that the missionaries' typewriter has been supplanted by the Government Printing Press as a means of producing the stamps, etc."

This is incorrect, as although the typewriter was supplanted, the Government again solicited the services of the missionaries in the production of their postage stamps. The design (approved October 31st, 1896) was the work of the Rev. F. Rowling, of the C.M.S., who also set up the type, and superintended the printing by his native "boy." Mr. Rowling's fount of

type being very limited, he was unable to set up more than sixteen stamps, which he arranged in four rows; and even then he had to put in a different "O," which explains the variety of a smaller "O" in the ninth stamp. The sheet consisted of thirty-two stamps in two panes of sixteen, printed, of course, at twice, the paper being always reversed for the second printing. The panes are mostly printed side by side, but in the sheet of three annas in my collection the panes are placed one above another. The same block was used for all values, the ornaments being changed with each value. The stamps were divided horizontally by continuous lines, but the vertical separating lines were detached, and differ in the higher values.

Mr. Rowling informs me that, with the exception of the 5 rupees, there were two printings of all the values from the same type; but I have a 1 anna stamp with a tall thin figure of value, very different from any stamp in the entire sheet of the second printing, and which could only belong to and constitute a variety in the first printing.

The value now appears in annas and rupees. The 1, 2, 3, and 4 annas were printed in black on white, thick wove paper, and the 8 annas, 1 and 5 rupees on yellowish, thin wove paper. The stamps were imperforate and ungummed, with the exception of a few sheets which Mr. Rowling gummed before leaving Uganda for his trip home. Some, if not all, of the values of this issue were overprinted with a large and ugly-shaped "L" by the Government officials, and were intended for local use, but after a short time the idea was abandoned, and they were also used on letters going to the coast. The rates of postage at this time will be found in the *London Philatelist* for October, 1897.

The first printing was completed and sent to the Government for issue on November 7th, 1896, and consisted of 29,000 stamps, with a total value of a little over 12,000 rupees.

Values.

1, 2, 3, and 4 annas, on thickish, white wove paper; 8 annas, 1 and 5 rupees, on thin, yellowish, wove, foreign notepaper, faintly ruled blue.

The second printing, completed July 2nd, 1897, consisted of 30,000 stamps, all values except the 5 annas.

Varieties.

Small "o" in "POSTAGE," ninth stamp; all values. 1 anna, tall, thin figure of value; first printing.

Fifth Issue.

I have just received a set of the new issue, of very handsome design, which will be found described and illustrated in the *London Philatelist* for November and December, 1898.

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.

OUR esteemed correspondent M. Moens apparently felt somewhat aggrieved at the closing sentence in our last remarks on this stamp (see p. 45, February, 1900), but it is needless to say that the appellation of a "philatelic Dr. Leyds" applied solely to the informants who had misled M. Moens, whose absolute good faith we have always loudly proclaimed. It would seem that for the second time our Belgian friend was misled, and that he now returns to his first love, and accepts the authenticity of the stamp. We can but blindly follow in his wake without sight of the specimens, and hence note the latest phase of the case.

In the November number of the *London Philatelist*, 1899, p. 297, we reported that the 2 reales, blue, had been seen *se tenant* with a 6 reales, blue, and hence, despite our own and other opinion, must be a stamp, and not an essay. On page 45, February, 1900, we report that M. Moens, unable to see the stamps themselves, had enlisted the services of a Parisian colleague, who had pronounced the stamps as forged. Here endeth the second lesson!

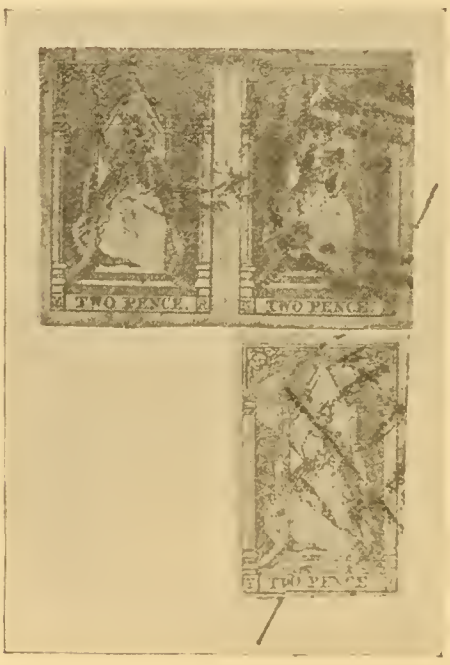
In the August (!) number of the *Timbre-Poste* (published in May!) M. Moens now writes: "Having made general inquiries about the 2+6 reales, blue, 1851, so marvellously discovered by the unobliging Vives, we have heard from M. Mahé that he was fortunate enough to see this famous pair, and that he considered it as undoubtedly genuine. The question is therefore settled. The 2 reales, blue, is an error, arising from the fact that a *cliché* of that value was discovered in the place of the 6 reales, an error that without doubt was promptly rectified. We acknowledge, then, that we have been wrong in considering this 2 reales, blue, as an essay, and that we were wrong in believing what had been written to us from the *Imprimerie Royale du Timbre*, 'that this 2 reales was a particular essay that M. Bartholomé Coromini, the engraver of the stamp, had kept in his collection, which he afterwards sold to his cousin, M. Estruch.'"

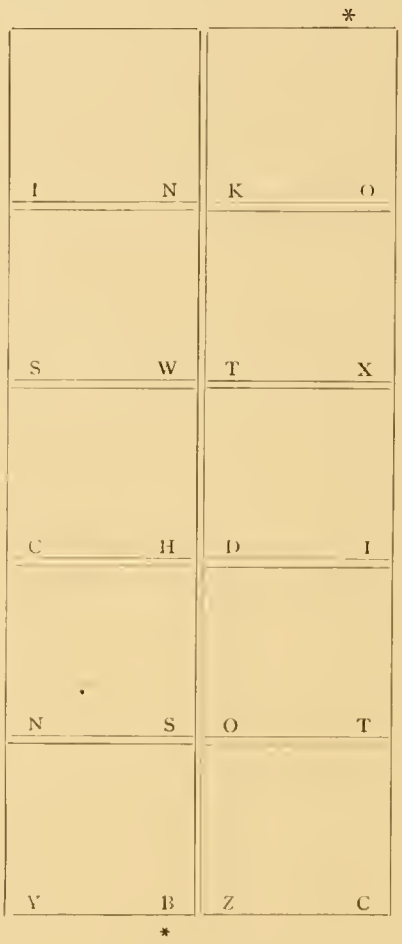
M. Mahé is not likely to make a mistake upon a point that must be of extreme interest to him, and we must, like M. Moens, put on philatelic sackcloth and ashes, and cry "*Peccavi*" for our sins. Faith is evidence of things unseen, and the latter being our experience as regards this stamp, the former was not evolved in our philatelic conscience. The late Mr. Westoby was, however, an unflinching advocate of the true status of this stamp, and nothing within the four corners of Philately would have interested him so much had he been happily spared but a few months longer. There can be no doubt of the extreme rarity of this stamp, and it must be almost *primus inter pares*. The Cape errors, the U.S. 1869 inverted centres, the inverted

West Australia, or even the Spain 25 mils. 1867 inverted frame, must all pale their fires before this error, which, *se tenant* with a normal specimen, should be the rarest error in the philatelic world.

VICTORIA: FULL-LENGTH 2d.

In the January number of this year's *London Philatelist*, page 44, we made reference to a variety of a defective transfer with resultant broken frame, etc., that had hitherto escaped notice. We have since received an interesting letter from our friend M. F. Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg, who seems to spread his philatelic net so wide that naught escapes it. Our correspondent informs us that this variety was well known to him, as he had long possessed it in a horizontal pair, which he kindly forwards for our inspection accompanied by a specimen of the well-known variety of the broken steps. M. Breitfuss points out that the latter stamp comes directly beneath the new-found variety, and that it probably emanates from the same flaw or crease in the transfer paper. He further suggests that it is probable that this crease extends right up the sheet, when, if carried on in the direction indicated by the stamps lettered "Y B" and "N S," it would intersect the following stamps: On third row, lettered "D I"; on the second, "T X"; and on the first, "K O." We give a rough sketch of the positions





* Asterisks show possible continuation of the break or crease in the transfer.

of these stamps on the plate, the broken slips being the forty-eighth stamp in the last row on the plate (five rows of ten), and the new variety being No. 38 on the fourth row. We also give an illustration of M. Breitfuss' stamps, which will indicate the line the break would follow if continued. We are, however, doubtful if this crease or ruck in the paper continued beyond these two specimens, as these rucks were naturally not of very alarming proportions, or they would have attracted the notice of the operator. In similar instances, as in the case of the first 4d. of West Australia and the $\frac{1}{3}$ and 3 silbergroschen of the third issue of Oldenburg, no specimens of contiguous errors have been found, nor do they generally extend to any considerable length on the individual stamps. It would seem that this transfer paper—Chinese paper, as the Germans call it—is of very thin material, and that the creases hence easily occur, and are generally independent of each other.

We are much indebted to M. Breitfuss for his information, and take this opportunity of pointing out that the deviations from the normal design in the case of the broken steps are by no means confined to this feature, as can be ascertained by an examination of our illustration. Following the crease, or line of deviation, upwards, we note—

Bottom outer line: Broken.
"TWO" reads practically "TVO."
Steps: All three broken.
Vertical fold of dress: Displaced.
Queen's arm: Withered.
„ neck: Nearer right side of throne.
Throne: Right-hand projection almost disappeared.

There were several distinct plates of this interesting stamp, and it may yet be that other varieties of defective transfer may be discovered by the diligent searcher, who would oblige us by giving our readers the benefit of any discovery.

QUEENSLAND.

MR. O. FIRTH has kindly submitted to us a specimen of the 6d., green, Queensland of 1882–3, in which the inscription reads "IAND" instead of "LAND," a variety that, as far as we are aware, has not yet been chronicled.

"The letter "I" is almost perfect, but projects a little at the base on the right side, and a minute white dot or mark between the "I" and "A," near the base of the left stroke of the letter "A," can also be distinguished.

The stamp is used with a normal specimen, being an unsevered vertical pair, on an envelope postmarked "Maryborough [?], Feb. 23rd, 1887," and was received in York (England) on April 18th, 1887, the perforation gauging 12.

This variety is, of course, similar to the "LA" joined on the lower values, and, arising from defective transfer of the original design, is no doubt

repeated on the sheet, although it is strange that it should have remained so long unnoted.

SUDAN.

THE issue of 1897, that of the current Egyptian type surcharged with legend "Soudan" in English and Arabic, has offered a tempting bait to the unscrupulous maker of inverted surcharges, which have been freely made in the land of the Pharaohs. The 1 mil., brown, has, however, been authenticated, and it would seem that the 5 mil., carmine, can be added to the list. At a recent meeting of the Philatelic Society of Egypt M. Cantel Bey, the President, exhibited an entire sheet—or rather pane—of sixty stamps of the 5 mils., having the surcharge inverted, which emanated from a lot of these surcharged specimens acquired directly from the Sudan Postal Department. A fragment of a sheet of the 1 mil. was also exhibited.

TRINIDAD: FIRST ISSUE.

IN destroying old papers quite recently, Mons. Moens came across a letter written by Mr. William Eversley, the Postmaster-General of Trinidad, on February 8th, 1864. It is very interesting, and confirms the present theories as to the values of some of the early stamps of this island.

The following is a retranslation by the *M. J.*:—

"The value of the *grey*, *blue*, and *red* stamps, which you mention in your first three questions, was 1 penny; they were issued under Ordinance No. 6, passed on April 4, 1851, 'For Establishing a Postal Service for the Interior of the Island.'

"By that Ordinance, the Governor was authorised to issue stamps under Clause xii., and to appoint, under Clause xiii., the persons permitted to retail the stamps.

"The commission allowed was 5%. It is now 7½% for persons authorised to sell stamps, and 10% for private persons who keep a post office or rather a letter-box; also 5% to the public on purchases of £10 worth of stamps at a time.

"The value of the *red* stamps has always been and is still 1d. each, but I cannot tell you the exact date when the different stamps were issued. As to the colour of the paper (?)* that is quite accidental. The same is the case with other values; thus the current shilling stamps are *lilac*—they were first received from England in that colour about the middle of last year (1863), and it was at about the same date that stamps of all values were received perforated.

"The 1s., *blue-black*, was issued in 1859; the 6d. and the 4d. in another shade of *lilac* were issued about the middle of the same year (1859)."

* This is thus marked in *Le T.-P.*, but no doubt one of the questions related to the *white* and *blued* papers.

Occasional Notes.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

THE Society's Rooms at Effingham House will, by order of the House Committee, be CLOSED from July 30th to August 20th inclusive. Communications by letter may, however, be made as usual.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1900.

We are desired to publish the following financial statement.

Receipts and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance April 1st, 1899	126	14	8
Subscriptions received—			
Annual 266 17 0			
Commuted 14 5 0			
	281	2	0
Entrance Fees	23	2	0
Sale of Society's Works	116	12	6
Loan from Deposit Account, 1899–1900	91	1	0
Sundry Receipts	13	11	4
Advance by Hon. Treasurer	26	0	8
	£678	4	2

	£	s.	d.
Paid for *London Philatelist*	32	0	6
Printing, Stationery, Postages, &c.	57	1	9
Rent—three quarters	84	7	6
Office and House Expenses	83	11	10
Paid on Account of "British Isles" Work	271	17	6
Grant to War Fund and Medals Manchester Exhibition	17	16	0
Bank Commission, Cheque Book, and Sundry Petty Expenses	2	17	11
Balance at Bank	128	11	2
	£678	4	2

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
Rent—one quarter	28	2	6
Due on Account of *London Philatelist*	30	0	0
Loan	50	0	0
Due on Account of "British Isles" Work	25	13	6
Sundry Debts	12	7	0
Due to Hon. Treasurer	26	0	8
	172	3	8
Balance, being Surplus of Assets over Liabilities	568	6	6
	£740	10	2

Assets.	£	s.	d.
Cash at Bank (including £106 15*s.* 6*d.* due to Deposit Account)	128	11	2
Subscriptions Due but not yet Paid	143	19	0
Furniture, Fixtures, Pictures, Library, &c.	220	0	0
Stock of Society's Works	248	0	0
	£740	10	2

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

WE are desired to say that, owing to absence from home, the Expert Committee will be unable to receive any stamps for expertising during the month of August.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

WE are desired by Mr. C. Neville Biggs, the indefatigable Hon. Treasurer of the London Philatelic Society, to notify to all and sundry that he has removed to 16, Pelham Crescent, South Kensington, S.W.

PHILATELIC ECHOES FROM THE WAR.

AFFAIRS in Pretoria seem reverting to their normal course, according to recent advices from the Transvaal capital, which state that "a market has been opened, and farmers, having signed the oath, are permitted to bring in waggons, oxen, and servants for the purpose of transporting produce to the town unmolested. Transvaal stamps, surcharged "V.R.," are being sold, but only a limited number are allowed to each purchaser, in order to prevent speculation." These are slowly percolating in this country, but, we are inclined to believe, will not be scarce, with here and there an exception, as in the case of the Orange River Colony, surcharged "V.R.I."

The Cape stamps surcharged "Mafeking Besieged" are gradually turning up, as was to be anticipated. The *Glasgow Evening News* recently announced the sale of seventeen specimens for the benefit of a War Fund, which realised exactly one pound apiece. These were possibly a "snap" under existing conditions of supply at this price, although the worthy Editor indulges in a pæan of delight at his great victory over the waste-paper basket!

A SET-BACK TO SEEBECK II.

WE are delighted to read in a letter from a well-informed correspondent that the ambitious Doctor who succeeded to the throne of King Seebeck I. is apparently not in for such a brilliant *coup* as he expected. Our friend writes:—

"Seebeck, or his successor, has been nicely 'sold' over the Salvador contract. The wheel surcharge is now put on the stamps to make them available for postage, so that those in Seebeck's successor's hands are not and never were available for use. Remainders of the last issue without the wheel surcharge are therefore not postage stamps. The surcharged ones are not sold below face value."

This is delightful news, and we trust may be borne out by facts.

M. MOENS' LIBRARY.

MONSIEUR MOENS had informed the philatelic world of the disposal of his extensive and valuable library, but had not revealed its future home. It would appear that this is in America, according to *Mekeel's Weekly*, the purchaser having been a well-known collector of stamp-lore.

"The entire library of M. Moens has been transplanted to Massachusetts, and in the future Mr. F. J. Laurie, of Worcester, is to be its proud possessor. Mr. Laurie takes a deep interest in philatelic literature, particularly French, and American Philately is to be congratulated upon the fact, not only that the library is presented to him in a practically complete condition, but that it is hereafter to add lustre to the work on this side of the Atlantic."

We congratulate our American friends heartily hereon with—be it said—a sigh that M. Moens' volumes do not repose upon bookshelves nearer home!

A BAD PROSPECT FOR PHILATELY!

THE all-wise daily papers are so constantly occupied with Philately that they can discourse quite glibly over the welfare and prospects of our art. The following paragraph, which appeared in a large provincial newspaper, smacks of the news-distributing order and affords comic reading :—

"PICTURE POST CARDS.—Philatelists will be chagrined to find that illustrated post cards are appealing to a larger circle even than postage stamps. True, several associations of Philatelists have added a post card section; but that was because they felt the ground slipping from under them, and they desired that their circles should maintain their fame."

Pictorial post cards have absolutely no connection with Philately, beyond the fact that they pass through the post when properly stamped; but so do parcels, which on the same ground might also be deemed within the pale of stamp collecting! The true inwardness of the matter is revealed in the further comments that we quote below, *i.e.* that it leads to business in the printing and photographic line and increases the postal revenue.

"A monthly journal in the interests of the post card collector has been established, and is written in French, German, and English. A congress was held in Vienna two years ago, and last March there was an exhibition in Berlin at which 25,000 specimens were shown. The Germans have taken the lead in this matter, because they are pre-eminent in art printing—that is, where cheapness is as essential as quality. But American women are, after all, the most ardent supporters of the movement. One lady has accumulated 2,000 of these cards. Americans, travelling, are the most lavish purchasers of these mementoes, and patriotism demands that they should send these little representations of the New World to their friends in Europe. The Post Office authorities have granted special terms for the despatch and delivery within the United States of these pictures of local attractions, on the condition that nothing beyond the address is written on the card, and that has given a stimulus to the trade."

GREAT AUKS' EGGS v. STAMPS.

WE have on a previous occasion called attention to the prices attained by this egg, which may fittingly be held as the "Post Office" of the egg collector, hence the recent sale of two specimens is worth recording. The announcement that these would be included in a sale conducted by Mr. J. C. Stevens attracted a large attendance to the Auction Rooms, King Street, Covent Garden, on the 24th of June, Mr. Jas. Gardiner, of 29, Oxford Street, ultimately becoming the purchaser for 180 and 315 guineas respectively —"according to condition." Since 1893 it appears that Mr. Stevens has sold nineteen eggs of the great auk, and three of these have been sold twice over at enhanced prices. One, first sold for twenty guineas, was resold forty years after for 300 guineas; and another first realised thirty guineas, and at the resale, £168. There are now fifty-five of these eggs in Great Britain, eight in France, three in Germany, two in Holland, two in the United States, one in Denmark, one in Portugal, and one in Switzerland. Thirty of the eggs are in museums, and forty-one in private collections. These prices seem to show that the values of the great rarities in stamps are still relatively moderate.

Review.

THE STAMPS OF KASHMIR.*

THE commendable energy of the Philatelic Society of India with regard to the issue of works treating of the stamps of the great Indian Empire and its Feudatory States is further exemplified by the appearance of this book. Mr. D. P. Masson's name has indeed acquired a world-wide reputation with regard to the Kashmir stamps, which will be further enhanced by a perusal of this very interesting little volume. The author prefaces his work with the remark that "nothing can be more bewildering to the Philatelist than his first glance in a catalogue at the pages devoted to the older Kashmir stamps," and later on proceeds in the most trenchant manner to cut down the very numerous varieties that are generally listed as such. He divides the joint and several issues of Jammu and Kashmir into four broad groups, and, as regards the colours, he classifies the impressions as "experimental, standard, and superfluous," the first used only for a few months, the second being the permanent issue, and the third—applying to the Jammu circulars and rectangulars only—for stamps issued "under the gentle influence of Philately." The so-called first issue is very interestingly dealt with, but even yet Mr. Masson is unable to give a clue to their nativity —we ourselves imagine they are the emanations of the fertile brain of a dusky Oriental. The chapter dealing with these "three hoary-headed

* *The Stamps of Jammu and Kashmir.* By D. P. MASSON. Publication (Part 1) of the Philatelic Society of India, Calcutta (No. IV.). Birmingham: W. T. Wilson. 1900.

impostors," to use the author's graphic denunciation, is remarkably good reading, and, taken with that describing the obliterations, cannot fail to convince any sceptic as to the complete case that Mr. Masson has made out with regard to an issue that has found universal acceptance for an entire generation. Mr. Masson's name will always—most deservedly—take high rank in the annals of Philately for this striking, almost romantic, destruction of a long-established theory.

Several chapters are devoted to the separate and joint issues of Jammu and Kashmir down to 1877, while others discourse on "Missing Dies or Official Forgeries" (*absit omen*), "Service Stamp," "Forgeries," and "Paper," beyond those previously mentioned.

Despite the author's cutting-down process, there will still be found varieties enough for the specialist, and although their diagnosis—owing occasionally to want of clearness of definition or arrangement—seems somewhat difficult, it is obvious that the collector of these quaint old stamps will find invaluable help within these pages. Excellent illustrations of all types accompany the text, and several pages of the various kinds of native paper are very usefully appended. The second portion of the work—1877 to date—is announced to appear before long, and will be cordially welcomed. Meantime Mr. Masson is to be heartily commended for his masterly treatment of one of the most difficult subjects in the whole range of Philately.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

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

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—We have described from time to time certain Cape stamps surcharged ½ pence, 1 pence, 2 pence, and 2½ pence, and "Z.A.R." postmarked "VRYBURG."

The *M. J.* is informed that all, or most of these, are altogether fraudulent, and emanate from Lourenzo Marques.

A penny Cape of the 1893 issue surcharged "Z.A.R. 1D." across the stamp from left top corner to lower right, with "1900" over the value at foot, is believed to be genuine, though issued without authority.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The new bi-coloured 1s. stamp was issued to the principal post offices on July 17th.

Another official envelope bearing a 1d. embossed stamp has been issued, according to *Ewen's Weekly*.

The envelope is the ordinary foolscap size, with "On Her Majesty's Service" printed across the top. "The Collector Inland Revenue" is also printed.

The stamp has no die number, but "S.H." appears in its place at the bottom of the bust.

Our contemporary also gives particulars of two new railway letter stamps—deemed of importance—so we copy the information for the benefit of our readers interested in these labels.

"The first is inscribed 'South Eastern and Chatham Railway,' and has a black control number (Nos. 10,001 to 20,000) impressed at the bottom of each stamp. As with the 'S.E. & C. & D. Railways' issue, the sheets consist of sixty stamps, and are rouletted.

"The second novelty has been issued by the Donegal Railway. We have not yet seen it, but it is stated to be of a distinct type, and printed in sheets of forty-two. This will be the first supply of stamps the Donegal Company has had printed in Ireland."

HONG KONG.—Up to the present we (*M. J.*) have only chronicled the halves of the 3+3 c. card, surcharged "4 cents" in black, and used as single cards. We have now received the whole reply-paid card thus surcharged.

Post Card. 4+4 c., in black, on 3+3 c., brown.

INDIA.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* states that the stock of the 2½ annas, yellow-green, is not so large after all, and that the colour of the ¼ anna is to be grey. It is expected that a supply of all five stamps in their new colours will be in India before the end of the year.

Bussahir.—The *M. J.* has received the current ¼ anna, ½ anna, and 1 anna with the monogram impressed in mauve, imperf.

Orcha.—Still another native post office. A set of four stamps has been issued showing the arms of the state in a rectangular frame, perf. 13.

Adhesives. ½ anna, red.
1 ,, violet.
2 annas, yellow.
4 ,, dark green.

MAFEKING SIEGE STAMPS.—Mr. A. H. Stamford kindly sends us five specimens of these stamps, and we have since received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., a full list of the nineteen varieties issued before the relief of Mafeking was accomplished.

At first, fear was felt in many quarters that these *provisionals* were unnecessary and only produced for Philatelists, but now we think most of our readers will admit that a good case has been made out for this issue.

The following long but necessary and highly interesting report will appear, we believe, in the next number of the *M. J.*, Messrs. Gibbons having courteously favoured us with an advanced copy :—

"We have received a visit from Mr. E. J. Ross, of the firm of Aldred and Ross, general merchants, of Mafeking, who brought with him a complete set of all the stamps made and used during the memorable siege, the set being signed by Lord Edward Cecil, Chief Staff Officer, as a guarantee of their genuineness.

"The necessity for overprinting the stamps, which were in the hands of the Postmaster, has been questioned by the incredulous, but after hearing all that Mr. Ross has to say on the matter, which opinion has been confirmed from other sources, all doubts are completely set at rest.

"It appears that Mafeking was formerly, for postal purposes, in British Bechuanaland, but some four or five years ago was transferred to the Cape of Good Hope, and at the time of the siege the post office possessed various odd stamps not only of the Cape Colony, but of two or three issues of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate.

"The total face value of the stamps in the post office was a very small amount. The desire to communicate with the outside world was not confined to the military authorities for their own despatches, but all the inhabitants and civilians were as eager as possible to get letters through to their friends and relations. The only method available was, of course, by means of native runners, who were paid as much as £25 to undertake the risk of running the gauntlet of the ever-alert enemy. Two or three of these runners were despatched south, endeavouring to get round Kimberley and so to our forces, but the great bulk of them were sent up north towards Colonel Plumer's Column, and letters that did get through were forwarded *viâ* Salisbury and Beira to their destination. These runners concealed letters, written on thin paper, not only about their clothing, but also even in the soles of their boots, which were manufactured and made hollow on purpose, no bags being allowed to be carried, as they would have impeded their progress. Unfortunately, as was found out later on, a number of the runners were caught and killed, and in some cases despatches, such as those from Lady Sarah Wilson to the *Daily Mail*, were found by the side of reports, but with the postage stamps removed by the 'slim' Boer.

"In order to pay for this postal service it was found necessary to practically double the ordinary rates, and the military authorities bought up all the stamps in the post office and handed them to the printer of the *Mafeking Mail* to overprint with higher denominations. Letters that were written were then taken to the post office, and the military postal officials stamped them with various denominations according to the weight or bulk of the letters. No stamps were sold to the public, and no person was

allowed to send more than two or, at the most, three letters by any one runner.

"In addition to the ordinary stamps, for the purpose above named, it was found necessary to make stamps for use within the lines, and a local post was organised with special stamps. These consisted of two kinds:—

"First: A boy on a bicycle, inscribed 'V.R. Siege of Mafeking' in a scroll above, and 'Local post, 1d.,' below. The boy on the bicycle is Sergeant-Major Goodyear of the Cadet Corps, which was created to do duty as orderlies and messengers.

"Second: A front-faced portrait of Colonel Baden-Powell, inscribed 'Mafeking, 1900, Siege,' in a scroll above, and 'Postage, 3d.,' in a scroll below. Both stamps were produced by a Mr. Taylor, by means of photographic ferro-prussiate process, on paper specially made in Mafeking during the siege. The portrait type consisted of two varieties, differing only in size. The local stamps were made in blocks of twelve, and are blue on blue, differing much in colour, and are perforated 12. Of no single stamp overprinted were there more than 1,000, and of some of them not more than 120 copies, being on old varieties, of which only a few remained in the Mafeking post office. It is satisfactory to know that the printer's formes for overprinting have all been broken up, and the negatives and dies of the local stamps destroyed."

The following is a complete list of the stamps, the numerals in brackets being the numbers in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue.

MARCH to MAY 17th, 1900.

1. "MAFEKING" *and* "BESIEGED" *in fancy type.* 13¾ mm. *high.*

(*a*) *Cape of Good Hope stamps.*

1d. on ½d., green (Type 3).
1d. ,, ½d. ,, (,, 14).
3d. ,, 1d., carmine (,, 14).
6d. ,, 3d., claret (,, 3).
1s. ,, 4d., pale green (Type 3).

(*b*) *Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps.*

1d. on ½d., vermilion (No. 60).
3d. ,, 1d., lilac (No. 61).
6d. ,, 2d., green and red (No. 62).
6d. ,, 3d., brown on yellow (No. 63).

(*c*) *British Bechuanaland stamps.*

6d. on 3d., lilac (No 14).
1s. ,, 4d., green and brown (No. 53).

2. "MAFEKING" *and* "BESIEGED" *in thin sans-serif type.* 1¼ mm. *high.*

(*a*) *Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps.*

3d. on 1d., lilac (No. 61).
6d. ,, 2d., green and red (No. 62).
1s. ,, 6d., lilac on red (No. 65).

(*b*) *British Bechuanaland stamps.*

1s. on 6d., lilac on red (No. 54).
2s. ,, 1s., green (No. 55).

In the stamps overprinted "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE" and "BRITISH BECHUANALAND" the local surcharge is so adjusted as not to overlap the original surcharge.

LOCAL STAMPS.

Produced by photographic process, horizontally laid paper. Perf. 12.

(*a*) 18½ mm. *wide.* (*b*) 21 mm. *wide.*

1d., blue on blue (bicycle).
3d. ,, ,, (*a*).
3d. ,, ,, (*b*).

MAURITIUS.—Messrs. Bright and Son have shown us the 16 cents, brown, of 1885–7 surcharged "4 cents," and the original value barred.

The whole issue is stated to be about 50,000, and to have been sold out in a few hours. *Adhesive.* 4 cents on 16 cents, brown.

NEW ZEALAND.—So we are to have a khaki-coloured stamp for this colony at least.

The *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* has received information that a 1½d. stamp in khaki colour is to be prepared, and is intended mainly for the purpose of newspaper postage, though it may of course be used for letter postage. The design will in some way relate to the New Zealand contingents now on service in South Africa.

NORTH BORNEO AND LABUAN.—It is stated in the *M. J.* and *Smith's Circular* that the 4 cents monkey type has appeared in black and carmine.

As far back as December, 1899, we chronicled, on the authority of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, a 4 cents yellow-brown and black, and also the same value in green and black; and we believe similar information has been given in most of the philatelic journals.

We are now told on the highest authority that as late as April 12th, in Labuan, and May 10th, in Sandakan, no supplies of the yellow-brown and black and green and black varieties had been received.

Are we therefore to consider these varieties in the light of essays?

At the same time we would point out that in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* of December 2nd, 1899, Mr. J. M. Bartels writes:—

"Labuan and North Borneo must have simultaneously sorely felt the need for a 4 c. stamp. The Department (Post Office) has received" (here follows a note of twenty-eight varieties of the surcharged stamps and the two new 4 cents for permanent use). The usual supply for the U.P.U. at Berne must therefore have been received, or specimens would not have reached Washington post office.

Later information reaches us that up to June 2nd "no four cents stamps with an Orang-utang have been issued up to this date in North Borneo."

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Messrs. Bright and Son call our attention to some lately

discovered varieties in the surcharged 2d. and 2½d. *Orange Free State* stamps of 1888–92 which have not hitherto been reported.

On *each* pane of sixty of the 2d. on 3d. there may be found one stamp the figure "2" having a *curly* foot. There are also at least two minor varieties of this stamp not yet catalogued.

On *one* pane of sixty out of each sheet of 240 of the 2½d. on 3d. there may be found a pair of stamps each having a figure "2" with a *long foot.*

The *M. J.* chronicles the 6d., blue, *without* the "V.R.I." overprint, and some further varieties, which we now add to the list.

Morley's Journal states as follows :—

"We have been favoured with the following notes concerning the recently overprinted postage stamps of the late Orange Free State :—

"6 pence, rose.—Thirty sheets received the overprint but only twenty reached the post office—the other ten were lost (!) on the way. There are two stamps on each sheet minus the figure '6.'

"6 pence, blue.—About fifty sheets show the same omissions as those of the rose stamps.

"1 shilling.—One stamp on each sheet is without the figure of value.

"5 shillings.—Seventy sheets were overprinted. A sheet consists of 240 stamps."

The following, taken from *Ewen's Weekly*, will, we think, interest our readers :—

"Collectors are warned against sending money to the Postmaster at Bloemfontein, as he has instructions not to supply to collectors. Three of our readers who recently sent postal orders have received the following communication, type-written :—

'General Post Office,
'Bloemfontein, O.R.C.,
'*7th June*, 1900.

'No. 175 P.

'Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 4th ultimo, enclosing 10/- for stamps, I beg leave to inform you that this department does not deal with such matters; apply to a person known to you locally, who can purchase the stamps in the usual and only way. Your postal orders for 10/- herewith returned. Postal order business, moreover, is not being transacted by this department at present.

'(Signed)
'Secretary Civil Posts.'

"It is interesting to record that each of the three letters was registered and franked with V.R.I. stamps of 6d. and ½d. On the letter sent from Bloemfontein on June 7th, both had raised dots, whereas the 6d. on the other two letters which arrived by the previous mail were the first printing with dots in ordinary position.

"It is not generally known that there are at least four different settings of the 'V.R.I.' overprint. There are two distinct types with the dots in normal positions, and in one of them the lettering is much thicker and blacker than the other. The 1s. value has a full point after the s of '1s.,' and this occurs in both ordinary and raised positions."

Adhesives.

2d. on 3d., blue, 1888-92, with *curly* foot.
2½d. on 3d. ,, ,, with *long* ,,

V.R I. *issue.*

6d., blue ; *without surcharge.*

Figure of value omitted.

(1)d. on 1d., violet.

Letter of value omitted

1(d.) on 1d., violet.

"V.R.I." *omitted.*

1d. on 1d., violet.
6d. on 6d., blue.

Queensland.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that Queensland has also decided to follow the lead of Victoria, and issue two patriotic plasters, or war stamps.

Transvaal. — News has arrived from various sources that the Transvaal stamps have been surcharged either "V.R." or "V.R.I."

The *M. J.*, at the moment almost of publication, received a specimen of the current ½d., green, overprinted "V.R.—Special—Post" in three lines, vertically, in black, and was informed that some fifty copies were issued at Vryburg on the arrival of the British troops there, and used by British residents at that place, who were anxious to send letters to the colonies or home.

Our contemporary also writes :—

"There being no English or Cape stamps available at once, these Transvaal stamps were surcharged by the magistrate of the town, and presumably the amount paid for them credited to the British Post Office. The copy before us was received by a well-known collector from his brother, who obtained it at Vryburg, and it has all the appearance of being a genuine provisional."

Adhesive. ½d., green; surcharged "V.R.," etc.

Ewen's Weekly hears that the Transvaal stamps are surcharged "V.R.I." or "V.R." (the former we are inclined to think the more likely). How interesting to hear that "only a limited number are allowed to each purchaser, in order to *prevent speculation!*" We have heard this so often before. Will there be the usual crop of errors, lost parcels of any of the rarer sorts, etc.?

We have since heard, on the very best authority, that a supply has reached London of the late Transvaal stamps from ½d. to 1s. inclusive, surcharged "V.R.I." in block letters and *without* the value overprinted in English.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—*Ewen's Weekly* states that "the long 1d. revenue stamps used for postal purposes are now watermarked Crown and W A, similar to the ordinary 1d. and 2d. postage stamps. The watermark occurs twice on each stamp."

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—A new issue of stamps, with head of Prince, will appear in 1901, or possibly in 1900.—*Monthly Circular.*

DENMARK.—On page 180 we announced, on the authority of a contemporary, two new stamps in a new currency.

This, we are now informed, is incorrect. See Danish West Indies.

FRANCE.—It appears, according to the *Collectionneur*, that the new stamps from 10 to 30 cents are actually ready for issue, but that as some of the other values are not equally forward, it has been decided to hold all back for the present. Meanwhile large further supplies of the current type are being prepared, the 15 c. being simultaneously printed in blue and in its future colour—orange. It is further stated by our contemporary that it may possibly be towards the end of the current year before the whole of the new issue is ready.

GERMANY.—The higher values are coming into use, and after receiving the 1 mark, in the course of business we now get the 2 marks from Mr. Franz Reichenheim.

The design has already been described; the colour is slate-blue, and perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

Adhesive. 2 marks, slate-blue; perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

ITALIAN LEVANT.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the current 25 centesimi Italian stamp surcharged in red "1 PIASTRA 1," which we take to be the stamp chronicled on page 180, under the heading "Crete."

Adhesive. 1 piastra on 25 centesimi, blue.

PORTUGAL.—The reply card, like the single card, is now printed on buff instead of grey.

Post Card. 25+25 reis, rose on buff.

SPAIN.—We note from *Le T.-P.* that the 2 centimos stamp is now brown in colour, but whether the type is the new or the old appears uncertain.

Adhesive. 2 centimos, brown; type ?.

SWITZERLAND.—Messrs. F. Reichenheim, W. T. Wilson, and Whitfield King and Co. have sent us specimens of the new Swiss Jubilee stamps of the "Union Postale Universelle."

This set of stamps we consider about the ugliest we have seen.

In shape they are long rectangular, measuring about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and nearly 1 inch wide.

The design consists of a globe with an allegorical figure, probably Helvetia, supporting a telegraph post with the left hand and distributing letters with the right hand. At top is the inscription "Jubile de l'Union Postale Universelle," and in a scroll at bottom, "1875–1900." A shield contains the figure of value.

Ewen's Weekly also mentions two post cards.

Adhesives. 5 centimes, green, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.
10 ,, rose ,, ,,
25 ,, blue ,, ,,

Post Cards. 5 c., deep green.
10 c., dull crimson.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The *M. J.* reports the following:—

"Our publishers have shown us vertical pairs of the $\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1 c., 5 c., and 10 c. of the issue of 1892–7, which are imperforate between the two stamps. The 5 c. and 10 c. appear to have the earlier watermark and the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 1 c. the later, but the stamps are very thickly gummed and the watermarks not very distinct.

"We are also shown some varieties of the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. wrappers of 1892. The impression varies in colour from *ultramarine* to a kind of *slate-blue*. One of the wrappers bears two impressions of the stamp and formula, one of them inverted with reference to the other, and another has a single impression which seems to be the wrong way up, as it is near the lower edge of the wrapper, and the latter is gummed and tapered at the right instead of at the left."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—Information has reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. to the effect that "the whole of the eight values of the new stamps are issued, unperforated, in sheets of twenty-five."

GUATEMALA.—The *A. J. P.* furnishes the information that the 1 and 6 centavos stamps in the old types have been issued in new colours, dark green and emerald-green, and that the colours decided upon for the other values are as follows: 2 c., red; 5 c., blue; 10 c., grey; 20 c., violet; and 25 c., light yellow, while the values above 50 c. are to remain the same as before.

Adhesives. 1 c., old type, dark green; perf. 12.
6 c. ,, emerald-green ,,

MEXICO.—We have another value to add to the list of surcharged "Oficial" stamps.

Official Stamp. 20 centavos, rose and blue.

NICARAGUA.—There is stated to be a post card of the Asenjo 1900 issue. The design is reported to be plain and neat, but further particulars are wanting.

Post Card. 2 c., vermilion on white.

PERU.—The *I. B. J.* reports two new post cards. The first has for the stamp the view of Post Office of the 1898 cards, with "1900" printed above, and "DOS CENTAVOS" below.

The other has the plain embossed stamp (portrait of President) of the 1899 cards. At the left is a figure "2" and "CENTAVOS" in a curved line beneath, both within a circle, and printed in red-lilac.—*Monthly Circular.*

Post Cards. 2 centavos, brown-black (Post Office).
2 ,, red-lilac (President).

UNITED STATES.—On page 152 we gave a list of the designs selected for the Buffalo Exposition stamps.

In the last number of the *A. J. P.* the designs are appropriated as follows :—

1 c., a lake steamer.
2 c., an express train.
4 c., an automobile.
5 c., Niagara Falls.
8 c., canal locks of Sault Sainte Marie.
10 c., an American flag.

The stamps are all to be in two colours, with the exception of the flag, which is to show all three colours.

VENEZUELA.—It is stated that the word "Resellada," lately overprinted on the current postals and Escuelas stamps, means "surcharged," and the letters "R.T.M." are the initials of the Minister of Finance, Ramon Tello Mendoza.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

AFGHANISTAN.—The *M. J.* chronicles a set of the 1876–7 issue (lacking the shahi value only), dated 1294, in *green*, on ordinary *wove* paper.

Adhesives. Sunar, green, on *white wove.*
Abasi ,, ,,
½ rupee ,, ,,
1 ,, ,, ,,

CHINA.—A change has been made in the current 1 cent post card.

The inscription now reads "Chinese Imperial Post" instead of "Imperial Chinese Post."

Post Card. 1 c., carmine on buff; variety.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—In our last number we chronicled changes of colour in the 1 cent and 5 cents values.

The new stamps reach us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., and turn out to be of new design, that of the current stamps of the mother country. In the place of "DANMARK" in the inscription, we have, of course, "DANSK VESTINDIEN," and a full set will doubtless follow in due course. The perf. is 13.

FRENCH CONGO.—Messrs. Bright and Son and Whitfield King and Co. have handed us the new pictorial set.

The designs are, for the 1 to 15 centimes, a panther; for 20 to 75 centimes, a Congo belle; and the 1, 2, and 5 francs illustrate, we presume, an African jungle scene.

The execution and printing are bad; in short, we may call it a gaudy set made for sale to stamp collectors.

The following are the values and colours, and the perf. is 11.

Adhesives.

1 centime, claret and dull lilac; wmk. a Thistle.
2 ,, brown and yellow ,,
4 ,, brick-red and grey ,,
5 ,, green and grey-green ,,
10 ,, red and pale red ,,
15 ,, purple and sage-green ,,
20 ,, green and orange; Spray of Rose.
25 ,, blue and pale blue ,,
30 ,, red and yellow ,,
40 ,, brown and yellow-green ,,
50 ,, deep lilac and lilac ,,
75 ,, claret and orange ,,
1 franc, grey and olive-green; Olive Branch.
2 ,, carmine and pale brown ,,
5 ,, orange and black ,,

FRENCH POST OFFICES.—*Zanzibar.*—The reply card, 1 anna, is now surcharged in *red.*

Post Card.
1+1 anna, in *red*, on 10+10 c., black on blue.

HAWAII.—Since June 14th the stamps of these islands have ceased to be current, and the ordinary unsurcharged U.S.A. stamps will be used.

The stock of Hawaiian stamps is to be destroyed in Washington. $50,000 worth of U.S. stamps, cards, envelopes, and wrappers—sufficient, it is estimated, to last the islands ninety days—have been sent from home.

It is reported in the *A. J. P.*:—

"That a speculator bought up the entire lot of 12 c. stamps remaining in the hands of the Post Office. The amount involved is said to be in the neighbourhood of $5,000, so that our speculating friend has secured about 40,000 specimens. No doubt he anticipates realising somewhere around $1,000,000 profit on his investment, but we predict that before a year has elapsed he will be glad to sell the stamps in small lots at face value."

JAPAN.—The design of the new Wedding stamps seems to have puzzled our contemporaries all round. We quite agree with the suggestion that at first sight the principal

device might be taken for a model of a cemetery.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us a more accurate and interesting description of the stamp as follows :—

"At the top of the oval is the chrysanthemum, the Imperial crest.

"In each of the corners is a sprig of pawlonia, but those in the lower corners are entwined, the one with the Chinese character for three, and the other with that for sen. The inscription reads downwards.

"That at one side is 'Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin,' meaning Japanese Imperial Post, while that on the other is 'Togu Gokongi Shiku ten,' meaning to commemorate the Prince Imperial's wedding.

"The little box inside the oval is called the Yanagibako (willow box). It is covered with very nice red paper, and in this the first letter which the bridegroom sent to the bride is kept. The one above, that looks like a larger box, is really a table beautifully ornamented with pictures of cranes and pines. (It is said here in Japan that the crane lives a thousand years, and that the pine never dies ; hence these are emblematic of long life.) On the table are placed cakes of Mikka yo mochi (three days and nights' bread), so called because it is left in the bridal chamber for three days and nights after the wedding, so that the bride and bridegroom may eat it whenever they wish. These cakes are made of rice-flour, and there are as many cakes as there are years in the bride's age."

We hear this stamp has been surcharged for use in Corea as well as China.

RUSSIAN LEVANT.—*Der Philatelist* announces some Russian stamps, cards, etc., surcharged in Turkish currency.

Adhesives.

4 paras on 1 k., orange ; blue surcharge.
10 ,, on 2 k., green ; red ,,
1 piastre on 10 k., dark blue ,,

Post Cards.

20 paras on 4 k., carmine ; blue surcharge.
32 ,, on 4+4 k. ,, ,,

Letter Card.

1 piastre on 10 k., blue ; red surcharge.

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 1900–1901.

President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.
Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.
Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.
Hon. Assistant Secretary—H. R. OLDFIELD.
Hon. Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

W. B. AVERY. L. L. R. HAUSBURG.
E. D. BACON. C. E. MCNAUGHTAN.
W. D. BECKTON. R. MEYER.
R. EHRENBACH. F. RANSOM.
H. J. WHITE.

THE fourteenth meeting of the season 1899-1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, May 11th, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present :—M. P. Castle, Herbert R. Oldfield, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frentzel, B. D. Knox, L. L. R. Hausburg, T. Maycock, Charles J. Daun, E. D. Bacon, O. Firth, W. Schwabacher, Thos. Wm. Hall, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th April were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer's Balance-sheet and Accounts for the financial year ending March 31st, 1900, were duly presented.

It was proposed by Mr. Tilleard, seconded by Mr. Meyer, and unanimously agreed to, that Mr. Chambers and Mr. Maycock should be appointed auditors.

The meeting then proceeded to inspect Mr. Adolf Passer's collection of Austrian stamps.

THE fifteenth meeting of the season 1899–1900 was held at Effingham House on Friday, May 25th, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present :—M. P. Castle, Herbert R. Oldfield, Robert Ehrenbach, Rudolph Meyer, Rudolph Frentzel, Franz Reichenheim, L. L. R. Hausburg, T. Maycock, W. Silk, jun., Thos. Wm. Hall, E. D. Bacon, W. Schwabacher, Edward J. Nankivell, Gordon Smith, C. Neville Biggs, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox.

Visitors :—H. F. Cobbett, Frank H. Oliver, F. W. Napier.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th May were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary showed, on behalf of the President, H.R.H. the Duke of York, a very interesting series of essays of the colour for the proposed new stamps for Great Britain, including the ½d., 1d., 2d., and 1s. values, the selected colours being a green and carmine for the 1s., which it is understood will be issued in June.

A report was received from the Dinner Committee, and it was resolved that the Annual Dinner should be held on the 13th June, at the Café Monico, and the matter was referred to the Committee to complete the requisite arrangements.

A paper on the issues of Portugal was then read by the Vice-President, in which, after dealing with the matter from the historical point of view, the various issues were discussed in great detail. The paper was illustrated by a display of the stamps of this country from Mr. Castle's collection.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Bacon and seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith, and it was intimated that the paper would appear in due course in the *London Philatelist*.

THE sixteenth meeting of the season 1899–1900, being the Annual General Meeting of the Society, was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 8th June, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—T. Wickham Jones, Gordon Smith, Herbert R. Oldfield, Robert Ehrenbach, Franz Reichenheim, Rudolph Meyer, T. W. Hall, C. Neville Biggs, Alfred A. Davis, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, W. Schwabacher, C. E. McNaughtan, Edward J. Nankivell, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox.

In the absence of the Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Wickham Jones, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th May were read and confirmed.

Letters were read from the Vice-President and from Mr. Bacon regretting their absence and explaining the cause.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the Right Hon. The Earl of Crawford, K.T. (proposed by Major E. B. Evans and seconded by Mr. Gordon Smith), who, after ballot, was declared duly elected.

A full and very interesting report was then read by the Hon. Secretary on the work of the Society and events of the past season.

Mr. Nankivell then proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary for the report, and moved that it be received and adopted and published in *The London Philatelist*. This resolution was seconded by Mr. McNaughtan and carried unanimously.

A report of the accounts, being a statement of receipts and expenditure, was then presented by Mr. Maycock on behalf of the Auditors; but the audit not having been completed, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Ehrenbach, seconded by Mr. Tilleard, that the formal presentation of a balance-sheet should be postponed and the consideration of the accounts referred to the General Meeting to be held that day fortnight.

The members then proceeded to the election of 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, J.P.; Hon. Secretary—J. A. Tilleard; Hon. Assistant Secretary—H. R. Oldfield; Hon. Treasurer—C. N. Biggs; Hon. Librarian—T. Maycock.

The following members were elected to serve on the council for the ensuing season:—Messrs. W. B. Avery, E. D. Bacon, W. D. Beckton, R. Ehrenbach, L. L. R. Hausburg, C. E. McNaughtan, R. Meyer, F. Ransom, and H. J. White.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to the Hon. Secretary for the services rendered by him to the Society, and a vote of thanks was also accorded to all the officers of the Society, and regret was expressed on behalf of the members generally at the retirement of those members of the council who had not offered themselves for re-election.

AN Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society was held at Effingham House on Friday, June 22nd, at 7.45 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present:—Franz Reichenheim, T. W. Hall, L. L. R. Hausburg, Rudolph Meyer, C. Neville Biggs, Arthur W. Chambers, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the Vice-President and other members of the council, Mr. T. W. Hall was elected to the chair.

Mr. A. W. Chambers having read and explained the accounts of the Hon. Treasurer and the report of the Auditors, it was resolved that the accounts be received and adopted, and that a summary of them be published in *The London Philatelist*.

The meeting then terminated with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. C. N. Biggs (the Hon. Treasurer) and to Messrs. A. W. Chambers and T. Maycock (the Auditors) for their valuable services.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Hon. Secretary—
Mr. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

MAY 3rd. Display: "Mexico," by Mr. R. Hollick. Mrs. T. G. Dickson and Mr. J. G. Hawley were unanimously elected members. A sub-committee was appointed to make arrangements for two stamp auctions during next session. All members will be allowed to contribute. Full particulars will most probably be given in the annual report, which will be published on October 4th, and which will contain the advertisements of dealers at same rates as in previous years, if received by the Hon. Secretary on or before September 15th. Mr. R. Hollick then gave a display of his fine collection of Mexico, which includes a large number of extremely rare varieties, errors, etc.

Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

THE fortnightly meetings of this Society have been held regularly this year, but Mr. T. C. Cartwright, the Hon. Librarian, is so fully occupied in the work of sending newspapers, etc., to the Gloucestershire regiments in South Africa, that he has not been able to attend any of the meetings, and send us, as he usually does, reports thereof. He now informs us that two very interesting papers on "The Stamps of Victoria" have been read by Mr. R. Dalton, illustrated by a splendid collection of about 2,000 stamps, mounted on over 150 sheets, showing the various shades and dates of issue, and enlarged photo-printed copies of some of the first issue were presented by him to the members present, that they might the better examine and compare the several differences therein. In the Laureated series evidence was given that some of the dates in the catalogues are incorrect, as specimens were shown with postmarks on them of an earlier date. It is to be regretted that more members did not avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing and seeing so carefully-prepared and instructive a paper, which more than fully occupied two evenings in reading and illustrating. At the next meeting, on April 5th, a paper will be read by the President, Mr. P. J. Lloyd, on "The Stamps of the United States."

Herts Philatelic Society.

THE annual meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel on Tuesday, May 29th, 1900, at 7 p.m. Present:—Messrs. W. G. Cool (in the chair), W. A. Boyes, L. E. Bradbury, R. Frentzel, J. W. Jones, M. Z. Kuttner, E. A. Mardon, F. W. Mellor, R. Meyer, F. Reichenheim, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, and H. A. Slade.

The minutes of the previous meeting being read and confirmed, J. E. Carbonell and F. W. Mellor were elected ordinary members of the Society.

The election of officers for the 1900–1 season resulted as follows:—Hon. President: Harold J. White. Vice-Presidents: M. P. Castle, Robert Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, and Gordon Smith. Committee: L. E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, G. Gaffe, E. A. Mardon, F. Reichenheim, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, and C. R. Sutherland. Counterfeit Expert: Rev. R. B. Earée. Librarian: G. Haynes. Hon. Auditors: W. A. Boyes and C. Forbes. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: H. A. Slade.

Reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian were submitted and approved. No alterations in the rules were made, and Anderton's Hotel as a meeting-place for the Society for the next season was continued. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings at 8.15 p.m. The Secretary's report will be printed and distributed to members in August, and it is hoped that many applications for membership will be received before the next meeting—the first Tuesday in October. Members willing to give displays and readings during the next session are requested to send their names in to the Secretary.

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

INGLESIDE, ST. ALBANS, *May 31st*, 1900.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.
Hon. Secretary—G. FRED H. GIBSON, Kersal, Manchester.

AT the annual meeting on Friday, May 4th, eleven members were present in addition to the President, who took the chair.

The Hon. Secretary's report showed an increase of four members during the year, the total now being five honorary, sixty active, and ten corresponding. It also contained a satisfactory account of the work of the session, and an allusion to the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1899.

The Hon. Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £8 2s. 2d., and that of the Hon. Librarian announced a considerable addition to the Society's supply of books.

The Exchange Packet Hon. Secretary reported that the *net* value of the four packets which have returned after circulation was £463 9s. 7d., and the *net* sales £48 18s. 3d., or 10$\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

The following were elected officers for the coming session:—

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.
Vice-Presidents—J. H. ABBOT, W. GRUNEWALD.
Hon. Secretary—G. FRED H. GIBSON.
Assistant Hon. Secretary—C. H. COOTE.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B. DUERST.
Hon. Librarian—J. C. NORTH.
Committee—J. S. GEE, N. HEYWOOD, W. W. MUNN.
Exchange Packet Comptroller—W. GRUNEWALD.
Exchange Packet Committee—C. H. COOTE, T. OXLEY.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Beckton, seconded by Mr. Abbot, that a sum of £3 be voted to the library.

The report of the sub-committee for the revision of the rules of the Society was then considered, and adopted with slight alterations.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

J. H. Abbott.
G. L. Arduin (c).
E. D. Bacon.
F. Barratt.
T. Battersby.
F. J. Beazley.
W. Dorning Beckton.
David Benjamin (c).
A. H. A. Bennett.
W. G. Bowden (c).
J. Brooks.
H. B. Broomhead.
W. Brown.
H. J. Bryceson.
H. Buckley (c).
A. Buxton.
M. P. Castle.
W. Chapman.
W. L. Chew.
E. P. Collett.
John Cooper.
C. H. Coote.
Dr. Corns.
A. H. Dearn.
G. B. Duerst.
E. Ehlinger.
J. W. Etherington.
Major Evans.
E. Fildes.
J. Flohr.
D. S. Garson.
J. S. Gee.
G. Fred H. Gibson.
Oswald Gillett.
M. Giwelb.
W. Grunewald.
A. H. Harrison.
R. F. V. Harrison.
S. S. Harvey.
J. E. Heginbottom
Nathan Heywood.
R. D. Holland (c)
J. Ingleby.
Dr. Jago.
M. W. Jones.
Eliot Levy.
S. Luke.
H. Lund.
W. E. Moser.
W. W. Munn.
G. J. Newman.
J. C. North.
D. Ostara.
Thos. Oxley.
R. Pellen.
P. L. Pemberton.
Judge Philbrick, Q.C.
H. Ranck.
Thos. Ridpath.
E. T. Roberts.
F. A. Roberts.
Vernon Roberts.
H. E. M. Rolsted (c).
J. W. Simpson.
T. K Skipwith.
J. G. Smithson (c).
E. C. Symons.
C. Taylor (c).
W. Terry.
J. H. Thackrah (c).
H. E. Walker.
A. Wallace.
N. Wanstall.
John Westhorp (c).
Seth Wrigley.

The Collectors' Club,

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE fifty-second meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, April 9th, 1900. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Jos. S. Rich, presenting to the Club two frames of proofs of dangerous counterfeits of Baden, Luxemburg, Colombian Republic, Uruguay, and Confederates, also a framed photograph of the late Herr von Stephan, Postmaster-General of the German Empire. Mr. Rich also loaned the Club three other interesting frames of book-plates, etc. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Rich for his valuable donations and also for his interesting loans. Thanks were also tendered to Mr. Krassa for a gift of frames of coins and loan of other frames, as well as to Mr. Knudson for loan of various frames. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $635.83 exclusive of U.S. bonds, was read and approved. The names of six of the applicants for membership having been posted the required length of time, their names were balloted upon, and Messrs. Battin, Carpenter, Deane, Hawkins, Lombard, and Stebbins were declared to have been unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club.

THE fifty-third meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, May 14th, 1900. Present:—Messrs. Bruner, Luff, Perrin, Scott, and Stebbins. A number of communications were read by the Secretary and acted upon. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $719.22 exclusive of United States bonds, was read and approved. Mr. Luff's report of the House Committee was received and accepted. Mr. Luff reported having made the alterations in the billiard-room as authorised at last meeting. An appropriation of $20 was voted to Mr. Luff, to be expended for frames for donations of autographs and other articles of interest which shall be hung around the Club House. Upon motion duly seconded and carried, a committee, consisting of Messrs. Leavy, Holland, and Rich, was appointed to publish a book on the stamps of Hayti, under the auspices of the Club. The names of the five applicants for membership having been posted the required length of time, their names were balloted upon, and Messrs. Chittenden, Ehrich, Libby, Mott, and Stehlin were declared to have been unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary.*

Correspondence.

UNWATERMARKED TUSCAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—In the May number of the *London Philatelist* I have read a letter from Mr. Diena on the *unwatermarked* stamps of Tuscany, expressing the opinion of the existence of unwatermarked stamps passed through the post; and recalling his article of August, 1899, it must be conceded that essays or reprints have passed the post.

I possess a strip of *three* Tuscany, 1 crazia (on a letter bearing the circular postmark "Livorno 20 Genn: 1854"), *without watermark*, on undoubtedly *hand-made paper*, similar to the original watermarked paper.

Having studied this and other "denominations" that I have been enabled to inspect, I must conclude that the absence of watermark on the stamps of Tuscany is merely due to the fact that the watermark of the sheet, being composed of crowns separated by horizontal and vertical lines, the sides of the crowns have sometimes a wide blank space large enough to include a stamp or more. Probably a horizontal line was missing and later replaced.

I have seen strips of stamps in which the watermark had this wide space, enough to contain one or more stamps if the printing misplaced.

I cannot express my opinion on the existence of genuinely cancelled essays or proofs, as I have not seen any.

I remain, yours very truly,

PIO FABRI.

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 asked to state that an issue of special War stamps, to celebrate the first appearance of Victorian troops on the battlefield, has been sent for disposal to the office of the Agent-General for Victoria, 15, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., to whom applications should be made. There are two varieties, penny and twopenny, the prices of which are one shilling and two shillings respectively. We comply with the foregoing request, but must absolutely dissent from the theory that Philatelists are required to recognise them as postage stamps. They are a species of voluntary War Tax to which the public in general and the stamp collector in particular are invited to subscribe.

* * *

WE learn that the private collection of the late N. F. Seebeck has been sold to the Fulton Stamp Co., of 85, Nassau Street, New York City. This celebrated collection is especially noted for the unused old issues of European countries and rare Confederate locals, such as the Pittsylvania, Rheatown, Marion, and Greenvilles. Value of collection estimated to be worth $40,000.—*Mekeel's Weekly.*

* * *

THE paragraph following, contributed from San Francisco to *Mekeel's Weekly*, is of interest, and shows that there are still appreciators—at sadly reduced prices—of the old envelopes:—

"The Levison Collection of envelopes is now the property of William H. Crocker, the purchase price being reported to be $5,250.00, a 'snap' according to the best judges of what the grand collection contained. The transfer was effected through the agency of W. Sellschopp. Speaking of the collection, the latter, who, by the way, has just returned from a sojourn in Europe, said, 'It is the finest collection of entires I have ever seen, and is especially rich in old German envelopes. It contains all the envelopes of the old German states, in unused condition, with the exception of a few unobtainables, which are shown, however, in first-class used condition. Among the latter is the 7 sil. gr. silk thread of Prussia, large size, catalogued by Senf at 2,000 marks. But all the other envelopes of this exceedingly rare issue—both large and small are there, ranging as high in value as 1,200 and 1,500 marks each—are represented both by used and unused copies in the finest possible condition. Oldenburg, Brunswick, Saxony, and Baden, including the 12 and 18 kreuzer, large and small, are all there. Only a few odd ones of Wurtemberg are missing. The total catalogue value of the Germans alone is more than 26,000 marks, while the United States envelopes will go over 12,000 marks. The latter are very nearly complete. Of the other foreign envelopes I will mention one, a most beautiful copy of the 1 shilling Mauritius, yellow, catalogued at 1,000 marks.'"

* * *

THE last marked catalogue of the season reached us from Mr. W. Hadlow. Sale June 20th and 21st.

A heavy list; doubtless a clear-up all round. On glancing through it we notice Ceylon, 4d., dull rose, imperf., used, £10 5s.; 8d., brown, ditto, slight cut, £4 4s.; 9d., lilac-brown, superb used copy, £2 12s. 6d. Labuan, 6 cents, in red, on 16 c., blue, unused, no gum, £4 12s. 6d. Queensland, 1st issue, 1d., imperf., unused, £6 6s.; 6d., green, light postmark, 42s.; 2d., dark blue, clean-cut perf. 14, unused, £3; 1s., dull violet, unused, 48s.; 1d., vermilion, wmk. Script, unused, £3. Sierra Leone, 1st issue, 6d., imperf., on bluish paper, unused, £2. A useful lot of stamps.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. AUGUST, 1900. No. 104.

The Late Hon. President of the London Philatelic Society.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S second son, the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, in the course of his all too short life, was eminently a many-sided man, and of vast experience in the most diverse subjects. It is an undoubted proof of his great abilities that in every case he alike grasped his subject and carried out his duties with an efficiency that has elicited the admiration of all with whom he came into contact. The great naval skill and profound seamanship that he acquired in his long career upon the ocean were promptly subordinated in his new rôle of German ruler of the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg, and it must have been no man of ordinary ability who could, as acknowledged by universal consent, have attained the highest success in two such widely different positions. As in the more public functions, so in the arts and graces that adorn the inner life, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg was a proficient in many varying subjects. Notably was this so in music, in which His Royal Highness greatly excelled; but despite this and many other calls on his time and leisure, the study of Philately remained for many years a source of recreation to him. Those who have been privileged to meet and converse with the late Duke can bear testimony alike to the extensive knowledge he displayed and to his evident keen appreciation of stamps and sympathy with collectors. It will always be a source of gratification to Philatelists to know that the kindly interest evinced herein by His Royal Highness never forsook him, and that, like others who have gone before, he died in the faith. We can but trust that the very fine collection of stamps formed by the late Duke may be continued by some illustrious

member of the family, and that the London Philatelic Society may once more be honoured by the membership of another member of the Grand-Ducal family.

Away and beyond the loyal and regretful sympathy that goes out from every British subject to the Queen and the Royal Family on their bereavement, we Philatelists feel compelled to tender a most respectful and sincere sympathy to H.R.H. the Duke of York, the President of the London Philatelic Society. The death of his uncle the Duke of Coburg removes the titular head of the Society, and creates a void that can hardly be filled, while his memory will be preserved by all its members with profound and grateful respect. We have avowedly used the latter adjective, for it is assured that the generous association of His Royal Highness the late Duke of Coburg with the London Philatelic Society for these past ten years has been of the greatest possible service to stamp collecting throughout the world, and has been a most potent factor in increasing the popularity of the pursuit. It is doubtless due to his initiative that we have been favoured by the membership of H.R.H. the Duke of York, and no man within the pale of stamp collecting but can have the knowledge that the approval of Royalty has gone far to increase the vogue for and consolidate the pursuit of Philately. It is therefore with feelings alike grateful and regretful that we have to deplore the death of the first Honorary President of the Philatelic Society of London, and to assure his royal relatives that the members of the London Society will always remember the kindly and valuable services rendered to them by H.R.H. the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Roumania.

A Paper read before the Manchester Philatelic Society on April 6th, 1900.

By W. DORNING BECKTON, President.

1862 Issue.

THERE is much to be learnt still about this issue, and the more one studies it the more difficult the subject appears. I will, however, as briefly as possible, endeavour to lay before you the result of my investigations.

The most convenient way of doing this will, I think, be to consider the stamps under the following headings: "Method of Production," "Types," "Papers Employed," "Colours."

Method of Production.

At first the plan of printing the stamps from a single die, which had been done in the two issues of Moldavia, was followed. Consequently, one die for each of the three values was prepared, and from such dies the stamps were printed in sheets of thirty-two, in four rows of eight, the two centre rows being *tête-bêche*. As a result of this process the stamps were very un-

evenly placed on the sheet, sometimes being found partly overlapping one another—in fact, I have seen the 6 paras in which one impression actually covered the other, making a double print in the true sense. This unevenness became more marked in the later printings of the hand-strucks, possibly owing to the greater number of stamps required, or maybe through a less experienced printer being employed. The vermilion shade formed the last printing, and is a very bad offender in the matter of overlapping. I believe a large number of sheets were discarded by the authorities for this reason, and put on one side as waste. These were sold some years ago, and are fast becoming absorbed.

The authorities decided that the stamps in future should be printed from plates. These were accordingly constructed, and the sheets printed from them consist of forty stamps in five rows of eight. A peculiar arrangement of the stamps on the plate was effected, which I need not describe, as it is sufficiently well known. The size of the sheets of the hand-struck and machine-printed is the same, although the number of stamps differs, as already mentioned.

As to how these plates were made I have been utterly unable at present to find out from official sources. If one could get this information it would probably throw a gleam of light on some abstruse points.

Failing this, however, we must be content to grope in the dark, and ascertain what we can from an examination of the stamps themselves.

This brings me to my second heading.

Types.

It has been thought that there are different types in this printing, but I am satisfied there are not; on the other hand, I believe that the *clichés* for the plates were all reproductions from the matrix employed in the printing of the hand-strucks. The *clichés*, however, appear to have been very imperfectly made, as nearly every stamp on the sheet possesses a distinguishing characteristic from its neighbour. These characteristics (which I will describe later) consist mainly of broken letters, malformation of letters, or dots, the rest of the stamp being an exact replica of the hand-struck stamp.

It would be easier to follow me if I gave at once a description of these sub-varieties.

Stamp. 3 Bani Values.

1. No bottom to "O" in "FRANCO."
2. „ and no top to "O" in "FRANCO."
9. Top curve of posthorn broken.
11. Right bottom corner of frame broken, no "E" in "SCRISOREI," and part of "I" missing.
12. Large blotch under the bull's head.
15. Top of "C" in "FRANCO" broken.
33. "C" in "FRANCO" damaged.
40. Frame much broken over "O" in "FRANCO."

Stamp. 6 PARAS.

1. Right-hand bottom corner of frame broken.
7. No bottom to the "O" in "FRANCO."
11. White hairline through lower "AR."
17. "O" in "FRANCO" broken on right lower side.
18. Bottom of "E" in "SCRISOREI" very thin, making it look like "F."
19. Frame broken at right top side.
20. Circular portion of "R" in lower "PAR." defective.
22. Hairline through "SO" of "SCRISOREI."
27. "N" in "FRANCO" broken at bottom, "R" broken at top.
28. "O" in "FRANCO" lower portion missing.
29. Mouthpiece of posthorn broken.
30. Lower "6" defective at top, upper "6" defective on left of lower part.
32. White hairline runs through the centre of top "6."
33. Lower "6": two white spaces in back and circular dot where lobe joins.
34. Frame broken at top left corner.
36. Frame broken like 34, but higher up.

Stamp. 30 PARAS.

1. Top of "R" in lower "PAR." broken.
5. Heavy upstroke between "R" and "E" in "SCRISOREI."
9. "N" bottom missing.
11. In top "PAR." small dot joining to front of "A."
16. In lower "PAR." "R" broken at top and "3" broken at back.
17. In lower "PAR." "A" broken at top.
18. In top "PAR." portion of "P" missing.
21. Abnormal top to "N" and "O," and circular white spot on the top of "C."
24. "FRANCO": parts of "ANCO" omitted at the bottom of each letter, the "O" being the most defective.
25. Mouthpiece of posthorn broken.
27. Curious "C" in "SCRISOREI," and piece out of "O" in top "30."
29. Weak-backed "E" in "SCRISOREI," and malformed "O" in "FRANCO."
39. Lower "3" broken at the base.

Now, in regard to these sub-varieties, I wish to add that I have only noticed the most prominent ones, and that in the other stamps on the sheet a very trifling flaw can be detected in some part of the stamp, but to have included these would have necessitated a long description, and tended to make this part of the subject laboured.

It must be clearly understood that the sub-varieties I have named occur in the same position as is assigned to them on *every* sheet, and therefore they are varieties due to the plate, and do not arise from the printing of the stamps as broken letters so often do.

Before leaving this heading I should like to add that in the case of the two higher values I have no doubt at all that the stamps could be plated by means of the list of these sub-varieties being extended in the way I have

already indicated. The colour of the 3 bani makes it difficult, however, to say how far success could be attained in this direction.

I wish before proceeding to emphasise the fact that the sub-varieties I have been dealing with do not in any way show that more than one type exists. Sub-varieties are very different from types. So far as I have been able to see, the sub-varieties are all the same type in substance, *i.e.* they have all been produced from the same matrix, and the flaws which constitute the sub-varieties are due to the imperfect manner in which the *clichés* were reproduced from the mother-die, and not to different dies being employed.

Let us now pass on to the next phase, and see if all the stamps were printed from the same plates, or whether there were more than one plate for each value. In the first place there was, without doubt, a plate made for each value. As to the 3 bani, I have up to the present only found that one plate was used. Coming to the 6 bani, I am faced with a difficulty, which is as follows: The sheets of this stamp, which are so plentiful at present, show all the stamps without a stop after the posthorn. There are other sheets occasionally met with which show eleven stamps having a stop after the posthorn, and on these sheets nineteen of the stamps have also a full stop after "FRANCO," or perhaps, to be more accurate, a full stop before the figure "6" in the upper label. Neither of these stops is found upon the former sheets.

I have in my collection marked the sheets without stops "First Transfer," and those with stops "Second Transfer." This is done to distinguish the one from the other, and will be followed in the coming remarks.

I have adopted the word "transfer," as apart from these stops the sheets of the two transfers are identical, *e.g.* the sub-varieties are all in evidence and in correct position. What accounts for the stops? To this question, up to the present, I have sought in vain for a totally satisfactory answer. It first occurred to me that the plates might have been constructed by means of single *clichés* clamped together, and for some reason a second setting-up had been made, or that a second plate had been constructed out of the first one by means of certain defective *clichés* being removed, and the ones bearing dots substituted; but in this case we should not find the sub-varieties occurring in their correct order.

Bearing in mind what I have said, it seems to me that the only tenable answer is that the plates were constructed in the first place from single *clichés* which were clamped together; that in time certain *clichés* worked loose, by reason of which it became necessary to fasten them, and this was done by driving a drill through the *cliché*, and fastening it down more securely by means of a nail, spring, or something of that kind. In Cashmere, for instance, we know that the plates were screwed through the margin to the printing block, giving an effect in printing we all know. The effect here is much the same, but of course on a smaller scale. It may appear a very primitive method, but the stamps themselves are primitive enough, and surely the manner of printing them up to this time from a single die is not out of keeping with this plan of repairing the plates. I am by no means satisfied I am right, but until corrected I think it is an explanation

which is feasible, and would account for the stops. In lieu of finding a better one I put it forward.

I should like to point out that in some of the stamps of the second transfer there is a stop after the posthorn, and one before the upper "6" as well. The positions of these stops, being at opposite angles, are the best which could have been selected for the purpose of fastening down the *cliché*. To sum up the position, I believe there was only one plate for the 6 par., but that there are two stages of it, the first stage without stops and the second with stops.

30 Paras.

What I have said upon the 6 par. value applies here, except that I have not found a sheet in which all the stamps are without a stop. On the other hand, I have found a good many more transfers, or, I think, "stages" would be the better term. They are as follows :—

Stage	A	. .	13	stamps	have a stop	after the posthorn.
„	B	. .	18	„	„	„
„	C	. .	19	„	„	„
„	D	. .	22	„	„	„
„	E	. .	26	„	„	„

The fact of there being so many stages shows, I think, that this plate was badly clamped together and required frequent repair; and, secondly, this would account for no sheet being forthcoming of the first stage, *i.e.* without stops, for it is only reasonable to suppose that if the plate were very faulty in construction only a few sheets would be printed before repair became necessary, and that all such have been postally used.

In the 6 par. value I attribute the scarcity of the second stage or transfer to the fact that practically all the stamps were printed from the first stage, and that the plate was repaired shortly before the issue went out, and that only a few were consequently printed, the remainders being considerable in all the values when the Couza Issue came out.

As far as we have gone I think this issue may be summed up as follows :—

There is only one type for each value, although there are probably forty sub-varieties, and there is only one plate for each value, although there are different stages—two in the 6 par. and five at least in the 30 par.

I will now proceed to consider the status of certain stamps belonging to this issue which differ materially from the foregoing in type. In the 3 par. value you will all know the stamp in "brilliant orange" quite distinct from the orange colour of the hand-struck series. It has up to the present been looked upon as the scarce colour, and undoubtedly not without good reason.

I noticed some time ago that the stamps in this colour differed materially in type from the orthodox, and in my exhibit at the Manchester Exhibition I put this note over such specimens: "From a second die. It is very questionable whether these were officially issued. Possibly forgeries —? Government."

I have at the present not the slightest doubt that these stamps are

forgeries. They are so different from the others that a long description is unnecessary. Briefly, the word "FRANCO" is considerably shorter, the letters are taller, the word "PAR." is nearer the posthorn and further away from the bottom outline than in the genuine. The shading on the eagle's breast is quite different, the star over the bull's head is too large and pointed, etc., etc. Enough has been said to show that the stamps are certainly a second type. We will now see why they are forgeries.

In the first place I would point out that the huge remainders of this issue show there was no occasion for further plates being made to increase the turnout, and certainly there is no evidence on the stamps that new plates were required on the ground of wear. In examining this so-called Type II. of the 3 par. I was struck with the similarity the lettering showed to that on the genuine 6 par. value, and I then satisfied myself that this value (6 par.) had been copied by the maker of the 3 par., Type II. Personally I was then satisfied the stamps called here Type II. were all forgeries, but I proceeded to carefully examine all the specimens I possessed of the 6 par., and found one which I had marked "thick paper, yellowish"—a paper quite different from any known in this issue—and which I had suspected of being a reprint, albeit no reprints are known to exist. On investigation I found this stamp to be different in type from all the other 6 par., and to correspond identically (except in the numerals of value) with Type II. of the 3 par. I then went to the 30 par. The first stamp I examined was in a peculiar pale blue, and was marked "? reprint." Here I found my old friend again, identical with Type II. of the 3 par., but quite different on minute examination with genuine 30 par. To show how one may miss these things, I found another in the true colour amongst the others of this value in my collection. So we have the same type common to the three values, but with the numerals of value alone altered, a state of affairs which did not happen in Roumania until the Paris Issue. The forgeries, for such they undoubtedly are, are a clever imitation of the 6 par. value, certain peculiarities of that value having been faithfully copied, but they will not, even in this value, stand minute examination for an instant. In the 3 par. value it is curious that the stamps have not been condemned long since; on the other hand, the specimens in the "brilliant orange" have found a ready sale between leading dealers and eminent experienced Philatelists. The forgeries, in addition to existing in the brilliant orange (unknown in the genuine), are in the normal shades of yellow, but these shades of the forgery are much scarcer than the orange.

Papers Employed.

Primarily, these may be divided into "laid" and "wove." Of the laid there is only one kind, whereas of the wove, which was the paper commonly used, several varieties exist, which I will explain hereafter.

The laid paper was used for the early printing of the hand-struck series, and must have been quickly superseded by wove paper, inasmuch as the same was also employed for the hand-struck series, and the life of this series was under twelve months—in fact, the wove paper is much

the commoner of the two. The laid paper was not used again, all the machine-printed issues being on wove.

The stamps on the laid paper all show the laid lines running horizontally. Judging from all the specimens I have seen of the 3 par. and 6 par. values, I should say that there was only one printing of each on laid paper. There must have been three printings at least of the 30 par., the last being the only value which is at all common on laid paper, and existing as it does in pale blue, blue, deep blue, and very dark blue; the pale blue and *very* dark blue being tones of colour which have a character of their own, and could not have been produced out of the same mixing of colour.

I have not thought it worth while to attempt to give a description of the texture of the paper; it is quite familiar to anyone knowing anything about this issue. So I pass on to a stamp of the 6 par. value in pale rose in my collection. The stamp is obviously machine-printed, and is so marked. It is on thick surfaced finished paper, laid horizontally, and is cancelled with the gridiron postmark. It was submitted by me in November, 1888, to Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson, and Co., and declared genuine, and has remained in my collection ever since. This is the only specimen I have ever seen or heard of on this kind of paper, and it is the only specimen I know of the machine-printed stamps on laid paper—in fact, upon this latter point I am satisfied that the laid paper usually known was only used for the first printings of the hand-struck.

Wove Paper.

The normal wove paper resembles the laid paper in texture, and such was used for the hand-struck as well as for the machine-printed series. In addition I have found the following abnormal papers:—

A. Dirty grey paper, slightly heavier in texture, but which may still fairly be described as transparent, a term I should apply as a characteristic of the normal wove paper.

B. Opaque white, highly finished surface paper, not transparent in the same sense as the last, and slightly heavier in texture.

C. A soft, fairly heavy, porous, grey-toned paper.

D. Hard, very thin, pure white paper. This varies from the normal in that I should scarcely describe the normal paper as being either hard or pure white.

E. Normal paper.

All the above terms must be construed having regard to the kind of paper employed, which is of the tissue genus.

A. This paper was used for the hand-struck.

B. For the machine-printed.

C. For the machine-printed. The very first printings of the machine series were on this paper. Observe the perfect impressions, showing the plate in the first condition, and the yellow crinkly gum, very different from the mucilage on the remainder sheets.

D. For the machine-printed series.

Colours.

The colours employed for the hand-struck series were different from those used for the machine-printed, and in the case of single specimens, about which there might be a little doubt as to which set they belonged, this question of colour to a practised eye will very soon settle the question. The 3 par., yellow, is perhaps the most difficult, because it exists in yellow in both printings, but the tone is somewhat different, for instance :—

3 *Par.*

Hand-struck.—Orange, pale orange, pale canary-yellow.

Machine.—Yellow, fairly consistent in shade as a rule, occasionally met with a little deeper than usual, but never approaching orange. The variety brilliant orange or orange-vermilion is a forgery.

6 *Par.*

Hand-struck.—Vermilion, brick-red, lake, are in a variety of shades. These colours are all peculiar to this printing, and not found in the machine series. The pale vermilion stamps are the only ones at all common, the reason being, as before stated, that large remainders existed which were all in this colour. Mr. Duerst says that the pale vermilion stamps were never issued, owing to the similarity they bore to the 3 paras, the light in the chief Roumanian post offices being very bad, when constant mistakes would have arisen had they been put into circulation.

Machine.—Rose, varying in depth of tone to rose-carmine.

Hand-struck.—Pale milky blue, pale blue, blue, deep blue, very dark blue. The first two and the last are peculiar to this printing.

Machine.—Deep blue, blue.

While upon this question of colour I might point out that the hand-struck series vary very much in colour, whereas the machine series are fairly constant, and with the exception of the 6 paras the variations in shade are to be traced rather to the printing than to a different tone of colour being employed. This is all the more remarkable when we remember that it is believed the machine series were in use considerably longer than the hand-strucks. Upon this point, however, I personally have a doubt.

I think I ought not to close this paper without a word of warning about used specimens of this issue. In the machine-printed series I am satisfied that a large number of forged postmarks exist—in fact, I have no hesitation in saying that amongst the so-called used specimens one meets with fifty per cent. bear forged or spurious postmarks. In naming fifty per cent. I think I am under- rather than over-estimating the proportion. This branch is far too complicated, and it would take too long to go into it in this paper. I propose, however, with your consent, to return to it at some other convenient opportunity.

The Philatelic Congress at Frankfort-a.-M.

By M. P. CASTLE.

THE pleasant German baths of Homburg, where I have been "summering" for several weeks, are in close proximity to Frankfort, and I therefore gladly availed myself of the privilege of once more attending the well-known Congress, recognised throughout Germany as the "Philatelisten Tag." The ancient capital of the German Confederation is to me a real philatelic link with the past, as, passing by a schoolboy collection, it was the scene of my first serious attempt to become a Philatelist. In the years 1866–7, when, as a lad of sixteen, I was in Frankfort, I found there many collectors among my immediate associates, and I promptly started for myself. In those days the Thurn and Taxis issues were still obtainable at the post office, and the then recently current sets of the German States were to be procured for a nominal consideration—*e.g.* I call to mind buying the third issue of Oldenburg complete, unused, for three shillings and sixpence, and many others on the same scale. Alas! that my philatelic memories of the Fatherland should be tinged with sorrow; but after spending no inconsiderable sum—for a youngster—and having succeeded in making the best collection among my compeers, a terrible Nemesis awaited me. My collection disappeared one fell day, nor has it yet returned to its true owner! Discouraged for a few years from collecting owing to this sad catastrophe, it was indubitably due to my Frankfort experiences that my almost lifelong connection with Philately is due. This is, however, rather a digression from the purport of these notes, and I will endeavour to be less personal and prolix.

The *venue* of the Twelfth Philatelic Congress could hardly have been improved, as not only is Frankfort a very central and accessible place, but the city itself is bright, handsome, and interesting, while in the neighbourhood are to be found some of the most delightful excursions in Germany. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that a goodly number of Philatelists—collectors and dealers—were present when, on Saturday, the 28th July, Herr Adolf Rosenberg opened the ball at the Hôtel du Nord. The proceedings at the initial meeting, which hardly appeal to the interests of my readers, were followed by a "Festcommers" in the evening, which, for the benefit of the uninitiated, I may describe as a *réunion*, where everyone eats, drinks, smokes, and talks Philately simultaneously. To the visitor for the first time this function is decidedly a variety, but the old hand may well be inclined to take it homœopathically!

Sunday, the 29th July, saw a pleasant change of rendezvous, to the celebrated and beautiful Palmen Garten, of Frankfort. These charming gardens, with their renowned restaurants and handsome reception-rooms, really constituted an ideal meeting-place, and the Congress proceeded merrily, discussing many important matters during the forenoon hours.

After a somewhat prolonged interval for philatelic *Schwätzerei*, for the consumption of many bocks and hocks in cool and shady arbours, and for the inevitable photograph, the Twelfth German Philatelic Congress settled down to serious *Fest-essen* (festival dinner), in the great hall of the restaurant. These proceedings, fortunately, were not prolonged—we rose from table at 5.30—and our enjoyment was greatly enhanced, though our best German conversation was perhaps somewhat discounted by the performances of the band of the 81st Regiment of Infantry. Herr A. Rosenberg presided, and a most capable and genial chairman he made, as his many friends in England would anticipate. I was at a loss which to admire more—the excellent taste of his remarks, or the stentorian power of his lungs! The chairman of a philatelic *Fest-essen* must be in a position to drown the general conversation by the volume of his own voice, or he would be practically mute! Personally, owing to the kindness of Herr Rosenberg in giving me such charming neighbours, I had "a real good time," but the cuisine and general carrying-out of the dinner arrangements reflect every credit upon the devoted band of Frankfort Philatelists who were responsible—with the result that everyone was supremely content.

The day following was devoted to a delightful excursion on the Rhine, including a steamer trip and visit to Castel, Rüdesheim, and other pleasure resorts.

The attendance of the foreign element was perhaps less than usual. Among the visitors from England I only noticed Messrs. Edward Buhl and H. Griebert. Messrs. Gelli from Brussels, Stötzer and Kosack from Berlin, and Glasewald from Gössnitz, and many well-known "Middle Germany" Philatelists, were present, and were apparently deeply absorbed in effecting important changes of ownership. The social aspect of the Philatelisten Tag is undoubtedly the main factor herein—it is difficult to induce a couple of hundred people to settle down to serious discussion on a summer holiday—and in the successful and pleasurable *réunion* of all classes of stamp people the ample vindication of the German Philatelic Congress is to be found.

The Philatelic Society of Victoria.

EXHIBITION.

THE above Society held an Exhibition on Saturday, 26th May, at the Old Court Studio, Town Hall Building, Swanston Street, Melbourne, to celebrate the jubilee of the issue of stamps in Victoria, and it proved a great success. The attendance at the exhibition numbered over 1,000 in the one afternoon and evening. This is the second exhibition held in Victoria by the Society, the first being on 15th September, 1894, and as on the former occasion it was open one afternoon and evening only.

Appended is a list of exhibits, from which it will be seen that a philatelic treat was given to the public.

Assistance was given to the exhibition by the Hon. Postmaster-General, who granted his patronage, and also allowed five frames from the Department to be exhibited. They contained statistics and photos of the post offices of Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, and other cities and towns in the colonies, and contained present and obsolete stamps, unused, to the face value of £2,971.

The Government printer exhibited a frame of stamps in a large cedar case, size 7 ft. by 5 ft.; it contained unused stamps to the value of £1,750. He also exhibited plates of 1d., rose, 6d., blue, and 1s. 6d., orange, in copper, brass, and nickel respectively, and also a sheet of each value along with them. These exhibits of the Government printer and four from the post office were prepared for the Greater Britain Exhibition and returned to this colony.

The Trustees of the Public Library also sent a frame containing unused Victorian stamps before 1862, some of which are in good condition, while others have been spoilt by the sun and water.

During the afternoon and evening a promenade concert was given, and it greatly added to the success of the affair.

The members of the Society were pleased with the success, and at the last meeting a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. D. S. Abraham, the Hon. Secretary of the Society, for the able manner in which he had carried out the details of the exhibition, and also to Messrs. J. Davis, F. A. Jackson, and Cr. H. Weedon, for the assistance they had given to bring about the result achieved.

EXHIBITS.

ABRAHAM, D. S.—Collection of Western Australia contained in thirteen sheets, and amongst them were included 1d., black, pair and singles, unused; 2d., chocolate (five copies); 4d., blue (five copies, used, and block of twelve, unused); 6d., bronze (eight copies, including two pairs); 1s., oval (eight copies, including pairs and shades); also 1d., black; 2d., vermilion; 4d., blue; 6d., bronze, and 1s., oval, rouletted. A page of original envelopes contained 1d., black, rouletted; 2d., chocolate; and pair of 4d., blue (second issue). All later issues are well represented, the unused copies being prominent throughout; amongst the latter issues were included block of four and strip of three ½d., surcharged in red and green on 3d., watermark Crown and C C.

ABRAHAM, J. S.—Proof-sheet of 4d., emblem Victoria, wove paper, imperforate.

BLACKBOURN, PERCY.—Frame of assorted Australians, including South Australia, strip of three, 4d., watermark V and Crown, and pair of 6d., black, Victoria, "POSTAGE" at side; Sydney Views, etc.

BORNEFELD, J.—A fine collection of Canadians and reconstructed plates of Great Britain, 1d., black; 2d., blue, perf. and imperf.; 1d., red-brown, perf. and imperf., and 1d., rose, etc.

BRETTSCHNEIDER, W.—Transvaals and German States.

COHEN, C.—Twelve sheets of unused early issues of Victoria, including half-lengths in various shades, Queen on throne, emblems; 5s., blue on yellow; 10d., slate; 6d., beaded oval, orange; 3d., lake; 8d. on 9d., laureated, etc.

CORR, J. REFORD, M.A.—The most recent issues of Sarawak, 2 cents to 1 dollar. Federated Malay States, 1 cent to 25 dollars. Gold Coast, 5s. and 10s. Trinidad, 5s. New Zealand Postage Dues, ½d. to 2s., and others. Post cards of European and Central and South American countries.

CHAPMAN, C.—Frame of assorted Australians, including some fine copies.

DAVIS, J.—Two frames of early Australians. One fine frame contained only rare stamps in pairs, including Sydney Views, 1d. Van Diemen's Land, 1d., imperf., South Australia, etc.

DEAVILLE, E. A.—New Zealand stamps in three frames (these exhibits were most artistically arranged).

DERRICK, A. J.—Specimen leaves from his album, which included Victoria, 6d., orange, beaded oval (three copies); 5s., blue on yellow (two copies); 4d., beaded oval, one pair imperf. and two copies

rouletted, on original paper; 1d. and 4d., emblem, Star watermark, rouletted. A page of registered New South Wales, used and unused, perf. and imperf. A fine page of 4d., octagonal, Tasmania, first issue, used and unused. A plate of Victoria 2d., Queen on throne, engraved, also copy of *Hobart Town Gazette* of 1829, with the duty stamp attached, and sixty-seven sheets of post cards, envelopes, and wrappers of Australian colonies.

DONNE, C. B.—Sydney Views, laureated and diadem issue of New South Wales. Early Victorians in blocks and strips, used and unused. Unused Ceylon and British colonials, early Australians on original covers, and an engraving of Melbourne post office of 1850 by Thomas Ham.

ELLIS, C. W.—Sheet of 2d., Victoria, mauve, on green paper, etc.

FOWLER, DR. W.—Caricature post cards of South African War and pictorial post cards of Battle of Waterloo.

HILL, D. H.—Specimens of Victorian postage stamps, used; Victorian Duty stamps, ½d. to £1, unused; ½d. to £100, used; obsolete Victorian stamps in blocks and strips of four, used; Postage Due stamps, unused; Fee stamps, unused. Obsolete issues of New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia, New Zealand, and West Australia, unused, and sheets of the following: Fiji, 2 cents and 6 cents, 1872 issue; South Australia, ½d. on 1d., green, 1882 issue; Labuan, 2 cents, rose, and Gambia, ½d., green. Indian Native States (six sheets); New South Wales, 2d. (1886) on stamp duty paper; Tasmania (1889), ½d. on 1d., rose, and also early envelopes of Great Britain, Mauritius, and Ceylon, all unused, and three plates (engraved and two lithographed); 2d., Victoria, Type II., 1852. These exhibits were contained in twenty frames, and contained 2,500 stamps.

JACKSON, F. A.—Collection of British India, almost complete. Complete set of Scinde District Post. Unused sheets of the following: 8 annas, surcharged "On H.M.S.," watermark Elephant's Head; ½ anna, surcharged "¼," provisional issue; ¼ anna, carmine; blocks of 1 rupee, "Service," and 9 pies, carmine. Complete set in pairs, unused, of Postal Service stamps.

KELSON, A. J.—Some unused Victorians, and original envelopes with Cuban stamps posted during Spanish-American War.

KENNEDY, H.—Queensland Duty stamps from 3d. to £500, used; also some philatelic curiosities.

MCDONALD, A.—A fine collection of rare Australian stamps, including Victoria, 6d., orange (two copies); 5s., blue on yellow; 5s., blue and red, unused, emblem; 1d., green, perf., watermark Star; 3d., beaded oval, laid paper, unused; Sydney Views (four, unused). Mauritius, "POST PAID," 2d., blue. United States, 1869, Lincoln, 90 cents, unused. This collection included only fine copies, and was full of rarities.

RUNDELL, W. R.—Varied collection of Victorian stamps on original covers, including the first issues, 1d. and 2d., in early and rare shades of colour, also the 4d. of 1885 printed in the colour of the 2d. of the same date, a genuine error; also three plates (one engraved) of the two pence, Queen on throne. New South Wales, forty-eight Sydney Views, on original covers, including the variety of 2d. with "CREVIT" omitted; laureated 3d., watermark 2; used and unused West Australia, New Zealand, and South Australia stamps.

WHELEN, A. S. A.—Spain. A very fine collection, including 1850 issue complete; 1851 issue, including 5, 6, and 10 reis. Madrid, 1 cent., bronze; 1854 issue, including 2 cents. on greenish paper; 1860, 1862, 1864, and 1865 issues almost complete, including all 19 cents.; 1868, Habilitado, 25 mils., blue, 50, lilac, 50, brown; 1873–4 Carlist stamp, used; 1889, 1 peseta, imperf., on original entire cover. Fernando Po and Philippine Islands.

South African Republic. First Republic, thirty-four copies, mostly used, and many fine copies. British Occupation, "V.R." surcharge, twenty-six copies, including many errors. Transvaal, complete, used and unused. Second Republic, twenty-four copies old type Republic, 1887, high values, 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and 20s.

Orange Free State. 1868 and 1877 sets complete; 1881–2 issue, including inverted surcharges 1d. on 5s., also varieties 3d. on 4d.; later issues almost complete.

Natal. 1857, 1d., rose; 1d., blue; 3d., rose. 1862–3, 1d. and 3d., clean-cut perforations. 1869, "POSTAGE" tall capital, 1d. and 6d., and various surcharges. 1874, two copies 5s., marone; two 5s., rose.

Also rare stamps of Mexican, Brunswick, Prussia, Geneva, and Ionian Isles.

The exhibits by this gentleman were very fine, and included 932 stamps, all fine copies. The stamps of the South African Republic and Orange Free State were the subjects of great interest to both the philatelic and non-philatelic public throughout the day.

Philatelic Notes.

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

SAN MARINO.

ON page 275, vol. viii., we gave a list, stated to be official, of the different issues and quantities of the stamps of San Marino.

We read in the *Monthly Circular* that the correctness of this list has been challenged, and the following alterations are made by a writer in the *Revista del Francobollo* :—

132,600	2 centesimi,	green,	printed in	1877
74,000	„	„	„	1880
115,600	„	„	„	1885
92,000	„	„	„	1888

The 10 centesimi, blue, was given as 50,000 only, and the quantities actually issued were :—

90,200	printed in	1877
45,200	„	1888

Other errors are :—

1877.	20 centesimi,	scarlet,	385,200,	not	300,000
	30 „	brown	52,400	„	25,000
	40 „	lilac	64,200	„	25,000

HELIGOLAND.

SOME very interesting information has come to light, apparently through Mons. Moens reading his old correspondence before destroying it.

The latest is from a letter of Dr. Pilger (Postmaster of Heligoland), dated December 7th, 1874, giving the quantities of the various values of the early issue which were put on sale at that date, prior to the change of currency.

The following is a list of the stamps offered to Mons. Moens, as given in *L. T.-P.* :—

10,000	¼ schilling	15,000	1½ schilling
10,000	½ „	100,000	2 „
10,000	¾ „	80,000	6 „
10,000	1 „		

Occasional Notes.

DEATH OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, HON. PRESIDENT OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

IT is our painful duty to record the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, which sad event took place at the Palace of Rosenau, near Coburg, at ten o'clock p.m. on Monday the 30th July.

His Royal Highness Alfred Alexander William Ernest Albert, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Duke of Juliers, of Cleves and of Berg, of Engern and Westphalia, Landgrave in Thuringia, Margrave of Meissen, Princely Count of Henneberg, Count of the Mark and of Ravensberg, Lord of Ravenstein and of Tonna, Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Ulster and of Kent, was the second son of Queen Victoria and the late Prince Consort, and was born at Windsor Castle on the 6th of August, 1844. He was therefore within a few days of completing his fifty-sixth year.

The late Duke was elected Honorary President of the Philatelic Society, London, in December, 1890, an office that he filled until his decease, hence in his lamented death the London Society loses its highest officer. During a large proportion of his lifetime the Duke of Edinburgh—by which name he will be best remembered in this country—evinced the greatest interest in Philately—his inauguration of the Philatelic Exhibition of 1890 among other instances to wit—and he was a consistent and enlightened collector.

The members of the London Philatelic Society, as indeed all classes in Philately, are fully conscious of the great loss they have sustained, and their most sincere and respectful sympathy will be tendered to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, the President of the Philatelic Society (H.R.H. the Duke of York), and the other members of the Royal Family.

M. MOENS' LIBRARY.

WE recently referred to the sale of this valuable and interesting collection of philatelic literature, and it would now appear to have passed into very good hands, as we gather from *Mekeel's Weekly* that Mr. H. E. Deats, of Flemington (through Mr. F. J. Laurie, as noted by us), "has acquired the library of J. B. Moens, of Brussels, and amalgamated it with his own. This notable accession must make Mr. Deats' accumulation pre-eminent among the great collections of the world, and no doubt the Tiffany Library must now take second place. It was through F. J. Laurie, who was the immediate purchaser of the Moens Library, that Mr. Deats secured the addition. Mr. Deats has eight hundred bound volumes and as many more volumes ready

for the binders' hands. Mr. Deats is now to pay especial attention to government postal matter, such as postal guides, postmaster-generals' reports, special circulars, etc."

We heartily congratulate Mr. Deats—who is well known to many of us on this side of the Atlantic—upon this important acquisition, expressing the hope that his very important collection of philatelic works may always be preserved intact for the benefit of future collectors.

THE LAST ISSUE OF THE "TIMBRE-POSTE."

ISSUED several months in advance, to suit M. Moens' earlier retirement, we have now in hand the December number of this celebrated journal, and, in common with all well-wishers of our pursuit, we are conscious of a keen feeling of regret that so old and so valued a medium of information to the philatelic world should have disappeared for aye. The first number of the *Timbre-Poste* appeared on February 15th, 1863, and with the premature delivery of this year's numbers thirty-eight years have been the tale of its existence. So long a record—longer beyond all comparison than the life of any journal hitherto connected with stamps—would alone constitute sentiments of respect and even veneration, but the claims to the grateful memories of present and future Philatelists are by no means limited to the longevity of the journal. As M. Moens appropriately claims in his farewell to his readers, the *Timbre-Poste* has always endeavoured faithfully to represent the true and best interests of collectors, nor has he ever allowed it to be swayed by any material or trade considerations. Its record has therefore been as unsullied as its information and erudition have been copious. The able and exhaustive monthly lists of new issues that have regularly appeared for more than a generation have been veritable keystones in building up philatelic works, and to the compiler of stamp history will always afford a mine of information. Many and valuable have been, also, the important articles on the difficult subjects in Philately that have graced the pages of the *Timbre-Poste* in its long career, while it may fearlessly be asserted that in its whole tone and demeanour the journal of our respected friend, M. J. B. Moens, from birth to death has been an important and appreciated supporter of the best ends and aims of Philately.

We cannot more fittingly conclude this obituary notice than by repeating the closing sentences of M. Moens' valedictory notice—words which most sympathetically record alike the *motif* of the farewell and its editor's profound feelings of regret:—

"From the time that we created the sale of stamps in 1852 we have always stood in the breach. We should still remain there were we not compelled, by *force majeure*, to retire; hence is it no unworthy soldier who now deserts his post. It must not be imagined that we have taken this determination with a light heart. Quite to the contrary do we bitterly regret that we are compelled to sever our connection with our readers and those dear stamps that have served to while away so many happy hours as to make us forget that we were dealers."

With these evidently deeply-felt utterances, and a graceful acknowledgment to his many friends and collaborators, M. Moens "makes his adieu for ever and his most profound bow to all his readers." That M. Moens may be spared for many years of well-earned retirement is the devout wish of us all. *Vale et valete.*

THE NEW SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIES.

THE appearance of a list of the "Orange River Colony, Transvaal, and Mafeking Siege Stamps" as an Addendum to the Part I. of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue may be deemed the philatelic registration of the incorporation of these South African stamps as British colonial issues. All the varieties that have recently been chronicled in both of our adversaries' overprinted stamps are duly noted, and already present a goodly total, while the prices demanded for a complete set of Baden-Powell's siege issues would have sufficed to lay the foundations of a fair general collection a couple of decades since. The old Transvaal and Orange issues have been re-edited, and the brochure altogether is quite on a par with the general level of excellence of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' publications.

We have now also received Part II., which on cursory examination seems to be both improved and extended. We hope to review it in our next issue, after the summer vacations of both reader and editor have freshened their philatelic zest.

Review.

HINTON'S HINTS ON STAMP COLLECTING.*

THIS enlarged and improved second edition of a little volume that appeared a few years since includes a variety of information that cannot fail to be of use to collectors, more especially to those whose experience has not fully ripened. The "A B C of Philately" includes much that will be found of value, notably the synopsis of Reprints, though "Saxony, 1863 issue (since appearing reprinted)" seems calculated to mislead the uninitiated, the illustrations of the watermarks, and the delineation and description of "stamps that puzzle collectors" by the manner of the names of the countries that respectively issued them. This little book, of some one hundred and twenty pages, will well repay acquisition by any collector who is not thoroughly imbued with philatelic love.

* *Hinton's Hints on Stamp Collecting.* Second Edition. Revised and Enlarged. E. Nister, 28, Paternoster Row, E.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 SOUTH AFRICA.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a new 4d. stamp in olive-green, type of 1898–9.

Adhesive. 4d., type 1898–9, olive-green; no wmk.; perf. 14½.

CEYLON.—The 15 cents in a bright blue shade, wmk. Crown C A and perf. 14, announced as far back as December last year, appears to have only very lately been issued, and copies have reached us from Mr. G. C. Alston and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. It would appear that a 5 cents in blue has been expected in some quarters, but Mr. Alston assures us that this is a mistake, and probably a misprint for 15 cents.

The *M. J.* has received the current 25 cents of the "On Service" set in two very distinct shades. One is stated to be yellow-brown, while the other is in a much darker and duller shade.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A curiosity is described in *Ewen's Weekly*, interesting because of such rare occurrence.

Our contemporary writes:—

"We have also to chronicle what is practically an unwatermarked specimen of the current 1d., lilac, Great Britain. After the paper served out to the printers had been gummed and dried, one sheet got the corner folded over to such an extent that the corner stamp was printed entirely on the unwatermarked margin (gummed side). The portion folded over reaches as far as the letter 'E' of 'ONE' in the eleventh stamp in the lowest row, and nearly to the letter 'G' of 'POSTAGE' in the stamp just over that in the corner. Both these stamps are half printed on the folded edge of the sheet, and the corner stamp wholly so. The latter only shows as watermark part of the lines, and the cross found at each corner of a sheet, whilst the square bearing the Crown watermark is quite blank. This curious block of three has been shown us by Mr. J. T. Cricks. The control letter 'U' is also printed on the gummed flap."

The brown and blue postal fiscal stamps of 1853–4 have long been catalogued in two types (Nos. 104 and 105 Gibbons'), and the brown variety has been hitherto allotted to type 104, and the blue to both 104 and 105 types.

Messrs. Bright and Son have made the discovery that the first-issued blue stamp is not type 104 nor 105, but something quite distinct.

The brown variety has a fancy buckle, with additional spike-hole in band.

The first blue stamp has a fancy buckle, but differing from the buckle of the brown stamp, and *without* spike-hole in band.

The second variety of the blue stamp is type 105, as catalogued.

HONG KONG.—A correspondent in this colony tells us that some time in 1892, or earlier, the 2 c. stamp was surcharged "S. D.," and both the 2 c. and the 10 c., No. 50 in the Catalogue, were surcharged "S. O."; that this was done with a view to distinguishing between the stamps to be used as fiscals and those available for postage, in order to keep the accounts separate, but that, as a matter of fact, the surcharge was not of much use, as people put the surcharged stamps on their letters, and the Post Office passed them. The 2 c.

stamps are catalogued as Nos. 107*a*, 107*b*, but the date 1894 is not correct.—*Monthly Journal.*

INDIA.—*Cochin.*—The *M. J.* has received a post card of the same type as that issued in 1898, but printed in *carmine* on *buff*.

The cards are, it is stated, issued in pairs, which can be used as reply cards.

It is also announced that the stamps of this state are to be withdrawn, and the Post Office taken over by the Imperial authorities.

Post Card. 2 pies, carmine on buff.

Kishengarh.—The ¼ anna in magenta reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. *Adhesive.* ¼ anna, magenta.

Sirmoor.—It has been reported that the Elephant set of 1895-9 has never been *officially* surcharged $\frac{S}{S}$ On S, and though catalogued, were probably only made for collectors.

MAFEKING SIEGE STAMPS.—To the list of nineteen varieties given on page 203 we have two more to add, from information supplied by Messrs. Bright and Son.

Adhesives.

"MAFEKING" *and* "BESEIGED" *in fancy type.*
1s. on 6d., lilac on red, British Bechuanaland.
1s. on 6d. ,, Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The expected crop of forgeries was not long in making its appearance, and Messrs. Bright and Son have shown us the following varieties on Cape stamps :—1d. on ½d. (both varieties), 3d. on 1d., 6d. on 3d., and 1s. on 4d., all of which bear the overprint "MAFEKING BESIEGED" in irregularly-formed letters and not on a level; the figures of value are also different. Practically, the remainder of the set has since been seen, with a different printing. Messrs. Bright and Son will willingly give a free opinion on any specimens sent them for inspection, provided return postage and registration be not forgotten. It is clear collectors will have to exercise great caution.

NATAL.—It is very satisfactory to hear that the authorities in this colony do not favour the Commemorative Stamp idea.

If stamp collectors would only leave these labels alone we should soon cease to be troubled with them.

It is bad enough to keep pace with the Asenjos, etc., of Central America—stamps that will frank letters out of the country of issue, if only for twelve months or so!

NEW BRUNSWICK.—It seems strange to have to chronicle a variety of the stamps of this colony so long out of issue.

The *M. J.* has been shown a horizontal strip of four of the 1 cent stamps which are imperforate vertically.

Adhesive.

1 cent, reddish purple (variety); imperf. vertically.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.—On page 120 we gave a list of the set of stamps announced by a contemporary.

In it was included a 10d. value, green and brown, but now it is reported that this value does not exist; it should read "10s., green and brown." Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the set from ½d. to 2s. 6d. inclusive, and we find the colours recorded are correct.

Adhesive. 10s., green and brown.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Fresh varieties are turning up every day.

A specimen of the 1d., violet, surcharged "1d." and "V.R.I." *below*, has been received from Mr. Franz Reichenheim.

Messrs. Bright and Son call our attention to the 3d. on 3d. and 4d. on 4d. values. On each pane of these stamps, the third stamp on row seven from the left side has a square stop after "R.," and on *one* pane in each sheet of the 1d. on 1d., violet, the last stamp on the right side has a normal stop after "V.," and raised stops after "R." and "I."

Messrs. Bright and Son have also come across a pane of 4d. stamps of the second or raised stop printing, in which has been found a copy of the first printing or normal stop variety. This pair of stamps has been shown to us.

Some very interesting information is given to the *M. J.* by Major Agar, R.E., and we take the liberty of copying it from the pages of our contemporary for the benefit of our readers.

"SURCHARGED STAMPS.

"SIR,—1. In reply to your inquiry, I have the honour to inform you that the Military Governor deputed me to inspect the surcharged O.F.S. stamps before sale to the public. Owing to the great pressure of work it was not possible to make a searching inspection of each sheet of stamps, and in consequence stamps having the following errors were passed and issued for sale, viz.:—

"*Halfpenny Sheets.*—'½' is omitted before the 'd' in the left-hand bottom corner quarter. In the last row of each quarter-sheet the stop is omitted between the 'V' and 'R' in the third stamp from the left.

"*Onepenny Sheets.*—The stop is omitted in the last row of each quarter between the 'V' and

'R' in the third stamp from the left. In a few of the original impressions an 'I' was omitted after the 'V.R.' on each sheet.

"*Twopenny Sheets.*—The stop is omitted in the last row of each quarter between the 'V' and 'R' in the third stamp from the left.

"*Twopence-halfpenny Sheets.*—The surcharge '2½' was made by the late Government of the Orange Free State. The same error occurs as in the case of the twopenny sheets in the last row of each quarter.

"*Threepenny and Fourpenny Sheets.*—The same errors occur as in the case of the twopenny sheets.

"*Sixpenny Sheets.*—The red stamps were in use when the army entered the Free State. The stock being exhausted, the blue issue, which was found in the Free State Treasury, was brought into issue. In addition to the errors which occur as in the case of the twopenny sheets, a '6' is omitted before the 'd' in the two left-hand quarters of each sheet.

"*One Shilling and Five Shillings Sheets.*—The same errors occur as in the case of the twopenny sheets. In a few of the original issues the '1' and the '5' were omitted before the 's' in the same position on each sheet as the similar error occurs in the halfpenny sheet now forwarded you.

"2. Subsequently it came to my knowledge that a small number of brown penny and yellow shilling stamps, which were in private hands on the entry of the army into Bloemfontein, had been surcharged. As such a step had not been authorised, the matter was brought to the attention of the Military Governor, by whose authority all such brown penny and yellow shilling stamps as could be traced in the hands of stamp dealers, etc., were recalled and confiscated.

"3. Many errors not mentioned above occurred in surcharging the stamps, but fortunately they were all detected, and stamps with them were not placed on sale. This is mentioned, as unscrupulous persons may have fabricated similar errors in order to place an enhanced value on stamps in their possession before the British occupation of the present Orange River Colony.

"4. Complete sheets of surcharged stamps have been supplied to the British Museum. From these stamps the only errors mentioned in Paragraph 1 which are missing are penny stamps with 'V.R.' only, shilling stamps with no '1' before 's,' and five shilling stamps with no '5' before the 's.'

"Yours faithfully,

"W. A. J. O'MEARA, *Major.*

"Major E. AGAR."

From the same source we have received a list of the quantities of the various stamps that were surcharged:—

½d. . .	1,384,800	4d. . .	74,400
1d. . .	3,144,000	6d., carmine	7,200
2d. . .	1,231,200	6d., blue .	672,000
2½d. . .	19,200	1s. . .	439,200
3d. . .	1,024,800	5s. . .	232,800

Adhesives.

1d., violet; surcharged $\frac{\text{1d.}}{\text{V.R.I.}}$

1d. ,, ,, $\frac{\text{V.R·I·}}{\text{1d.}}$

3d., blue ,, $\frac{\text{V.R.I.}}{\text{3d.}}$

4d. ,, ,, $\frac{\text{V.R.I.}}{\text{4d.}}$

4d. ,, pair ,, $\frac{\text{V·R·I·}}{\text{4d.}} + \frac{\text{V.R.I.}}{\text{4d.}}$

SARAWAK.—A reply card with the current value engraved on the stamp has reached the *M. J.*

Doubtless single cards also exist, though the surcharged cards are still in use.

Post Card. 4+4 c., carmine on buff.

SIERRA LEONE.—Mr. A. H. Stamford sends us a pair of the "Half Penny" on 1½d. stamp with the CA wmk. of 1894.

The right-hand stamp reads $\frac{\text{Half}}{\text{¡ ENNY}}$ and though there is no trace of the letter "¡" being a broken P, or of imperfect printing, yet we notice the impression of the first letter "N" appears thus: "ɴ."

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—In addition to the 1d., surcharged "O. S.," in tall, narrow type, the lately-issued ½d., green, and 2d., violet, have overprints of similar type.

Official Stamps.

½d., green, current issue, surcharged "O. S."
2d., violet ,, ,, ,,

TRANSVAAL.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim has sent us the ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., and 3d. values, surcharged "V.R.I." in block letters, as described in our last, and the other values, up to and including the 10s. value, are duly reported as having reached this side.

Adhesives. Transvaal Stamps surcharged "V.R.I."

½d., green.	6d., lilac.
1d., carmine.	1s., ochre.
2d., brown.	2s. 6d., purple.
2½d., blue.	5s., slate.
3d., purple.	10s., pale brown.
4d., sage-green.	

We are glad to see it stated that no *errors* of surcharge have yet been discovered, and we hope none will be. A change in type used for the overprints is expected later on.

VICTORIA.—On page 179 we gave a short description of the two war labels.

We have not yet seen these labels, but from illustrations in *The Picture Postcard*, they remind us of the Victorian Bill Stamps available for postage.

Had they been issued simply as 1d. and 2d. stamps in the ordinary way, we think they would have met with approval.

They are reported watermarked V and Crown and perf. 12½, colours bronze-brown and emerald-green respectively.

EUROPE.

BOSNIA.—The perforations of the new Bosnian stamps appear to be beautifully mixed, and will soon rival the later issues of New South Wales in this respect.

On page 151 we gave the measurements

of a set we had sent us, and the *M. C.* gives fresh varieties.

In addition to our list we are now told of the following: Perf. 10½, 5 and 6 hellers, and no doubt the whole set exists in both the 10½ and 12½ perfs., with probably compound as well.

FINLAND.—On page 110, vol. viii., we gave some translations from Finnish journals relative to the retirement of the Finnish stamps in favour of the ordinary Russian issue.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. now send us further translated extracts from recently-issued journals in Finland.

The following has been taken from the *Uya Pressen*, which paper was suppressed on June 28th for good, by General Bobrikoff, the Governor-General of Finland:—

"THE POSTAL QUESTION.

"The question of the Finnish postage stamps is now finally settled; the Russian Minister of the Interior having decided that the Finnish postage stamps for correspondence abroad shall from the 14th August next be entirely superseded by Russian postage stamps. For correspondence within the country the Finnish postage stamps will be used up to the 1st January, 1901, but will thenceforth be replaced by exclusively Russian stamps, or by such as have the same appearance as these, but with the value in Finnish money. For correspondence to Russia, Russian postage stamps are now, as is well known, already in use."

And from the *Hufvudstadsbladet* of June 28th, 1900, which seems to settle the matter for good.

"As is well known, the Estates recently convoked to the Diet petitioned that His Imperial Majesty would graciously ordain in regard to the observance in conducting the Postal System, that all postage stamps for correspondence from Finnish post offices should contain a statement of the amount in Finnish money to be paid for the same.

"According to an official communication from St. Petersburg received here yesterday, His Majesty, on the presentation of this petition, has commanded that no notice shall be taken of the same."

GREECE.—Two new cards are reported in several quarters, and the following is a description given by the *M. J.*:—

"The principal feature in each case is a full-length figure of Mercury, in a costume which some of us might envy in this weather, standing upon a globe, at each side of which are scrolls bearing the word 'ΛΕΠΤΑ.' The lower value has 'ΕΛΛΑΣ' at the top and figures '5' in the upper corners; the higher has the name, in letters one above the other, at each side, and figures '10' above the scrolls at foot. There are three lines of inscription on the 5 l., which has no frame to the card, and seven (including the name in the centre of the top of the frame) on the 10 l. Impression all in colour."

Ewen's Weekly has also received a 5 lepta, green, adhesive, and all are clearly forerunners of a new set of stamps, cards, etc., expected shortly.

Adhesive. 5 l., green.
Post Cards. 5 l., olive-green on *cream;* 132×85 mm.
10 l., rose on *bluish grey;* 140×89 mm.

ITALY.—It is reported that a magnificent set of pictorial stamps is being prepared for Eritrea.

Let us hope the eminent Italian artist engaged on this work will turn out something better than the late French Congo and Swiss Jubilee stamps.

WURTEMBERG.—The official 2 pf. card has also been issued for reply.

Official Post Card.
2+2 pfennig, greenish grey (two varieties).

AMERICA.

CHILI.—A 5 cent. envelope in ultramarine is listed, and the 10 cent. adhesive lately issued is expected shortly to wear a new coat, yellow.

Envelope. 5 centavos, ultramarine, on *white laid.*

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—*Cucuta.*—There are yet two more varieties to be added to the list.

The *A. J. P.* mentions a 1 c., black on blue-green, and the *Monthly Circular* a 5 centavos, *black on white.* The latter contemporary states that all values recently received are surcharged with a rubber stamp, "ANDRÉS B. FERNANDEZ," the name of the leader of the insurrectionists. The surcharge is in green on the 5 and 20 centavos, and in black on the 10 centavos.

Adhesives. 1 centavo, black on blue-green.
5 centavos, black on white.

GUATEMALA.—The old type in new colours is arriving over here, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us the 1 c., 2 c., and 6 c.

Two of these we have already listed (page 205), so we have to add—

Adhesive. 2 cents., old type, red; perf. 12.

Errors of surcharge on the late provisionals have been seen, as might be expected.

SALVADOR.—A crop, and a big one too, of surcharges is announced, nearly every journal naming something different.

We have chronicled those we have seen, and endeavoured to follow the lists, but find them too confusing.

To make it worse, specimens with and without wheel surcharge are known. These stamps can only be made with one object, viz. to extract money from the pockets of stamp collectors, and are worse, if possible, than Seebecks.

UNITED STATES.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, quoting from a Washington despatch, writes :—

"The special issue of stamps for the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo will be distinguished from all previous issues for similar occasions by the words 'Commemorative Series, 1901,' which will be on the stamps in addition to the usual wording. Heretofore all stamps for the Centennial, the Columbian, and the Omaha Exposition, were distinguished from the ordinary stamps only by the pictures. The wording was precisely similar on the special and regular issues. With the idea of making the Pan-American Exposition series commemorative of the exposition, Third Assistant Postmaster-General Madden desired to have the words 'Pan-American Series, 1901,' appear on the stamps. The question was referred to Assistant Attorney-General for the Post Office Department Tyner, who to-day rendered an opinion in which he held that the printing of the reference to the Pan-American Exposition would be contrary to the statute which was adopted to prevent the printing of advertisements on stamps: as the exposition was not conducted by the Government, but by an exposition company subsidised by the Government, it was in the nature of a private enterprise, and a mention of it on the Government stamps would be an advertisement for it. He found no objection, however, to the words 'Commemorative Series, 1901,' and the stamps will bear that inscription. A request has been received for a special series of stamps for the Charleston, S.C., Interstate and West Indian Exposition. It will probably be denied."

OTHER COUNTRIES.

AFGHANISTAN.—Following the information given on page 206, Mr. W. T. Wilson writes to the *M. J.* that he has had the shahi of the "1294" issue in green and in yellow on wove paper.

Adhesives.

Shahi (Type 9 Gibbons), green, on *wove*.
" " yellow "

ALEXANDRIA.—For use in the French Post Office here the new 2 francs French stamp has been overprinted "Alexandrie," a copy having been kindly sent us by Mr. Franz Reichenheim.

Adhesive.

2 francs, current French stamp, surcharged "Alexandrie," in black.

CHINA (German).—It is stated in several quarters that the 5 pf. stamps at Kiautschou running short, some of the 10 pf. stamps were surcharged "5 pf.," in black, at the foot of the stamps, and on others in the centre.

Of course these makeshifts had only been in use a few days when a fresh supply of 5 pf. stamps arrived, and the provisionals were *withdrawn*.

Provisional Stamp.

5 pfennigs on 10 pf., carmine; black surcharge.

COREA.—A provisional has been made by surcharging the 25 poon stamp with the figure "1."

Le T.-P. reports that the figure "1" is on the "2" of "25," and gives the new value as "15 poon," while the *Monthly Circular* states the new value to be 1 poon.

We therefore await further information before listing, though 15 poon seems the more likely to be correct, for the new 1 cheun (or poon), green, is reported in circulation.

The *Monthly Circular* mentions a new post card of 1 cheun, upright rectangular in shape, with a round stamp (arms design) in the upper left angle; frame with inscriptions above and below; other inscriptions in the lower left angle.

Post Card. 1 cheun, blue on *white*.

DUTCH INDIES.—The surcharged stamps of the current Holland issue which have been listed for some time, are now coming over.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that the envelopes of the 1878–9 issue, 20 cents and 25 cents, have been surcharged "10 cents."

Envelopes. 10 cents on 20 cents, blue; surcharge ?
10 " " 25 " violet "

FERNANDO POO.—The 20 cent. carmine stamp of 1899 has been surcharged 5 cents. and 50 cents. in types 6 and 3 of Gibbons.

Adhesives.

5 cen. on 20 c., carmine, of 1899; surcharged in black (Gibbons' type 6).
50 c.-pta on 20 c., carmine, of 1899; surcharged in black (Gibbons' type 3).

FRENCH LEVANT.—The lately-issued 2 francs French stamp has been surcharged "8 PIASTRES 8" for use in Turkey, and specimens have reached us from Mr. Franz Reichenheim.

Adhesive.

2 francs, current French stamps; surcharged "8 PIASTRES 8" in black.

MOZAMBIQUE COMPANY.—Two provisionals have been issued, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a copy of their correspondent's letter as follows:—

"I send you a specimen each of two new provisionals recently issued here; they are a necessary issue and not superfluous. The passing through of so many thousands of British troops entirely exhausted the stock in hand of the usual 25 and 50 reis stamps, and 22,000 of the 25 and 15,000 of the 50 have been printed for sale.

"On each page occurs an error, or more accurately a want of ink impress; the 'REIS' on 50 reis issue is printed 'RFIS.' I am sorry that I cannot send you a specimen of this, but if I can obtain several will send you one later on."

The stamps are the 5 reis of the current issue (Mozambique Company) overprinted "25 REIS" in red, and the 10 reis perforated vertically through the centre, and each half surcharged "50 REIS" in violet.

Adhesives.

25 reis on 5 reis (Mozambique Company's stamp); red surcharge.
50 reis on half 10 reis (Mozambique Company's stamp); violet surcharge.

This information was supplied by Mr. J. E. McMaster, British Consul at Beira, and is of painful interest from the fact that, five days after the letter was despatched, the writer was assassinated by a German-American. Mr. McMaster was, we are informed, an enthusiastic stamp collector.

PORT SAID.—The new 2 francs French stamp has also been surcharged for use here, and a specimen reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

Adhesive.

2 francs, current French stamp; surcharged "PORT SAID," in black.

SAMOA.—There are some post cards to add to our list of German stamps surcharged for use here.

Post Cards. 5 pfennig, green on buff.
5+5 ,, ,, ,,
10 ,, carmine ,,
10+10 ,, ,, ,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

JANUARY packets returned from circulation by April 30th, and accounts were made up and submitted and sheets returned within four days. Sales were well above the average, demonstrating once more that the rarer varieties of stamps, if priced reasonably, command a ready sale among members.

February packets have come to hand and will be dealt with with the least possible delay. Sales will presumably amount to £160 or £165.

Four packets, containing 181 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1,704 14s. 11d., were made up and despatched on the May circuit by May 25th. Many good selections were contributed, but several members were content to send poor sheets and keep their more valuable specimens for a rise in prices. South Africans were well represented, and the provisional war stamps will presumably be eagerly snapped up. Five new members were admitted during the past month, and four applications were held over for inquiries. Packets will be circulated during the summer months, but members are particularly requested to notify any changes of address, absence from home, etc., during that period to the Secretary, H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

The Collectors' Club.

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE fifty-fourth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, June 11th, 1900. Present:—Messrs. Andreini, Bruner, Luff, Perrin, and Scott. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance of $789.11 in bank, exclusive of U.S. bonds, was read and approved. The report of the House Committee was accepted as received.

THE fifty-fifth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, July 9th, 1900. Present:—Messrs. Bruner, Luff, Perrin, and Scott. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance of $781.85 in bank, exclusive of U.S. bonds, was read and approved. The following gifts to the Club were reported:—From the Boston Philatelic Society, a bound volume on the Revenue Stamps of the U.S.; from Mr. Krassa, a number of interesting frames; from Mr. Scott, bound volumes 11 and 12 of the *Metropolitan Philatelist*. The names of two of the applicants for membership having been posted the required length of time, their names were balloted upon, and Messrs. Dewing and Warner were declared to have been unanimously elected subscribing members of the Club.

ALBERT PERRIN, *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.*

IN conversation with various well-known dealers in the larger German towns we gather that there is a far more hopeful tone as regards trade matters. Many firms express themselves as well satisfied with the present volume of business, and in some cases transactions are important and numerous beyond all precedent. It appears that the sale of medium stamps—at prices reduced from those of a year or two back—is now proceeding briskly, while for the better and finer specimens there is continual demand.

* * *

WE are credibly informed that there must be a "break" in the prices of many of the transitionary period stamps of the South African countries, and that after the war there will probably be a general settling down of "V.R." and "V.R.I." varieties. Ten years hence, however, there will probably be a great hardening.

* * *

MESSRS. BRIGHT AND SON'S CATALOGUE.—We hear that this now well-known catalogue will appear in a new and revised up-to-date edition in the late autumn—probably about the end of October. There will be much to be incorporated since the last issue, and the new volume will be awaited with interest by collectors.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. SEPTEMBER, 1900. No. 105.

The Paris Philatelic Exhibition.

FROM the interesting account of this Exhibition kindly forwarded by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, we are sincerely glad to learn that success has attended the assiduous and prolonged labours of the Committee of Organisation. With the influential support that the Committee had at their back, and the many splendid collections in France, this issue was hardly ever in doubt; but there were difficulties in the way that, arising in no way from their own fault, rendered the task of the members of the Committee far more arduous than usual. The utterances of a certain section of the French Press, and the undoubted animosity of some classes of the French people with regard to this country, had undoubtedly, as in the case of the Exhibition itself, a deterrent effect both as to exhibits and visitors. It is deeply to be deplored that such a state of things should have arisen, and we earnestly hope that these feelings may pass away, leaving both a better and truer mutual appreciation of the good qualities of the neighbouring nations, and a forgetfulness of those smaller points where we have failed to understand each other.

We are glad to see, however, despite international differences, that the number of exhibitors from this country compares very favourably with that from French Philatelists at any of the previous Exhibitions held in this country. We must not be understood to be uttering any complaint on this score. Despite the term "International," an examination of the catalogues of any previous Stamp Exhibition will show that a huge preponderance of the exhibits emanate from the country in which the function is held. The risks and difficulties of transit naturally debar the more timid from sending their treasures across the sea, while there are many who will only personally deliver and fetch away their finest stamps. There is also the

feeling that in Philatelic Exhibitions a prophet has distinctly more honour in his own country, and these causes have, in Paris as at London and Manchester, always militated against a thorough competition from the foreign element.

Another of the difficulties with which the Paris Committee has had to contend is the holding of the French Philatelic Exhibition so soon after those of London and Manchester. The impression on almost everyone's mind after a big Exhibition—General or Philatelic—is of satisfaction at the termination of the labour involved, and of pleasurable anticipation that some years must elapse before being again called upon for a similar task. Many of our leading collectors who have so recently shown at London and Manchester would be naturally glad to rest upon their oars and to take a good long wait before again struggling to be first past the winning-post.

The occasion, however, generally creates the man, and in the present instance a great French collector has, like the late Mr. T. K. Tapling in 1890, manfully stood in the breach and saved the position. M. Paul Mirabaud —one of the authors of the recently-published work on Swiss stamps, and one of the first Philatelists in France—has indeed deserved the grateful recognition of all French collectors. Throughout the Exhibition portions of his superb collection have been displayed wherever there were gaps, and so rich is his collection that the exhibits may be said to have even gained by the absence of such competition. For many years past M. Mirabaud has been a conscientious and careful collector, with a remarkable eye both for fine copies and great rarities; and other essentials being forthcoming, he stands to-day possessed of one of the first half-dozen collections of the world. The Paris Committee was indeed fortunate to have such a mine of philatelic wealth to fall back upon, and must feel that a large measure of the success of the Exhibition is due to the generous and kindly co-operation of M. Mirabaud. We have been privileged to see many of that gentleman's treasures, and we can truthfully assert that his Swiss stamps form an education and an exhibition by themselves alone.

It is pleasant to note that official recognition of the labours of the Committee was accorded by the presence of M. Mougeot, and that the President, M. Albert Coyette, received a decoration. We can but hope that the Paris Philatelic Exhibition of 1900 may have a permanent good effect upon French collecting, and on behalf of our compatriots we tender to the Committee of Organisation our hearty and sincere congratulations upon the success that has attended their efforts.

The Paris Philatelic Exhibition.

By L. L. R. HAUSBURG.

THE great Exhibition of which so much has been heard is now a thing of the past, and the members of the Executive Committee are to be congratulated on the success that has crowned their protracted labours. Only those who have assisted in similar undertakings can in the least appreciate the immense amount of work entailed and the tireless energy and attention necessary for success.

M. Coyette, the Secretary, was indefatigable in his efforts, and was ably assisted by his fellow-members of the Committee, MM. Erard Leroy d'Etiolles (President), J. Bernichon, G. Beil, A. Fortin, L. Gilis, Dormoy d'Evenans, and G. P. Grignard.

The Exhibition was not so representative as those held in London in 1890 and 1897, and in Manchester last year, nor did it contain so many first-rate collections. There were, however, several very fine exhibits, though some of the most important countries, philatelically, were conspicuous by their absence.

Two rooms in the Hôtel de la Société Nationale d'Horticulture, a modest building in the Rue de Grenelle (a turning out of the Boulevard St. Germain), were set apart for the stamps, and there was also a "buffet," where more or less harmless refreshment might be obtained, and where sundry transactions took place, as the regulations forbade the exchange or sale of stamps in the rooms where the stamps were on view, excepting, of course, at the dealers' stalls. The latter were not well taken up; space had been provided for twelve, but Messrs. Kohl and Lemaire alone had the courage to pay the rather high rent charged.

The rooms were well lighted by means of toplights, and the more delicate specimens were protected from sunlight with slips of paper pasted on the glass covers of the frames.

The stamps were arranged in horizontal and rather deep show-cases round the room; in vertical frames, against the walls and in upright stands in two rows across, with another row up and down the room. The horizontal cases were so deep that the glass was quite six inches above the stamps, which rendered a close inspection impossible, but in the vertical frames the stamps could be easily seen.

The catalogue, unless studied very carefully before making an attempt to discover an exhibit, was found to be a stumbling-block. The collections were not shown in the order of their classes, and they seemed to be numbered promiscuously—in many cases not at all, for several days.

Very often the only way was to guess at the class of a particular exhibit, and then wade through the whole of that class until it could be identified.

The Exhibition was opened on August 28th nominally at 3 p.m., but the ceremony did not take place until after five o'clock. M. Léon Mougeot, Under-Secretary of State for Posts and Telegraphs, assisted by MM. Bley and Simoneau, both high officials from the Postal Department, performed the opening ceremony. There were also present the members of the Executive Committee, and the members of the Jury, MM. G. Léglise (President), De Reuterskiöld (Vice-President), J. Bernichon (Secretary), G. Langlois, Marconnet, Victor Robert, Ernst Stock, Lemaire, Anton van Hoek, Dr. E. Diena, and Dr. Servantie.

M. Coyette, after heartily thanking M. Mougeot for his kindness in being present, gave an account of the way in which the Exhibition had been planned by the *Société Française de Timbrologie*, and delivered a discourse on the pleasure and benefits to be obtained from the close study of stamps.

M. Mougeot then made a short speech, welcoming the foreign visitors in the name of the Government, and expressing a hope that Philately would be the means of forming a lasting bond between France and the rest of the world. He then bestowed on M. Coyette the diploma and decoration of an Officer of the Academy. After M. Leroy d'Etiolles had returned thanks to M. Mougeot the latter retired, after having made a tour of the rooms and an inspection of the stamps.

Among the numerous visitors were Messrs. Abbott, Dorning Beckton, Edward Buhl, Duerst, Duveen, Hupfeld, Phillips, Stock, Lindau, Peckitt, Hausburg, Wilson, Yeardley, Giwelb, Grunewald, Kohl, Griebert, Bernichon, Leroy d'Etiolles, Diena, De Reuterskiöld, Victor Robert, Lemaire, Mirabaud, Gelli, Pippert, Boitil, Painter, Friedl, and Moser.

A banquet was held on September 5th at the Restaurant de la Lune, in the Exposition Universelle, at which 114 sat down, including ten ladies.

Speeches were made by MM. Simoneau, Erard Leroy d'Etiolles, Coyette, J. Bernichon, Dormoy d'Evenans, J. Hupfeld, and Captain Noel.

THE EXHIBITS.

Without disparaging the many other beautiful collections, it may safely be said that the success of the Exhibition was, to a great extent, due to the superb display of the stamps of a large number of countries by M. Paul Mirabaud. His collection of Swiss stamps is, without doubt, the finest specialised collection of one country ever made. In addition to the blocks and strips of unused stamps, every variety is shown obliterated with all possible postmarks, and the post cards and envelopes are as complete as the rest of the collection.

LIST OF EXHIBITS.

Literature relating to the History of the Post Office.

M. Quinet. *Gold Medal.*
M. de Saint-Victor. *Silver* ,,
M. Morel. *Bronze* ,,
M. Schwab. ,, ,,

Class I.

Division I. The Postage and Taxe Stamps of France, unused.

M. H. Haro (France). *Gold Medal.*

This very fine and complete collection consisted of unused specimens, pairs, and blocks in perfect condition. Amongst others a pair of 1849 40 c., vermilion, Type 1, *se-tenant* with Type 2; 1 franc, vermilion, five shades; 1853, 20 c., blue on green, three shades.

Mr. W. Grunewald. *Silver Medal* (France and Monaco).

This collection was shown at the Manchester Exhibition last year.*

M. H. Lombard. *Silver Medal.*
M. Tandeau. *Bronze* ,,
M. Vial ,, ,,

M. Marconnet showed a fine unused collection of France.

Division II. Used Stamps.

M. Henry de Martin. *Gold Medal.*

One Franc, vermilion, several shades and a strip of three; 1 franc, carmine, *tête-bêche;* 20 c., blue, block of five, one being *tête-bêche.* A very complete collection in fine condition.

Division III. Unused and used.

Mr. W. Grunewald. *Gold Medal.*

This was the used portion of the former collection, together with the unused.

M. Lombard. *Silver Medal.*
H. Cantel-Bey. *Bronze* ,,

M. E. Vervelle also showed a fine collection of France, used and unused, with a very large number of essays and reprints. Among others, 1 franc, orange, used and unused; a block of six 20 c., 1849, one of which was *tête-bêche*, and most of the other *tête-bêche* varieties; also a number of French Colonies.

* The collections shown at Manchester will be found in the *London Philatelist* for July, 1899.

Division IV. "Curiosities."

M. Geo. P. Grignard. *Bronze Medal.*
M. A. le Bihan. ,, ,,

M. le Bihan showed several notable stamps, among them specimens used on the original envelope of 15 c., 1871, Unpaid Letter stamps surcharged 25 c. with the pen and with a hand-stamp.

M. H. de Martin showed varieties of obliterations.

Division V. The Postage Stamps, Unpaid Letter Stamps, Envelopes, Cards, and Newspaper Bands of France and French Colonies.

M. le Comte de Bélenet. *Gold Medal.*
H. Cantel-Bey. *Silver Medal.*
M. Quinet. *Bronze* ,,

Class II.

Division I. The Postage Stamps of all the French Colonies.

M. de Rochefontaine. *Silver Medal.*

This collection contained the 40 c., orange, 1871, Type 2, and the 2 c., 4 c., 1875–76, French Colonies; some rare and uncatalogued errors of Réunion; and the other French Colonies strongly represented, with numerous errors.

M. Tandeau. *Silver Medal.*
M. Devoitine. *Bronze* ,,
M. L. Gruat. ,, ,,
Captain Noel. ,, ,,

MM. Erard Leroy d'Etiolles and Marconnet also exhibited in this class.

Division II. Réunion.

M. Paul Mirabaud. *Gold Medal.*

The principal stamps in this very fine exhibit were 15 c., 1852, Type II., unused; Type III., two specimens; Type IV., one unused. 30 c., Type I., one; Type II., two; Type III., three; Type IV., two.

M. Marconnet showed a large collection of French and French Colonial stamps in singles, pairs, and blocks, used and unused; also essays and *tête-bêche* pairs.

Mme. Dormoy d'Evenans had a collection of the stamps of Tahiti after 1893, and M. A. Coyette a collection of Tunis.

Class III.

Division I. The Stamps of one or more European Countries.

Section A.—Collectors.

M. T. Gunther. *Gold Medal* (Greece).

M. Paul Mirabaud. *Gold Medal* (Switzerland, Spain, and Greece).

Zurich.—1843, horizontal red lines; 4 rap., unused, strip of five and three singles; used, sixteen.

6 rap., unused, two strips of ten, three strips of five, one containing Type III. retouched, several singles, and many used on originals.

Vertical red lines. 4 rap., five singles, unused, and twenty-six, used.

6 rap., five singles, unused, and twenty-two, used.

Without lines. 4 rap., one, unused; two, used.

6 rap., one, unused; six, used.

Basle.—1845, 2½ rap., a vertical pair with top margin, and four singles, unused; four pairs and fifteen singles, used.

Geneva.—1843, 5+5 c., three doubles and two left halves, unused; fourteen doubles and nine halves, used.

1845, small eagle; blocks of eight and four, unused, and between twenty and thirty, used.

1847, large eagle on yellow-green; blocks of ten, two strips of four, and two singles, unused, and nearly forty, used.

1848, on blue-green; blocks of eleven, six, and five, two singles, unused, and a large number of used. Also the envelopes, the three sizes, used and unused.

"Neuchatel."—1851, 5 c., black and red; five, unused, and many used.

"Winterthur."—1850, 2½ rap., black and red; five singles, unused, and a vertical pair not postmarked on original; two blocks of four, seven pairs, and nine singles, used.

"Vaud."—1849, 4 c., one unused copy (poor); a horizontal pair, and nine singles, used.

1850, 5 c., blocks of nine, eight, a pair, and partly made-up plate of twenty-two, unused; a made-up plate of 100 (numbers 76 and 88 missing), another of thirty-nine, and twenty-one singles, with different obliterations, used.

Orts-Poste.—1850, 2½ r., three singles, unused; *encadrés*, block of fifteen, strip of three, and seven singles, unused.

Poste-Locale.—1850, 2½ r., block of three and a single, unused; *encadrés*, eleven singles, unused.

Rayon I.—1850, 5 r. on deep blue, six shades, unused; *non-encadrés*, twelve shades, unused; on pale blue, blocks of twenty, nine, and four, and five singles, unused.

Rayon II.—1850, blocks of thirty, sixteen, fifteen, twelve, seven, four, and fifty-nine singles, unused.

Rayon III.—1852, 15 r., small figures, three unused; 15 c., three unused; 15 r., large figures, five unused.

The varieties of threads in the 1854-62 issue were shown complete.

Spain was also shown, used and unused, and included most of the rarities; all the specimens were in the finest condition.

There was also a collection of Greece.

M. T. J. Zanfiresco. *Gold Medal* (Moldavia and Roumania).

M. A. Markl. *Silver Medal* (Greece).

Dr. Yersin. *Silver Medal* (Switzerland).

A collection of used stamps, some on original cover, exhibited in London, 1897.

M. L. Brabandt. *Bronze Medal* (Austria, Greece, Moldavia, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Great Britain).

Dealers.

M. R. Friedl. *Gold Medal* (Austria).

MM. T. Gunther, Montader, and Th. Lemaire all showed collections of Greece.

M. Galvez Jimenez. *Silver Medal* (Spain and Colonies).

Mr. M. Giwelb. *Silver Medal* (Russia and Dependencies).

This collection was shown at Manchester last year, and contains many rarities and uncatalogued varieties, all the stamps being in magnificent condition and beautifully arranged.*

M. T. Monclus. *Silver Medal* (Spain).

This collection consisted of unused stamps, and included all the 2 reales and 19 cuartos, the 3 cuartos, Madrid, and all the inverted centres—among them the 25 mils., 1867,

unused, which was afterwards sold to a well-known English collector, and the 10 mils., *tête-bêche*.

M. T. Blanco. *Bronze Medal* (Spain and Colonies).

Class III.

Division I. Section B1.—Collectors.

M. J. Hupfeld. *Gold Medal* (German Empire and States) *with the congratulations of the Judges.*

Alsace and Lorraine.—Complete, with all the values with network inverted, including the 5 c.; also pairs and blocks.

Bavaria.—The 6 kr., 1849, unused. Quarter sheets of the 1 kr., black; 1 kr., rose; 3 kr., blue; 6 kr., brown; 9 kr., green; 12 kr., red; 18 kr., yellow.

Bergedorf.—1861, originals with full gum, $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., black on pale lilac, vertical strip of three. 3 sch., rose, horizontal strip of three.

Bremen.—1856, sheets of originals, 5 sgr., dark green; 5 sgr., yellow-green; 5 sgr., with white gum.

Hanover.—Strip of ten $\frac{1}{10}$ th., small network, with coloured border and numbers. 3 gr., brown, *percé en arc*, with rose gum, block of six.

Oldenburg.—1855, $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr., on green, blocks of six and four. 1861, complete in blocks of six.

Saxony.—1851, $\frac{1}{2}$ ngr., error, black on pale blue, pair.

Wurtemberg.—Original sheets of six of the 70 kr. in the two shades.

Thurn and Taxis.—A very interesting series of unique proofs and colour trials, including sheets of eight in two horizontal rows of four stamps, namely, 1, 3, 6, 9 kr. and $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3 sgr., in different colours—pale green, blue, orange, and pale red. Also, 1852, $\frac{1}{4}$ sgr., a block of forty-two, and 3 sgr., a block of four.

All the German States were fully represented, in many cases by entire sheets of originals. The whole collection was remarkable for the perfect condition of the specimens, and contained over 30,000 stamps.

M. J. J. Lindau. *Gold Medal* (German Empire and States).

A fine collection of unused stamps in mint condition, containing most of the rarities, single specimens as a rule.

Baden.—1851, the 9 kr. error, black on green, is wanting; otherwise this issue is complete, as are the remaining issues, including the 3 kr., rose, 1862, imperf., unused on original.

Bavaria.—The 6 kr., brown, 1849, is shown unused.

Bergedorf.—1861, $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., black on lilac; vertical strip of four and a single, originals.

Brunswick.—1852, 1, 2, 3 sgr., unused, in mint condition. 1864, 1 sgr., black on yellow, *percé en arc*.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin.—1864, $\frac{4}{4}$ sch., red, rouletted.

Prussia.—1857, 2 sgr. 1861, 2 sgr., Prussian blue, two pairs.

Saxony.—1851, $\frac{1}{2}$ ngr., error, black on pale blue.

Wurtemberg.—1851, 9 kr., rose. 1858, without thread, 6 kr., green. 1859, perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$, thick paper, 6 kr., green.

Alsace and Lorraine.—Complete, including the 5 c. with inverted network.

All the other states and colonies were shown complete.

M. Freudenstein. *Bronze Medal* (German Empire and States).

Section B2.—Collectors.

M. Schroeder. *Gold Medal* (Bergedorf).

This collection contained a number of entire sheets, stamps on original covers, varieties of obliterations, and examples of reprints and forgeries.

M. Paul Mirabaud. *Silver Medal* (Prussia, Oldenburg, Wurtemberg).

Prussia.—1857, no watermark, solid background, 2 sgr., blue, three shades.

Oldenburg.—Most of the shades were shown used and unused, both in singles and pairs.

WURTEMBERG.—1851, 9 kr., black on rose, three unused.

1858, without thread, 6 kr., green, one unused.

1859, thick paper, perf. 13½, 6 kr., green, one unused.

MR. G. B. DUERST. *Silver Medal* (Roumania).

This was exhibited at Manchester last year.*

M. MAX BOSCHE. *Bronze Medal* (Brunswick).

DR. PAUL KLOSS. *Bronze Medal* (Saxony).

Dealers.

M. P. KOSACK. *Silver Medal* (Schleswig-Holstein).

M. P. C. SCHAUFF. *Silver Medal* (Thurn and Taxis).

Section C.

JH. PH. L. VAN KINSCHOT. *Gold Medal* (Holland and Colonies).

MR. J. N. MARSDEN. *Silver Medal* (Portugal and Colonies).

Exhibited at Manchester last year.*

M. J. STADTS BOONEN. *Bronze Medal* (Holland and Colonies).

A most notable example of mis-spent energy. The later issues are shown on original obliterated to order in every possible number of combinations, if not permutations, two at a time.

M. Lemaire showed Schleswig-Holstein, Lubeck, Brunswick, and Romagna; M. R. Adam, Saxony and Prussia in pairs, used; M. A. Loli, Italy, used; M. A. Barocci, Italy and States.

Section D.

M. J. C. KUCK. *Silver Medal* (Luxemburg).

M. PAUL MIRABAUD. *Silver Medal* (Belgium).

M. Mirabaud's collection of Belgium was, as are all his exhibits, an object-lesson in "condition." The following were some of the most noticeable stamps :—

1849. 20 c., a strip of three, unused, in the milky-blue shade.

1850. *Encadré.* 10 c., pair and two singles; 20 c., pair and single; 40 c., pair and single.

1851. *Non-encadré.* 40 c., two singles.

M. J. LAURIE. *Bronze Medal* (Belgium).

Section E.

M. A. CHELIUS. *Gold Medal* (Alsace-Lorraine).

M. F. WELTER. *Bronze Medal* (Alsace-Lorraine).

Division II. Section A.

M. PAUL MIRABAUD. *Gold Medal* (Mauritius and New South Wales).

MAURITIUS.

The 2d. "Post Office" on part of original, obliterated "Post Paid."

1848.

1d., red on white, unused, early state.

1d., red on blue, unused, later state.

Two complete made-up plates of the 1d. in the earliest state—one composed of four horizontal strips of three and the other of overlapping pairs. All these were most superb specimens, lightly post-marked, and with large margins.

Three specimens of the 1d. in the earliest state on original.

A partly made-up plate of the 1d. on blue, last state of the plate, and another similar one on yellowish paper.

1848.

2d. A very fine unused copy in the earliest state and extremely deep colour, even darker than the 2d. "Post Office," and showing all the lines.

A used copy, possibly even earlier than the unused 2d. In this condition these two stamps must be rarer than the "Post Office."

Another unused copy, dull blue, not so early, and cut close.

A made-up plate of twelve, dull blue, first state, and a similar one in the last state. One copy of the dull blue, first state, on original, and three used copies in the last state.

1859.

2d., a fine unused copy, first state, and another unused, from the worn plate; two made-up plates of twelve (four missing from one), first state.

October, 1859.

2d., large fillet, made-up plate of twelve (one missing), one of which was unused, and four single used specimens.

New South Wales.

Sydney Views, Unused.

1d., Plate I. One very dark colour, large margins, but apparently washed; another, not quite so deep a colour on white, but with large margins; three pale rose on yellowish paper, very fine, and two pale rose on hard bluish paper. All the above stamps were in exceptional condition.

1d., Plate II. Six unused, three of which were extremely fine—one the rare gooseberry shade, and two on bluish.

2d., Plate I. One unused, very early state, with good margins, but folded down the centre.

2d., Plate III. One unused and fine.

2d., Plate III. Second retouch, one unused.

3d., yellow-green, with large margins, bright colour, clear impression, evidently with o.g., and another on blue paper.

Partly Reconstructed Plates.

1d., Plate I. (three missing); 1d., Plate II. (two missing), and a large number of strips of four, pairs, etc., different shades and varieties.

2d., Plate I., pale blue (fourteen stamps); deep blue (sixteen stamps).

2d., Plate II. Complete plate, all picked copies, lightly postmarked, and earliest state.

2d., Plate III. (six stamps); Plate III., first retouch (twelve stamps); Plate III., second retouch (fourteen stamps).

3d. (nineteen stamps).

1851.

Laureated issue, unused. 1d., on white paper, a block of eight in two horizontal strips of four, but divided in half vertically; a strip of three and a single, and a pair on blue. 2d., four unused; 2d., with stars in corners—one unused. 8d., one unused.

Partly reconstructed plates of 1d.; 2d. (two shades); 2d., stars in corners; 2d., background re-engraved; 3d.; 6d., fine and coarse background; 8d.; with watermark 1d., 2d., 3d.

The later issues were not fully represented, the only other notable stamps being part of a sheet of forty of the red and blue Registered stamp, imperforate, unused; but fully a third of the stamps were badly creased and soiled.

Class III.

Division II. Section A.

M. A. Fortin. *Silver Medal* (Ceylon).

All the imperf. stamps, used; the 4d. perf., milky rose, and three shades of the 8d. perf., unused.

M. van den Bergh. *Silver Medal* (New South Wales).

Nearly all used stamps, with the following made-up plates:—

Sydney Views, 1d., Plate I. and Plate II., and 3d.

Laureated issue, 1d., 2d., 2d. re-engraved background, and with watermark 1d., 2d., 3d.

M. Th. Lemaire showed New South Wales with several plates of Sydney Views, also reconstructed plates of Victoria.

Section B.

Mr. Dorning Beckton. *Gold Medal* (Straits Settlements and Dependencies).

This was shown in London, 1897.

M. Paul Mirabaud. *Gold Medal* (Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Trinidad, Tasmania, Western Australia).

Canada.

Laid paper. 6d., one unused, o.g. 12d., one unused, o.g.; two used.

Wove paper. 6d., two unused, one with o.g. 7½d., narrow oval, unused, blue-green, and yellow-green; large oval, yellow-green, with o.g. 10d., a pair and three singles, with o.g. 12d., a single copy obliterated with concentric circles.

Pelure paper. 10d., unused.

Very thick paper. 6d., unused.

Ribbed paper. 3d., a pair and single, unused.
Wove paper, perf. 12. 6d., purple-brown, three unused, and one used.

A large number of stamps on original covers and used copies of early issues, also shades of the later issues, used and unused.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

6d., yellow. Four unused, two very fine, with o.g ; eleven used, some on original, including a pair, and showing different obliterations, all in finest condition, with large margins, light postmarks, and bright colour.
1s., three shades unused and five used, one of the latter being a most unusual bright rose-violet shade.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

This collection was remarkable for the fine colour and large margins of the specimens, and included among the unused :—
Scarlet-vermilion. 2d., two ; 4d., one ; 6d., one ; 6½., 8d., 1s., one each.
Orange-vermilion. 2d., two ; 4d., two, one with corner margins and o.g. 6d., two, one also with margins and o.g.; 1s., one with o.g.

NOVA SCOTIA.

6d., two unused, one deep green on blue paper, the other yellow-green on white.
1s., two very fine unused, one with o.g. ; also strips of three of the 1d. and 3d. unused, also used copies showing different obliterations, including four 1s.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

A representative collection, but the 5 cents, rose, imperf., was wanting.

TRINIDAD.

The first issue was well represented, and there were fourteen copies of the blue, lithographed, 1852, showing the various stages of the plate, two being unused.

1859. 6d., imperf., one ; pin-perf. 12½, 4d. and 6d., both unused.
Clean-cut perfs., 1s., indigo.
Thick paper, perf. 11½—12, 4d., two unused ; 6d., one unused.
One Lady Macleod, unused.

TASMANIA.

Five very fine unused copies of the 1d., blue, and a complete made-up plate, used.
4d., orange, one unused on ribbed paper.
4d., Plate I., one unused ; Plate II., three unused.
Star watermark, 1d., two unused ; 2d., one unused ; pelure paper, 1d., one unused.

There were also shades of all the varieties used, and also the later issues down to 1870, used and unused, but not by any means complete.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

This exhibit was also not complete, the chief stamps being :—
1s., brown, rouletted, unused.
2d., brown on red, and ditto, rouletted, both unused.
6d., black-bronze, unused.

1860.

6d., sage-green, two unused.

1888.

1d., CA, perf. 12 × 14, unused.

MR. STEWART-WILSON. *Silver Medal* (India).

This was shown at Manchester last year.*

M. A. FORTIN. *Bronze Medal* (Cape of Good Hope).

A nice collection, but wanting in the rarities.

Section C.

M. PAUL MIRABAUD. *Silver Medal* (St. Vincent).

No watermark. 1d., strip of three, imperf. vertically, perf. 14–15 horizontally.
Perf. 14 × 11, 1s., indigo. Perf. 11–12½, 1s., indigo, 1s., brown ; two of each unused.
Watermark Star. Perf. 11–12½, 1s., dull rose,. three. Perf. 14–15 × 11–12½, 1s., dull rose, one. Perf. 11–12½, 4d., blue, two ; 1s., vermilion, one. Perf. 14–15, 6d., yellow-green, one. Perf. 11–12½ × 14–15, 1s., vermilion, one ; 5s., all unused.

All the surcharged stamps, used and unused, including a pair of ½d. on half 6d., one without bar ; and all the later issues, used and unused.

M. J. L. VAN DIETEN. *Bronze Medal* (Turk's Islands).

This collection was shown at Manchester last year, with the addition of a used copy of the 1s., prune.*

M. de Reuterskiöld also exhibited his well-known collections of Nevis and Turk's Islands shown in London, 1897, the only additions being a ½d. on 1s., blue, S. G. Type 3; and a ½d. on 1d., Type 5, with fraction bar shorter.

Section D.

MR. JOHN NORTH. *Silver Medal* (Cyprus).

This was shown at Manchester last year.*

M. ACAVALOS. *Bronze Medal* (Cyprus).

Section E.

MR. G. F. H. GIBSON. *Silver Medal* (Gibraltar).

Exhibited at Manchester last year.*

M. J. L. VAN DIETEN. *Silver Medal* (Virgin Islands).

Exhibited at Manchester last year.*

M. A. SCHOELLER. *Bronze Medal* (Virgin Islands).

Division III. Section A.—Collectors.

M. VAN DEN BERG. *Gold Medal* (Philippines).

A very fine collection.

M. D. STADLBAUER. *Bronze Medal* (Philippines).

Mr. J. N. Marsden also showed Portuguese India as at Manchester last year.*

Dealers.

M. G. JIMENEZ. *Silver Medal.*

Section B.

H. CANTEL-BEY. *Gold Medal* (Egypt, Suez, and Soudan).

An extremely interesting and complete collection containing many *tête-bêche* varieties and errors. Shown in London, 1897.

MR. W. DORNING BECKTON. *Silver Medal* (Egypt).

Section C.

MR. W. DORNING BECKTON. *Bronze Medal* (Orange River Colony).

M. J. C. KUCK. *Bronze Medal* (Congo).

Division IV. Section A.—Collectors.

MR. R. EHRENBACH. *Gold Medal* (Buenos Ayres and Dominican Republic).

Part of this exhibit, Buenos Ayres, was shown by Mr. Ehrenbach at the London Exhibition in 1897.

M. PAUL MIRABAUD. *Silver Medal* (Hawaiian Islands).

1851. 2 c., blue, with red dated obliteration, part of the bottom line missing; 5 c., blue, a fine used copy, cancelled with a red pencil; 13 c., Type 1, four; Type 2, two.

The later issues were also represented up to 1862, and among the Interisland Postage, 1859, 1 c., blue on white; 2 c., black on grey; 2 c., black on bluish grey. 1864, 1 c., 2 c., black on *bleuté;* 1 c., 2 c., black on white, one of each, all unused; and 1865, one of each unused.

MR. E. T. ROBERTS. *Silver Medal* (Brazil).

This was shown at Manchester, 1899.*

M. H. DE HEER. *Bronze Medal* (Peru).

Dealers.

MR. W. T. WILSON. *Gold Medal* (Mexico).

Shown at Manchester.*

MM. Paul Kohl and Lemaire also showed Mexico.

Section B.

MR. JOHN LUFF. *Gold Medal* (United States).

Among the Postmasters' stamps there were the 5 c. on blue and on white paper, and double transfer; the 5 c. Providence on original; and Newhaven, 5 c., red.

1847. 5 c. and 10 c. on white, unused.

1851 and 1857. Several copies of each unused, and 24 c., 30 c., and 90 c., imperf.

1861. *Premières gravures* complete, except the 12 c.; with two shades of the 3 c. and 10 c.; also the 3 c. and a pair of the 90 c., imperf.

1861–6. Shades of all in mint condition, and a block of four of the 3 c., imperf.; also 5 c., mustard, used, and imperf. horizontally.

1867. 3 c., grilled all over, with points up (two), points up and down (one), down (one), half grill (one), imperf. pair with points up, do. with points down. On vertically laid paper—2 c., used; 3 c., one unused, three used. Horizontally laid—1 c., two unused, one used; 3 c., five used; 5 c., one used. In water colour—3 c., brown-lake, probably an essay.

1869. A fine range of shades, in singles, pairs, and blocks; the 15 c., 24 c., 30 c., with inverted centres; also the 2 c., 3 c., 15 c., 24 c., 30 c., 90 c., originals without grill; 2 c. and half 2 c., used on original as 3 c.; also two-thirds of a 3 c. used as 2 c.

1869. Various devices to prevent cleaning. Split paper, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 30 c.; cog-wheel grill, 3 c.; enamelled paper, 1, 2, 3 c.

The reprints of 1847 and 1857, and the reissues of 1861 and 1869, as well as the rare printings of 1873, 1879, 1882 and 1883, were all complete.

The Departmentals are shown in pairs and blocks of four, and include:—

Navy, 2 c., green, pair and two singles, and 2 c., black, unused. Treasury, double paper, 3 c., and a pair and single of the 10 c., surcharged "Sepcimen" for "Specimen." Justice, 1 c., 2 c. Agriculture, 15 c. Navy, 12 c. State, 1, 3, 7 c., 24 c. War, 1 c., 7 c.

Newspaper stamps, 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., with coloured border, six shades of each. With white border, 5 c., six; pelure paper, 5 c., 10 c., 25 c., two of each; also reprints and Periodicals, imperf.

BALTIMORE.—1851, 1 c., rose (four); 1 c., blue (seven); horseman, seven singles, complete plate of ten in black, and another in red, with one missing.

NEW YORK.—1842, 3 c., two on wove, six on glazed, and one on ribbed paper.

U.S. MAIL.—1849, 1 cent on rose, three; 1 cent on yellow, pair and two singles.

M. LE COMTE DE BÉLENET. *Bronze Medal.*

Section C. Collectors.

MR. J. H. ABBOTT. *Silver Medal* (Hayti).

Shown at Manchester last year.*

MR. A. HOLLAND. *Silver Medal* (Hayti)

M. VAN DEN BERGH. *Bronze Medal* (Cuba, Porto Rico, Fernando Poo).

Division IV. Section C.—Dealers.

MR. H. GRIEBERT. *Gold Medal* (Uruguay).

A very fine and complete collection of unused stamps, mostly in mint condition, with many pairs and blocks.

1856, Diligencia, 60 c., six shades, including the rare indigo; 80 c., twelve shades, showing two types; 1 real, eighteen shades, showing three types.

1857, block letters, thirty-four copies, arranged in series on thick and thin paper.

1859–60, thin and thick numerals, all values.

1864, 8 c., yellow-green, a pair *tête-bêche.*

1872, 5 c., perf., on pelure paper.

All the other issues are shown in pairs and blocks, including many errors of perforation and surcharge.

Official stamps shown complete in pairs and blocks, with many varieties of surcharge (inverted and double-printed).

1883, 1 c., green (a very rare stamp); 2 c., red, a pair imperf.; 5 c., blue, a strip of three imperf. with black surcharge; 5 c., green, "Provisorio" surcharged "Oficial."

All other issues, including several sheets.

The official document with stamps affixed relating to the issue of provisionals in 1866, which were only in issue from the 1st to the 10th of January was also shown.

M. GALVEZ. *Bronze Medal* (Spain).

M. T. MONCLUS. *Bronze Medal* (Cuba, Porto Rico, Fernando Poo).

A very complete collection, almost entirely of unused stamps.

M. Barraud showed United States; M. J. Sesseley, Chili; M. Th. Lemaire, Uruguay.

Division V. Section A.

M. H. DE HEER. *Silver Medal* (Spain, Switzerland, and France).

Section C.

M. H. DE HEER. *Bronze Medal* (Newfoundland, Western Australia, and Straits Settlements).

Section E.

M. H. DE HEER. *Bronze Medal* (Argentine Republic, Uruguay, United States).

CLASS IV.

Division I. (75–100 varieties). Rare Stamps.

M. SCHLESINGER. *Silver Medal.*

M. E. MALLET. *Bronze Medal.*

FINLAND.—1856, 10 kop., laid paper.

SPAIN.—1865, 12 c., imperf., strip of three, the middle one having inverted centre.

M. J. BERNICHON.

MAURITIUS.—"Post Office," 1d., red, used; 2d., blue, unused. "Post Paid," 1d., red on yellow, two in first state; 1d., red on bluish, three fine specimens, but later state; 2d., blue, one first state, two second state, and one unused; 2d., large fillet, block of four.

FRANCE.—1849, blocks of four, unused; 1876, 25 c., blue, first type.

BRUNSWICK.—1852, 3 sgr., red, unused.

WURTEMBERG.—1859, 9 kr., carmine, unused.

M. PAUL KOHL.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Errors, 1d., blue, three; 4d., red, one; 1d., wmk. CC and Crown, pair.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—1s., orange, on ribbed paper, o.g.

BARBADOS.—Pair of 1d. on 5s., unused.

MAURITIUS.—1d., "Post Paid," two unused; 2d., one unused, with very large margins.

NOVA SCOTIA.—1s., two unused.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—1s., two unused.

BRITISH GUIANA.—1850, 4 c., 12 c.

AUSTRIA.—Red Newspaper stamp.

BAVARIA.—1895, Unpaid Letter stamp, 2 pf. surcharged in red on 3 pf.

FINLAND.—5 pen., error of colour, used; 8 pen., small perfs., used.

BADEN.—1851, 9 kr., on green, used.

MOLDAVIA.—Unused: 54 par., two; 81 par., one; 108 par., two.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.—1851, 5 c., used, one; 13 c., used, two.

BAVARIA.—1849, 1 kr., black, block of twelve, unused, one being *tête-bêche.*

SAXONY.—½ ngr., error of colour, on pale blue, two.

Division II. Fifty stamps of less value than £2 each.

M. A. ROODENBURG. *Silver Medal.*

MR. M. LOMBARD. *Bronze* ,,

MR. W. MOSER. ,, ,,

Division III.

MR. W. MOSER. *Gold Medal.*

This exhibit contained some very fine and unique American Locals.

BLOOD AND CO.—1841, four specimens on original covers, hitherto unknown.

ANNAPOLIS.—Also a new variety on blue.

BALTIMORE.—5 c.

CALIFORNIA.—*Tête-bêche*, 3 c., black.

CITY DESPATCH POST.—3 c. on white, used as a Carrier stamp.

ST. LOUIS.—1845, 5 c., unused.

MILBURY.—5 c., finest copy known.

NEW YORK.—1846, 2 c., used, on original. 1842, 3 c., buff.

M. A. DE REUTERSKIÖLD.

Made-up plate of 5 c., Vaud, No. 76 being missing, the first half being the well-known severed block unused.

CLASS V.

Division II. General Collections.

M. LE COMTE DE BÉLENET. *Bronze Medal.*

Division III.

M. GILIS. *Bronze Medal.*

Division IV.

MR. J. N. MARSDEN. *Silver Medal* (Great Britain and Colonies).

CLASS VI.

Division II. Envelopes.

JHR. VAN KINSCHOT. *Silver Medal* (Holland and Colonies).

M. D. STADLBAUER. *Bronze Medal* (Various countries).

CLASS VII.

Post Cards. Division II.

M. SCHŒLLER. *Gold Medal* (Russia, Finland, Japan, Spain).

Jhr. van Kinschot. *Silver Medal* (Holland and Colonies).

M. P. Mezamat. *Silver Medal* (France and Colonies, and Great Britain).

M. D. Stadlbauer. *Bronze Medal* (Various countries).

Class VII. (*bis*).

General Collection of Entires.

M. M. Picard. *Bronze Medal.*

In Classes VIII., IX., X. for fiscals the following medals were obtained :—

Mr. W. Morley. *Gold Medal.*

MM. le Comte de Bélenet, Hoffmann, O'Callaghan. *Silver Medals.*

MM. Rousselle, Schœller (2), Gilbert, Preston Pearce, Devoitine, W. Morley (2). *Bronze Medals.*

Class XI.

Manufacture of Postage Stamps.

M. Gaumel (Chief of the Department of the Manufacture of Stamps at Paris). *Gold Medal.*

M. P. Merwart. *Silver Medal.*

MM. Douchet, Naas, Stouffs. *Bronze Medals.*

Class XII.

For Publications and Journals.

M. Paul Mirabaud, Switzerland (with the Judges' congratulations), *American Journal of Philately*, *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*. *Gold Medals.*

Silver Medals. Ten.

Bronze Medals. Twelve.

Class XIII.

Albums.

Messrs. Hamilton-Smith and Co., Scott Stamp and Coin Co., M. P. Kohl. *Silver Medals.*

MM. Yvert and Tellier (2), Thumin Frères, Galvez. *Bronze Medals.*

In Class XIV., for philatelic accessories, there were apparently no awards.

In Class XV., for special methods of arranging stamps, curiosities, proofs, essays, etc., there were four silver and four bronze medals given.

In Class XVI., "Societies," there were seven bronze medals given.

In Class XVII., for collections of philatelic literature, Dr. Legrand was awarded the gold medal, with the special congratulations of the Judges. There were also given two silver medals and three bronze.

The grand prize of the Exhibition was awarded to M. Paul Mirabaud for his remarkable exhibits, more especially that of the stamps of Switzerland, as well as his great work on the stamps of that country, which is one of the most important ever contributed to Philately.

In addition, with the full consent of the Executive Committee, a special medal of honour was awarded to M. J. Hupfeld for his beautiful collection of unused German States.

Besides the medals officially awarded, there were many others given by societies and individuals. No list of awards was published, and in several cases they were awarded to exhibits in different classes from those for which they were intended, and in one or two cases by the donors themselves to Philatelists without collections.

Occasional Notes.

PHILATELIC ROBBERIES.

MESSRS. BRIGHT AND SON have been the victims of a robbery, and write as follows:—

"We beg to inform you that on the 4th of this month (Sept.) we had abstracted from our shop-counter a book containing a representative collection of old German States, containing the stamps of Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, and Schleswig. All common and medium stamps are represented by five or six copies, or more, used and unused, while amongst the most noticeable stamps were Oldenburg, first issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr., green, unused; second issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ gr., green, and 2 sgr., rose, these two last being mint unused copies with very large margins; unused blocks of Schleswig stamps, and Prussia 1 sgr., rose, plain ground, unused; a very fine lot of cut square envelopes, including the octagonal Prussians and 5 n.gr., Saxony.

"The man we suspect asks for Europeans only, has an old Gibbons' Catalogue marked against stamps he is supposed to possess. Age about 40, grey mixture jacket suit, bowler hat, heavy moustache, rather dark, otherwise clean-shaven."

The description given in this case seems to tally to a considerable extent with that of Mr. Kosack's depredator; possibly Mr. Ehrlich has come to England and not to Switzerland. We sincerely hope that Messrs. Bright and Son may recover their stamps.

Mr. Philipp Kosack, of Berlin, has also sent us an intimation that numerous Berlin dealers have been victimised by a man named Gustav Ehrlich, who, after making extensive purchases in the German metropolis, suddenly disappeared, having gone, it is believed, to Switzerland. This gentleman's tastes are excellent, his "collection" consisting of unused Europeans, in which the German, Austrian, and Scandinavian countries are well represented! Any information hereon will be welcomed, and the telegraphic or postal expenses thereof be defrayed by Mr. P. Kosack, Burgstrasse, 8, Berlin, C.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC AMENITIES.

AMONG the various interesting events that formed the corollary of the Paris Philatelic Exhibition was a banquet held at the *Restaurant de la Lune* (in the great Exhibition) under the presidency of M. Simoneau, an official of the Postal Department of the Government. More than a hundred guests, including numerous foreigners, took part therein, and the post-prandial proceedings seemed, up to a certain period, to partake of the harmony that usually prevails at that period of the day. Among such speeches Herr Hupfeld, whose fine exhibit of the German stamps formed such a prominent feature in the show, was especially at pains to demonstrate his satisfaction at seeing so many Germans in Paris, and "his persuasion that the present sympathy witnessed between Germany and France was the index of an era of mutual peace and agreement"—

sentiments which seem to have elicited polyglot expressions of approval. A change of spirit appears, however, to have come over the scene—to quote *verbatim* the account of the *Echo de la Timbrologie.*

"None the less a slight suspicion of monotony had become impregnated in the air when Colonel Delauney asked permission to speak: 'This is all very fine, but, gentlemen, we shall leave off by talking about the United States of Europe.' And then this good Nationalist lashed out into a sufficiently violent attack against Germany and the Germans. Cries of 'Enough! enough!' 'Stop his speaking!' etc., resounded from all sides. M. Simoneau interposed, and said that he did not see any reason for interrupting the orator (!). The latter allowed the storm to pass with admirable serenity, and silence being established, continued: 'Still none the less, *Messieurs les Allemands*, there is one point on which we are entirely in agreement with you—it is in our admiration of the Boers!' Fresh uproar, whistling, and hooting.

"Further intervention of M. Simoneau, who prayed that the meeting should listen to the speaker. This fresh storm having subsided, the latter continued: '*Mon Dieu*, as we do not understand one another on this ground (!), I will give you another toast where we have a surer foothold—that of the ladies, etc.' A better escape from a *mauvais pas* could not have been made.

M. Simoneau then at once rose, and judging that enough speeches had already been listened to (!), cried out, 'An end to speeches; let the violins strike up' (!). The official ceremony was therefore terminated by these wise words."

The entire *affaire* is utterly beyond comment or comprehension, coupled with the knowledge that numerous representatives of both attacked nations were present upon French soil as guests and representatives of *international* Philately. *Quem vult perdere Jupiter prius dementat!*

THE CATALOGUE FOR ADVANCED COLLECTORS.

WITH the September issue of the *American Journal of Philately* the final instalment of this colossal work is reached, having been just eleven years in issue, with the natural result that much of the earlier portion is already obsolete. The attainment of finality is indeed difficult with the philatelic historian, and with the sole exception of a few extinct States the compiler's labours are like those of Sisyphus! Nevertheless, the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. is to be heartily congratulated upon an achievement that is unique in the annals of philatelic literature, and on the production of a work that, despite its inevitable shortcomings, will always deservedly rank as one of the classics of Philately. The following statements, made by the publishers, will, we are sure, be read with interest, and testify that the gratitude of collectors is due to the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. for its laudable spirit of enterprise and the perseverance it has displayed.

"Those who assisted us originally by subscribing at the advertised price of $5 may congratulate themselves upon the result of their investment. At that time we had no intention of producing the mass of illustrations and plates which we have presented with each number, and it may be a satisfaction to each one of the original

subscribers to know that the $5 which he paid us has caused us an actual outlay of somewhere between $20 and $25. We do not begrudge the expense which we incurred, as we have probably produced a work which will find no imitators, not only on account of the enormous amount of labour involved, but also on account of the vast outlay of capital required to carry it to completion.

"We are now working on an addendum which will bring the catalogue up to date, but for the appearance of which we are unable to fix any definite time. It will not be published in the *American Journal of Philately*, but will appear as a separate work, and will not be distributed to the subscribers to the catalogue proper."

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

THIS important meeting was held at Milwaukee, was largely attended, and was a great success in every way. The following officers were elected or appointed by the official Board. It will be noted that the most important office, Superintendent of Sales and Purchasing Department, has yet to be filled.

President, Mr. Toppan; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Wolsieffer, Severn, and Lelane; Secretary, Mr. Deats; Treasurer, Mr. Smith; International Secretary, Mr. Doeblin; Messrs. Lombard and Phillips. The Board appointed the following officers and committees: J. W. Scott, Counterfeit Detector; E. H. Anderson, Librarian; H. E. Deats, Assistant Librarian; H. D. Watson, Collecting Agent; W. F. Gregory, Auction Purchasing Agent, New York; P. M. Wolsieffer, Chicago; and A. W. Batchelder, Boston. Resident Vice-Presidents: Boston, J. L. Johnson; St. Paul, C. L. Annan; San Francisco, W. E. Loy. Committee on Obituaries: Frank H. Burt, E. M. Carpenter, L. L. Green. Committee on Philatelic Literature: W. C. Stone, G. S. Dickenson, R. R. Thiele. Committee on Philatelic Aids: A. L. Burgoyne, A. W. Batchelder, and C. L. Annan.

It will be seen that this list, for which we are indebted to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, embraces the names of many of the most eminent men in American stamp circles, several of whom, as Messrs. Toppan, Deats, Batchelder, and Carpenter, are almost equally well known on both sides of the Atlantic.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

WE learn from good authority that the collection of postage stamps in the British Museum has received a notable addition in the shape of complete sheets of all the provisional postal issues in use in the Orange River Colony during the war. The old Orange Free State stamps, which, forming a portion of the stock found in the post office at Bloemfontein on the entry of the British troops, were surcharged "V.R.I.," with all the minor "varieties" and "errors," are of course thoroughly represented in these sheets. The military authorities took special care to secure these philatelic treasures for the national collection. This is excellent reading. A good example has been thus set, which should incite the authorities to keep the collection up to date.

Review.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE. PART II.*

THE future issue of the second portion of this catalogue is apparently to be biennial, as, contrary to former editions, the present volume bears the dates of two years, 1900–1901, on its cover. This would seem to be a wise move, as so numerous are the alterations and additions to each successive issue that, while the authors can hardly have enjoyed any intermittance in their labours of preparation, the public can have scarcely had time to learn their catalogue before its supersession by a new one. The modern catalogue, of which Messrs. Gibbons' is so excellent a specimen, must inevitably have a very large circle of readers—sufficient to amply recoup all the heavy expenses of production—or the publishers would be more sparing in its issue. The present volume, increased in bulk by nearly 100 pages, and with many new and improved illustrations, which alone have cost Messrs. Stanley Gibbons an additional £400, is evidence of this always increasing cost of production, although the price of the work remains unaffected.

A comparison with the 1899 issue will show how much fresh work has been bestowed upon its successor, hardly any country's stamps failing to denote important additions and emendations; in some instances the entire list has been rewritten and vastly improved, *e.g.* Belgium, Luxemburg, Portugal and Colonies, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Roumania, etc. Orange Free State, now Orange River Colony, and Transvaal (assumedly now Vaal River Colony) have been eliminated from the body of the work, and with the Mafeking Besieged issues have place as a supplement with a view to incorporation in Part I. in the next edition. That very useful part of the catalogue, the depictment of the surcharges in facsimile, has received many noted additions, and there are now scarcely any surcharges where the collector has not a reliable and accurate means of testing the genuineness of his specimens of this class. We are glad to note that "Official Seals" are now excluded, but there are still a goodly few tares among the corn—Telegraph and Fiscal stamps "used postally," etc. We are, further, by no means convinced that Unpaid Letter labels are *stamps*, and future catalogues may see this class also placed in a supplement. It is quite clear that they are frequently issued for purposes other than the collection of moneys that should have been expended on postage—which is their true avocation, and not that of a prepaying postage stamp. San Marino, with Unpaids up to 10 lire, and Crete, with its just-announced series, are examples of a catering for philatelic and not postal requirements that may yet lead the long-suffering Philatelist to discard this class of "stamp" entirely.

* Stanley Gibbons, Limited. *Priced Catalogue of the Stamps of Foreign Countries*, 1900–1901. Part II. 391, Strand, London.

We cordially recommend this catalogue to all our readers. Excellent as it was before, they will find it much improved. No florin could be better expended by a stamp collector than in its exchange for "Part II. of Gibbons'" for 1900–1901, in which will be found both a mine of philatelic information and a financial guide that has no superior.

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 BECHUANALAND.—It would seem after all that certain Cape stamps were surcharged by the Boers at Vryburg "Z. A. R.," and that all Philatelists have to trouble about is whether specimens are genuine or not. The *M. J.* has the following on the subject:—

"We are shown a Postal Notice, dated 'Pretoria, 29 November, 1899,' and signed by Mr. Isaac van Alphen, one paragraph of which is of interest to collectors, as it shows that the surcharged stamps employed at Vrijburg, Cape Colony, during its occupation by the Boers, were a more regular issue than we had supposed. The translation is as follows:—

"'5. *Postage stamps for the Post Office at Vrijburg.*

"'On account of the want of our own postage stamps the Cape Colony postage stamps at Vrijburg were overprinted with the letters "Z. A. R." Only the following small quantity of them was used: Of the ½d., £5 worth; of the 1d., £10 worth; of the 2½d., £5 worth; and of the 6d. (altered to 2d.), £12 worth. Postage stamps of this State have been sent thither, and the use of the provisional stamps must be discontinued.'"

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The current 10 cent stamp has been overprinted "Revenue." As it may be used postally as well as fiscally we must chronicle it.

Adhesive.

10 cent, violet and green, current type; surcharged "Revenue" in black.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The current 6d. stamps have been seen with marginal ornamentation, as in the recent printings of ½d. and 1d.—*Ewen's.*

Collectors of stamps with inverted watermarks are informed that specimens of the new coloured 1s. value have been found already.

A plain English post card, upon which a current 1 cent, green, Canadian stamp has been affixed (in error we fully believe), posted at 4.15 p.m. on September 12th in the E.C. district, duly reached us in the ordinary course and without any surcharge.

HONG KONG.—Information comes from various sources that changes have been made in the colours of some adhesives and envelopes.

The following is the list appearing up to the present:—

Adhesives.
2 cent, green, CA; perf. 14.
4 cents, carmine, CA; perf. 14.
10 ,, blue ,, ,,

Envelopes.
2 cents, green on white.
4 ,, carmine on white.
5 ,, lilac on white.
10 ,, blue on white.

INDIA.—The current Indian stamps have been surcharged in block capitals, in black, "C.E.F.," for use in the field post offices attached to the China Expeditionary Force, and a specimen reaches us from Mr. W. T. Wilson.

Der Philatelist gives the following list :—

Adhesives. ½ anna, green ; surcharged "C.E.F."
1 ,, brown-violet ; surcharged "C.E.F."
2 annas, blue ,, ,,
2½ ,, green ,, ,,
3 ,, dark orange ,, ,,
4 ,, olive-green ,, ,,
8 ,, lilac ,, ,,
12 ,, brown on red ,, ,,
1 rupee, carmine and green ,, ,,

Orcha.—Of course, the 4 annas exists imperforate, and the *M. J.* has received it with a ½ anna envelope of the following description : Arms within two concentric circular bands, containing English inscriptions, "Orcha Postage," "Half Anna" above, and native inscriptions below.

Adhesive. 4 annas, dark green ; imperf.
Envelope. ½ anna, bright green on white laid.

Patiala.—The *American Journal of Philately*, on the authority of "Stamps" (of Calcutta), announces the following :—

"We have recently come across a curious error in the 4 as. olive stamp of Patiala, *without* the name of the place at all, and only showing the word 'state' in the normal position. We have a copy *used* on portion of the original envelope, which has the Patiala registration postmark, etc. We have also seen a block of four of these 4 as. stamps, three of which show the ordinary current surcharge, and the fourth being the error 'state' *only*. We understand that only one error exists in each sheet, and that only about half a dozen sheets were printed thus. Mr. Stewart-Wilson catalogues a similar error in the ½ anna, red, straight surcharge, in his handbook."

MAFEKING SIEGE STAMPS.—It is reported that not only was the 3d., magenta, Cape stamp, watermarked Anchor, surcharged during the Siege with 6d., etc., but also the 3d., claret, with the Crown C A watermark.

In our list of these stamps given on page 203, we mention a 3d., *claret* (presumably of the earlier watermark), and take it that the *magenta* (Anchor wmk.) has been discovered later, unless there is some confusion in the colours.

A large business in these stamps is going on in South Africa apparently among speculators, and perhaps it would be as well for Philatelists to wait awhile until prices have settled down a bit, for it looks as though considerable numbers of some of the values were held, and even *unused* specimens are now coming to light.

It is quite clear that these stamps have been very extensively forged, and we must find room for the following taken from the *S. C. F.* :—

"TWO TYPES OF THE FORGERIES

"It is now evident that there are two distinct varieties of the forged Cape 'Mafekings.' Those of the first variety, illustrated in the last number of the *Fortnightly*, show the Mafeking postmark, dated April 27th, whereas the second type since to hand is dated April 23rd. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in reply to an inquiry by Mr. Turner, write :—

"'The first variety (dated April 27th) we think have all come from Mr. Shelvoke, of Plein Street, Cape Town. We do not know the source of the second type, but it is possible they are made in London.'"

"ADDITIONAL FORGERIES TO HAND!

"It is, unfortunately, no longer possible to say that only the 'surcharged-on-Cape' Mafekings have been imitated. Under date August 28th, Mr. Alfred W. Bates, of Norwood, sends us quite a sheaf of other forgeries, all on what purport to be 'original envelopes.' We shall describe each envelope and the stamp it bears.

"No. 1 (one stamp) : 6d. on 3d. Cape ; postmarked 'Mafeking, February 12,' with another postmark on the back of envelope —'Bulawayo, 15 January.' Thus this wonderful letter reached its destination nearly a month before it started on its journey!

"No. 2 (four stamps) : 3d. on 1d. Cape ; 6d. on 3d. Cape ; 6d. on 3d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate,' and 1s. on 4d. ditto. It will be sufficient comment on this envelope to note that the overprint 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' is forged as well as the Mafeking surcharge!

"No. 3 (two stamps) : 6d. on 3d. and 1s. on 6d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate.' Here again the Bechuanaland overprint is forged.

"No. 4 (five stamps) : 1d. on ½d. (both old and new types) and 1s. on 4d. Cape ; 3d. on 1d. and 1d. on ½d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate.'

"In short, all the twelve stamps on the four envelopes are bad, and these, with the postmarks and the general fakery employed, represent a vast amount of nefarious labour. Mr. Bates writes as follows regarding the envelopes :—

"'They were bought early in June of this year in Cape Town from some Germans who were not regular stamp dealers. The purchaser was put off his guard by the original envelopes postmarked between 2nd November and 30th March.'"

MALAY STATES.—More overprinted stamps have appeared, and the *S. C. F.* chronicles the 1 cent surcharged on the 2 cents, 4 cents, and 5 cents of Perak.

Adhesives.

1 cent on 2 cents, 1 ,, ,, 4 ,, , 1 ,, ,, 5 ,, } Surcharged "FEDERATED MALAY STATES" in two lines in black.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The *M. J.* calls attention to further varieties of perforation, and mentions having had the 10d., red-brown, without the surcharge "Ninepence," and considers it evident that two sheets must have been put into the press at the same time, for the specimen before them, which was unused, showed the overprint in relief at the back. The perf. is given as 12 × 11½.

The *A. J. of P.* mentions some imperf. varieties of the 1888 and 1898–9 issue, which we have added to our list.

Adhesives.

2½d., purple (Die 1), perf. 11.
10d. ,, (Cr. and N S W.), perf. 11×11½, 12.
1s., brown-violet, of 1888, imperforate.
6d., blue-green, of 1898 ,,
6d., orange, of 1899 ,,

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—It seems we have by no means come to the end of the varieties with the "V.R.I." overprint.

Messrs. Bright and Son have had a specimen of the 6d., blue, with value *above* "V.R.I.," and also of the 6d., *rose*, with *raised stops*.

The latter variety comes as a surprise, as it has been generally understood that all the 6d., rose, were used in the *first printing*.

Ewen's Weekly chronicles the ½d. with *raised dots* after the "R." and "I.," but no dot after the "V.," and remarks that this dotless variety is well known in the first printing, but not in the second printing.

Then again there are the thick "V" varieties to look for. *Ewen's* states :—

"In the second printing six stamps on each pane of sixty have a thick 'V.' In the first and third printings there are no thick V's."

The *M. J.* has met with the ½d. stamp showing the surcharge doubly printed, but whether of the first or later printings is not mentioned.

Further, the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* mentions a pair of the ½d. value—one stamp with normal and the other with the raised stops.

The list of such minor varieties as broken letters, missing dividing lines in the ½d., etc., must stand over a bit, though such exist if any of our readers care to search for them.

The current 2½d. Cape stamp has been surcharged "Orange River Colony" in three lines, and Messrs. Bright and Son and Whitfield King and Co. have shown us specimens.

We hear the supply of this stamp is exhausted, and that a new issue may be expected shortly.

Ewen's Weekly has quickly discovered some varieties in this latest provisional. Our contemporary states as follows :—

"From the specimens before us it would appear that each horizontal row of the overprint 'Orange River Colony' shows the same type varieties in the same positions. Unfortunately we have not a complete sheet to examine, but the following variations are the most noticeable. It may be noted that the size and arrangement of each sheet is exactly similar to that of our own English ½d. and 1d. stamps; *i.e.* two panes, each 120 stamps in ten rows of twelve.

"(*a*) In the seventh stamp of *every* horizontal row (*i.e.* the seventh vertical row) the 'E' of 'ORANGE' is lower than the rest of the word, giving it the appearance of having been originally spelt 'ORANG,' with an E put in afterwards.

"(*b*) In the eighth stamp of every row the 'V' of 'RIVER' is slightly lower than the rest of the letters.

"(*c*) In the tenth stamp of each row the 'R' of 'RIVER' is very slightly below the rest of the letters.

"There are no errors, and only the above minor varieties, which are hardly likely to receive much attention from collectors. They will no doubt be distinguished by readers in the illustration we give.

"We might also mention that in the specimens before us several letters of the overprint are broken, probably due to defective inking of the rollers.

"We have to thank numerous readers who sent us early notice of this new issue. Mr. Hounsom informs us that there is one variety without stop after 'Colony.'"

Adhesives.

½d., orange, Orange Free State; surcharged in black, V·R·I· ½d.
½d. ,, ,, ,, double surcharge.
½d. ,, ,, ,, pair V·R·I· ½d. + V.R.I. ½d.
6d., blue ,, ,, 6d. V.R.I.
6d., rose ,, ,, V·R·I· 6d.
2½d., blue, Cape stamp; surcharged in black, Orange River Colony.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 9d. with the large-hole perforation, like that of the 1s. and 2s., has been submitted to us.

The stamps showing the two varieties of perforation are in one strip.—*Monthly Journal.*

Adhesive.

9d. red-lilac; perf. 11½ and 11½×12½.

TRANSVAAL.—It is reported in *Ewen's Weekly* that certain of the Transvaal stamps were surcharged "V.R." only, and were issued at Rustenburg.

So far, the 1d. and 3d. values are known, and the surcharge is, so it is stated, made with a rubber stamp. A letter has been received by one of our contemporary's

correspondents bearing four stamps—½d. and 2½d. surcharged "V.R.I." and 1d. and 3d. overprinted "V.R." only.

Later information is given that the following set has been on sale in Kimberley, and Mr. Ewen's correspondent writes:—

"I discovered another shop to-day in which 'V.R.I.' stamps are sold, and amongst these I noticed a curious set which may or may not be genuine. This consists of the current ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1s., and 2s. 6d. of the Transvaal surcharged 'V.R.' in violet ink, and used at Rustenburg on the 23rd June, 1900. This surcharge has the appearance of being impressed with a rubber stamp, each one being done separately. Whether official or not I am unable to state. I am told that a limited number of these stamps were issued by authority of the commandant at Rustenburg to be used for one day only, *i.e.* 23rd June. The price of the set is £4 10s. They belong to a captain in the Diamond Fields Horse, who states that he will give the purchaser a guarantee as to their genuineness."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The *S. C. F.* chronicles the large 2s. 6d. and 3s., lilac, postal fiscals, watermarked Crown and W A.

Adhesives.

2s. 6d., lilac, postal fiscal, with new watermark Crown and W A.
3s., lilac, postal fiscal, with new watermark Crown and W A.

EUROPE.

CRETE.—The Cretans have managed here somehow to get along without unpaid letter stamps up to the present, but it is announced in the American and other journals that a set has been ordered in England consisting of eight values—1, 5, 10, 20, 40, 50 lepta, and 1 and 2 drachma.

The colour is to be bright red for all the values, and the design is to be a hunting-horn surmounted by the crown of Prince George, the value being placed in the centre of the horn.

GERMANY.—The newly-issued 3 marks stamp has reached us from Mr. Franz Reichenheim, and the 2 pfennig of the Germania type comes to us on correspondence side by side with the same value of the old type.

The former is a handsome stamp, quite equal in merit to the 1 and 2 marks now well known. The colour we should describe as dull purple, and the perforation is $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

Mr. Reichenheim also sends a post card issued, for correspondence, to non-commissioned officers and men of the German East Asiatic Expedition.

The inscription reads "DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST FELDPOSTKARTE" in two lines, and there are also six lines for address, name of regiment, etc.

It bears and requires no stamp, and the price is stated to be 5 pf. for ten cards—moderate indeed. All these post cards are directed to the Navy Department in Berlin, and forwarded in especial bags to China, free of charge, for the sender and addressee.

Adhesives.

2 pfg. (Germania type), slate-blue; perf. 14.
3 marks (Picture type), dull purple; perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

Post Card.

No value, for Army use.

GREECE.—Another value, 10 lepta, of the new adhesives is announced by the *Metropolitan Philatelist;* also that double cards have appeared.

Adhesive.

10 lepta (new design), carmine.

Post Cards.

5+5 lepta, green.
10+10 ,, carmine.

ROUMANIA.—Several journals mention that the current issue on thin paper, and without watermark, is now coming with *pink* gum, and the perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$.

The following are the values recorded at present, but doubtless the whole set will follow:—

Adhesives.

1 bani, pale brown; no wmk., *pink* gum.
5 ,, green ,, ,,
15 ,, black ,, ,,

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE.—It is expected that the 10 cent. and 30 cent. stamps will soon change their colours, as at present they are considered too closely akin in colour to other values in the set.

BRAZIL.—The *M. J.* states that the 50 reis on 10 reis stamp, reported in most of the journals, turns out to be a fraud, and to have no official existence.

GUATEMALA.—The reissued type in fresh colours is coming forward, and in addition to the values we have already recorded Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the following:—

Adhesives.

5 cents., blue; old type, perf. 12.
10 ,, pale brown ,, ,,
20 ,, purple ,, ,,
25 ,, yellow ,, ,,

HAYTI.—Hayti, it appears, has adopted a gold standard with the American dollar as the unit of value. Hitherto the currency of this "Black Republic" has been unique among the world's coinages, for in Hayti a hundred centimes have equalled one piastre (!), which in its turn has been of the nominal value of four shillings British money. Doubtless the Haytians — much against their will, of course—will signalise the change by means of a set of provisionals surcharged in cents and dollars.—*Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.*

PERU.—A decided novelty has appeared here, and is probably the forerunner of an entirely new set.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* describes it as follows :—

"It is a new value, 22 cents., and design, picture of His Excellency Senor D. Eduardo L. de Romana, in black in centre, with frame and inscription in light green. '1900' in upper and '22' in lower corners, 'Union Postal Universal' at each side, and 'Centavos' in curved label below."

Adhesive.

22 centavos, black and light green; perf. 12.

URUGUAY.—The *I. B. J.* announces that the 1 centesimo, green, of 1899, has been surcharged "Oficial" in black.

Official Stamp.

1 centesimo, green, of the 1899 issue, surcharged "Oficial" in black.

VENEZUELA.—According to the *American Journal of Philately* three high values of the "Instrucciones" set have had their colours changed, and are overprinted "1900" in black.

Adhesives.

3 bolivares, red-brown; surcharged "1900" in black.
10 ,, red-orange ,, ,, ,,
20 ,, blue-violet ,, ,, ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—The 10 c. adhesive is reported changed in colour to lilac.

Adhesive. 10 c., lilac; current issue.

French Post Offices.—The 2 francs French stamp has been overprinted "Chine" for use here.

Adhesive.

2 francs, bistre-brown, French stamp surcharged "Chine" in black.

DÉDÉAGH.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 5 centimes French stamp in yellow-green surcharged in red, and the 2 francs overprinted in black, Dédéagh / 8 Piastres 8.

Adhesives.

5 centimes, yellow-green, French stamp, surcharged "Dédéagh" in red.
2 francs, bistre-brown, French stamp, surcharged Dédéagh / 8 PIASTRES 8 in black.

DUTCH INDIES.—In addition to the two envelopes stated on page 232 to have been surcharged "10 Cents" must be added the 12½ and 15 cents values. The *M. C.*, on the authority of the *Echo de la T.*, states that the 1 cent stamp (head of king) has been seen printed in error in the colour of the 2 cents, that is, in red-brown instead of grey-green. The specimen is postmarked "BATAVIA Sep. 16th 1882."

Envelopes.

10 cents on 12½ cents, grey-black surcharge.
10 cents on 15 cents, red-brown ,,

MOROCCO (*French Post Offices*).—The 2 francs French stamp has been overprinted 2 / PESETAS in black for use here, and a copy reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

Adhesive.

2 francs, bistre-brown, French stamp, surcharged 2 / PESETAS in black.

PORTUGUESE INDIA.—The *M. J.* has received information that a provisional 1½ reis on 2 tangas, blue, has been issued, owing to the exhaustion of stock, etc.

The 2 tangas of 1898 has been selected for the honour of receiving the latest overprint, "1½—Réis," in two lines in black. As only 20,000 are reported converted we may soon hear more from this quarter.

Adhesive.

1½ réis on 2 tangas, blue-black surcharge.

SURINAM.—Several journals report the remaining stock of 2½ cents stamps with head of *king*, left on hand, surcharged "1 cent" in black.

This is an excellent way to clear old stock, and we must be thankful that the authorities were considerate enough to *reduce* the value and be satisfied with a moderate return.

Adhesive.

1 cent on 2½ cent, carmine, head of king, black surcharge.

TUNIS.—We are told a change in colours may be expected shortly of the following values: 10 centimes to red, 15 cents. to orange, and 25 cents. to blue, etc.

ZANZIBAR (*French Post Offices*).—Here also the 2 francs French stamp has been overprinted Zanzibar / 20 ANNAS in black.

Adhesive.

2 francs, bistre-brown, French stamp, surcharged Zanzibar / 20 ANNAS in black.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society of Victoria.

THE annual meeting of the above Society was held at its rooms, 243, Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday evening the 18th July, when there was a good attendance of members, the President (Mr. W. Brettschneider) occupying the chair.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the annual report, and in doing so again complimented the Society upon the success of the Exhibition it had recently held. The expense of it reduced the balance to the credit of the Society, but it had helped to increase the members' roll.

The adoption of the report was seconded by Mr. Glazbrook, and carried unanimously.

The balance-sheet was also unanimously adopted upon the motion of Mr. J. Davis.

The election of office-bearers for the year 1900–1901 resulted as follows:—

President—Mr. C. CHAPMAN.
Vice-President—Mr. W. DAVIES.
Hon. Sec., Treasurer, and Exchange Supt.
Mr. D. S. ABRAHAM.
Assistant Hon. Sec.—Mr. R. BAKER.
Librarian—Mr. E. A. DEAVILLE.
Auditor—Mr. S. E. INNES.
Committee—Messrs. W. BRETTSCHNEIDER, J. DAVIS, A. S. A. WHELEN, and F. A. JACKSON.

A notice of motion given by Mr. J. Davis was carried, viz. That the fine of 1s. in Rule 7 of Exchange Branch be altered to 3d.

An attempt was made to alter the amount to 6d., but it met with no support.

The Committee now intend to strictly enforce the fine on members keeping the exchange books more than two clear days.

A new member was elected, Mr. Jas. Williamson, while the Secretary nominated another for election at next meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT.

"Your Committee beg to submit to you the eighth annual report and balance-sheet. The number of members now on the roll is 50 town, 14 corresponding, and 1 honorary member. The balance at the Society's credit is £15 3s. 5d. Your Committee have to tender the thanks of the Society 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 the meetings. The Committee are pleased to record that an exhibition of postage stamps was held on 26th May, 1900, at Old Court Studio, Swanston Street, Melbourne, to celebrate the jubilee of the issue of stamps in Victoria, the success of which was far beyond anticipations. Your Committee wish to record their thanks to the Hon. the Postmaster-General, the Government Printer, and the Librarian of the Public Library, for their assistance. The Hon. the Postmaster-General decided to issue a War stamp in commemoration of the first appearance of Victorian troops in battle. Your Committee took the matter into their earnest consideration, and entered their protest against the issue. They regret, however, that their efforts were unsuccessful. During the year exhibitions of stamp collections and philatelic displays have been held, and they have proved interesting, and members will materially assist the success of the Society by exhibiting at future meetings. The Committee are pleased to record that during the year Mr. W. R. Rundell read the concluding portion of his interesting paper on 'The Postage Stamps of Victoria,' which contained much original matter, and was greatly appreciated by the members and by the philatelic public upon reading the article in the *Australian Philatelist*. It was decided that a record of the members of the Society be made by means of a photographic album. Many members have not yet forwarded their photos, and your Committee trust they will do so at their earliest convenience, so that the same may be made as complete as possible.

"Nine committee meetings were held during the year, at which the attendance was as follows: Mr. W. Brettschneider (President), 6; Mr. D. H. Hill (Hon. Life President), 6; Mr. C. Chapman (Vice-President), 4; Mr. E. A. Deaville (Librarian), 6; Mr. J. Davis, 6; Mr. A. S. A. Whelen, 7; Mr. W. Davies, 5; Cr. H. Weedon, 1; Mr. D. S. Abraham (Hon. Secretary), 9. Nine exchange books were circulated during the year amongst the members, containing 452 sheets, valued at £440 7s. 11d. The Library has been added to by donations and purchases by the Committee, and members are reminded that the Library is always open for their use. Your Committee desire to impress upon members the necessity for prompt payment of their debits to facilitate the settlement of exchange books, and also that sheets for the exchange book should be sent in promptly by all members.

"W. BRETTSCHNEIDER, *President.*
"D. S. ABRAHAM, *Hon. Sec.*"

Receipts and Expenditure for year ending June 30th, 1900.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To cash from 1899	24	17	2	By rent	13	0	0
Subscriptions	23	10	0	Printing and stationery	4	5	6
Commission on exchange books	3	15	5	Subscriptions to journals and additions to Library	7	16	4
Sale of exchange sheets	0	12	8	Expenses of Exhibition	7	9	0
Donation to Exhibition expenses	0	5	0	Postage and sundries	5	1	6
				Insurance	0	4	6
				Balance	15	3	5
	£53	0	3		£53	0	3

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
To capital — Balance	38	3	5	By cash in bank	15	3	5
				Furniture at cost	10	0	0
				Stationery	2	10	0
				Books in Library	10	0	0
				Frames	0	10	0
	£38	3	5		£38	3	5

Audited and found correct.

D. S. ABRAHAM, HON. TREASURER AND SEC.
S. E. INNES, HON. AUDITOR.

July 12th, 1900.

Herts Philatelic Society.

PROGRAMME of meetings for 1900–1901 :—

Oct. 2. Paper and Display, "The History of the German Colonies and German Post Offices in Foreign Countries and their different Issues of Stamps." FRANZ REICHENHEIM.
Oct. 23. Special Meeting. Display, British West Indies. W. B. AVERY.
Nov. 6. Display, Buenos Ayres. ROBT. EHRENBACH.
Dec. 4. Display, Grenada. L. L. R. HAUSBURG.
1901.
Jan. 1. Paper and Display, "South Australia." M. Z. KUTTNER.
Feb. 5. Display, Mauritius. HENRY J. DUVEEN.
Mar. 5. Display and Paper, "Peru." THOS. W. HALL.
Apr. 2. Display, Cape of Good Hope. VERNON ROBERTS.
May 7. Annual Dinner. Display, Ceylon. BARON DE WORMS.
May 21. Annual Meeting. Election of Officers, Revision of Rules, Reception of Reports, etc.
Each meeting commences at 7 p.m.

Suburban Stamp Exchange Club.

THREE packets valued at £1,619 7s. 4d., and two packets valued at £1,181 14s. 3d., were made up and despatched on the July and August circuits respectively. Taking the holiday season into consideration, very good selections were contributed, especially as regards Colonials and the War stamps. Nearly every variety of the latter was offered at much under catalogue prices, some of the rarities being priced very cheaply.

April and May packets were received from circulation in due course, and accounts were submitted and sheets returned within seven days. Sales were well up to the average, and little delay was incurred through absence of members from home. The rule limiting the circulation of packets to thirteen weeks seems to meet with universal favour.

At the beginning of another season Philatelists of all grades are invited to join the Suburban Club, which will be found a favourable medium for the disposal of duplicates, or for the acquisition of rare and medium stamps at reasonable prices. As the packets are valuable, satisfactory references are requisite, and intending members should not fail to send such with their applications. Rules and full particulars to be obtained from the Secretary, H. A. Slade, 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.*

BEFORE these lines are in print the auction sales will be in full swing again, sales having been held by Messrs. Plumridge and Co. (September 18th and 19th), Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper (September 20th and 21st), Messrs. Puttick and Simpson (September 25th and 26th), and Mr. W. Hadlow (September 28th).

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON announce that the large general collection advertised to be sold on September 25th–28th has been withdrawn, as they have disposed of the same *en bloc* by private treaty.

* * *

A CATALOGUE reaches us from Holland of a four days' sale, from October 1st till October 4th, and the auctioneers are Messrs. J. L. van Dieten and Anton M. van Hoek.

It comprises no less than 1,302 lots, though some of them are small in value compared with the system of lotting adopted here.

* * *

MR. J. C. STEVENS, the well-known auctioneer of King Street, Covent Garden, has had included in two of his sales of curios some Mafeking Siege and other stamps.

In the sale of August 21st we notice the following :—Two complete sets of Mafeking Besieged stamps, each including the rare Bechuanaland 6d., went for £39 18s., and a like sum; eighteen small blue "Baden-Powells" sold for £15 15s; seven ditto and *other* stamps, £5; while six envelopes with fourteen stamps, various (presumably Siege stamps), realised £13 2s. 6d. Various Orange Free State stamps at 15s. might have been a bargain or very dear, no detailed description having been given.

In the sale of September 11th we notice the following :—

	£	s.	d.
A set of 17, all different, Mafeking Besieged surcharged stamps, in very fine condition	21	0	0
Nine, all different, surcharged Mafeking stamps	9	0	0
Ditto	9	0	0
Ditto	9	0	0
Three Baden-Powell, large size	8	5	0
Eight Mafeking stamps, various, used, in fine condition	6	10	0
Three Mafeking, various, used, and one bicycle, unused, and two Cape used in Mafeking, without surcharge	4	0	0
One bicycle and one small head Baden-Powell, used	2	5	0
One large Baden-Powell, unused	4	4	0
Orange Free State, V.R.I., block of twelve 1s., unused	2	0	0
Fine block of forty-two unused ½d, surcharged on 3d., blue, Orange Free State, with all varieties of surcharge	2	10	0
Three Mafeking Besieged, 3d. on 1d., used, on original envelope	1	12	6
Two Baden-Powell bicycle stamps, used, and one Baden-Powell portrait stamp, used	3	10	0
Ten stamps, various, all used and surcharged	7	7	0
Twenty-six Cape stamps, used	7	7	0
V.R.I. Transvaal ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., and 6d., used, on original envelopes, with field-post postmark	1	6	0
Eighteen V.R.I. Transvaal ½d. and 1d., used and unused; seven V.R.I. Orange Colony, and six other stamps, various	1	15	0

	£	s.	d
Two Mafeking Besieged stamps, ½d. on Cape, ditto 1d. on ½d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, ditto 1s. on 6d., small Baden-Powell head and bicycle, and two 3d. on 1d. Cape . . .	4	10	0
Nine Mafeking Besieged unused stamps, consisting of 1d. and 3d., on Cape 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1s. on Bechuanaland Protectorate and British Bechuanaland, small Baden-Powell head and bicycle, and seven stamps, various	32	11	0
A 2d. English stamp, surcharged "Mafeking, Bechuanaland Protectorate, 6d., Besieged"; 3d. Cape of Good Hope stamp, surcharged "Mafeking Besieged, 6d.," and ½d. Cape of Good Hope stamp, surcharged "Mafeking Besieged, 1d.," with postmark . .	1	10	0
Blue Baden-Powell bicycle 1d. stamp, unused	1	0	0
Blue 3d. ditto	1	6	0
,, ditto. used . . .	1	4	0
A fine collection of eleven different Mafeking Besieged stamps, used, on pieces of original envelopes, and one leaden ticket . . .	9	0	0
Four bicycle, four Baden-Powell, and one British Bechuanaland 6d. on a 3d., on original envelope . .	7	17	6
Two Baden-Powell small heads, bicycle, 3d. on 1d. Cape Mafeking Besieged, 3d. on 1d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, a 10s. Mafeking Siege note, and five stamps, various . . .	9	9	0
Complete set of the Orange Free State stamps, surcharged "V.R.I.," including the rare 2½d. and 6d. red, all unused	4	0	0
Three Mafeking Besieged Baden-Powell small heads, used . . .	2	0	0

* * *

THERE seems to be a lot of speculation going on in South Africa, and particularly in Kimberley, in "Mafekings" and "V.R.I.'s," and stamp auctions are not unknown out there.

Unused "Mafekings" are being brought out, as we might expect, and several of the values have already been met with. The value of the used set of these stamps seems to range from about £30 to £40, and it is reported that it is the speculator and not the stamp collector who is dabbling in them, and it will be the former who will suffer from the "fakers" who are already at work at the Cape or elsewhere.

* * *

SOME interesting information about one of the Kimberley stamp sales is given in *Ewen's Weekly*, and we think we had better copy it here, merely remarking that Zechmeyer's Continentals at 2s., or even 1s. per 1,000, was good business *for the seller*:—

"There was a stamp, coin, and note sale at one of the hotels last night, with a good bit of fun going on. Very few lots were sold, as there were very few buyers, and also most of the lots had big reserves on. The auctioneer first tried coins, and after getting £4 offered for a Kruger double-shaft sovereign, withdrew the lots. The sets of Mafeking notes failed to elicit bids, and some Transvaal notes were also passed. Sets of 'Mafeking Besieged' stamps were next put up. £35 per set was offered, but as the reserve was £37 10s. a sale was not effected. Single lots of Mafeking stamps were then put up, but in most cases were unsold. A specimen of the 1s. Mafeking Besieged on 4d. British Bechuanaland (Gibbons' No. 53) was next put up. To tempt buyers the auctioneer read an extract from a paper to the effect that at a recent sale of Messrs. Puttick and Simpson a similar stamp was sold for £6 15s. The stamp was eventually knocked down for 27s. 6d. Next a lot of V.R.I. Orange River Colony stamps and post cards were put up, and those sold realised double face and over. A pair of 6d. carmine, unused, were withdrawn when the bidding realised 44s. A strip of three ½d. V.R.I., one specimen being the variety with no dot after the 'V,' was sold for 15s.

"The fun commenced, though, when some packets of Zechmeyer's Continentals were put up. After the auctioneer's eloquent description of '1,000 stamps, with a packet containing eighty varieties,' the Kimberley bargain hunters bid fair to get them at any price. The first packet was soon run up to 15s., but the gentleman who made the last bid was under the impression that they were all African stamps, so the lot had to be put up again. This time the highest bid was 2s., and at this price about ten packets were sold. The buyers' ardour seemed to cool off a bit after this, and the auctioneer reduced the price to 1s., and they cleared out another dozen or more packets. Next a collection of 1,000 common different stamps were put up. This was another strong inducement for bargain hunters, and they were not lacking in bids After spirited competition, the purchaser considered himself lucky to get the lot for 17s. 6d. Another lot of the same character fetched 15s. The next lot consisted of 500 different, but as no one would offer more than 10s. the lot was withdrawn, and the sale concluded." * * *

WE hear that stamp auctions are again to be tried in Germany next month under the auspices of Herren V. P. Kosack and M. de Vries at Berlin, to the latter of whom all communications should be addressed at 55, Kommandanten Strasse, Berlin. It is stated that numerous promises of support have already been given, and that many fine stamps will be sold. Auctions have done and are doing good service in Great Britain, Holland, and the United States, hence their establishment on a sound basis in Germany would be of great advantage alike to dealer and collector in that country.

* * *

LIEUTENANT CASTLE, writing on August 1st from Potchefstroom, where he had been in hospital with a slight attack of rheumatism, alludes as follows to the mania for buying up the new South African Colonial issues:—

"I haven't seen any Transvaal stamps here at all. There seem to be no stamps at any of the post offices we have passed. You see, other troops have in nearly every case been there before, as the song goes, and they have cleared out all the post offices. Everybody, from general down to drummer-boy, is *stamp mad*. The first question an officer asks, if he meets you, is, 'Have you got any Transvaal stamps surcharged V.R.I.?' or with great glee he says he managed to get the 6d., red, Orange Free State, with V.R.I. on it.

"Everybody tries to buy stamps, and I am afraid that those who speculate in the 'War' issues will burn their fingers, as all the fellows out here think that they have only got to keep the stamps a few days and then they will get enormous sums for them. When they all come to unload, I expect the market will have some difficulty in assimilating so many stamps."

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. OCTOBER, 1900. No. 106.

The Muddle of Medals.

AT the time of the last Philatelic Exhibition in London, and we believe also at that of Manchester, there were not wanting expressions as to the superfluity of awards. This redundancy did not apply so much to the official recognitions, although in both Exhibitions there was but scant chance of any really deserving exhibit escaping a "decoration." In certain classes the judges were compelled to award medals which, failing sufficient competition, might as well have been left unawarded, while perhaps in some instances an extra recognition might have been judiciously awarded. Suffice it to say, the officially given medals—gold, silver, and bronze—were, broadly speaking, ample; but when the medals presented by private donors were added—these awards being also part of the functions of the jury—it was only too evident that exhibitors were in some cases plastered with medals in a manner which doubtless the generous donors neither intended nor the competitor desired. The feeling of the judges was, we believe, at both of the English Exhibitions, that the giving of these additional medals was a feature that required very careful consideration before the holding of another exhibition.

The experience of the Paris Exposition, as detailed to us by gentlemen who were present and by the reports in the French philatelic journals, indicate that the additional medal question has "gone one further" than it did with us. Having regard to the plethora of these unofficial medals, the variety of purposes for which they were designated by their several donors, and the inadequate competition in numerous instances, the jury very wisely declined to make these additional and unofficial awards. The only course

available was, therefore, for the donors to bestow these prizes themselves, which was accordingly done, with the natural results that they were almost ludicrous in some instances and superfluous in others. It is patent that privately given and awarded medals can have but little practical value in the eyes either of the recipients or the public. *C'est la ridicule qui tue*, and we are convinced that our esteemed French friends will, with ourselves, now feel mutually convinced that the only real and tangible recognitions of merit at an exhibition are those officially given by the judges and sanctioned by the Committee of Organisation.

The Early Issues of Belgium.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on February 1st, 1900.

By M. P. CASTLE.



HE field of the collector who, like myself, specialises all the European issues is a very wide one, and embraces within its precincts a remarkable variety of the several methods of stamp production, many of which are frequently quaint in design, and not a few both artistic in conception and excellent in execution. If I were asked in what instances these qualities are most clearly manifest, I should place four series in the front rank, all of them old issues of the early part of the half-century. The 1d., black, and 2d., blue, without white lines, of our own country; the first head issue of Saxony; the stamps of Sicily with the head of the notorious King Bomba; and the first issue of Belgium are, in my judgment, the most striking postal vignettes of the European series. In accuracy of drawing and in the grace of the effigy depicted the British stamps come first, while the head of the Saxon king is but slightly inferior in these respects. In boldness of design, depth of colouring, and in picturesque ruggedness the Sicilian stamps are the equal of the first Belgians, but the latter have an additional delicacy of engraving and an originality that may be said to be lacking in the case of all the others. The presentment of His Majesty Leopold I., with its earnest and manly expression, in the full military uniform that has given these stamps the *sobriquet* of "*les epaulettes*," depicted on a richly-engraved background, and devoid of all other form of ornamentation, presents, to my mind, a stamp that for incisive design and picturesque appearance has no rival in the ranks of philatelic portraiture. The second issue, with the military appanages of the king somewhat shorn by their inclusion within an oval, is also a handsome and a characteristic stamp; hence it can therefore be understood that a collector of Belgian stamps would readily welcome any varieties which could conscientiously enable him to increase his collection of these stamps. It will be seen that my philatelic conscience has allowed me to gather together a good

few of these two designs; and as I have found considerable interest in their division and subdivision, I conceived that a display of these issues, with a kind of running commentary on the system of this arrangement, would not be unacceptable to my fellow-members of this Society.

The first postal issues of Belgium took place on October 17th, 1849, and the two values, 10 c. and 20 c., were superseded by the new design in August, 1850; hence they had a short life of only ten months. It is to be wondered at, in view of this, that the stamps are not scarcer; but up to recent years M. Moens, of Brussels, had a stock of certain printings, and until this was exhausted their value rose but slowly. Some interesting articles upon the Belgian stamps by M. Jules Bouvez have been appearing in the *American Journal of Philately*, and in the last November number of that paper there is some valuable information as to the quantities printed of this first issue. It would appear that there were three printings of this issue.

1. May, 1849. Thick paper, deep brown and deep blue. 1,500,000.
2. September, 1849. Thick paper, pale brown and pale blue. 2,800,000.
3. May, 1850. Thinner paper, impression showing through, and colours still paler. 500,000.

According to M. Bouvez the plates in the latter instance were retouched, notably in the frame. I must confess that I have been unable to find any trace of a retouch in any of my specimens of this issue, although those in pale blue show slight signs of wear. As regards the thickness of the paper, it will be found to vary considerably, while the gum ranges from almost white to brownish yellow. The colours vary less perhaps in proportion, but there is little difficulty in grouping Nos. 1 and 2 of M. Bouvez's classification. With regard to No. 3 I have hitherto been unable to come across a 10 c. in really pale brown and with the impression showing through, although in the 20 c. blue stamp I have two clearly defined specimens, both of which are scarce varieties, and perhaps the second rarest among the Belgian stamps unused. Of these last-mentioned stamps only half a million, or about ten per cent. of the total number issued, were printed, and it is probable that some of these were not put into circulation, owing to their suppression by the new design.

On August 22nd, 1850, twelve days after the official notification of the issue of the new 10 c. and 20 c., a further circular from the Belgian Postal Department invited from all postmasters an exact account of the number of specimens in stock of the preceding issue of both values. It is hence extremely likely that in cases where a considerable surplus remained they were called in and subsequently destroyed, and indeed it may be possible—as borne out by the existing proportion of both used and unused specimens—that but a very limited portion of these pale printings was ever in circulation.

These two stamps were separately engraved, and on comparison it will be seen that they vary in their details, although the faces are practically identical. The position of the small labels of value and the arabesque ornamentation on the background present the most patent differences. Both values were reprinted from the engraved dies in 1866, both on plain white

and laid paper, and again in 1898 on a very thin paper and in pale colours. There was but a very limited issue of the latter, and I have been unable to secure a copy of the 10 c.

Issue II.

On April 27th, 1849, a Postal Convention had been concluded between France and Belgium, to come into force on October 1st of that year, by which the international rate of postage was to be reduced to 40 c., thereby necessitating the issue of that value. This was officially announced in a circular dated October 9th, 1849 (*vide* Moens' *Les Timbres de Belgique*, pp. 42–3), and eight days later the first stamps of the new design appeared. On August 10th, 1850, another circular announced the issue of the 10 c. and 20 c. of the same design. To quote the official circular: "This modification establishing a perfect identity between the stamps, as they are all prepared from one original die, and there can only exist the difference of indication of value, which can thus be added to the reproduced dies for each kind of stamp." These three stamps, as is well known, bear the same watermark as their predecessors, viz. a monogram of the letters "LL" interlaced in script characters placed sideways, surrounded by a double-line frame, and generally known as "LL *encadrées*." They had, however, been in use but a short period before these outer lines were removed, and hence they are all rare stamps in unused condition. The exact date of the alteration of watermark is not known, but a specimen has been seen of the 20 c. without frame used early in 1851, and it is therefore assured that the 10 and 20 c. stamps with frame were in issue but a very few months. The 40 c. was issued some ten months previously, and had, therefore, a rather longer lease of life. The remarkable discovery a few years since of one entire sheet of both the 10 and 20 c. has been frequently discussed, and I would refer members to remarks made hereon, and to this issue generally, in the *London Philatelist*, vol. vii., 1898, pp. 268-9; vol. viii., 1899, p. 11; and vol. ix., 1900, p. 15. The quotation from M. Bouvez in the current number of the Society's journal will be found to explain the two different printings of the 40 c., and to account for their scarcity—excepting always the sheet or sheets from which the defacing horizontal penstroke has been removed. This stamp, in the dark shade of carmine-rose and really unused, is, in my opinion, by far the rarest Belgian stamp, and I have succeeded in finding one copy only. The latter note being so pertinent to these notes, merits reproduction here.

"This stamp [the 40 c. of 1849] has on several occasions formed the subject of comment in the *London Philatelist*, and on the authority of M. Jules Bouvez, whose interesting articles upon the Belgian stamps have been running in the *American Journal of Philately*, we give the following fresh information:—

"These regulations caused the administration to decree that from 9th October, 1849, a new value in the series of postage stamps, that of 40 centimes, should be employed. The engraving for this stamp was made in *taille douce* by M. Jacques Wiener, and the new value appeared on the 15th October, 1849.

"At first this stamp was printed on the thin white wove paper which had been used for the 10 and 20 centimes stamps of the second and third printings of the first

issue, and there is to be found in these stamps, also in a frame, measuring 18 × 21¼ mm., the interlaced 'LL,' of which the greater number are turned towards the left. This value appeared at first in a bright brick-red colour, and the first printing, made about the 1st September, 1849, consisted of 800 sheets, that is, 160,000 stamps.

"When the second printing of the 40 centimes stamps was about to be made, it was noted that there still remained in stock 360 sheets of the thick, ribbed paper. These sheets being considered sufficient to complete the stock of 40 centimes stamps necessary for a supply until the time fixed for a new printing of these values, they were used, and produced 72,000 stamps of this value. These stamps are to be distinguished from those of the first printing by the shade, which is less bright. They were used principally to supply the important offices; in fact, it is said that they were not sold except in the offices of Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Liège, Mons, Arlon, and Tournai, and, in fact, the greater number of these stamps are found cancelled with a cancellation stamp composed of lines with a number in the centre. These numbers belonged, at the time, to the offices mentioned: Brussels, No. 24; Antwerp, No. 4; Ghent, No. 45; Liège, No. 73; Mons, No. 83; Arlon, No. 5; Tournai, No. 120.

"This is a particularly interesting confirmation of the two now well-known shades of the first 40 c. The paler one, in a dull rose-red shade, although printed in less than half the number in the bright 'brick-red' colour, is not so scarce, perhaps owing to there having been a few copies held back at their supersession by the next 40 c. with the 'LL' unframed. The 160,000 of the first printing were doubtless all quickly exhausted, and probably none escaped the then heavy Belgian obliterating dies, except one sheet which was reserved and, as is well known, defaced by horizontal pen lines. This stamp really unused, *i.e.* without the *removed* pen obliteration, is assuredly the rarest Belgian stamp, and at least as rare as any of the twopenny English that were its contemporaries."

I would call attention to the fact that the 40 c. is found only on thinnish paper, while the 20 c. and 40 c. exist also on thick paper quite distinct in character, although both, like all the three first issues, are of hard hand-made quality. In the case of the two lower values the shades are but slight, probably but one or two printings having taken place during their short existence.

Issue III.

The 10, 20, and 40 c., without frame, as we have seen, were issued early in 1851, although the late Mr. Westoby gives October of that year as the date, and they remained in use for several years. M. Moens, both in his book on the Belgian stamps and in his Catalogue, gives April 1st, 1861, as the date of the issue of the stamps without watermark; but I cannot agree that this is correct. These stamps in this case should be commoner than the succeeding ones without watermark, which were in turn superseded in April, 1863, by the perforated series, thus assigning nearly ten years of existence to the former and but two years to the latter. I am inclined to believe that this issue, with unframed watermark, was superseded four or five years earlier—in 1856 or 1857. This supposition is partly borne out by a paper in the *Schweizer Briefmarken Journal* of April, 1899, by M. Célestin Gronendaels, a Belgian Philatelist, who has examined large numbers of stamps on the original covers, and found that in all cases the stamps dated after August, 1858, bore no watermark. The issue of the no watermark series is thus antedated nearly three years, and I incline to believe is of still earlier origin.

The paper employed for this issue varies very much, and the specialist may divide it into thin, thick, very thick (almost card), and ribbed. I do not look upon the latter as important; but it is frequently very distinct, and cannot be ignored by the careful student. These varieties doubtless all arise from unskilful technical work in distributing the pulp during the manufacture of the paper. I should add, on the authority last cited, that the letter occasionally found watermarked on these stamps forms part of the inscription—"*Ministère des travaux publics, Bruxelles, Belgique, Postes*"—which after 1851 was inserted on the top border of each sheet.

The gum employed for this issue was of uneven and frequently very inferior quality, in the latter case frequently staining or otherwise affecting the paper. The colours of the 10 c. vary but relatively little; the 20 c. is in two or three distinct shades, and the 40 c. has striking variations of colour, which will be found in the synopsis of issues that I give further on.

Issue IV.

The date of this issue, according to preceding remarks, should be assigned to a period preceding August, 1858, and not 1861, as generally given. The important features here are the disappearance of the watermark and the appearance of machine-made paper. The differences between machine and hand made paper are well known, the former being softer, whiter, and generally showing the grain, while the latter is tough, hard, and frequently slightly toned. I have divided my stamps of this issue into these two classes, but although they will be found to differ widely, and are, I believe, of a different manufacture, I am not prepared to say that all those as labelled are hand-made. In any case they vary so in texture as to merit differentiation.

Mr. Westoby, in his work *The Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe*, p. 99, writes, "No other change was made in the paper till the year 1861, when a machine-made paper was substituted. This paper was introduced in April, 1861, and the new value of 1 c. appeared on June 1st following, so that from the first the 1 c. was printed (on sheets of 300) on machine-made paper." The fact, as I have shown, that the unwatermarked stamp appeared some years earlier disproves this statement, and the examination of my specimens, including the 1 c., will show that there are absolutely two kinds of paper, the first of which I take to be hand-made. Beyond this the paper varies perceptibly in thickness, though not to such a marked degree as in the last issue, and is occasionally found with slight ribbing. I have also a specimen of the 20 c. on fairly thick paper, which is distinctly *bleuté*, and is the only one I have ever met with thus.

On June 1st, 1861, the new value, 1 centime, was introduced for defraying the postage on printed matter and newspapers. This stamp, although generally held to be of the same type as its compeers, is in reality not so. The outer frame appears to be a trifle longer, and the medallion is also three-quarters of a mm. longer, while in certain cases the background and outline frame have been redrawn. In the 1 c., both of this and the succeeding perforated issue, will be found numerous instances of a subsequent partial redraw-

ing, specimens of which I now submit. In some cases the outer line has been thickened or doubled, cutting into the design of the stamp; in others lines have been added to the background, notably at the bottom and lower sides of the stamp; and again, in others the ornamental background has been touched up. There is considerable difficulty in studying these retouches, as the most important of them, last mentioned, occur on the outside edges of the stamp, and owing to the small margins allotted to the perforated stamps, in which (Issue V.) the largest number of retouches are found, the perforation frequently impinges on the design. The wear of the dies is distinctly perceptible even in the imperforate 1 c., while in those perforated, the impression became so sorely attenuated that it is not surprising that recourse was had to retouching the plate. It has been previously asserted that a steel plate after hardening could not be retouched, and this point was discussed by the Society in a paper treating of the 1876 issues of Spain, read by me before the Society in November, 1898. The printers of those stamps —Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co.—specifically stated that *after hardening* the plate could not possibly be retouched, and I therefore suggested that the retouches might take place after the plate was set up and before hardening. It appears, however, from an interesting note by Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, in a recent number of the *Monthly Journal*, that there is, as indeed I always expected, another solution of the mystery. Mr. Basset Hull writes :—

"The issue of 1882, which superseded the De la Rue series of 1873, was also engraved by that firm, and the electro-plates were, I believe, sent out together with the dies. All printings were made in the colony, a fact apparent in the generally unfinished appearance of the stamps. This is partly due to the inferior quality of the paper used, the absence of 'surface,' and the want of that finishing process known as 'hot-pressing,' which gives such a gloss and brilliancy to the stamp.

"It is not generally known that at least four of the dies were retouched during 1891–1892. Mr. A. E. Cousins, who designed and engraved the recently superseded stamps of 1½d., 2½d., and 5d., informs me that he was employed to retouch the dies of some of the 1882 stamps. The 1d., 2d., and 8d. he operated on in 1891, and the 6d. in October, 1892. It has frequently been asserted that it is next to impossible to effect any alteration in a steel die after it has once been hardened, as no graving tool will produce any mark on the surface; but Mr. Cousins assures me that he actually performed this difficult task. He first annealed the steel dies by heating them, and then carefully removed the matter that had got into the fine lines of the engraving during the annealing process. He then proceeded to deepen certain of the lines in order to give greater prominence to those parts of the design which were not considered sufficiently clear. The dies were again hardened and plates made."

Mr. Cousins' assertion would seem to afford a practical solution of the probable means for retouching of steel plates, alike in the instances of Spain, New Zealand, and Belgium, and in the light of this explanation it seems to me that these 1 centime plates were occasionally annealed, touched up, and rehardened. I have no doubt but that there are other and perhaps more important retouches on this stamp which I have not yet had time or opportunity to discover. I may here say that I have found

no evidence of retouch on any other value, nor can I find, as asserted by M. Groenendal, that there are two dies of all the four values. This low value of 1 c. was undoubtedly very largely used for the transmission of printed matter, and, moreover, remained in use longer than the other values, not being superseded until September, 1866, by the new issue. I submit a portion of a sheet, inscribed "1866."

Issue V.

This series is a repetition of the last, but perforated, and was issued on April 11th, 1863. The first perforation had a gauge of $12\frac{1}{2}$, though a second one soon appeared measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$; but while the former is found alone, the second exists only in conjunction with the first. The $12\frac{1}{2}$ gauge is almost invariably found above and below, and the $13\frac{1}{2}$ at the sides. Slight variants from these have been found, but, like the assumed varying dimensions of the stamps, are in my opinion due only to shrinkage of the paper, and I cannot endorse the gauge quoted either by M. Moens or the late Mr. Westoby. In September, 1865, a new machine was employed, gauging $14\frac{1}{2}$ (with an occasional variation from foregoing cause), and this, as is well known, was further employed in the manufacture of the De la Rue series that was its successor in November, 1865. This perforation was employed therefore but a short time, although the stamps were available for use until the 1st July, 1866, when "the reserve with those of the 1849 stamps was burnt." (*Moens.*)

The $12\frac{1}{2}$ perforation undoubtedly came first, and is distinctly rarer, the 10, 20, and 40 c. all being scarce in unused condition.

The paper varies far less in this issue than in any of the preceding, and is uniformly white, machine-made, and of medium thickness. I should assuredly not have expected to find any hand-made paper in Issue V., but among those perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ I have two specimens of the 1 c. and one of the 10 c. that seem to partake of the thin, tough nature of hand-made paper. If they should be so, however, they can only be regarded as exceptions to the rule, caused perhaps by a stray sheet or two of the former make being used up for the sake of economy.

The colours and the shades of this issue will be found to vary fairly for the 10, 20, and 40 c., while the 1 c. has marked deviations of colour, and a wide range as to the nature of the impressions.

The perforations are frequently very faulty, impinging generally upon some portion of the design. The margin of paper between the stamps ranges between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 mm. only, hence the discovery of stamps in which the design has not been trenched upon by the perforating needles is one requiring patient effort.

All that I have written in these foregoing notes is the result of observation of my own stamps and the due noting of what appears thereon in philatelic literature, and as this simple process is within the reach of everyone, I trust that other members of our Society will go and do likewise. I am convinced that if they will they can always find enough uncollated information about a country's stamps, and sufficient originality in their

own application thereof, to afford us—as I hope I have—a sufficient and a pleasurable evening's entertainment.

SYNOPSIS.

Issue I. July 1st, 1849.

10 c., yellowish brown, deep brown, pale brown, shades (?).
20 c., blue, Prussian blue, milky blue, shades.

Issue II. October 1st, 1849, and August 10th, 1852.

Watermark "LL" in frame.

40 c. (1849), carmine-red, dull carmine, rose, shades.
10 c., deep brown, slight, shades.
20 c., dark blue, shades.

Issue III. 1851.

Watermark "LL" without frame.

10 c., brown, dark brown, grey-brown.
20 c., slate-blue, blue, deep blue.
40 c., vermilion, carmine-vermilion, deep carmine, dull carmine.

Issue IV. 1858.

No watermark.

10 c., grey-brown, brown, deep brown, shades.
20 c., blue, bright blue, shades.
40 c., vermilion, carmine, carmine-vermilion.
1 c. (1861), deep green, bluish green, shades.

NOTE.—Two varieties of paper, machine and hand made.

Issue V. 1863.

(*a*) *Perf.* $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1 c., deep green, yellow-green, shades.
10 c., brown, deep brown, shades.
20 c., blue, shades.
40 c., carmine-vermilion, vermilion, shades.

NOTE.—Two varieties of paper (? 20 and 40 c.).

(*b*) *Perf.* $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

1 c., deep yellow-green, green, bluish green, shades.
10 c., greyish brown, brown, shades.
20 c., dull blue, blue, bright blue, shades.
40 c., carmine, shades.

(*c*) *Perf.* $14\frac{1}{2}$.

1 c., deep green, dark green, blue-green, shades.
10 c., grey-brown, brown, shades.
20 c., bright blue, deep blue, shades.
40 c., carmine, deep carmine, shades.

NOTE.—I have purposely only given the leading or pronounced shades.

The Mafeking Siege Stamps.



OUR esteemed correspondent Mr. A. H. Stamford has frequently supplied us with useful information, but doubtless the most interesting and important of his contributions to Philatelists is the one that we are now enabled to include in this month's journal. The list following permits us to give our readers a full list of the numbers of *each* value of the Mafeking stamps made during the siege.

This valuable information reached Mr. Stamford direct from the postmaster, and may therefore be accepted as authentic. Coming as it does at a time when Philately seems divided into two camps, one in favour of admitting these stamps as a necessary issue, while the other is inclined to consider them as superfluous or speculative, the information will be both useful and welcome.

NUMBERS OF EACH DENOMINATION OF STAMPS ISSUED DURING THE SIEGE OF MAFEKING, MARCH 23RD TO MAY 17TH, 1900.

No.		Surcharged.
7,680	½d., green, Cape, square	1d.
5,280	½d. „ „ figure of "Hope"	1d.
6,000	½d., red, English, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate"	1d.
6,000	1d., red, Cape	3d.
1,800	1d., lilac, English, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" (Small Type)	3d.
1,800	1d. „ „ „ „ „ (Large Type)	3d.
840	3d., Cape	6d.
1,440	3d., yellow, English, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate"	6d.
3,600	3d., lilac, British Bechuanaland	6d.
1,200	2d., green and red, English, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" (with "6d." printed above)	6d.
1,200	2d., green and red, English, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" (with "6d." printed below)	6d.
1,440	4d., Cape	1s.
2,320	4d., brown and green, English, overprinted "British Bechuanaland"	1s.
240	6d., red „ „ „ „	1s.
1,440	6d., red „ „ "Bechuanaland Protectorate"	1s.
570	1s., green „ „ "British Bechuanaland"	2s.
6,072	3d., Local, small size, with Baden-Powell's bust	
3,036	3d. „ large size „ „ „	
9,476	1d. „ Bicycle stamp	
61,434	Total.	

There can be no doubt as to the wide attention and interest created in these stamps, and it is patent that a large number of people, hitherto unconnected with Philately, are rushing in to secure these stamps as mementoes of the war. As evidenced by the note of Mr. Stevens' sale in our columns elsewhere, the demand, even though well supplied, seems unprecedented, and the market seems prepared to absorb the entire issue if it is no bigger than

represented by Mr. Stamford's list. The *Daily Mail, sui generis*, says that in the rush for war stamps collectors have increased by thousands.

"Many and multiform are the aftermaths of the war. Of the souvenirs some of the most sought for are the emergency postage stamps that had to be printed in a hurry to the accompaniment of the crash of big guns. The whole race of stamp collectors has increased and multiplied, and more people like to be called Philatelists in England this year than ever ventured to be as much as stamp collectors before. The wish to possess a collection of Mafeking and other South African stamps has led people to take up stamp collecting generally. Whether they will continue to collect stamps when their war enthusiasm dies out I cannot say, but most people who have once begun become enthusiasts."

There can be no two opinions upon the subject, that the several provisional South African issues caused by the war have had a remarkable effect in the "booming of Philately." Endless newspapers have paragraphed the V.R.I.'s and Mafekings, while on the field of conflict almost every Tommy Atkins has become imbued with the virtues of the postage stamp as a money-making machine. This being so, it ill becomes us to hold out a cold welcome to these stamps, nor indeed are we prepared to say that these Mafekings have not as strong a hold upon us, philatelically, as many other specimens that we have long condoned. There can be no doubt as to their official issue and sanction. How far they were absolutely necessary it is perhaps more difficult for us to decide than the then gallant defenders of the town. These stamps have assuredly frequently franked letters not only to other parts of Africa, but to this country, and have therefore undoubtedly performed their postal functions. They were never sold over the counter unused, and, with rare exceptions, seem still practically unattainable in this condition. All these facts point to their bona fides, and their title to admission in our catalogues seems to us at present unassailable. They are in effect postmaster's stamps, issued like those in America under stress of war, while, unlike the Confederate States, whose functions were circumscribed, these issues were first franked locally by their surcharge, and then generally by their original "submerged" values. That they will be widely collected and esteemed is already an established fact.

Occasional Notes.

DEATH OF HERR LEON BRUMMER.

WE regret to learn the death of this noted Philatelist, which sad event occurred quite suddenly through a paralytic stroke at Munich on the thirteenth of last month. Herr Brummer, who was born in the Bavarian capital in 1846, had a busy and adventurous career, having served in the Papal Militia at Rome and throughout the memorable Franco-Prussian War of 1870–1. At the conclusion of the latter he entered into the service of the

Bavarian State, finally becoming Ministerial Secretary, and having during his long official career earned the high appreciation and esteem of all with whom he came into contact.

Herr Brummer was well known in Germany as a philatelic author and collector, having been President of the Bavarian Philatelic Society, editor of *Das Postwerthzeichen*, and a frequent contributor of philatelic (and polemical) articles in various Continental stamp journals. There can be no doubt both as to his abilities as a student and to the assistance he has rendered to Philately in Germany. In view of his prominent social position at Munich, Herr Brummer's funeral partook of an imposing character, many well-known Philatelists being present, thereby testifying, as we do likewise, to our great regret at the loss we have all sustained.

JOURNALISTIC ENTERPRISE.

WE are desired to state that *The Stamp Collector* has now been adopted as the official organ of the Birmingham Philatelic Society—a change that will be welcomed by all its members. Originally started as the *Junior Stamp Collector*, Mr. Margoschis' venture has become more adult, and now caters, in vastly improved garb, to a more advanced stage of the Philatelist, while wisely not ignoring the wants of those who are in the earlier stages of collecting.

Another competitor in philatelic journalism is also announced that we are assured will be generally welcomed. The *Australian Journal of Philately*, published by Messrs. Smyth and Nicolle, of Sydney, of which the first number was issued in September, has been received by us, and augurs well for the future. The *Australian Philatelist*, its only other competitor in Oceania, will assuredly not suffer by a little rivalry. Both journals are published at so low a figure that every broad-minded collector should subscribe to both; and we heartily wish success to both new and old friends as to all Australian Philatelists.

THE SYDNEY PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

WE are indebted to Messrs. Smyth and Nicolle for the following notice of this Exhibition :—

The Exhibition was held on Friday and Saturday, September 7th and 8th, in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Sydney, a building admirably suited for the purpose. The hall is about 60 feet long and 40 feet broad, with a lofty ceiling, and well lighted at both sides. His Excellency the Governor would have performed the opening ceremony, but he had previously arranged a garden party at Government House for the same afternoon. His Honour the Chief Justice was also unable to be present owing to his judicial duties. The Vice-President, Mr. Van Weenan, introduced Mr. S. H. Lambton, Deputy Postmaster-General, who, in declaring the Exhibition open, expressed the hope that it would be the means of

spreading a knowledge of Philately and would lead to an increase in the ranks of stamp collectors. He gave a few figures showing to what extent Philately had progressed, and predicted a great future for it. Admission to the Exhibition was free. A string orchestra discoursed sweet music on both days, and light refreshments were provided. The attendance was estimated at 2,000, and the visitors expressed themselves very much pleased with the display.

Some veteran Philatelists deprecated the fact that no surprises in the way of rarities were shown; but the general impression was that the Exhibition was highly creditable, and when it is considered that out of a membership of sixty twenty-five were represented, it goes to prove that there was a desire to make the undertaking successful, which it certainly was.

Australians were very much in the ascendency; but it must be said in justice to the exhibit kindly lent by the G.P.O. that only a selection was made from their splendid collection, which it was thought would not vie with those of private collectors. The stamps shown by Mr. H. J. Himmelhoch and Mrs. Rienits were most meritorious. The former's exhibit included eight different plates of Views, eight of 1d. and 2d. Laureated, and one Registered, besides several of the rarest N.S.W. stamps, special notice being taken of a very fine unused 1d. and a 2d. Sydney View, and a block of four 1s. Diadem, wmk. "8," also unused. Mrs. Rienits' exhibit included, in addition to plates of Views and Laureated stamps, a very fine collection of early British Colonials, which comprised several Cape Woodblocks.

Our display seemed to be very much appreciated. We spared no efforts nor expense to make our stall worthy the occasion. It occupied the entire wall space on one side of the hall, and was so arranged that everyone could see our exhibit easily. We made a special feature in mounting our stamps in glass frames with black background, which showed the margins to considerable advantage, and made the stamps stand out more conspicuously. The catalogue was prepared in a hurry at the last moment, and there are, unfortunately, several inaccuracies in it. Mr. Hull's exhibit, No. 13, did not include any stamps except those of Cook Islands, but publications *re* the stamps of the various countries mentioned. Mr. Basset Hull, the Honorary Secretary, worked like a Trojan, and was congratulated on all sides on the successful result of his energies.

DEATH OF DR. J. H. REDMAN.

WE have to announce with deep regret the death of Dr. J. H. Redman after a short illness. This sad event, which was quite unexpected—Dr. Redman being still in the prime of life and vigour—has caused deep sorrow among a large circle of friends both in London and Brighton, in both of which his professional duties engaged him. A widow and several children are left to mourn his loss—the eldest son being in South Africa fighting his country's battles—to whom we tender the respectful sympathy of the

philatelic world. Dr. Redman had been for many years a member of the London Philatelic Society; one of the founders of the Brighton Philatelic Society (1891), he was Vice-President of that body from that date until 1898, when he moved his residence to London. Dr. Redman specialised at various times in several countries; he was always very fond of the New Zealand issues, as also those of Luxemburg and Belgium, and a few years since he formed a choice collection of unused Great Britain. An excellent type of a careful and discriminating collector, an able writer on Philately (as evidenced by several excellent papers read before the Brighton Society), and a most amiable and agreeable man, his loss is deeply to be deplored, and will be keenly felt by all his colleagues who were privileged to know and to appreciate his sterling qualities.

Reviews.

ADDENDA TO STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE.*



FURTHER edition of the supplement to Part I. of this Catalogue, comprising the Orange River Colony, Transvaal, and Mafeking Siege stamps, has now been issued, revised up to this month. All the newest-found varieties, with the latest quotations, will be found here; and, having regard to the present predilection for these provisionals, the appearance of this new edition may be taken as very opportune. Some idea of the number of varieties that exist may be gathered from the fact that nearly sixteen pages of double column are given. There would now appear to be twenty-one varieties of the Mafekings, while four Vryburg provisionals are also catalogued.

U.S. TELEGRAPH STAMPS.†

PARTLY reprinted from the *American Journal of Philately*, but considerably added to, this *brochure* merits careful reading by all those who are interested in this branch of Philately. The issues of the several American Companies are both well illustrated and described, while the early struggles of Morse, in his introduction of telegraphy some "sixty years since," are graphically depicted. Without pretending to an especial knowledge of this branch of Philately, it is evident that this monograph is the work of a careful and conscientious student.

* *Addenda to the Stamps of the British Empire.* Part I. STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., 391, Strand, W.C.

† *Some Notes on the Telegraph Companies of the United States: their Stamps and Franks.* By JOSEPH S. RICH.

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 error "Bevenue" has been discovered on the lately surcharged 10 cents as on the 5 cents and 25 cents, previously noted.

CEYLON.—Mr. G. C. Alston informs us that the lately issued 15 cents, bright blue, has been surcharged "On Service," though the 3 cents, dark green, with this overprint has not yet been noticed.

Official.

15 cents, bright blue, surcharged "On Service" in black.

INDIA.—The five stamps in new colours referred to on pages 177 and 202 have arrived on this side, and Messrs. Bright and Son have handed us copies.

These stamps are reported surcharged "On H.M.S.," and we therefore chronicle them.

Official Stamps.

3 pies,	slate; perf. 14		Overprinted On H. S. M.
½ anna,	yellow-green; perf. 14		
1 ,,	carmine	,,	
2 annas,	violet	,,	
2½ ,,	blue	,,	

Bussahir.—The *M. J.* states that the 2 annas stamp has already been printed in two fresh varieties of colour.

Adhesives.

2 annas, orange-brown (mauve); imperf.
2 ,, yellow ,, ,,
2 ,, ,, ,, pin-perf.

Dhar State.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write:—

"New ¼ and 2 annas stamps are being prepared for this state, with arms in centre, like the ½ and 1 anna, but owing to a delay in the delivery a temporary issue has been made in the type of the first issue—the ¼ a. on orange-red, and the 2 a. on yellow paper. Specimens are inclosed. These are not issued without the impressed seal, but on looking over the parcel received we found one sheet of ten ¼ a. without the seal, having no doubt adhered to another sheet, and so escaped the surcharge."

Duttia.—The 2 annas has been seen on buff or yellow-buff paper.

Adhesive. 2 annas, buff.

Kishengarh.—The *M. J.* has received the 1 anna, green, of the first type on the usual yellowish wove paper, pin-perforated or rouletted like the other stamps.

Adhesive. 1 anna, green (first type); pin-perf.

Orcha.—The *Monthly Circular* has had the 1 anna, imperf.

Adhesive. 1 anna, violet; imperf.

Travancore. — The *M. J.* has been informed that the remainders of the 8 cash cards were surcharged "FIVE CASH," in violet, for the purpose of using them up.

Post Card. 5 cash on 8 cash, orange.

MAFEKING.—*Siege Stamps.*—Mr. J. R. F. Turner writes:—

"The Cape CA 3d. surcharged '6d. Mafeking Besieged' is quoted in the last number of the *L. P.* I have not seen a copy, and have little doubt it is a forgery. I have seen bogus copies of the 1s. on 6d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate,' fancy capitals; 1s. on 6d. 'British Bechuanaland,' fancy capitals, and although Messrs. Stanley Gibbons list both varieties, I believe genuine specimens do not exist. Nearly all the *unused* copies have been through the post *uncancelled*. *Unused mint*, three-fourths of the varieties are quite unobtainable. The prevalent opinion in Mafeking was that the stamps would be worth much more used than unused, and a man just home from the Cape says the same idea

prevailed at the Cape. I doubt if more than 5 per cent. of the stamps exist unused *mint*."

NEW ZEALAND.—The *M. J.* reports having received new 1d. and 2d. envelopes with a circular stamp embossed in the right upper corner, bearing a profile of the Queen, copied from the latest coins of Great Britain, within a band inscribed "NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE" above, and value below. *Ewen's Weekly* chronicles the ½d. value as well.

The *M. J.* also has the 1d. card of Type 4 in the Catalogue, with a portrait in a circle in the left lower corner, labelled "Major Robin, First Contingent."

Envelopes ½d., green on white laid.
1d., rose-red ,, ,,
2d., mauve ,, ,,
Post Card. 1d., brown on buff, with portrait.

From a reliable correspondent we have received the following:—

"There has been gross mismanagement, either here or of the firm supplying the inks, as the supply is constantly running short for the lower values, which explains the varying shades.

"It is intended that all the values shall be on watermarked paper, but owing to the varying sizes of the plates, special sizes of paper will have to be supplied, and there will be, I am afraid, some considerable delay in carrying out the instructions already given.

"In fact, the whole issue has been most disgracefully bungled in every conceivable way. The designs were badly chosen, the colours of some of the values assigned to the wrong stamps, as, for instance, in the 1d., first printed in England in two colours; the 4d. English print, which represented the *White* Terrace, being printed in pink, and the *Pink* Terrace in mauve; and lastly, the dies being engraved in varying sizes, necessitating corresponding sizes of paper."

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.—The 5d., purple, has been issued on the CA watermarked paper, and a specimen reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

Adhesive.
5d., purple, type 1898; wmk. Crown CA; perf. 13½.

NORTH BORNEO.—The new 5 cents stamp has been surcharged "Postage Due."—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Postage Due.
5 cents, orange and black; black surcharge.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Messrs. Bright and Son call our attention to a pair of ½d. Orange Free State stamps surcharged "V·R·I·" of the second printing, in which the overprint "½d." differs in size and shape. It would appear that on each sheet of sixty fifty-nine stamps have a badly-shaped "½d.," the figure "1" being slightly to the left of "2," and one stamp in *smaller type*, with the figure "1" exactly over the figure "2."

QUEENSLAND. — Messrs. Smyth and Nicolle send us the new 2s. value.

It is similar in every detail to the 1s. value lately issued, except figures (2) in each corner, and the colour is a washed-out blue, which a contemporary calls "Palermo" blue.

It is reported in *Ewen's Weekly* that, "pending the issue of this stamp, the Post Office Department, finding the stock of 2s., brown, exhausted, had another hundred sheets printed. These, however, are on a different paper to that last used, the quality of the latest issue being much inferior. The perforation is also slightly different, owing to the maker of the latest perforating machine having slightly stretched the gauge. By careful measurement we make it 12¾. The new issue will not come into operation until the old stock is exhausted."

Adhesive.
2s., pale blue, wmk. Crown and Q; perf. 12½–13.

SEYCHELLES.—We have received the 8 c. envelope with the stamp overprinted "SIX CENTS" across the original value, in black, in tall, narrow capitals.—*M. J.*

Envelope. 6 cents on 8 c., carmine.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The *I. B. J.* chronicles the 2½d., blue, stamp surcharged "O.S." in thin lettering.

Official. 2½d., blue; surcharged "O.S."

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Malay States.*—Under this heading last month we chronicled some "Perak" stamps, surcharged not only with a fresh value, but also "Federated Malay States."

We fear we made a mistake in adding the latter overprint, and that the stamps with value altered were for "Perak" alone.

It is no easy matter to follow surcharges almost as numerous as, say, those of Salvador.

We shall, however, be safe in reporting the 10 cents stamp of Perak, overprinted "Federated Malay States," as the *M. J.* has received it. We are told that the new dollar values, with "Federated Malay States" incorporated in the design, are on their way out.

Adhesive.
10 c., lilac and orange, of Perak, surcharged "Federated Malay States."

Perak. — Messrs. Bright and Son have shown us the "Tiger Head" issue, 2 cents and 5 cents, surcharged $\frac{\text{One}}{\text{Cent,}}$ and the 4 cents surcharged $\frac{\text{ONE}}{\text{CENT,}}$ with a bar across the top of the stamp, all in black.

The *Monthly Circular* gives this interesting issue as 30,000 on 2 c., 60,000 on 4 c., and 30,000 on 5 c.

Adhesives.

1 cent on 2 c., lilac and brown. For type see above.
1 ,, ,, 5 c. ,, ochre ,, ,,
1 ,, ,, 4 c. ,, carmine ,, ,,

TRANSVAAL.—A correspondent of *Ewen's Weekly* has written to that journal :—

"I have just seen some curiosities in 'V.R.I.' stamps, but whether they will be recognised or not it is impossible to say. These consist of the current South African Republic ½d. and 1d. stamps, and also the 1d. commemorative, overprinted 'Cancelled—V.R.I.,' in two lines. The overprint is made with a rubber stamp and violet ink, and is very roughly done. The stamps were thus surcharged at Lichtenburg by the sanction of the commissioners of the district. They were shown me by a gentleman connected with the army. I asked the meaning of the word 'Cancelled,' and was told that this was intended to signify that the stamps no longer contributed to the revenue of the late Z.A.R."

And later :—

"Since writing my notes of the 29th inst. I learn that about £10 worth of the Lichtenburg provisionals were used for postal purposes. They were only issued during one week, and were then superseded by a regular supply of the ordinary 'V.R.I.' Transvaals.

"The 5s. stamp of the Transvaal, surcharged 'V.R.I.,' became obsolete within a few weeks of its first issue, and should become a very rare stamp. It is difficult to get here [Kimberley] even at 25s."

Messrs. Bright and Son inform us that they have seen the 2d. value surcharged "V.I.R." in place of "V.R.I."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* reports another value, the 3d., of the long lilac fiscal stamp, postally used, and with the new watermark, Crown and WA.

Adhesive.

3d., lilac, postal fiscal ; wmk. Crown and WA.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim sends us the 50 centimes, carmine-rose, in two shades, of 1st type, "N" under "B," with the number of the year, "0" (1900), just issued.

Adhesive.

50 centimes, carmine-rose, 1st type, issued in "1900."

GERMANY.—Mr. Franz Reichenheim calls our attention to the shade of the new 3 marks stamps.

The later printings came in a colour more nearly purple than the earlier printings, which might almost have been described as slate.

SWITZERLAND.—A variety of the current 25 c., blue, was announced some months since, although we have vainly endeavoured to procure a specimen. The *S. B. Z.* now, however, describes and illustrates it, the variation from the normal stamp consisting of a retouch of the background formed by drawing heavy crossed lines between the head of Helvetia and the spear. "This retouch is on the sixth stamp of the second row of a lower part of a sheet consisting of 100 stamps," says our Swiss contemporary, and it seems an interesting variety.

Our attention has been called to some specimens of the Jubilee issue. It is claimed that a retouch has been made, if the set has not been re-engraved, as would appear to be the case.

Of specimens of the 5 centimes before us we notice some have the figure "5" with block ground and pointed tail to the figure; in others the figure of value has lined ground, with a blunt point to tail of the figure. There are other small differences, but the above are the most easily seen.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. are informed that the 16 centavos stamp of the new issue has been withdrawn because there is no use for this value.

CHILI.—To the list of new stationery must be added a 5 centavos letter sheet.

Letter Sheet. 5 centavos, dull blue, on white wove.

VENEZUELA.—The 5, 10, and 25 centimos stamps of last year have been surcharged "Resellada," but in place of the initials "R. F. M." the signature "Castro" is given, with an addition of the year "1900."

The 50 centimos and 1 bolivar appear in coats of yellow and black respectively, and are simply surcharged "1900."

Specimens of all reach us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

Adhesives.

5 centimes, blue-green, of 1899 } Surcharged in black RESELLADA Castro 1900
10 ,, vermilion ,, }
25 ,, blue ,, }
50 ,, yellow } surcharged "1900."
1 bolivar, grey-black }

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CAVALLA.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 5 centimes, yellow-green, French stamp, overprinted in red, and the 2 francs stamp, surcharged Cavalle / 8 PIASTRES 8 in black.

Adhesives.

5 centimes, yellow-green, surcharged "Cavalle" in red.
2 francs, bistre-brown, surcharged Cavalle / 8 PIASTRES 8 in black.

CHINA (GERMAN).—On page 232 we chronicled some provisional stamps for use at Kiautschou, and Mr. Franz Reichenheim writes us as follows :—

"There are to be catalogued the following stamps :—

"A. For post office, Tsinghau (Kiautschou)

"1. Date of issue, May 9th, 1900.

"5 pfg., in black, on 10 pf., German Empire issue of 1889, in three different types and two minor varieties (broken '5' and broken 'f'). Surcharge underlined by a blue pencil, except in the very first sheets, where only Type 3 is underlined.

"2. Date of issue, middle of August.

"5 pf., in black, on 10 pf., German Empire issue of 1889.

"B. For post office, Futchau.

"5 pf. (small 'p'), in black, on 10 pf., German Empire issue 1889.

"Date of issue, about August 10th, 1900."

COREA.—We have previously chronicled the 1, 2, and 3 cheun of the new issue, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us four other values, with the following remarks :—

"The 2 re stamp is the lowest value. There are ten 're' to a cheun, 100 of the latter being the equivalent of a Japanese yen, or 2s. One poon is equal to 2 re. These new stamps are engraved and printed at Seoul.

"The four stamps of 1895, which were printed at Washington, were *in 1897* surcharged with native characters, in red, signifying 'Tai Han,' a symbol adopted by the emperor to designate the empire of Corea, in lieu of the old style, 'Tjyo Sen.' We send you a set of these, which, although issued three years ago, have only just been discovered by Philatelists. Some of these were on our letter, so they cannot be questioned."

Adhesives. 2 re, grey.
4 cheun, carmine.
5 ,, rose-pink.
6 ,, blue.

FRENCH CONGO.—The *Echo de la T.*, as reported in the *Monthly Circular*, has seen a letter sent from Brazzaville on July 10th franked by a provisional stamp. It is stated to be the 30 centimes of the obsolete type, surcharged with "VALEUR 15" in two lines. There is also a similar surcharge of "VALEUR 5" on the 20 centimes. The 1 centime and 4 centimes of the new type have been found with background inverted, and doubtless the whole set exists thus.

Adhesives. 5 centimes on 20 c., red and green.
15 ,, ,, 30 c., brown.

PERSIA.—We have received the 5 chahi stamp of 1899, on *white* paper, surcharged with an undecipherable rectangular device, partly covering two stamps, and we are told that this value thus disfigured was issued provisionally owing to the stock of 5 chahi on *greenish* paper having run out.—*M. J.*

Adhesive. 5 ch., yellow on white ; violet surcharge.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES.—In rearranging their stock lately, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., found a good many varieties which are not included in their new Catalogue.

The following is a list :—

Angra.—Add to 1897-8 issue—
(*b*) *Perf.* 12½.
38. 500 r., black on *azure.*

Azores.—1883-7 issue.
(*a*) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—158*a*. 50 r., blue.

Cape Verde Islands.—1893-5 issue—
(*b*) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—78*a*. 50 r., pale blue on *cream.*

Funchal.—1892-3 issue.
(*c*) *Perf.* 13½.
Add—50 r., pale blue on *cream.*

Lourenzo Marques.—1895 issue.
Add—20*a*. 80 r., pale green.
1898 issue.
Add—(*b*) *Perf.* 13½.
36*a*. 100 r., blue on *blue.*

Macao.—1898 issue.
Add—(*b*) *Perf.* 13½.
138*a*. ½ avo, grey.
138*b*. 1 ,, orange.

Madeira.—1876-80 issue.
(*a*) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—84*a*. 50 r., blue.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (GERMAN).—We are informed by Mr. Franz Reichenheim that 1,000 specimens (ten sheets) of the German 25 pf., orange, of 1889, have been surcharged in Type II. "Südwestafrica" in one word. The issue took place at Windhoek on November 1st, 1899.

Adhesive.

25 pf., orange, of 1889, surcharged "Südwestafrica."

SURINAM.—The journals all round, including our own, reported the 1 cent on 2½ cent King's Head.

It struck us at the time that it was an old acquaintance, and Mr. Phillips informs the *M. J.* that it is simply a fraud which came into the market a few years ago, but was promptly denounced. We are not surprised to hear that "these curiosities were made for the benefit of a postal official, who got a few of them postmarked, but that none were ever issued or really used."

VATHY.—Yet another surcharge for the 2 francs French stamp, according to the *Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Adhesive.

2 francs, French stamp, surcharged VATHY / 8 PIASTRES 8 in black.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Honorary President—W. B. Avery.
President—R. Hollick.
Vice-Presidents—T. W. Peck, W. Pimm.
Committee—
P. T. Deakin, C. A. Stephenson, W. S. Vaughton, W. G. Walton.
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—
G. Johnson, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected as above.

The accounts, showing a balance in hand of £79 8s. 11d., were audited and approved.

The Report was approved, and 3,000 copies ordered to be printed. Copies may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary.

The total amount circulated in the Exchange during the past year was £23,785 16s. 7d., and the total sold was £3,124 14s. 3d.

The *Stamp Collector* (published by J. A. Margoschis) was adopted as the official journal of the Society for the next year.

It was decided to hold two auctions, for the use of members only, on Dec. 6th, 1900, and Feb. 14th, 1901. Full particulars will be found in the Report, which will also contain a list of the chief philatelic works in our valuable library.

The programme was fixed as follows:—

PROGRAMME—SESSION 1900-1901.

Each meeting commences at 8 p.m.

1900.
Oct. 4. Annual Meeting.
Nov. 6. (Tuesday.) Display, British North America, New South Wales, etc. W. B. Avery.
1901.
Jan. 3. Display with Notes, "West Indies." W. Pimm.
Mar. 7 Display, Modern Issues. C. A. Stephenson.
April 4. Display with Notes, "South Australia." R. Hollick.
May 2. Paper, "New Zealand, Type I." T. W. Peck.

Auctions at Great Western Hotel, Birmingham. All other meetings at 208, Birchfield Road.

All meetings are held on Thursday unless stated otherwise.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society held their first meeting for this season on Thursday evening, the 4th inst., at the Society's room, 42, Cotham Hill, when Messrs. P. J. Lloyd and R. Dalton exhibited very fine collections of New South Wales, including first plate Sydney Views and down to the present date, in their various sorts and sizes, all extremely fine stamps. Mr. Lloyd's exhibit also contained a full reconstructed plate of perforated Registration stamps, all of which were much appreciated by the members present. The attendance was not as large as the display deserved, but possibly the election may have had a prior claim on some of the members.

Herts Philatelic Society.

The first meeting of the season was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, October 2nd, 1900, at 7.15 p.m. Present: Messrs. Haynes (in the chair), Boyes, Bradbury, Bois, Bounds, Cool, Frentzel, Gaffe, Jones, Kuttner, Meyor, Mellor, Reichenheim, Standen, Sutherland, Ware, Wills, Slade, Sidebotham, and three visitors. Baron de Worms was elected an honorary member. Mrs. Neilson, Mrs. Prodgers, Messrs. Hatch, Hausburg, H. W. Hawkins, W. G. Hawkins, Laing, Standen, Styles, and Wills were elected ordinary members.

A paper and display on "The History of the German Colonies and German Post Offices in Foreign Countries and their different issues of Stamps" was given by Mr. Franz Reichenheim. The display was specially noticeable for its completeness and for the care and knowledge shown in its compilation. At its conclusion a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Reichenheim for the treat afforded to the members, and a hope was expressed that he would again place his services at the disposal of the Society at a later date. A courteous response from Mr. Reichenheim followed.

Gifts to the Forgery Book from Messrs. Forbes and Cool were acknowledged. Private exchange and discussion brought an enjoyable meeting to an end at 9.15 p.m.

H. A. Slade, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
Ingleside, St. Albans, *October 3rd*, 1900.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Hon. Secretary—G. Fred H. Gibson, Kersal, Manchester.

SYLLABUS—SESSION 1900-1901.

1900.
Oct. 5. Opening Meeting.
Paper, "Impressions of the Paris Philatelic Exhibition." W. Dorning Beckton.
Display of Stamps exhibited by Local Members and Medals received.
,, 12. Paper, "A Plea for Beauty Spots." Nathan Heywood.
Display with Notes, "Belgium" W. W. Munn.
,, 26. Display with Notes, "Mexico." H. E. Walker.
Exhibit by Members of Stamps for Sale and Exchange.
Nov. 9. Paper, "Fading of Stamp Colours." M. W. Jones.
,, 21. (Wednesday.) Annual Dinner, 7 p.m.
Dec. 7. Paper, "Orange River Colony." W. Dorning Beckton.
With Display by J. H. Abbott, W. Dorning Beckton, and G. F. H. Gibson.
1901.
Jan. 4. Display with Notes, "St. Helena." Vernon Roberts.
Exhibit by Members of Stamps for Sale and Exchange.
,, 18. Paper, "Official Stamps." G. B. Duerst.
Feb. 1. Display with Notes, "Roumania." C. H. Coote, G. B. Duerst.
,, 15. Paper, "Recent Issues." J. C. North.
Exhibit by Members of Stamps for Sale and Exchange.
Mar. 1. Display with Notes, "Sarawak." J. H. Abbott, W. Dorning Beckton.
,, 15. Short Papers on Interesting Stamps. G. F. H. Gibson, W. Grunewald, W. W. Munn.
,, 29 Display with Notes, "Holland." A. H. Harrison.
Exhibit by Members of Stamps for Sale and Exchange.
April 3. (Wednesday.) Auction Lots.
,, 12. Lantern Exhibition. J. H. Abbott.
,, 26. Display with Notes, "Egypt." E. T. Roberts, W. Dorning Beckton.

Meetings for discussion are held on alternate Fridays.

THE opening meeting of the Session was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday, October 5th, 1900. Mr. Abbott took the chair, and there were nine other members present.

The Hon. Secretary reported that at the Paris Philatelic Exhibition the eight members of the Society who had exhibited stamps had received thirteen medals—three gold, nine silver, and one bronze. A selection from the exhibits was on view during the evening. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. Abbott gave a short account of the Paris Exhibition.

AT the second meeting, on Friday, October 12th, Mr. Beckton was in the chair, and there were eleven other members present. Mr. J. Woodroffe was elected an ordinary, and Captain S. H. Godfrey a corresponding member of the Society.

Mr. Nathan Heywood read a paper entitled "A Defence of Beauty Spots," in which he urged that beauty of design and execution should not be confined to speculative, and therefore uncollectible issues, but be extended to stamps intended for genuine postal use.

A display of the stamps of Belgium, together with a few notes, was given by Mr. Munn.

The Collectors' Club.

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE fifty-sixth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, August 13th, 1900. Present:—Messrs. Andreini, Bruner, Calman, Perrin, and Scott. President Bruner called the meeting to order at 8.30 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $681.co, exclusive of U.S. Bonds, was approved as read. The report of the House Committee was read and accepted. Two applications for membership having been posted the required length of time, their names were balloted upon, and Messrs. Low and Dickinson were declared to have been elected members of the Club. Adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

THE fifty-seventh meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, September 10th, 1900. Present:—Messrs. Andreini, Bruner, Luff, Perrin, and Scott. The resignation of Mr. Eugene Angell was read and accepted with regrets. The Secretary reported having received from the Philatelic Society of India a copy of their publication entitled *The Stamps of Jammu and Kashmir*, and a vote of thanks was tendered that Society for their kind donation. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $564.73, exclusive of U.S. Bonds, was read and approved. The report of the House Committee was accepted as received. After lengthy and informal discussion as to the ways and means of making the Club still more attractive to its members in the future, the meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

ALBERT PERRIN, *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. 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.

INVERTED WATERMARKS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—When looking over my Egyptian stamps preparatory to sticking them in my album I noticed that three or four had their watermarks *reversed*. For example, I noticed that the 2 piastres, orange, 1879 issue, had its Crescent and Star watermark reversed in some specimens, while in others the watermark was in the *un*-reversed position. The same thing occurs in the 5 paras, brown, of the same issue. And I have also a 20 paras, blue, of this issue with the watermark reversed, but I have no specimen with the watermark in the unreversed position. In other specimens of the same issue I notice the same distinction.

Having examined several specimens of the 1884 and 1888 issues, I can find no occurrence of a reversed watermark, though of course this does not prove that there is no such occurrence. Being a novice in Philately, I know of no publication to which to turn for an explanation of the above fact. Could you kindly refer me to any such work? In Major Evans' *Philatelic Handbook* I do not find the occurrence of stamps of the above country and issue with reversed watermarks mentioned. I suppose a collector has as much right to insert such a specimen with the watermark reversed and one with it unreversed as he would have to insert both a specimen of the Orange River Colony, surcharged "V.R.I.," and one with the dot after either of the letters "V," "R," or "I" omitted.

I remain, yours truly,

WILLIAM F. HUGHES.

[We are not personally enamoured of inverted watermarks, believing rather that there are sufficient collectible varieties without these variations—due to the inversion of the sheet. Every collector finds, however, pleasure in following his own especial bent, and we hope that some reader may be enabled to give our correspondent the desired information.—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.*

MESSRS. PLUMRIDGE AND CO.'S sale of September 18th and 19th. Upon running through the catalogue the following lots are noticed: Cape of Good Hope, 1s., dark green, a magnificent pair with large margins, in mint state, £7 10s.; Woodblock, 1d., blue, error, used, £55; 4d., red, error, no margins, lightly cancelled, £45. "Mafeking Besieged," 1d. on ½d. English, surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate," used, 14s.; 3d. on 1d. English, surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate," *sans-serif* type, used, £1 14s.; 3d. on 1d. Cape, used, 15s.; 6d. on 2d. English, surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate," *sans-serif* type, used, £1 9s.; 1s. on 4d. English, surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate," used, £1 16s. Ceylon, 16 cents, lilac, CA, with gum, but top perf. slightly clipped, £4. Fiji, 2d., in black, on 3d., green (S. G. No. 20), no gum, £3 10s. Mauritius "Post Paid," 1d., vermilion, diagonal and vertical lines, two used copies, £15. Niger Coast, English stamps surcharged "British Protectorate Oil Rivers," ½d. on half of 1d. (S. G. No. 7), a very fine unsevered block of twelve with gum and side margin, £6 10s.; ditto, "HALF PENNY," in violet, on 2d. (S. G. No. 12), a very fine horizontal pair, £3 7s. 6d.; ditto, ditto, in green, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 13), a mint horizontal pair, £2 15s.; ditto, ditto, in vermilion, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 14), a mint horizontal pair, £1 18s.; ditto, ditto, in carmine, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 15), a mint horizontal pair, £2 10s.; ditto, ditto, in blue, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 15*a*), a mint horizontal pair, £3 7s. 6d.; ditto, "*Half Penny*," in violet, on 2d. (S. G. No. 16), a very fine horizontal pair, £4 10s.; ditto, ditto, in vermilion, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 18), a mint horizontal pair, £2 2s.; ditto, ditto, in green, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 20), a mint horizontal pair, £5 5s.; ditto, surcharged in fancy capitals, ½d., in violet, on 2d. (S. G. No. 21), a very fine horizontal pair, £6; ditto, ditto, in blue, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 25), a mint horizontal pair, £6; ditto, ditto, in green, on 2½d. (S. G. No. 26), a mint horizontal pair, £6; ditto, "One Shilling," in violet, on 2d. (S. G. No. 28), mint, £3 7s. 6d.; ditto, ditto, in vermilion, on 2d. (S. G. No. 29), a mint horizontal pair, £4 10s. Sierra Leone, 1st issue, 6d., imperf., on blue paper, unused and with gum, £4. Spain, 1853, 2 r., vermilion, used, £4 10s. Transvaal, £5, green, used £1 7s. Trinidad, 4d., grey (Britannia), CA, perf. 14, unused, £1 5s. U.S.A., 1869, 24 cents with centre inverted, used, £22. Wurtemberg, 70 k., unused, £2 8s.

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MESSRS. PLUMRIDGE AND CO.'S sale of October 9th and 10th.—British Columbia, $1, perf. 12½, used, 63s. British Honduras, 6d., yellow, CA, with gum, 40s. Ceylon, 1s. 9d., green, used, 40s. Denmark, first issue, 2 rbs., with gum, 40s. Fiji, 6 c. on 3d., green, fancy "V.R.," used, 32s. Mauritius, 1s. on 5s., with gum, 20s. Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, perf. 15, used, 40s. St. Vincent, 5s., Star, unused, but no gum, £8. Madrid, 1 cuartos, bronze, used, 29s. Spain, 1865, 19 c., rose and brown, with gum, 30s, and a used copy, 36s. U.S.A. (New York), 3 c., green, on glazed paper of 1842, used, 36s.; 5 c., 1851, lake-brown, imperf., used, 23s.; 1855, 90 c., blue, unused, 48s.; Periodicals, 1875, set 1 cent to $60, including the 9 cent, £10. Victoria, 5s., blue and yellow, used, 52s. 6d.

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MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale of September 20th and 21st. Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf., used, fine, £9; 1s. 9d., green, unused, mint, £3 3s.; another specimen, £2 17s. 6d. Cape Woodblock, 1d., red, used, very fine, £5 12s. 6d. Gold Coast, 1d., blue, CA, unused, with gum, £2 12s. 6d. Lagos, 2s. 6d., olive-black, used, £3 3s. Mauritius "Post Paid," early impressions, 1d., vermilion, and 2d., blue, used, very fine, £24 10s.; 1d., vermilion, fine vertical pair, used, £14; the 2d., blue, error "PENOE," used, £12. New Brunswick, 1s., used, fine, £11 11s.; another, £8 10s.; the Connell, 5 c., brown, full gum, £15. Nevis, 6d., grey, litho., unused, £5; 1s., pale green, an entire unused sheet of twelve, mint, £15; another sheet in the deep green shade, £12 15s.; 1d., bright red, perf. 11½, an entire unused sheet, £5; 6d., green, CA, unused, £4 12s. 6d. St. Vincent, pair of 1d. on half of 6d., blue-green, unused, £12; the 5s., Star, rose-red, unused, £9; specimens of the 4d. on 1s., used, brought £7 to £9. Tobago, 6d., stone, unused, £5 7s. 6d. Trinidad, 1894, set of seven, surcharged "O. S.," unused, £5 5s. Turks Islands, 1s., lilac, used, fine, £15. Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, on toned paper, an entire unused sheet, £9 15s.

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MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER'S sale of October 11th and 12th contained a quantity of Mafekings. Two complete sets of nineteen each realised £35 and £34 respectively, and a mixed lot of thirty-five of these stamps brought £35. Four stamps, the 1d. on ½d. Cape, first type, 3d. on 1d. Cape, 6d. on 2d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, surcharged in fancy type, and 6d. on 3d., lilac, British Bechuanaland, all unused, with gum, and very rare, went for £8; 3d. on 1d. Cape, 3d. on 1d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, 6d. on 2d. ditto, 6d. on 3d. lilac, and 1s. on 4d. Bechuanaland, £4; a similar lot, but 1d. on ½d. Cape, first type, instead of 3d. on 1d. Cape, £3 12s. 6d.; 6d. on 3d., lilac, British Bechuanaland, a fine horizontal pair, used, on entire, addressed to Bristol, 35s.; 1d., blue on blue (bicycle), a very fine block of four, 48s.; a single specimen and 3d., blue, small head, 25s.; a similar lot, 25s.; 3d., blue (small Baden-Powell), two fine specimens used on piece, 30s.; a similar lot, 28s.; another lot, 28s.; a single specimen,

used, on entire, 21s. Madagascar, 1d., 3d., 4d., 4½d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 1s., and 2s., all unused, and without circular handstamp, very rare, £5 5s. Zanzibar, blue surcharge on Indian ½ a., strip of three, and 1 anna, all used, on entire, £8 8s.; ditto, ½ a. and pair of 1 a., used, on entire, £6 15s.; another lot, £7; ditto, ½ a. (2) and 1 a., used, on entire, £7 10s.; ditto, 1 a., used, on envelope, £3 5s.; error surcharge "Zanzidar," ½ a., green, used, on piece with two 1 a., £2 10s.; ditto, 1 a., used, on piece, fine, £2 15s.; ditto, 2½ a., used, on piece, fine, £3 7s. 6d.; ditto, 6 a., unused, with gum, rare, £5; provisional error, "$2\frac{2}{2}$," in red, on 2 a., blue, unused, and very rare, £7 10s.

Collections sold: 4,874 stamps, £48; 3,700, £17; and 4,998, £22 10s.

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Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's sale of September 25th and 26th. Spain, 1852, 2 reales, used, £6. Switzerland, 1851, 5 rappen, blue and red, a pair, unused, one stamp showing traces of frame to cross, £4 10s. Labuan, 1885, 2 cents on 16 c., blue, the rare type, unused, £6. Straits Settlements, 1st issue, 12 c., with double surcharge, unused, £4. "Mafeking Besieged," Cape stamps surcharged, 1d. on ½d., green (1st type), and 3d. on 1d., carmine, fine, £1 4s.; ditto, 1d., on ½d., green (1st type), damaged, and 3d. on 1d., carmine, and Baden-Powell's head, 3d., blue (small size), fine, £1 15s.; ditto, 3d. on 1d., carmine, a block of four (two damaged) on entire original, £1 6s.; ditto, a strip of three (one damaged), on ditto, £1 6s.; ditto, two pairs, fine, on ditto, £2 2s.; ditto, another pair, on ditto, £1 2s.; ditto, 6d. on 3d., magenta, very fine, £3 10s.; ditto, British Bechuanaland stamps surcharged (fancy capitals), 1s. on 4d., brown and green, fine, £1 8s.; ditto, another, on entire original, £2; ditto, 6d. on 3d., lilac (unappropriated die), unused and fine, with gum, but very slightly creased, scarce, £4 7s. 6d.; ditto, another, used, on entire original, £1 6s.; ditto, Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps surcharged (fancy capitals), 1d. on ½d., vermilion, 3d. on 1d., lilac, and 6d. on 2d., green and red, fine, £2 4s.; ditto, 6d. on 2d., green and red, a fine pair on entire original, £2 14s; ditto (*sans-serif* capitals), 6d. on 2d., green and red, a pair on small piece of original, one is pinholed, £1 12s.; ditto, 1s. on 6d, lilac on red, a very scarce variety, but damaged in left top corner, £2 2s.; ditto, Local Post (Boy on bicycle), 1d., blue, unused, in mint state, £1 3s.; ditto, Baden-Powell's head, 3d., blue, on small piece of original, fine, £1 8s.; ditto, the set of nineteen, used and fine, on small pieces of original, £32; ditto, another set ditto, £33. Transvaal, 1878–9, Queen's head, 1s., green, a superb pair with full perforations, unused, in mint state, £2 12s.; ditto, 2s., blue, an exactly similar pair, £3 12s. 6d. Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, used, £13; 1s, purple, used, £12. Orange Free State, 1877, 4d. on 6d., carmine, the four different types, used, £2 4s. U.S.A., Providence, 1846, an entire uncut plate, full gum, £8 5s.; 1851, 5 c., brown, unused, no gum, £4 7s. 6d.; 1861–6, 3 cents, *scarlet*, unused, no gum, £11; 5 cents, dark mustard, unused, mint, £4 10s.; 5 cents, brick-red, unused, with gum, £4 2s. 6d.; Executive, 1 c. to 10 c., unused, £5 10s.; Justice, 1, 12, 24, 30, and 90 c., unused, all but 24 c. with gum, £7 15s.; State, $10, unused, £9 10s. Nevis, perf. 15, engraved, 4d., orange-yellow, a complete reconstructed plate, unused, No. 12 has a minute tear, the others very fine, £12 10s.; perf. 15, litho., 6d., grey, a complete reconstructed plate, unused, No. 4 is slightly thinned, others all very fine, and nine have gum, £41. Collections sold as follows: 1,648 stamps, £13 10s.; 5,600, £34 10s; 1,007, £20; 4,250, £19; various, about 6,250, £17; and 784, £13 10s.

* * *

Mr. J. C. Stevens' sale of October 10th. A remarkably khaki-looking catalogue, including a large number of Mafeking, Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and other stamps marked this firm's first important sale of postage stamps. The attendance was excellent, the room being packed; the biddings were very spirited, and obviously not confined to Philatelists only.

A number of complete sets of nineteen Mafekings were put up and mostly sold at from about £25 to £28 per set. Short sets of fifteen or sixteen also found buyers at from about £15 to £20 per set. Most of the lots were so mixed that we have hardly space to report them, but we notice the rare 2s. on 1s. Mafeking on British Bechuanaland sold for 70s., and some 1s. on 4d., ditto, at 22s. 6d. each; the 1s. on 6d. Bechuanaland Protectorate went for 27s. 6d. each. Baden-Powells brought all sorts of prices, from 15s. to £2 2s. each. Transvaal, surcharged "V.R.I.," £5, used, realised £5 15s. The total number of "Mafeking Besieged" stamps disposed of was no less than 433.

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Mr. W. Hadlow's sale of September 28th. Great Britain, "Govt. Parcels," 1d., with inverted surcharge, mint, £4 10s. "Mafeking Besieged," 3d., blue, Baden-Powell, unused and with gum, £1 18s.; 1d., blue, Bicycle, used, £1 1s. and £1 3s.; 3d. on 1d. Cape, used pairs, £1 1s. each; 3d. on 1d. "Bechuanaland Protectorate," used, £1 5s.; 6d. on 2d., ditto, used, £1 4s.; 1s. on 6d., ditto, £1 11s.; 3d., Baden-Powell, used, £1 4s. Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, unused, £8 10s.; 4d., orange, litho., unused, £4 and £3 10s.; 6d., grey, ditto, unused (2), £4 5s. each. Victoria, 2d., engraved, complete reconstructed sheet of fifty, £5 10s.; another sheet, the litho. 2d., £3 7s. 6d.

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Mr. W. Hadlow's sale of October 15th. Bahamas, 4d., rose, CC, mint pair, 24s. Ceylon, 9d., imperf., used, 34s. Mexico, *Campeche*, 25 c., provisional, on entire, 42s. Switzerland, the rare "Poste Locale," 2½ r., black and red, without border to cross, used, £9.

* * *

Auction sales continue to be held in Kimberley. According to Ewen's correspondent there, the full set of nineteen Mafekings still brings about £35, and a copy of the 1s. on 6d. "British Bechuanaland" (by far the rarest of the set) sold for £11, the 1s. on 6d. "Bechuanaland Protectorate" only realising £1 17s. 6d. The second stamp in the order of rarity, the 2s. on 1s. "British Bechuanaland" was bought in at £4, and the 6d. on 3d. Cape fetched £2 10s. Baden-Powells sold at various prices, from 14s. to £1 17s. 6d., and Cycles were neglected.

* * *

A heavy catalogue has reached us from the J. W. Scott Co., Limited, for November 20th to 23rd inclusive. There are 2,089 lots in all, of which 682 are required for U.S.A. postals and fiscals alone. As the sale does not commence until 8 p.m., the auctioneer must sell at a great rate to get through 500 lots or more before midnight.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. NOVEMBER, 1900. No. 107.

The Expert Committee and the National Collection.

COMMUNICATIONS of interest and importance affecting both of these matters will be found in the present number of this journal, and to a certain extent the one question overlaps the other. The announcement made by Mr. E. D. Bacon of the projected system of display of the Tapling Collection will be read with great satisfaction, and seems indeed to be admirably adapted to the somewhat difficult needs of the situation. It is idle to deny that there has been profound dissatisfaction at the long period that has elapsed before carrying out the testator's wish that the collection should be open to the inspection of the public, and we respectfully and earnestly entreat the Trustees of the British Museum to expedite the proposed scheme of display.

The expertising of stamps, to be thoroughly efficient and reliable, presents several requisites. An intimate knowledge of and long experience in all grades of Philately is necessarily the first indispensable qualification. The second and equally necessary condition is the command of large collections or numbers of stamps for the purposes of comparison and identification. In very many instances no definite opinion could be safely given without comparing the stamps side by side, and the Expert Committee has hitherto been fortunate in having access to collections of the first magnitude. Through various circumstances these facilities have lately been much curtailed, especially in the case of the National Collection. Mr. Bacon's labours of arrangement and classification having now been completed, he no longer has that facility of access that has been so invaluable a feature in the task of the Expert Committee. As we have previously stated, the Tapling Collection is not yet available for these intended purposes of inspection and comparison, and the difficulty has been to find a substitute until that happy day arrives. We

are glad to be able to announce, however, that owing to the spirited action of several large holders of stamps—both dealers and collectors—the members of the committee feel that they will have sufficient means at hand to enable them to form correct judgments, and as intimated elsewhere, although under slightly altered conditions, they propose to continue a work that has been of considerable service to all holders of stamps.

The best expert is like the best general—the one who makes the fewest mistakes—and without claiming any degree of infallibility we venture to think that the future decisions of the Expert Committee of the London Society will continue to deserve the confidence of their numerous correspondents from all portions of the globe.

The Tapling Collection.

By E. D. BACON.



IN the *London Philatelist* of November last I gave a description of the plan that the Trustees of the British Museum proposed to adopt for exhibiting to the public the adhesive stamps in the "Tapling Collection."

Since then experiments of various kinds have been tried at the Museum, and the idea of making use of cabinets with drawers has had to be abandoned for the following reason. It was found that the drawers, being so shallow, would be liable, when pulled out to their full extent, to break completely off if there was much pressure upon them, as there might well be in the case of anyone examining a stamp very closely or comparing a specimen taken to the Museum for this purpose.

It has therefore been decided, in place of drawers, to make use of slides, which will pull out in a vertical instead of a horizontal direction. The frames of these slides will be made of wood, and each will contain four sheets of stamps, *i.e.* two on either side of the slide. A piece of millboard will be inserted in the centre of each slide, on which the four sheets of stamps will be fastened so as to obviate any tendency to slip that might otherwise occur; thus there will be two sheets on either side, placed as it were back to back towards the other two. Each side of the slide will be covered with a sheet of plate glass, which will be fixed in such a way as to leave a small space between the glass and the surface of the stamps. The slides will be placed in rows in cabinets, and each slide will run in a separate groove, and of course only pull out sufficiently far to allow of the display of the stamps inclosed.

The idea of substituting slides of this kind in place of drawers appears to me a particularly happy one, as the facility of examining the stamps will practically be the same, added to which they have the advantage of being stronger than drawers, and they will each take four sheets of stamps in place of two, which would be the largest number that could be inclosed in a single drawer.

As I assisted the late owner for many years in building up the collection, and have had the entire rearrangement of the contents since its arrival at the Museum, my readers will perhaps be able to realise in some measure how thankful I feel that at last there is a prospect of this magnificent bequest being worthily housed, and the collection made available for students to consult, in a way that I am sure my old friend would have cordially approved.

The stamps on view in the two cases in the King's Library at the Museum have recently been changed, and those of the various Italian States are now displayed.

German China Provisional Stamps.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on October 26th, 1900.

By FRANZ REICHENHEIM.

FOR the first time since German stamps have been issued, a provisional issue has been put in circulation by the Post Office, Tsingtau, in the German Colony Kiautchou (China), on or about May 9th, 1900.

About this date the German Post Office in this Colony ran out of 5 pf. stamps, and to comply with the public demand for this value, some sheets of 1897 10 pf. stamps, surcharged diagonally "China," were surcharged horizontally in black

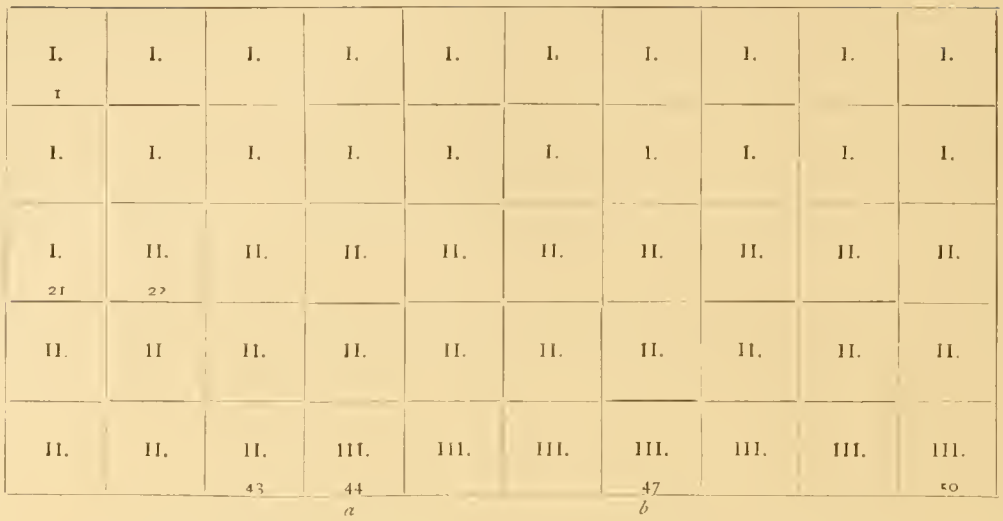
5 Pfg.

underlined with a blue pencil drawn with a ruler, except on the very first sheets, on which only the figures 5 were underlined.

As the little printing office in Tsingtau had not a sufficient number of types of figure 5 and the letters of the same kind in stock, they were obliged to take three sorts of types, one after the other, to be able to surcharge at least half a sheet at a time (50 stamps). These three different types are arranged on each pane in the following way:

I. 1	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I	I.	I.	I.
I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.	I.
I. 21	II. 22	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.
II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II	II.	II.	II.
II.	II.	II. 43	III. 44	III.	III.	III. 47	III.	III.	III. 50

a *b*



Type I. (stamps Nos. 1 to 21) 5 Pfg.

The top line of the 5 is short, the lower curve ending in a dot. The letters are in medium serif type. The whole surcharge is 11 mm. long.

Type II. (stamps Nos. 22 to 43) **5 Pfg.**

The top line of the 5 is longer and more curved, the lower curve ending in a flourish. The letters are in thick serif type. The whole surcharge is 12 mm. long.

Type III. (stamps Nos. 44 to 50) 5 **Pfg.**

The surcharge is in narrow "antique" type. The top line of the 5 is well curved, the lower curve ending in a dot. The whole surcharge measures $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

There exist two minor varieties—

(*a*) Fourth stamp of bottom row on each pane broken †
(*b*) Seventh „ „ „ 5

and as these two minor varieties happen to appear on Type III., of which only seven specimens exist on each pane, only ten regular surcharges of this type are found on each sheet.

As each pane has been separately surcharged, the position of the surcharge varies, and appears on some panes through the centre of the stamps, and on others over the original value.

The first postmark known on these stamps is May 9th, 1900, and the latest date of obliteration I have seen on them so far is the middle of August this year.

The two pairs of these stamps—in Types I. and II. respectively on original envelope, forwarded by a firm in Tsingtau to Hamburg, and obliterated "Shanghai 11. 5. 00."—you have before you, have very probably escaped obliteration in Tsingtau, and the mistake was discovered and made good in Shanghai, as these surcharged stamps were not issued by the German Post Office in the latter place.

In July a new surcharge, also horizontally in black, on the 10 pf. German China stamps appeared in Tsingtau, reading

5 Pfg

only $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long.

The 5 and letters are similar to the Type II. of the previous issue, the dot at the end of the surcharge surrounded by a small circle, the whole surcharge also underlined with a blue pencil, as in the May issue.

The German Post Office in Futchau (China), opened on June 7th, 1900, issued the same value surcharged

5pf

in black, on the 10 pf. German China stamp of 1897, in August this year. The surcharge here is only 8½ mm. long, and has neither a dot at the end nor is it underlined. The 5 and letters are much larger and thicker than in the other issues, and instead of a capital letter P, we find here a small p.

I am afraid we shall hear by-and-by of some more authorised German Colonial provisionals, not to speak of the use of bisected stamps, as the "Steamer" issue for the German Colonies, and the surcharged "Germania" and "Picture" stamps for the German Post Offices in foreign countries, which were expected before the 1st October this year, seem to have been delayed for some reason or other.

I will not conclude this paper without tendering my best thanks to Mr. Hans Müller, President of the Hanover Philatelic Society, and editor of *Vertrauliches Korrespondenzblatt Philatelistischer Vereine* and *Germania Blaetter*, Mr. R. Meyer, of this Society, and Mr. Philipp Kosack, of Berlin, for their kindness in furnishing me with some interesting details on the matter, and submitting me complete sheets, photographs of sheets, and various specimens of the different surcharges, for compiling this paper.

"Der Philatelist" *v.* "Mafeking Besieged."

By J. R. F. TURNER.



ER PHILATELIST having blossomed out into an apparently pro-Boer attack on the historical and interesting stamps issued during the siege at Mafeking, partly in order to refute the misleading and erroneous statements contained in the article in question, and partly to disseminate information that may be relied upon absolutely, I will proceed to place on record a few facts. The gist of the article in question is as follows:—

The Mafeking stamps, about which the English Philatelists are making so much fuss, belong—to express my opinion at once quite freely—to the region of philatelic speculation as much as the Seebeck products and other "blossoms" on the tree of Philately. Of course we are told that the inhabitants of Mafeking were anxious to send letters to their relations. But this does not prove that stamps were issued. In Ladysmith there were far more inhabitants, no end of women and children who had relations in the Colony and in England, but still no stamps were issued on that account. It seems to me very doubtful whether even more than a dozen specimens of the siege stamps were sent out of Mafeking. Within my knowledge on different occasions correspondence was captured by the Boers who were investing the town, but none of the envelopes were ever franked (*i.e.* stamped). Europeans may of

course be told that the Kaffirs had sewn the letters in the soles of their shoes, but Africans do not believe that, for the simple reason that the Kaffirs wear no shoes or boots, but always run around barefooted.

Most of the Mafeking stamps I have seen are upon letters which were sent from one inhabitant of the town to another. The explanation of the riddle is that in Mafeking there were some speculative Philatelists, but none in Ladysmith. As soon as the first inhabitants of Mafeking came to Cape Town on being relieved, they rushed to the stamp dealers and sold their "Mafeking Besieged" stamps. A great flood of stamps poured thence to London, and this flood continues its flow, to the delight of the stamp dealers and auctioneers, who get enormous prices. May we in Germany be spared these little pictures, and it is to be hoped that they may not be admitted to any serious catalogues.

With regard to the values used I should perhaps first make the following comment. In order to make the stamps go as far as possible, the ½d.'s, for which, under the new postal arrangements, there would be no further use, were made into 1d.'s (primarily for local use inside the town), the 1d.'s into 3d.'s (primarily for local use to suburbs), the 2d.'s and 3d.'s into 6d.'s (primarily for use on letters *viâ* south), the 4d.'s and 6d.'s into 1s.'s (primarily for use on letters *viâ* north), and the 1s.'s into 2s.'s (primarily for use for telegraphic messages from the war correspondents). The real necessity for the five values, 1d., 3d., 6d., 1s., and 2s., therefore becomes apparent, and it seems clear that the postmaster exercised a wise discretion in getting rid of the superfluous values, viz. the ½d., 2d., and 4d., in the way he did. He instituted quite an elaborate system for posting letters in Mafeking and suburbs.* In connection with the last-named it may be incidentally stated that a special permit was required in order to move freely about within the lines. Private Tugwood, of the Protectorate Regiment, who went through the siege and who was here on furlough a few weeks ago himself, told me

* The following official notices will have an interest to readers of Mr. Turner's article :—

Extract from the *Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip* of Thursday, March 22nd, 1900.

"LOCAL MEMS.

"Private letters will in future be sent by the Intelligence Department by runners in batches of thirty (letters, not runners) at a time. First come first served. The communications will be despatched in the order they are received. Don't all speak at once."

Extract from the *Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip* of Saturday, March 24th, 1900.

"NOTICE.

"New arrangements for the transmission of Telegrams and dealing with Letters.

"The Bombproof at the end of Minchin's yard, at Headquarters, will be open daily to receive Letters and Telegrams for North and South, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. (Sundays excepted).

"The following are the rates for Telegrams: *Viâ* the North, 9d. per word, plus a fee of 1/- for a receipt, duly stamped; Telegrams for Cape Colony and Natal will be accepted by this route.

"Telegrams *viâ* the South for Cape Colony and Natal will also be accepted, the rate being 1/- for 12 words, plus a fee of 1/- for a duly stamped receipt.

"Cablegrams 4/9 per word, *viâ* the North } plus 1/- receipt fee.
,, 4/- ,, ,, South }

"*The sale of stamps for letters for local delivery will be restricted.*

"Letters for Northern and Southern routes must be handed to the Postal Official on duty, *and stamps cannot on any account be sold.*

"RATES OF POSTAGE—LETTERS.

"Local delivery (within town limits), 1d. per half oz.

"Delivery at Outposts and Forts, 3d. per half oz.

"Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony, and Natal, *viâ the SOUTH, 6d. per half oz.*

"Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony, Natal, and Rhodesia, *viâ the NORTH, 1/- per half oz.*

"*Mafeking*, 22 *March*, 1900."

that he was in the trenches practically all day, and never once wrote home to his friends in Oxford, because he was unable to get to the post office during the hour at which it was open. Access to the various parts of Mafeking being therefore generally impracticable, a large delivery of letters within its precincts must have taken place, the defenders naturally being anxious to communicate with each other. This accounts for the existence of many letters bearing Mafeking stamps that have been sent from one part of Mafeking to the other, and have since come up at auctions and elsewhere, some of which the writer in *Der Philatelist* has probably seen.

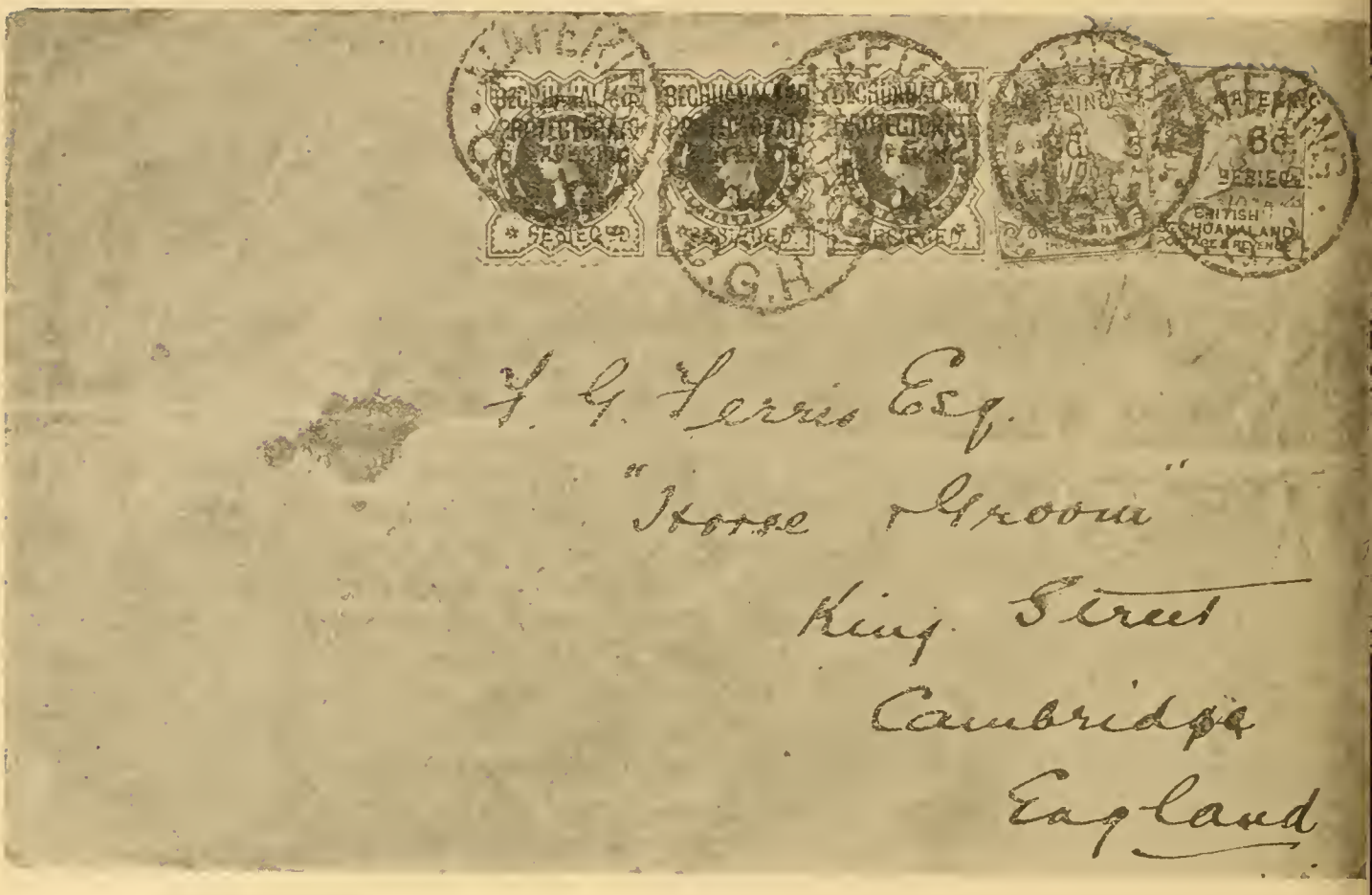
The statement in *Der Philatelist*, that it was "very doubtful whether more than *a dozen* specimens of the siege stamps were sent out of Mafeking," conclusively shows the utter incapacity of the writer to express a correct opinion on the stamps of Mafeking. The smaller of the two extracts distinctly states that private letters were sent by runners in batches of thirty; but what perhaps may be deemed more conclusive still is the fact that I have in my possession upwards of fifty letters, *franked by between* 200 *and* 300 *stamps*, that went through the siege to either Buluwayo or the United Kingdom.

Moreover, I have made the personal acquaintance of a gentleman who was in Buluwayo at the time, and who was a great friend of the postmaster there, and frequently saw the mails as they came in from Mafeking. By carefully noting the addresses in Buluwayo to which the letters were sent, he was afterwards able to buy up many of the envelopes, some of which now adorn my collection. He positively assured me that quite large packets of letters, consisting of any number from thirty to eighty, constituted these mails, which were franked indiscriminately with both "Mafeking Besieged" and 3d. Baden-Powell stamps, and addressed to all parts. Touching the Baden-Powell stamps, both large and small sizes, I may say that I have seven envelopes that went through the siege *entirely* franked with them, each envelope bearing a strip or block of four, and three partly franked with them. (See illustrations.) As these stamps were affixed by the postal officials themselves, it goes without saying that the 3d. Baden-Powell stamps were *deliberately* used to frank letters *out of Mafeking*. It is therefore evident that these stamps were full-fledged postage stamps.

The German exile from Johannesburg is so strangely ignorant of passing topics that he makes another unpardonable blunder when he definitely states that the correspondence captured by the Boers from the native runners was not even franked. Not so very long ago, when Snyman's camp was taken by Baden-Powell, it went the round of the English Press, both political and philatelic, that a portion of the capture consisted of many envelopes sent from Mafeking and intercepted by the Boers, *from which the stamps had been carefully torn.*

It appears from this that some of the wily Boers specialised the stamps of Mafeking, though unlike me they refused to be saddled with the envelopes. There is no need to enlighten Europeans as to the wearing apparel of Kaffirs. Some wear more than others, and others wear as little as they dare, but I have it on the authority of the aforesaid Private Tugwood.

Long before Mafeking was relieved the siege stamps had produced much


BECHUANALAND
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BESIEGED
BESIEGED
BESIEGED
BESIEGED
BRITISH BECHUANALAND
POSTAGE & REVENUE
G.H.
F. G. Lewis Esq.
"Horse Groom"
King Street
Cambridge
England


CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
MAFEKING
BESIEGED
POSTAGE HALF PENNY
BECHUANALAND
BECHUANALAND
G.H.
Mrs Fred Jones.
Post Office.
Barkuru

interest in England, both in philatelic circles and outside them. On April 28th I addressed a letter to the postmaster at Mafeking, inclosing money for some of the stamps. Months afterwards I received this reply:—

"33,411/00

"GENERAL POST OFFICE,
"CAPE TOWN, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,
"*18th July*, 1900.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 28th April, addressed to the Postmaster of Mafeking, and requesting to be supplied with some of the stamps used at Mafeking during the siege, I regret to say I am unable to comply with your wish in this respect, the whole of the stock of the stamps in question having been sold at Mafeking prior to the relief of the town. I am, therefore, returning herewith the inclosure which accompanied your letter. "I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"Mr. J. R. F. Turner, Sunset View, Iffley Road, Oxford, England." "M. FRENCH, *Postmaster*."

The above is important, because it shows that there were no remainders; but still quite a sufficient number have, as *Der Philatelist* truly says, found their way into a philatelic channel which ultimately reached London. The auctioneers have had a good time, and so have the collectors, but I am not quite so certain as to the dealers; undoubtedly some have, but then others have apparently experienced precisely the same feeling as the exile from Johannesburg, and the grapes have been unspeakably sour. If the flood of stamps had been twice or thrice as great as it has been, collectors in Great Britain *and her Colonies* would readily snap them up. So the exile from Johannesburg need not unduly alarm himself; only perhaps when he sees the stamps carefully described in the serious catalogues, and knows that the *enlightened* collectors in Germany have insisted on securing specimens—even at bigger prices than those now obtained—he may well feel that his philatelic pro-Boer attack has been in vain.

Dates of Issue of the Mafeking Stamps.*

BY A. H. STAMFORD.

I AM very pleased to be able to supplement the information in regard to the "Mafeking Besieged" issue, given in the last number of the Society's journal, by further information of a most interesting character, which has reached me by the last mail. The letter is from the Postmaster of Mafeking during the siege, in reply to inquiries I made two months ago, and had better speak for itself.

* Since Mr. Turner's article was written we have received from Mr. A. H. Stamford this interesting and valuable contribution to our knowledge of these stamps, and we are much indebted to Mr. Stamford for this timely information.—ED.

LIST AND DATES OF ISSUE OF MAFEKING SIEGE STAMPS.

Date of Issue. 1900.		
March	23rd.	1d., green, originally ½d. Cape "square."
,,	,,	3d., red ,, 1d. Cape.
,,	24th.	6d., mauve ,, 3d. Cape, watermarked *Anchor*.
,,	,,	1s., olive ,, 4d. Cape.
,,	27th.	6d., lilac ,, 3d. British Bechuanaland.
,,	28th.	1d., red ,, ½d. Home; surch. "Bechuanaland Protectorate."
,,	29th.	1s., brown and green, orig. 4d. Home; surch. ,, ,,
April	4th.	1d., green, originally ½d. Cape, figure "Hope."
,,	,,	6d., yellow ,, 3d. Home; surch. "Bechuanaland Protectorate."
,,	,,	3d., lilac ,, 1d. ,, ,, ,, ,,
,,	6th.	6d. (with 6d. above), red and green, originally 2d. Home; surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate." All the foregoing large serif surcharge.
,,	7th.	3d. (Local), Baden-Powell, small head.
,,	10th.	3d. (,,), Colonel Baden-Powell, large head.
,,	,,	1d. (,,), Bicycle.
,,	25th.	6d. (with 6d. below), red and green, originally 2d. Home; surcharged "Bechuanaland Protectorate." Small plain black letters surcharge.
,,	25th.	3d., lilac, originally 1d. Home; surch. "Bechuanaland Protectorate." Small plain black letters surcharge.
,,	25th.	1s., red, originally 6d. Home; surch. "Bechuanaland Protectorate." Small plain black letters surcharge only.
May	3rd.	1s., red, originally 6d. Home; surcharged "British Bechuanaland." Small plain black letters surcharge.
April	25th.	2s., white and green, originally 1s. Home; surcharged "British Bechuanaland." Small plain black letters surcharge.

I certify that the above is a correct list of date of issue of the Mafeking stamps.

J. V. HOWAT,
Staff-Postmaster to Maj.-Gen. Baden-Powell
during the Mafeking Siege.

13th October, 1899, to 17th May 1900.

As you will observe, this list also refers to four errors of surcharge, of each of which only five specimens exist, and if you think it desirable I will send you the four stamps, which I presume are the only copies in England, for illustration.

The following is an extract from the letter referred to:—

"It is to be regretted that before investing, investors did not seek for information from the Postal Department on the following points:—Date of issue of each denomination and descriptive list of stamps. In order to protect you from being defrauded, I hasten to inclose herewith the following particulars. From it you will see that the following stamps mentioned in your letter were not issued by me, and are therefore clearly forgeries, viz.:—

6d. on 3d. Cape, claret; watermarked CA.
1s. on 6d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' on English. Serif surcharge.
1s. on 6d. 'British Bechuanaland' ,, ,,

"Those issued were:—

6d. on 3d. Cape, magenta; watermarked *Anchor*.
1s. on 6d. 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' on English. Small plain black letters surcharge.
1s. on 6d. 'British Bechuanaland' on English. Small plain black letters [surcharge.

"As the surcharging of these stamps was solely under my control in my capacity as Staff-Postmaster to General Baden-Powell, and having kept a very careful record of the number of and date of issue, I am the only person in a position to give the required information. In purchasing stamps (siege) it is advisable to obtain those postmarked, and to carefully scrutinise such postmarks. In all stamps submitted to me for inspection and report it was found that the dated stamp impression did not compare with the dimensions of that used at Mafeking. . . .

"In going through my stamps I have just come across some errors in the surcharging of the 6d., yellow, on 3d. Home, surcharged 'Bechuanaland Protectorate,' large serif surcharge, reversed; and 1s. on 4d., brown and green, Home, surcharged 'British Bechuanaland,' large serif double surcharge; ditto, ditto, large serif surcharge, and reversed (three in all). I had quite forgotten these were in my possession. I remember placing them aside, and being a printer's error they were not included in the sets I previously sent you—there are five of each of the four double and inverted surcharges.

"I remember the day these were printed. We were heavily bombarded, and this may account for the printer's errors. The printer ran a great risk in working in the printing establishment—a large corrugated iron building which was very much exposed to shell fire, and on two occasions was riddled by 94 pdr. shells. All other establishments were conducted underground in bomb-proof shelters, which in reality were only splinter-proofs."

As to the change of type in the surcharges on the normal issues the letter proceeds as follows:—

"I have, I see, omitted to explain why the type was changed: it was owing to the type being required for other printing purposes that the small plain black letters had to be resorted to."

The errors referred to are not reversed, but inverted surcharges. About two months ago I saw that two copies of the hitherto only known inverted surcharged stamp of the Siege issue—the 3d. on 1d. British Bechuanaland, I think—were sold for £12 and £13 respectively. There was a whole sheet (240 stamps) of the value so surcharged, I believe. What, therefore, is the rarity of the four errors to which I have referred, and of each of which there are only five specimens in existence?

The Wei-hai-Wei Courier Post.*



HEN first the territory of Wei-hai-Wei was taken over by the British in 1898 no arrangements were made to establish a post office, either on the island of Liu-kung-tao or on the mainland itself. In consequence of this the mails for the residents and garrison were sent by the postal authorities to the nearest Chinese post office, viz. that of Chifu, and there they remained till one of H.M. ships could call

* This article has been kindly forwarded us through a friend of the author, whose position and residence in China lend authority to his interesting statement.—ED.

for them. In the same way the letters from Wei-hai-Wei were taken by one of H.M. ships to Chifu and there posted.

This arrangement naturally caused considerable delay, and although Chifu is only fifty-six miles distant by road from Wei-hai-Wei, mails often lay there for a week or ten days before they were called for.

In order to do away with this inconvenience, some of the residents of Liu-kung-tao obtained the Commissioner's permission to try to start a courier post in conjunction with the postal authorities at Chifu, and in order to pay for these couriers his sanction was also obtained for issuing a sufficient number of 2 cent and 5 cent stamps to cover the expenses.

This courier post was started in the beginning of December, 1898, and as it was found impossible to print stamps at Wei-hai-Wei itself, Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, of Shanghai, were asked to print 4,000 2 cent and 4,000 5 cent stamps, as it was thought that this number would be required during the first six months.

Over a month elapsed before these stamps arrived, and during that time a provisional issue was made by stamping Messrs. Cornabe and Co.'s "dollar chop" on the "dark room" paper belonging to one of the officers.

The post was successfully run till April, 1899, when the Chinese Imperial Post decided to start a post office at Wei-hai-Wei, and took over the couriers.

A British post office was established on Liu-kung-tao in or about September, 1899.

During the time that the courier post ran, about 850 2 cent and 300 5 cent stamps of the provisional issue, and 4,000 2 cent and 4,000 5 cent stamps of the "Shanghai" issue, were struck. Of these $50 worth of the 5 cent stamps were in hand when the post was stopped, and these were sold to a dealer in Shanghai.

The 2 cent stamps were used for letters, the 5 cent stamps being used for parcels.

It is noticed that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons catalogue the courier post in Part III. of their Catalogue. As, however, the post ran from British into Chinese territory, it is a question whether it would come under a heading of a local post.

Be this as it may, it should in any case be considered as a genuine post, supplying as it did a much-felt want, and bringing Wei-hai-Wei within a week of Shanghai, instead of three weeks as was previously the case.

Philatelic Notes.

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

TWO NEW VARIETIES OF THE FOUR PENCE GRIQUALAND WEST.

BY E. D. BACON.

I AM indebted to Lieut. F. H. Napier for particulars of an interesting discovery he has recently made in the stamps of Griqualand West.

It appears that Mr. W. H. Peckitt has lately purchased a number of these stamps, all of which came from the same merchant's office, and in nearly every case the specimens were still attached to a portion of the envelope, etc., on which they had been used. Mr. Peckitt asked Lieut. Napier to arrange the stamps for him, and on sorting them into the different types the latter found specimens of two varieties with the small "G" surcharge (Types 13 and 14 of the Society's work) on *Type I.* of the Four Pence, blue, Cape of Good Hope stamps. The surcharge of both the varieties is in black, and from an examination I have made of the specimens in question I am entirely convinced of their genuineness. Nearly all of the few copies found had the "Kimberley" postmark, and were used either in November or December, 1878.

No genuine specimen of Type I. of the Four Pence with any of the varieties of the large "G" in black, issued at the end of 1877, is known; and it certainly seemed most unlikely that the small "G" surcharge would be found on a Type I. stamp. It has, in fact, always been thought that all the Type I. stamps were used up for the issue which had the large "G" surcharged in red, and that no specimen of Type I. with small "G" could, therefore, have a genuine surcharge. This old argument, which must now be thrown aside, has no doubt been responsible for the condemnation of more than one specimen of Type I. with the small "G," as I well remember having seen the variety before.

It becomes, therefore, necessary to make the following additions to the list of Griqualand West stamps in the Society's recently-published work :—

Page 93. Type 13.

b. Black surcharge.

4d., blue. Type I.

Page 94. Type 14.

b. Black surcharge.

4d., blue. Type I.

THE CUBA Y¼ ISSUE OF 1855.

OUR American friends, with characteristic energy, are scouring the fields of Philately with regard to their newly-acquired colonial possessions, and are learning to rapidly appreciate—in more senses than one—the old issues of Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippines, and Hawaii. The question with regard to the surcharge of Y¼ on the 2 reales, carmine, of the first issue of Cuba has been one that has been the cause of much intermittent and inconclusive argument for many years—the supposition that the surcharge indicated an increase of the rate to 2 reales "and a quarter" having many supporters.

Mr. J. S. Andreini, of New York, has, however, in a remarkably incisive and well-reasoned paper, published in *Mekeel's Weekly Journal* for October 11th, demolished this supposition. Mr. Andreini's paper, the leading paragraphs of which we reproduce, clearly establishes to our mind that the surcharge should be construed as indicating ¼ real Local Post, *i.e.* Y(nterior). All students of the Cuban stamps should read Mr. Andreini's excellent article.

"The Y¼ stamps came into existence on November 15th, 1855, and this is part of the original decree issued by the Postmaster-General of Cuba, the Honourable Narciso de Torre Marin:—

"'His Excellency the Captain-General having ordered the establishment of an interior post for the city and suburbs, beginning on 19th instant, to celebrate the birthday of our beloved Queen, Isabella II., the Postmaster-General has the pleasure to announce to the public that on said day that improvement will be inaugurated, affording the greatest convenience in local communications at a moderate cost. Such correspondence must not circulate without being prepaid by stamps of one quarter of one real, silver, specially prepared for the purpose, and to be found on sale at all postal stations. Letters or parcels for the interior post will not be regulated by weight, but the affixing of a single stamp of one quarter of one real, regardless of weight, will be sufficient for their free delivery.'"

In corroboration of this official notice Mr. Andreini quotes the following:—

"Further, I know of other evidences to prove that the Y¼ stamps were ¼ real stamps. Mr. Emiliano Martinez, of New Orleans, has in his possession printed circulars, unsealed, and franked in Habana with one Y¼ stamp, and forwarded to Santiago, Cuba, in 1861. It surely follows that the Y¼ was, the theorists will no doubt allow, that unlowest stamp value (¼ real), for our sealed printed circulars are not franked in Cuba or in any other country with stamps of the highest denomination.

"I have myself a letter written and mailed in Habana, 1864, franked with two Y¼ stamps, addressed to and delivered at Matanzas, Cuba. It certainly shows the two ¼ real stamps paid the full ½ real postage between Habana and Matanzas. Both Mr. Martinez and myself are ready to show these specimens to the unbelievers. They are not stamps locally used, according to the decree of issue, but they seem to be good evidences of the real value of the stamp.

"It is impossible with data at hand to discover that postage rates of ¾ reales or 2¼ reales, such as mentioned by our theorists, ever existed in the island of Cuba, whereas it is a matter of well-authenticated record that there was a rate of ¼ real since 1855, as shown by the surcharged and by the unsurcharged stamps of that denomination. If the theories above mentioned had been correct, we certainly would have seen stamps subsequently issued to represent the rates on which they have theorised,

but no such stamps were ever issued. On the contrary, the low rate of ¼ real established in November, 1855, was represented by the Y¼ and by the later issues of unsurcharged ¼ reales.

"The law and its very lucid explanation, as above set forth, seem to me to leave no doubt whatever as to the meaning of the 'Y¼' surcharge, or as to the use of the stamps so surcharged. Nevertheless, such is the wisdom and perspicacy of our philatelic investigators that two theories have been evolved out of the initial of the surcharge and out of the supposed consequent change in face value of the stamp. These theories are: 1st, that 'Y¼' meant 'and ¼'—2¼ reales—and that 2¼ reales was the local postage rate; 2nd, that 'Y¼' meant 'and ¼,' to wit, a quarter additional postage to the regular ½ real, thus denying that 'Y' stands for Ynterior, and that ¼ real was the actual value of the stamp—the two main points on which the best authorities agree. I believe that both these theories are based on the hypothesis that the 'Y' surcharge does not mean Ynterior, and I must confess to having read with much surprise very trite remarks on the subject in highly respectable philatelic magazines."

Mr. Andreini gives a number of instances where "Y" represents "I," states that this rendering, notably for names of persons and places, is quite customary in Cuba, and concludes—

"Finally, I desire to submit to philatelic students my conclusions as follows:—

"*a.* That 'Y' represents in archaic Spanish the word Ynterior.

"*b.* That ¼ real (3⅛ c.) was the regular local postage."

SOME NEW DISCOVERIES IN THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC STAMPS.

MR. E. D. BACON writes to us:—"I have recently been shown by Mr. R. B. Yardley, a very keen Philatelist, an uncatalogued variety of the First South African Republic one shilling value that he has discovered. The stamp in question, which is unused, is printed on hard-surfaced white wove paper, like that of Nos. 42 and 42*a* of Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue. It is yellow-green in colour, is imperforate, and has yellowish gum. The one penny on this paper has been known for many years, the six pence has since been found, and now we have the one shilling to add to the set.

"I take this opportunity of drawing attention to sundry other uncatalogued varieties of the First South African Republic stamps that I have come across during the last few months. One of these is the one shilling of Borrius' printing, imperforate. I have seen two unused imperforate specimens of this stamp, which so far has been catalogued as only found rouletted 15½. Another consists of a specimen of the one shilling, rouletted 15½, on undoubted pelure paper.

"I have also seen several used imperforate specimens, including pairs, of the three pence of Borrius' printing—a stamp, again, that the catalogues only recognise as having been issued rouletted. On the other hand, I do not believe that the three pence printed in Germany was ever issued for postal use in the Transvaal in an imperforate condition, although this variety figures in more than one recent list of the stamps of this country."

Occasional Notes.

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

WE are authorised by the Expert Committee to make announcement of the following

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

1. The Committee can in future examine stamps only once a month, and will meet for that purpose at dates as nearly as possible at the commencement of each month.

2. All stamps submitted to be expertised must be received not later than the last day of the month preceding.

3. The fees must always be sent with the stamps, and in future will be as follows:—

FOR STAMPS PRONOUNCED GENUINE.

Three shillings for a single stamp.

Two shillings and sixpence each for more than one stamp; a proportionate return being made in the case of forgeries or reprints.

FOR STAMPS PRONOUNCED FORGERIES OR REPRINTS.

One shilling and sixpence each.

Pairs, strips, and blocks counted as one stamp.

It should be remembered that the fee for genuine specimens includes a certificate and photograph of the stamp, and it has been found that the expenses of registration and postage between the various members of the Committee, with the photographs, has on the average entailed a loss to the Society. The difficulties that blocked the path of the Committee (to which we elsewhere allude) have happily been removed, and we are confident that the announcement of the continuance of this good work will elicit the approval of all classes in Philately.

"STAMP COLLECTING."

UNDER this title the *St. James's Gazette* published on November 3rd a somewhat entertaining paragraph, which we reproduce for the amusement, if not the edification, of our readers. Our contemporary's idea as to what are "stamps" is too comprehensive and charming. The trend of modern collecting is to excise everything but the legitimate postal adhesive; and the collector who would absorb "posters," "cheque and deed and patent medicine stamps," would in this country be readily certificated for Hanwell. The paragraph, however, fulfils a useful, if unintended, purpose in showing us what not to collect.

"There is an almost infinite variety of byways for the stamp collector to choose from (says a writer in *Barter*), but two or three examples must suffice. There is, for instance, a world of amusement and instruction in collecting postage stamps which have representations of birds, beasts, and fishes on them. These 'natural history' stamps are issued by Australia, Borneo, Canada, Congo, Newfoundland, Liberia, Perak, the Soudan, etc., and taken together form a delightful and deeply interesting

study, both artistic and informative, as well as philatelic Again, what a charming collection one could gather of view-bearing stamps, such as those of Egypt, the United States and other republics of America, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and many other lands. Akin to these are the stamps showing the industries of a country (the red two cents U.S.A., 'Farming in the West,' will illustrate my meaning). A similar set shows the history of a country, a sub-variety of which is the discovery of that country, as in the case of many American states. Take the U.S.A. 1892 one cent issue, showing old Christopher 'Columbus in sight of Land'; what a magnificent 'bypath' collection this subject would make—the discovery of America shown by postage stamps. Among the possibilities of such bypaths are collections of telegraph, newspaper, 'active service,' government offices, and patent medicine stamps; abnormally obliterated stamps, 'postage due' or return stamps, poster stamps, stamps diverted to a use other than that originally intended, private postage stamps (such as those used by hotels abroad which have a post office on the premises, and are allowed to issue their own stamps), private companies and corporations, such as steam navigation or city delivery offices, 'locals,' receipt stamps (some of those of France and the United States are very imposing in design and large in size), cheque and deed stamps, envelope and wrapper stamps, 'franking' stamps, registration and post card stamps, stamps of departed states or changed dependencies (*e.g.* Alsace-Lorraine, Schleswig-Holstein, and Heligoland), commemorative, and special purpose stamps."

POPULATION OF BRITISH NORTH BORNEO AND LABUAN.

An excellent work of reference on our possessions and those of the other European Powers has recently been published by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston, and Co. (Fetter Lane, E.C.). The title of this book is *European Settlements in the Far East*, and the author (D. W. S.) gives therein the geographical, political, and financial features of each and all the various dependencies, settlements in the Straits, Japan, China and the China Seas, and Pacific Ocean north of Australia.

In the chapters devoted to the above-named countries we find the following items:—

EUROPEAN POPULATION IN 1900.

British North Borneo	200
Labuan	30

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT STAMPS ISSUED.

British North Borneo.		*Labuan.*	
Adhesives	124	Adhesives	110
Entires	10	Entires	7
	134		117

Borneo's first issue was in 1883, hence in seventeen years there have been two new stamps made for every three European inhabitants. Labuan's first issue was in 1879, and in twenty-one years every European there has been represented by almost four new stamps. The Seebeck issues at least represent states with large populations, and are "pure as the virgin snows" compared to these corrupt and speculative productions, which, despite their beauty, deserve the contempt of all true Philatelists.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS RIDPATH.

WE have learnt with sincere regret the quite unforeseen death of this well-known dealer in the prime of his life. Mr. Ridpath, who was barely fifty years of age, has succumbed to a sharp attack of a too well known malady, and the sad news will be received with deep general sorrow. Mr. Ridpath's association with stamps dates from "the sixties." As quite a lad he was first in the employment of Messrs. Young and Stockall, of Liverpool, who, with Messrs. Alfred Smith, of Bath, and Stanley Gibbons, of Plymouth, were then the three leading dealers in this country. A few years later Mr. Ridpath set up in business for himself, and, as is well known, continued therein at Liverpool until the day of his death. Mr. Ridpath's name will always be associated with the great find of first issue British Guianas, which came almost entirely through his hands, and would at modern prices be worth a king's ransom. His acquaintance of and dealings with post cards were also extensive and peculiar, many of the rarest specimens having emanated from his stock. Although other equally fine judges of most classes of stamps can be found, it is beyond doubt that in this country Mr. Ridpath's knowledge of post cards was pre-eminent, and it is well known that his opinion and judgment was sought by collector and dealer alike. Of quiet and unassuming demeanour, and of a very pleasant and cordial manner, Mr. Ridpath was a general favourite, and his loss will be deeply regretted by the large circle of collectors who had during an entire generation formed his acquaintance. We have ourselves known Mr. Ridpath from our earliest association with stamps, and cannot but feel that another link in the chain of treasured reminiscences of the past has been abruptly shattered. To the older school of collectors Mr. Ridpath's name will be the more familiar, and there are those among us who could unfold an interesting record of the earlier philatelic career of our late esteemed friend. Mr. Ridpath's relatives may be assured of the deep sympathy of Philatelists with them in the loss of such a man, who for thirty-five years held so well-known and respected a position in the stamp world.

DISCOVERY OF THE LOST INVERTED WEST AUSTRALIAN 4d.

WITH much pleasure we insert the following letter from Mr. W. L. Joynt, the custodian of the late Duke of Leinster's collection at Dublin. Writing to the Editor of this journal, under date of the 16th of this month, Mr. Joynt says :—

"I have much pleasure in informing you that the 4d. West Australian stamp, *error*, *with centre inverted*, belonging to the late Duke of Leinster, has been found by Lord Frederick Fitzgerald amongst some papers at Carton, Maynooth, and is now in its proper place in the Leinster Collection in the Science and Art Museum here.

"This stamp, it will be remembered, was exhibited by the Duke at the first Exhibition held by the London Philatelic Society, together with a Straits Settlements first issue, overprinted with value only (no crown).

"Neither of these stamps was with the collection when it was handed to me for arrangement, and I asked Lord Frederick Fitzgerald to make a search for them. He informs me that he found the West Australian stamp attached to a letter dated 26th

April, 1863, from J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, to R. U. Pegg, Esq. (presumably a former owner).

"'Sir,—Accept my thanks for sight of the Swan River stamp.

"'I had not seen it before, nor do I understand how such a reversal of the swan could have occurred.

"'Your obedient Servant, J. E. Gray.'

"The letter and stamp were in a portfolio in one of the Duke's secretaires at Carton. No trace of the Straits Settlements stamp has been found, and it is feared the Duke must have parted with it.

"The inverted swan is of the usual dull blue shade on yellowish paper. It is closely cut on the right side, with a small nick breaking the lower part of the crossbar of the T in Australia. Postmarked in red, with a framework of irregular lines without any centre number, thus leaving the swan perfectly clear."

ENVELOPES AND CARDS.

We learn with regret, if not with surprise, that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have announced that from the commencement of the new year and century they intend to discontinue the importation of post cards and envelopes. The ever-increasing bulk of stock and the relative want of interest taken in entires are the reasons assigned, but in the interests of collectors the decision is to be deplored, as they will find great difficulty in acquiring new issues, unless some enterprising firm steps into Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' shoes in this matter. The record of new issues in this department of Philately will also be affected, and we hope to hear of some system—perhaps by co-operation—whereby we may at least know and see what entires are being issued, even if we do not collect them ourselves.

Review.

A HISTORY OF RAILWAY LETTER STAMPS.



THIS work has been commenced by the issue of Part I., and will describe all varieties issued by the Railway Companies of Great Britain and Ireland, under the authority of the Postmaster-General. It is compiled by H. L'Estrange Ewen, with the assistance of the unique and almost complete collection "formed" by the Earl of Crawford, and from records kindly furnished by the various Railway Companies. "No expense is being spared to make the book one of the finest works on stamps yet published, entire sheets of many varieties being splendidly illustrated," say the publishers, and the statement is certainly borne out by the first instalment. Illustrations and type are beautifully printed upon splendidly surfaced paper, and we should doubt if the nominal fixed price of a guinea would remunerate the publishers. There are doubtless many collectors of these labels who will welcome this work, but we have never disguised our opinion—that these stamps perform no postal function of any sort. They have, however, some of the outward and visible signs of adhesive labels, and there is room for all sorts of collectors within the pale of Philately.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW, AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT, ISSUES.

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

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled.

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

BRITISH EMPIRE.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The *Philatelic Record* chronicles a 5 cents, grey-black and blue, on pale blue paper, of the current design.

Adhesive.

5 cents, grey-black and blue, on pale blue paper.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.—It is reported that these islands have or are to have stamps, and that as a commencement, and to see if the venture will pay, two values, ½d, green, and 1d., red, have been ordered of the usual De la Rue type.

CEYLON.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 3 cents, green, and 75 cents, black and red-brown, surcharged "On Service."

The *M. J.* has been informed that the 15 c., *olive*, with the surcharge No. 33 in Gibbons', has been found upside down, and showing the error "Flve."

Adhesive.

15 cents, olive, with overprint, No. 33 in Gibbons, inverted, and showing the error "Flve."

Officials.

3 cents, green; surcharged "On Service" in black. [red.
75 ,, black and red-brown; surcharged "On Service" in

HONG KONG.—*Mekeel's* announces a 1 cent, yellow, envelope, and a 10 cents, violet, Registration cover.

The *M. J.* mentions that the 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., and 10 c. envelopes, lately chronicled, are issued in two sizes, the 2 cents on white laid, and the rest on both white laid and grey wove paper.

Envelopes. 1 cent, yellow on white.
10 cents (for Registration), violet on cream.

INDIA.—Another value of the adhesives, the 3 pies, carmine, and some stationery, have been reported surcharged "C.E.F."

Adhesive. 3 pies, carmine; surcharged "C.E.F."
Envelope. ½ anna, green on white ,, ,,

Post Cards.

½ anna, brown on buff; surcharged "C.E.F."
¼+¼ ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
1 anna, blue ,, ,,
1+1 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Dhar State.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the new 2 annas, green, type of 1898-9.

Adhesive. 2 annas, green, type 1898-99.

Faridkot.—The 3 pies, carmine, of British India has been surcharged "Faridkot State" in black, in two lines, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us a specimen.

Adhesive.

3 pies, carmine; surcharged Faridkot State in black.

Hyderabad.—A provisional stamp of this state, the *M. J.* informs us, has been issued. It is stated that the ½ a. stamp has been overprinted with the words *pao-anna*, in Persi-Arabic, in black. A permanent ¼ a. stamp is expected shortly.

Adhesive. ¼ a., in black, on ½ a., red.

Nepaul.—We have received the ½ a. stamp pin-perforated, like the other values (*M. J.*).

Adhesive. ½ a., black-brown; pin-perf.

MAFEKING.—Copies of the 1d. on ½d., red, English, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate," have been found with *inverted* surcharges, and two specimens have been sold at auction here.

Siege Stamps.

1d. on ½d., vermilion, "Bechuanaland Protectorate" stamps with *inverted surcharge.*

MALAY STATES.—The new $1 and $2 stamps have reached us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. The name "FEDERATED MALAY STATES" appears in the scroll at foot; otherwise they are similar to the Perak stamps of last year, but apparently unwatermarked.

We are told that a $5 exists, colour red and blue.

The *M. J.* has received the 5 c. bicoloured stamp of Perak surcharged with the combined name.

Adhesives.

$1, green and emerald; perf. 14; no watermark.
$2 ,, ,, carmine ,, ,, ,,
$5, red and blue ,, ,, ,,
5 cents, lilac and ochre, of Perak, surcharged "Federated Malay States."

MALTA.—The expected farthing stamp is announced, and we are told it shows a picture of the Grand Harbour of Valetta.

Adhesive. ¼d., red-brown.

MAURITIUS.—A 2 cents envelope of the type of the adhesives of 1896–7 has been reported.

Envelope. 2 cents, dull lilac, on white laid.

NATAL.—With reference to the "HALF" on 1d. of 1895, with long leg to the letter "H," described in the *M. J.* of August last, and chronicled in *Mekeel's Weekly* in 1898, as reported, the *M. J.* now states:—

"Since writing the above, we have received a letter from a correspondent at Port Elizabeth, who tells us that he possesses three copies of this variety, used at Durban in March, June, and July, 1895. We presume, therefore, that it existed only in the earliest printing of that provisional."

Our contemporary also informs us that—

"The 1d. card, No. 7 in the Catalogue, has been adorned with divers views of colonial scenery on the back. A correspondent, who sends us one with three pictures on the back, says that there are twelve other views, which we gather also appear in sets of three."

NEW ZEALAND.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the design of the new UNIVERSAL penny postage stamp has been entrusted to Sir Edward Poynter, with instructions that it should be "emblematical of New Zealand diffusing the benefits of reduced postage throughout the world." A million copies of the new stamp have been ordered, and the supply is expected to reach New Zealand about the beginning of December.

The following cutting is from the *M. J.*—

"Mr. Gordon Smith sends us the following list of the varieties of the stamps locally printed during the last two years, which he has been able to find in our publishers' stock. This list supersedes and supplements that formed by Nos. 209 to 222 in the Catalogue:—

1899–1900. Types 27 *to* 36. *No wmk. Perf.* 11.

2½d., blue.	6d., bright green.
3d., yellow-brown.	8d., indigo.
4d., carmine.	9d., purple.
5d., chocolate-brown.	1s., red.
6d., dark green.	2s., blue-green.

5s., vermilion.

Types 24 *and* 31. *No wmk. Perf.* 11.

4d., brown and blue.	6d., carmine.

"Mr. Ewen has also shown us the 6d., recently received, in a *pale carmine*, or *carmine-rose*, shade, and still without watermark.

1900. Types 13 *and* 15. *Wmk.* "A L" *and Star. Perf.* 11.

½d., black.	2d., violet.

Types 23, 29, *and* 25. *Same wmk. and perf.*

½d., pale green.	1d., crimson.
½d., dark ,,	1d., rosine.
1d., lake.	2d., violet.

2d., purple.

"There are various shades of the 1d. and 2d., but the above are the most prominent. The 2d., *purple*, was not found without watermark."

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.—Mr. Ewen has kindly sent us an early copy of the new ½d. stamp.

It is the current ½d. Cape stamp surcharged like the 2½d. value, ORANGE RIVER COLONY in black, and one stamp in each sheet of 240 shows the error without stop after "COLONY." It is reported that an entire new set of stamps for this colony is being prepared over here.

Adhesive.

½d., current Cape stamp, overprinted ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

PERAK.—Yet other provisionals, this time the 8 cents and 50 cents, have been operated upon.

The surcharge is "Three Cent.", in two lines, in black, and the *S. C. F.* informs us that a variety without stop appears once in each sheet.

Specimens reach us from Mr. Franz Reichenheim and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

Adhesives. 3 cents on 8 cents, lilac and ultramarine.
3 ,, 50 ,, green and black.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Other values are chronicled surcharged with "O. S." in tall thin type. This time it is the 4d., 5d., and 6d. values.

Officials. 4d., violet; surcharged "O. S." wide apart.
5d., brown-lilac ,, ,, ,,
6d., blue ,, ,, ,,

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.—A set of stamps is shortly expected to supersede those of the Niger Coast Protectorate (now known as the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria), whose boundaries have been considerably extended.

TRANSVAAL.—The set of stamps surcharged "V. R. I." has been completed by the issue of the £5 value, and the *M. J.* has been informed that sixty stamps of the 2½d. got the surcharge inverted. We hope no other values will be found to keep it company.

Adhesives. 2½d., S.A.R.; surcharged "V. R. I." inverted.
£5 ,, ,, ,,

TURKS ISLANDS.—The *Philatelic Record* announces a new set for these islands.

The design is stated to be a sailing ship in an oval frame, prepared by Messrs. De la Rue and Co.

The values from ½d. to 1s. inclusive are of the ordinary size, and the high values, 2s. and 3s., are of a larger size, similiar to the Falklands 2s. 6d. stamp.

Adhesives.

½d., green.	4d., orange.
1d., rose.	6d., violet.
2d., black-brown.	1s., purple-brown.
2½d., blue.	2s., violet.

3s., brown-lake.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—The letter card of 6 heller is now printed in dark yellow instead of bluish green. The interior is white as before.—*Monthly Circular.*

Letter Card. 6 heller, orange on dark yellow.

CRETE.—We are informed that the current 20 and 50 lepta have changed their colours, and that the provisional surcharge is no longer used, as Crete has been admitted into the Postal Union.—*Monthly Circular.*

Adhesives. 20 lepta, orange.
50 ,, blue.

GREECE.—We are sorry to find this country issuing a quantity of surcharged stamps which may or may not be necessary.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have kindly sent us a list of some fourteen varieties; indeed, as all exist, it is stated, both perf. and imperf., there are twenty-eight additions to the catalogues. Samples of most of the varieties Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send, and a copy of the list follows. We may mention that the surcharge "ΛΕΠΤΑ" and value is in two lines in black. A few minor varieties, partly perforated, etc., may be found, and of the perforated specimens to reach us we make the measurements 11½ and 13½.

Type of first issue (large head).

30 on 40 lepta, lilac.
40 on 2 ,, bistre.
50 on 40 ,, buff.
3 drachma on 10 lepta, orange.
5 ,, on 40 ,, violet.

Same type, surcharged "A.M." *in addition to new value.*

1 drachma on 40 lepta, violet on blue.
2 ,, on 5 ,, green.

Type of 1886 (*small head*).

20 on 25 lepta, ultramarine.
20 on 25 ,, blue.
20 on 25 ,, indigo.
1 drachma on 40 lepta, red-lilac.
2 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Same type (*small head*), *surcharged* "A.M." *in addition to new values.*

25 on 40 lepta, red-lilac.
50 on 25 ,, blue.

All the above varieties exist both perf. and imperf., the perforated for use in Athens only, the imperf. for the rest of the empire. The letters "A.M." signify *axia metaliki*, and mean that these stamps are only sold for gold and not for the depreciated paper currency; these cost, therefore, 60 to 70 per cent. more than the others. It appears these stamps are used exclusively for parcel post. We have heard later that perforated specimens cannot be had even in Athens unless whole sheets are ordered, and they are perforated in the post office "while you wait."

LEVANT (GERMAN).—Mr. Franz Reichenheim and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have handed us the new German stamps overprinted for use here.

The surcharge is horizontal and in black on all values up to and including the 10 piastres, and vertical and in red on the 3 marks stamp.

Adhesives.

Horizontal black surcharge.

10 PARA 10 on 5 pf., current German stamp.
20 ,, 20 on 10 pf. ,, ,,
1 PIASTER 1 on 20 pf. ,, ,,
1¼ ,, 1¼ on 25 pf. ,, ,,
1½ ,, 1½ on 30 pf. ,, ,,
2 ,, 2 on 40 pf. ,, ,,
2½ ,, 2½ on 50 pf. ,, ,,
4 ,, 4 on 80 pf. ,, ,,
5 ,, 5 on 1 mark ,, ,,
10 ,, 10 on 2 marks ,, ,,

Vertical red surcharge each side.

15 PIASTER 15 on 3 marks, current German stamp.

NOTE.—A 25 piaster on 5 marks is expected later on.

ROUMANIA.—It would appear that the three stamps we chronicled on page 256 are part of a commemorative set of ten values, to celebrate the opening of the new General Post Office at Bucarest.

The values are: 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25, 40, and 50 bani, and 1 and 2 lei, in their existing colours. We have now seen large blocks from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, and find they are printed on a paper coloured *pink* on the back, and watermarked with a Crown and a Coat-of-Arms covering a block of twenty-five stamps. The two corner stamps of the first row in the block have a large "R," and the two of the last row corresponding the numerals "1900," as watermark.

SERVIA.—Two more values are reported printed on ordinary wove paper, without silk threads.

Adhesives. 20 paras, yellow on wove paper.
25 ,, blue ,,

TURKEY.—A new letter card of 1 piastre value, blue on buff, has been issued.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Letter Card. 1 piastre, blue on buff.

AMERICA.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. — A new set reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. They are of oblong shape, with map of the island in centre, "REPUBLICA DOMINICA" in curved label above, "CORREOS" at each side, value in words at bottom, and figures of value in all corners. In addition, there are included two values to complete the 1899 set, types Nos. 24 and 25 of Gibbons'.

Adhesives. ½ centavo, black; type 1899.
½ ,, ,, ,,
1 ,, blue; new issue.
½ ,, red ,,
1 ,, olive ,,
2 centavos, pale-green; new issue.
5 ,, pale red-brown ,,
10 ,, orange ,,
20 ,, mauve ,,
50 ,, black ,,
1 peso, pale brown ,,

PARAGUAY.—We have seen it stated that the two provisional stamps we referred to on page 181 turn out to be Telegraph stamps surcharged in black for postal use, though there is nothing in the surcharge to indicate this, only the old value blocked out and the new value printed on each side of the central coat-of-arms.

UNITED STATES. — The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, in its issue of October 20th, gives full particulars of the designs and colours appropriated to each value of the special issue of stamps for the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo. Our contemporary's correspondent writes :—

"I have had the privilege of examining these designs—the colours having been applied to the designs by hand—and I can assure readers of the *Metropolitan* and Philatelists generally, that if the Bureau possesses the mechanical facilities to bring out the effects upon paper as they appear upon cardboard, the series will be the most beautiful ever produced in this or any other country.

"The stamps will be of the same general shape as the Omaha set, though considerably smaller—about 30 mm. long by 22 mm. wide—uniform throughout. In each stamp the central figure or vignette will be printed in black. Of course the colours for the remaining portion of each stamp will be the same as employed in the current series, being fixed by law.

"The 1 c. value represents in the central picture a steamship with the inscription beneath 'FAST LAKE NAVIGATION.' The shade of green employed on the sample was considerably lighter than that of the common 1 c. variety, being more of an emerald.

"In the centre of the 2 c. value is a fine picture of a railway train—Buffalo being a great railway centre—the shade of red not yet having been determined; probably more of a vermilion cast than the present 2 c. stamp.

"An up-to-date automobile occupies the centre of the 4 c. denomination, the colour probably used being a light shade of brown; lighter than the 10 c., brown, and somewhat darker than the 4 c. Omaha—a brownish orange, to be technical.

"Niagara Falls in all the beauty and grandeur of life will be found occupying the grand stand on the 5 c. value, the illustration being so realistic that one may almost see the spray drifting upward from the rapids below. The blue of the sample is a transparent, dark Prussian shade.

"In the centre of the 8 c. stamp is a magnificent picture of the great canal locks at Sault Ste. Marie, with vessels passing through. The shade of maroon used has a decided violet cast, and is very delicate and pleasing to the eye.

"A mammoth steamship, different from that of the 1 c., occupies the centre of the 10 c. value, representing fast ocean navigation. The colour is dark brown, as in the present stamp.

"At the extreme top of the stamp is the inscription, 'COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE, 1901,' beneath which and above the vignette, in a curve, is 'UNITED STATES POSTAGE.' The values in figures are on either lower corner of each stamp, with the value in letters at the bottom.

"The main idea running through the entire series is 'transportation.' Every illustration, save that of the 5 c. denomination, represents some sort of mode of locomotion. The picture on the 5 c. value, Niagara Falls, is a pleasant compliment to Buffalo, as there is but one such cataract, and everybody knows that to see it one must be put off at Buffalo."

URUGUAY.—In commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the independence of the country, two postal cards were issued on August 25th of this year. Both are printed in black on white, one showing the statue of Liberty, and the other La Piedra Alta, one of the high mountains of Uruguay. —*American Journal of Philately.*

From the same source we are informed that a new issue is impending, and the following is a list of the new postal material which has been ordered from Messrs. Waterlow and Sons :—

1,000,000 stamps of 1 cent., green, with design "A herd of cattle."

1,000,000 stamps of 2 cents., red, with design "Genius of Agriculture."

4,000,000 stamps of 5 cents., dark blue, with design "Genius of Uruguay."

500,000 stamps of 7 cents., orange, with design "Fertility of the country."

1,000,000 stamps of 10 cents., violet, with

design "Commerce controlling the cattle industry of the country."

150,000 wrappers of ½ cent., 150,000 envelopes of 5 cents., and 150,000 letter cards of 3 cents., similar to those now in circulation.

Nothing is said about the higher values of postage stamps, so it is to be presumed the present stock does not require renewing.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—The 5 cents of 1898 now appears in brick-red, and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a specimen.

Adhesive. 5 cents of 1898, brick-red.

COREA.—Are we to have a crop of provisionals here? The *M. J.* reports having seen the 5 poon, No. 7 in the Catalogue, surcharged, in *brown-red*, with a figure "1" over the figure "5," and with characters at the tops of the side labels; also the new 2 cheun with a surcharge in the same colour over the upper right portion of the oval band, and the 3 ch. with a *black* surcharge in a similar position and at the right of the top label.

Adhesives. 1 p. on 5 p., green; brown-red surcharge.
2 cheun, blue ,, ,,
3 ,, brown-red; black ,, ,,

FERNANDO POO.—The colours of the present set are to be changed, the type remaining the same.

It is reported that the following shades have been adopted:—

1 m. to 5 m., black.
1 c., deep green.
2 c., violet.
3 c., red.
4 c., black-brown.
5 c., pale blue.
6 c., carmine.
8 c., bronze-green.
10 c., bright rose.
15 c., brown-violet.
20 c., pale brown.
40 c., red-brown.
60 c., pale green.
80 c., deep blue.
1 p., red.
2 p., Turkish red.

FORMOSA.—The current set of Japanese stamps has been surcharged with "Formosa" in small Japanese characters for use here.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Adhesives. 5 rin, grey; red surcharge.
1 sen, lilac-brown; red surcharge.
2 ,, green ,, ,,
3 ,, brown-violet; black ,,
4 ,, carmine ,, ,,
5 ,, orange-yellow; red ,,
8 ,, olive ,, ,,
10 ,, blue; black ,,
15 ,, violet ,, ,,
20 ,, red-orange; black ,,
25 ,, blue-green ,, ,,
50 ,, violet-brown ,, ,,
1 yen, carmine ,, ,,

FRENCH COLONIES AND POST OFFICES.—*Alexandria.*—An envelope and a letter card are chronicled, surcharged "ALEXANDRIE."

Envelope.
15 c., blue on pale greeen; "ALEXANDRIE" in red.

Letter Card.
15 c., blue on grey; "ALEXANDRIE" in red.

China.—The discovery is reported of a copy of the 10 cents., black on lilac, surcharged "CHINE," in *blue* instead of *red*, and used at Shanghai in July, 1897.

Morocco—

Post Card. 5 c. on 10 c., black on green.

Port Said.—We have had specimens submitted to us by Mr. Franz Reichenheim of the two provisional stamps referred to on page 26, and find they agree with the description there given.

The first overprint, "25" in figures, is very indistinct, and made more so by the second surcharge, VINGT / CINQ.

GERMAN MOROCCO.—The new German set, from 3 pf. to 3 marks, has been overprinted in centimos and pesetas for use here, and was issued on October 18th. Sets reach us from Mr. Franz Reichenheim and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

The values from 3 centimos to 1 peseta are surcharged "Marocco" and value in two lines, horizontally, in black; the 1 pes. 25 cts. and 2 pes. 50 cts. have the value horizontally at foot of design, and "Marocco" vertically on each side, in black; while the 3 pes. 75 cts. has "Marocco" vertically on the left and value on the right side, overprint in red.

Adhesives.

Horizontal surcharge in black.

3 centimos on 3 pf. current German stamp.
5 ,, on 5 pf. ,, ,, ,,
10 ,, on 10 pf. ,, ,, ,,
25 ,, on 20 pf. ,, ,, ,,
30 ,, on 25 pf. ,, ,, ,,
35 ,, on 30 pf. ,, ,, ,,
50 ,, on 40 pf. ,, ,, ,,
60 ,, on 50 pf. ,, ,, ,,
1 peseta on 80 pf. ,, ,, ,,

Horizontal and vertical surcharge in black.

1 pes. 25 cts. on 1 mark current German stamp.
2 ,, 50 ,, on 2 marks ,, ,, ,,

Vertical surcharge in red.

3 pes. 75 cts. on 3 marks current German stamp.

JAPAN.—A new value, 1½ sen, in ultramarine, of the 1899 type reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co.

Adhesive. 1½ sen, ultramarine, type 1899, perf. 12×11½.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES. — Messrs. Gibbons, Limited, have made some further discoveries upon going through their stock.

In continuation of the notes given last month there are the following :—

Madeira.—1876 issue.

Add—55*a*. 50 r., deep green.
Types 5 and 6 should be transposed.

1876–80 issue.

Add—84*a*. 50 r., blue.

Mozambique.—Nos. 21, 34. 35 should be struck out; 21 exists only as a reprint; 34 and 35 do not exist.

"1893. Type 6 *surcharged in* black."

The description should be—

(i.) "PROVISORIO" 19 mm. long, figure 4½ mm. high.
(ii.) "PROVISORIO" 19½ mm. long, figure 5 mm. high.
(iii.) With both types of figure on the same stamp.

And add 77*a*. 5 on 4 r., chocolate (iii.).

Nos. 79 and 80 are the same as Nos. 157 and 159. Nos. 157, 158, 159, with the heading "*Two varieties of the* 2½ r." should be transferred to p. 286 and become 79, 79*a*, 80, as they are not surcharged "JORNAES."

Mozambique Company.—1894 issue. This should be described as "On chalk-surfaced paper, except values on *cream*."

(ii.) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—25*a*. 50 r., blue on *cream*.
(iii.) *Perf.* 13½.
Add 34*a*. 15 r., lake-brown on *cream*.
1898 issue.
Delete Nos. 51, 53, 56, 57, 59, 62.
Nos. 52 and 60 are on *cream*.
Add—63*a*. 150 r., brown-orange on *rose*.

Ponta Delgada.—1892–3 issue.
No. 1 is on *cream*.
Add—2*a*. 25 r., green.
There should be no number between 15 and 17.

Portuguese Congo.—1893 issue.
(*a*) *Perf.* 11½.
Add—0. 15 r., red-brown.

St. Thomas and Prince Islands.—1881–5 issue.
(*a*) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—45*a*. 50 r., indigo (pl. 2).
After No. 217 delete "1898," etc., and No. 218.

Timor.—1885 issue.
(*b*) *Perf.* 13½.
Add—15*a*. 25 r., violet.
Variety, double surcharge.
22*a*. 5 r., black.
1898 issue.
Nos. 69 and 70 are *perf.* 12½.

Zambezia.—The stamps of 1894 are on *chalk-surfaced* paper.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

Honorary President—

Council for the Year 1900-1901.

President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.
Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.
Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.
Hon. Assistant Secretary—H. R. OLDFIELD.
Hon. Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

W. B. AVERY.	L. L. R. HAUSBURG.
E. D. BACON.	C. E. MCNAUGHTAN.
W. D. BECKTON.	R. MEYER.
R. EHRENBACH.	F. RANSOM.

H. J. WHITE.

THE first meeting of the season 1900–1 was held at Effingham House on Friday, October 26th, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present: M. P. Castle, G. Fraser Melbourn, Rudolph Frentzel, Sidney Castle, L. L. R. Hausburg, C. E. McNaughtan, E. D. Bacon, Robert Ehrenbach, A. R. Barrett, Gordon Smith, Arthur H. Stamford, Edward J. Nankivell, J. A. Tilleard, Franz Reichenheim, Rudolph Meyer, William Silk, jun., T. Maycock, W. Schwabacher, C. Neville Biggs.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, as published in the *London Philatelist*, having been taken as read, the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on June 22nd were read and confirmed.

Before proceeding to the business of the evening Mr. Castle called attention to the loss sustained by the Society during the recess by the death of the Honorary President—H.R.H. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. He referred to the great advantages which had resulted from the active association of H.R.H. with the pursuit of Philately, and in a few well-chosen remarks paid a fitting tribute to the memory of the late President, whose untimely death is so widely mourned. Mr. Castle concluded by moving the following resolution, which was duly carried:—

"That the members of the Philatelic Society, London, assembled for the first meeting of the season 1900–1, desire to record their sense of the great loss sustained by the nation and by this Society in the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (Duke of Edinburgh), the Honorary President of the Society, and to express their loyal and sincere sympathy with H.R.H. the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and the family of his late Royal Highness in their bereavement."

The receipt from the Philatelic Society of India of a *Handbook on the Stamps of Bhopal*, by Mr. G. A. Anderson, and Part I. of a *Handbook on the Stamps of Kashmir and Jammu*, by Mr. D. P. Masson, was directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of this Society.

The deaths of Mr. W. E. Jeff and Dr. J. H. Redman, two well-known members of the Society, were reported, and the announcement was received with very great regret.

The Vice-President then gave a short address of welcome to the members on the resumption of work for the new season, and called special attention to the events of the recess, including in particular the great impetus to Philately caused by the interest shown in the various stamps, the outcome of the war in South Africa.

In the course of his remarks he gave an outline of the work already promised for the meetings, and invited contributions of papers and displays from members.

In accordance with the provisions of the statutes, it was decided that the general meetings of the present season should be held fortnightly, in addition to one Exchange meeting in each month.

Mr. L. T. R. Hutchinson, proposed by Mr. William Stewart, and seconded by the Hon. Secretary, was duly elected a member of the Society.

Mr. F. Reichenheim then read a short paper on "The New German Provisional Stamps," illustrated by a display of his own collection of the stamps under consideration. The reasons necessitating the use of provisional stamps for the first time in German possessions were explained, and a full description of the issues and of the various types to be found was given. On the motion of

the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. R. Meyer, the cordial thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Reichenheim for his interesting paper.

In the course of the evening Mr. E. D. Bacon explained the means which were proposed to be adopted by the authorities of the British Museum for enabling the whole of the stamps of the Tapling Collection to be available for inspection by the public, and the announcement was received with great satisfaction by the members present.

Mr. Fraser Melbourn showed a complete list of all the towns having post offices in the various postal districts in Holland.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.

The third meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on Friday evening, October 26th, when the President took the chair, and there were ten other members present.

Mr. H. E. Walker gave a display of "The Stamps of Mexico," explaining in detail the various issues and varieties, which included the 1 real, 1861, error of colour, 1 real, 1862, error of colour, surcharged "Mexico" in Gothic type, many of the Guadalajara issue, 12c., 1872, blue on laid, and other good stamps.

The fourth meeting took place on Friday, November 9th, the President being in the chair, and thirteen other members and one visitor present.

A resolution of sympathy with the family of the late Mr. T. Ridpath, formerly an honorary member of the Society, was passed.

In illustration of a paper on "The Fading of Stamp Colours," read by Mr. M. W. Jones, the writer showed a number of bisected stamps of various countries, one half of each stamp having been exposed for several weeks to strong sunlight, and notes taken of the changes in colour every seven days.

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

Herts Philatelic Society.

A special meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, October 23rd, at 7 p.m.

Present: Messrs. Avery, Bois, Bounds, Boyes, Bradbury, Cool, Dry, Frentzel, Hausburg, Haynes, Jones, Kuttner, Laing, Mardon, Mellor, Melville, Meyer, Reichenheim, Standen, Styles, Sutherland, Thomson, Wane, Wills, Slade, and one visitor.

The following were elected ordinary members of the Society: Mrs. Kingsley, Philipp Kosack, F. J. Melville, F. Neck, H. W. Plumridge, and D. Thomson.

At the conclusion of general business Mr. W. B. Avery gave a display of his magnificent collection of the stamps of the British West Indies. Where all the islands were so strongly represented it is difficult to make comparisons; but perhaps Nevis, with its wealth of every difference of paper, printing, shade, etc., its entire and reconstructed sheets, and its practical completeness, attracted the greatest attention from the members, St. Vincent being a good second. When the last of the sheets had been passed round the Chairman (Mr. G. Haynes) passed a hearty and enthusiastic vote of thanks to Mr. Avery for his great courtesy to the members, and intimated that he (Mr. Avery) had consented to accept a Vice-Presidency of the Society, and had promised to renew his kindness on some future occasion. Mr. Avery returned thanks for his reception, and congratulated the Society on its progress during the past year. The meeting terminated at 10 p.m.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

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

November 6th. The election of the following new members was confirmed: Messrs. H. Griebert, F. B. Vandeleur, W. A. Jutsum, W. K. Hall, H. Champ, and J. W. Jones. The following were then unanimously elected members: Mrs. Livingston, Commander B. H. Chevallier, R.N., Messrs. C. E. Baker, J.P., F. J. Durrant, S. E. Gamell, C. H. Mercer, J. R. Ponder, W. H. Woodroffe, G. Padoux, W. Swire.

Mr. W. B. Avery then gave his display of British North America and New South Wales to a good attendance of highly appreciative members. The superb condition of the specimens, even in reconstructed sheets, was a revelation to those who had not previously seen the collection, and the whole display was a great treat to all present. Several uncatalogued varieties were noted by the members, and a long and most delightful meeting was brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Avery, who replied in his usual felicitous manner.

The first auction takes place on December 9th. Lots must reach the Hon. Sec. by November 19th.

Suburban Exchange Club.

June packets have returned from circulation, and sheets have been forwarded and accounts rendered with the least possible delay. Sales maintained a very satisfactory average, and demonstrated the fact that there is a good demand for medium and rare stamps in fine condition.

Three packets, valued in the aggregate at nearly £1,600, were made up and despatched over the September circuit in good time. Now that the holiday season is at an end, it is anticipated that sufficient sheets will be received by October 20th to make up four packets. Members who do not contribute sheets, but wish to see packets, are recommended to notify their wishes, in order that proper steps may be taken. Seven applications for membership have been received during the past month, of which two have been held over for further inquiries. Proper references should always accompany every application to avoid delay. The Secretary requests members to see (1) that their stamps are securely affixed to sheets by hinges; (2) that sheets are sent in not later than the 20th of each month; and (3) that none but Club sheets are used. By carrying out these requests much inconvenience will be obviated.

[We are reluctantly compelled to hold over Reports of several Philatelic Societies.—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.*

THE following, taken from *M. A. P.*, is a specimen of the nonsense written about Philately one frequently reads in the columns of the Press of the day :—

"*Mainly about stamps.*—I have learnt with some amazement that a complete set of Orange Free State stamps, surcharged by the British Government 'V.R.I.', including all the varieties —even although they were only issued a few months ago—is now worth anything between three and five hundred pounds, the face value being hardly as many shillings. Not unnaturally, perhaps, dozens of officers at the front have become feverish stamp collectors. But even Lord Roberts himself has found time to develop an enthusiasm for this curiously fascinating hobby. One of the returned war artists, Mr. Mortimer Menpes, boasts of an absolutely complete set of Orange Free State surcharged stamps, which are now being arranged and catalogued for him by a professional expert in such matters."

* * *

MORE ABOUT MAFEKING STAMPS.—Under this head "our special correspondent in South Africa" writes to *Ewen's Weekly Journal* from Kimberley on the 21st September as follows.

The quotation is pertinent to our financial column, but we cannot subscribe to all that Mr. Jacobs states.

"I have lately had a talk with Mr. Ferdinand Jacobs, a merchant of Mafeking, who was through the siege, regarding the special issue of stamps. This gentleman, although not a stamp collector, took great interest in the siege stamps—in fact, dealt in them largely, and is reported to have cleared £1,000 profit in them. The following report shows Mr. Jacobs's opinions of these stamps, and I give the information for what it is worth :—

"There was no real need for the stamps, except, perhaps, the 1d. and 3d. values. They were issued to give a few people something to do, and to give others a chance of making money, presumably as compensation for the privations undergone during the siege. The stamps were primarily intended for local postage, and those used for foreign postage were doubtless only passed by the courtesy of the Post Office. It has been questioned whether stamps were even needed for local postage, but it seems that they were. For instance, from Mafeking to the Brickfields, where the Cape Police, etc., were stationed, was a distance of about 1,000 yards, and no one was allowed to go there without a special permit. Letters were carried between these places by cyclists, and the postage was, I believe, 1d., though most of the letters had 3d., 6d., 1/-, etc., put on.

"The stamps were overprinted one at a time in the stamp office, generally by Postmaster Howat, under the supervision of the military authorities. Something like forty sets of nineteen were signed by the postmaster."

* * *

MESSRS. BRIGHT AND SON inform us that the fourth edition of their "A B C" Stamp Catalogue will appear during this month, and will consist of about 850 pages. They state that the pricing has received great attention, and although compelled to increase prices in some instances, they have made substantial reductions in a very large number of cases. A novel feature will be introduced, *e.g.*: "The prices quoted in some catalogues for used copies of the stamps of Great Britain are notoriously unreliable as regards stamps in fine condition. In this country we have priced two grades of used stamps, 'Light Cancellations' and 'Usual Cancellations.' This is the first attempt to give collectors a proper idea of the value of these stamps."

* * *

MR. PHILIPP KOSACK, of Berlin, has kindly sent us his recently issued catalogue, which is intended as a guide to his customers, as showing what his stock consists of. It includes the prices of all old German Colonial stamps, used and unused; list, with illustrations, of the newly issued German Colonial stamps; list of the post offices in the German Colonies; prices of nearly all German stamps, used and unused; prices of many English and French Colonial stamps; special list of stamps of U.S.A.; prices of stamps of miscellaneous countries; offers of packets and sets; selections of specialist countries, and all accessories necessary for collectors. Mr. Kosack is well known to hold one of of the most important stamp stocks in Germany, and this is fully borne out by this catalogue, which is supplied free to all his customers, on application to him at 8, Burg Strasse, Berlin C.

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MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale of October 16th and 17th. Denmark, 2 r.b.s., unused, £2 10s. Finland, 10 p., purple-brown, error of colour, unused, £5. Portugal, 1855, head with straight hair, 5 reis, red-brown, unused, £8 5s. "Mafeking Besieged," set of nineteen stamps, £28 10s.; 6d. on 3d., brown and yellow, used, £3 3s.; 3d. on 1d., lilac, *sans-serif* capitals, unused, £2 6s.; 1s. on 6d., lilac on red, used, on entire, £3 11s.; 6d. on 3d., lilac, unappropriated die, unused, £3 4s.; 2s. on 1s., green, *sans-serif* capitals, used, £3 5s. Baden-Powell, 3d., blue, small size, unused, £2 10s. Unused Bicycle stamps averaged 14s. each Lagos, 2s. 6d., grey, unused, £3 5s. Niger Coast, 10s. in red on 5d., unused, mint, £6 10s. Canada, 10d., blue, on medium paper, unused, £5 5s. United States, 1869, 24 cents, with inverted centre, used, £12 10s. Nevis, perf. 15, 6d., grey, litho., pair, unused, £10, and a single specimen, £4 15s.

* * *

MESSRS. PLUMRIDGE AND CO.'S sale of Oct. 23rd and 24th. Brazil, 600 reis, italic figures, unused, £4 10s. British Columbia, C C, 14, 10 cent, mint, £3 3s.; perf. 12½, 5 cent, mint, £1 10s. British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., used, £18. British Honduras, 1s., grey, used, £1 15s. "Mafeking Besieged," set of eighteen, £20; 1s. on 6d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, used, £1 18s.;

1s. on 4d , ditto, used, £1 8s. Hungary, 3 k., litho., unused, but off centre, £1 7s. Lagos, 2s. 6d., mint, £3 7s. 6d. Mauritius, 2d., *Venoe*, used, £11 10s. Nevis, CA, 14, 4d., blue, horizontal pair, full gum, £2 8s. Oil Rivers, ½d., vermilion, on 2½d. (S.G. No. 18), mint, £1 1s.; ½d., carmine, on 2½d. (S.G. No. 15), mint, £1 12s.; 1s., in violet, on 2d. (S.G. No. 28), mint, £1 16s.; ditto, ditto, a fine used copy, showing broken type, 15s. St. Christopher, "ONE PENNY," small surcharge, on 2½d. ultramarine, used with 1d. carmine, on the entire original, rather faded, £12 10s. St. Vincent, CA, 12, 4d., ultramarine, mint, £2 8s. Spain, 1852, 2 reales, horizontal pair, heavy postmark, £9. Neuchatel, 5 centimes, unused, no gum, £9. Virgin Isles, 1s., dull brown, used, £1 5s.

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Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale of October 25th and 26th. French Soudan, 1st issue, 0·15 on 75 c., imperf., used, £2 17s. 6d. Moldavia, 1st issue, 108 paras, blue on pink, unused, a little defective, but very rare, Expert Committee's Report attached, £11. Cashmere, 1866, 1 anna, emerald-green, unused, £6. Ceylon, 8d., imperf., two pinholes, used, £15. Portuguese Indies, 1883, 4½d., in black, on 40 reis, blue (S.G. No. 158), used, £5 Canada, 10d., blue, thick paper, unused, with gum, £4. New Brunswick, 1 cent, purple, unused block of four, imperf. vertically, £3. Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-vermilion, unused, with gum, £6 10s. St. Vincent, 5s., Star, full gum, £9 10s. Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, unused, with gum, £12 5s.; 6d., litho., with gum, £4 5s. and £5. Azores, 1st issue, 5 reis, imperf., used, £3 3s. British East Africa, 1st issue, the set of three, £3 15s.; provisional, manuscript surcharge, ½ a. (*A.B.*) on 2 a., vermilion, £5 10s.; ditto, 1 a. on 3 a., a fine horizontal pair, used on entire, registered, with a 2½ a., £4 12s. 6d.; ditto, 5 a., black on grey-blue, £3 3s.; ditto, 2 rupees, £2 12s. 6d. British South Africa, 1d. on 3d., used, £3 10s. Cape Woodblocks, 1d., brick-red, unused pair, with gum, £51; provisionals, 3d., in red, on 4d., blue, the errors "The.ee" and "Pench," £5 10s. Lagos, 10s., lilac-brown, used, £8 5s. Mauritius, provisional, 1863–72, ½d. on 9d., dull purple, with inverted surcharge, unused, £3 3s. Natal, "Postage" 15 mm., 1s., green, fine, with Expert Committee's Report, £6 10s.; 1s., green, with curved surcharge in black, £4 7s. 6d. Oil Rivers, provisionals, ½d. on half 1d., an unused pair (S.G. No. 7), £1 14s.; ditto, ½d., in carmine caps., on 2½d., unused, mint (S.G. No. 15), £1 14s.; ditto, ½d., in blue caps., on 2½d., unused, mint (S.G. No. 15A), £1 16s.; ditto, ½d., in blue fancy caps., on 2d. (S.G. No. 22), £3 3s.; ditto, 1s., in vermilion, on 2d., unused, in mint state (S G. No. 29), £2 4s. Transvaal, "V.R." in red on 1s., green, used, £3 7s. 6d. Zululand, 5s., carmine, used, £2 2s. A collection of 7,569 stamps, £80.

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Messrs. Debenham, Storr, and Sons, Ltd., sale of October 26th. Mafeking Siege stamps: On Cape—6d. on 3d., claret, three, used, £8 10s.; 1s. on 4d., green, used singles, £1 12s., £1 16s., and £1 18s. On Bechuanaland Protectorate—three, 1d. on ½d., vermilion, used, three singles, one with *inverted* surcharge, £12 12s.; two ditto, one with *inverted* surcharge, £13; 6d. on 3d., brown on yellow, two singles, used, £5 10s. and £5 10s. (two lots). On British Bechuanaland—1s. on 4d., green and brown, block of six, used, £7; singles on entire, £2 15s. and £2 7s. 6d. The rare 1s. on 6d., lilac and red, singles, used, £5 5s., £5, and £5; and 2s. on 1s., green, singles, used, £3, £2 17s. 6d., and £2 15s.

* * *

Mr. W. Hadlow's sale of October 29th. Portuguese Indies, 6 on 10 r., yellow, used, £2 12s; 6 on 40 r., blue, used, £2 2s.; 6 on 50 r., blue, used, £1 10s.; 4½, in black, on 40 r., blue, surcharged twice, used, £4 4s. Victoria, reconstructed plate of the 2d., litho., £3 3s.; partly reconstructed plate of forty-five stamps of the 2d., engraved, £5.

* * *

Messrs. Plumridge and Co.'s sale of November 6th and 7th. Mafeking, set of eighteen stamps, used, £22; and a mixed lot of fifteen specimens, used, £15. Great Britain, 1870, 1½d., deep red, the variety lettered "O.P.P.C.," 29s. Mexico, 3 centavos, eagle, with gum, £2 6s. South Australia, rouletted, 10d., blue on yellow, part gum, £1 6s. Spain, 1851, 6 r., blue, with gum, £2 2. Virgin Islands, ½d., yellow-buff, *used*, £1 11.

* * *

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale of November 8th. Gibraltar, 1st issue complete, used, £3 15s. Puttialla State, "PATIALA STATE" on 9 p., carmine, an entire unused sheet of 240, showing the various misprints, etc., £5; 4 a., surcharged "STATE" only, the word "PATIALA" being omitted, used on entire, £7. Cape, 1d., red, Woodblock, used, £3 15s. British Honduras, 1891, provisional, "6" in red on 10 c., with surcharge inverted, used with an ordinary specimen on entire envelope, £3 2s.; a similar lot, but with black surcharge, £3 2s.; ditto, 6 in black on 10 c., and 6d. in red on 10 c., both with inverted surcharges and used together on entire, £6 6s. St. Vincent, 1s., claret, unused, £3. Fiji, 2d. in black on 6c., with plain "V.R.", used, £3 17s. 6d. Collections sold as follows (Lallier's): 719, £14; 2,964, in Smith's, £27; and the *Dagonet*, of 1,626 stamps, went for £19.

* * *

Mr. H. L. Calman, of New York, who has been making a business tour in Europe, sailed for the States on the 16th of this month, in company with Mr. C. J. Phillips, of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., who will be away for some three months in America. Mr. Phillips has taken with him a magnificent stock of rarities, and evidently intends, from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific slope, to make American Philatelists' mouths water!

* * *

Included in Mr. J. C. Stevens' sale of November 15th were a quantity of Mafeking Siege and other stamps.

We notice the following:—

The rare 6d. "Mafeking" on 3d. Cape, used, 45s. and 47s. 6d.; 1s. on 6d. British Bechuanaland, used, £5 5s. A set of nineteen "Mafekings" sold for £26 5s.; fifty-eight "Mafekings" (several lots bulked) realised £30. Transvaal "V R." in rubber type, issued in Rustenberg, used, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1s., and 2s. 6d., with official written guarantee, £7 17s. 6d. Vryburg, unused, the rare ½d. and 1d. Cape, surcharged during temporary Boer occupation, part gum, rare thus, £2 10s.; ditto, used, ½d. and 1d., £2 2s. and £2 6s A block of five *Bicycles*, unused, £4 4s.

THE

London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IX. DECEMBER, 1900. No. 108.

The Survival of the Fittest.

IN the case of the collection of entires it is apparent that the weakest have gone to the wall, and, following Dame Nature, there is an inevitable tendency to the gradual extinction of the least fit. The announcement recently made by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, following so shortly after the cessation of business of M. Moens, has created feelings of universal interest, strongly punctuated by regrets that so genuine and honest a branch of Philately should have suffered such a knockdown blow. Almost all the Philatelic journals throughout the world have their remarks hereon, and as representing the two important sections of stamp collecting in the United States and Germany, we quote the following excerpts, the first from Mekeel's *Weekly*, the second from *Der Philatelist*:—

"This firm (Stanley Gibbons, Limited) has decided to exclude all entires and locals from their catalogue, and also from the *Monthly Journal*. In future they will import nothing fresh in this class of Philately, and will make their specialty the retail stamp trade and the publication of philatelic works. It is very probable that this decision will prove a severe blow to the collectors of postal stationery. The largest firm in England coming to a conclusion like this is sure to make some of the smaller dealers follow their example. Meanwhile, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have a little lot of nearly a million 'entires' going cheap."

"Herewith, then, the systematic importation of 'entires' by this widely known firm ceases, and that after another big importer, Mr. J. B. Moens, has given up his business. We consider this to be a very great blow to collectors of 'entires,' the results of which will not be long before they are felt. In any case it will be very much more difficult to obtain 'entires' in the future.

"It is undoubtedly not to be denied that the importation of 'entires' is much more expensive and cumbersome than that of stamps. The advance in the prices of unused 'entires,' therefore, must be proportionately higher if the importer is to cover his expenses as well as gain something. Under the present conditions of diminished interest in 'entires' he has too much stock left upon his hands, and on this account must demand even higher prices. Thus Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' step

can very well be understood, the more so when the growth of their stock, to the total of 850,000 'entires,' is taken account of.

"Unfortunately, however, the firm will assuredly not alter its decision. Thus the means of reviving interest in the collection of 'entires,' which we had hoped to effect, ceases, and the effect of ceasing to chronicle these 'entires' will be particularly injurious both in the excellent *Monthly Journal* as well as in the catalogue of this widely known firm."

We cannot but express a feeling of sympathy with the general plaint that entires should be dropped aside, and sincerely hope that some means may be adopted in this country and others that at least a small number of each issued card and envelope shall be imported in order that "the species may not become extinct," and that the future recorder of philatelic history shall not be deprived of his current records of new issues. We understand that this feeling has a number of adherents in the Philatelic Society of London, and hope to see some plan propounded by co-operation among collectors, which should attain the desired end in the limited importation of each newly-issued entire.

That Messrs. Stanley Gibbons should have decided to give up this form of importation can be no surprise to anyone acquainted with their hundredweights of this stock; but we could wish, from a purely philatelic aspect, that some other and less honest occupiers of catalogue numbers had been the subject of excluded import. We could better spare the "locals," the fiscals used postally, the "bisects," or even the Unpaid Letter Stamps! The colossal increase of new issues must have a pressing-out tendency at the other end. Collectors will not take, nor catalogues hold, the ever-increasing number of varieties, and in Philately, as in all else, the battle will go to the strong, and those who are not of the fittest will not survive.

The Tapling Collection.

By M. P. CASTLE.



WE have much pleasure in making the following announcement, which we have from a well-informed source, and which bears every appearance of being authentic, although we cannot give an official confirmation:—

"The Crown Agents for the Colonies have recently presented to the authorities of the British Museum a large series of postage stamps manufactured for them for use in the Colonies. These stamps are to be incorporated in the great collection bequeathed to the nation by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, which will thus be rendered more complete. Moreover, the Crown Agents intend to deposit in the Museum specimens of future issues. The whole of this magnificent collection will ere long be made accessible for purposes of comparison."

This intimation, if efficiently confirmed, is of the highest import, as it seems to inevitably foreshadow the *continuation* of the Tapling Collection.

This would be a consummation that is devoutly desired by all classes in British Philately. It is universally felt that so magnificent a bequest should be the groundwork of a national collection, which should remain for all time available for the instruction and inspection of the numerous inhabitants of Her Majesty's dominions who are connected with stamps and stamp collecting. To maintain and perpetuate the value of the collection for the purposes of comparison or instruction, it is clearly necessary that it should be kept up to date. This object, we are convinced, could be attained at very little expense by the department to which it has been entrusted. It is obvious that the Government stands in a remarkably favourable position to acquire almost all new issues without much trouble or any expense by exchange with other nations. The question of filling up the blanks in the collection as bequeathed by the late Mr. Tapling, or of completing the decade of new issues from 1890, at which date we believe the collection finishes, up to to-day, presents more difficulties. So keen, however, is the general desire to have the collection made complete that we are convinced that, with the willing contributions of all sections of Philately, this aching void would be speedily filled. We cannot too earnestly impress upon the authorities of the British Museum the desire of all sections of Philately to see the superb collection not only—as fortunately has been promised—properly displayed, but *continued, as are other printed departments in the Museum.* We cannot but hope that this announcement indicates at once a new departure, and an awakened feeling upon the part of the Trustees of the British Museum to the true needs of the situation. Philately is not without its supporters among the inner council of the Museum, and we are thereby emboldened to hope for the due continuation and completion of the collection.

If the Trustees will agree to this, we are assured that no effort will be spared on the part of collectors or dealers to render their labours or expense as light as possible. We venture to predict that an influential committee could and would be promptly formed that would not rest from its self-imposed task until the Tapling Collection was made complete up to the end of the expiring century.

Mafeking Stamps: Additional Notes.

By J. R. F. TURNER.

REFERRING to Mr. Stamford's interesting article in your previous issue, there is an error in his last sentence. He says he believes there was a whole sheet (240) of the 3d. on 1d. British Bechuanaland *with inverted surcharge.* Firstly, there is no such stamp as the 3d. on 1d. *British Bechuanaland.* Secondly, the two stamps he probably refers to were the two copies of the 1d. on ½d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, sold by Debenham, Storr, and Sons for £12 12s. and £13 respectively. Mr. Stamford

was present when these were sold, and no doubt he had them in his mind when he was writing. Thirdly, there is no evidence that more than a single row of six stamps bears the surcharge inverted. Why a sheet of 240? Who says so? These stamps were surcharged in rows of six, not in entire sheets. *Three* of the 1d. on ½d. British Protectorate have turned up, and there can be no question that they are every bit as rare as the other stamps with inverted surcharges.

Unless one of each has been destroyed, the postmaster is wrong in stating that only five of each of the varieties he enumerates exist. There must have been at least six of each, since, as I have before stated, they were surcharged in rows of six at a time. In the case of the "Fancy Capitals" varieties it is possible to say at a glance whether any given stamp is either No. 1 or 2, or 3, or 4, or 5, or 6 on the strip, according to its variety of type. This is a most important discovery, and renders the task of the would-be forger practically a hopeless one. Nos. 5 and 6 on the strip have no comma (not full stop, as stated in some quarters) after "Mafeking," and this fact gives us eleven additional thoroughly collectible varieties.

By the way, what real evidence that the stamps were speculative at their date of issue has been forthcoming? Up till now I have seen none whatever. Nobody says that the Orange River Colony and Transvaal V.R.I. are speculative; but, as a matter of fact, there has been far more *speculation* in these stamps than in Mafekings. Both Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Ewen have sold enormous quantities. I maintain that if the dealers—both amateur and professional—had been able to secure unused sheets of Mafekings at face value, and do a roaring business in them, not a word would they have said against them!

Stamp collectors nowadays act and speak as though every issue of stamps was made for their especial benefit. The real function of a stamp is to frank a letter, not to adorn a stamp collection, and if, as I have no doubt was the case, Colonel Baden-Powell authorised the issue, having regard to the postal needs of the place without giving the slightest thought to stamp collectors, it is absurd and illogical to say it was a speculative issue. Supposing I or anyone else interested in stamps had been in Mafeking during the siege and had heard that special siege stamps were being issued, what should we have done? Hurried off to the post office to buy some, without the shadow of a doubt. On being told that unused stamps were not sold we should have asked by what means we could secure specimens, and on being informed that we could get some sent through on a letter we should have immediately taken one addressed to one of ourselves to the post office, paid for the stamps that the post office official affixed to it, and departed in peace. The next day we would have sent another similar letter, and so on to the end of the siege. But it might also have occurred to us that we could not possibly do any harm by applying to the fountain-head for a full set, and the Colonel being a good-natured man, it is quite conceivable that he might have instructed the postmaster to furnish a set carefully obliterated. We might have tried other officials in Mafeking as well, and by a stroke of luck may have succeeded in raising a few unused. Consequently, at the end of the siege, we would find ourselves the owners of quite a nice assort-

ment of Mafeking stamps, which cost us next to nothing. But because of all these circumstances how ridiculous it would be to say that the stamps were speculative. Practically the same methods are being adopted at the present time with all kinds of stamps. New issues appear, and collectors will have them. If they cannot get them at the post office, they get them somewhere else; but get them they will. There are many cases in point (*e.g.* English Government Parcels and I.R. Official and U.S.A. Periodicals), but though considerable speculation has taken place in them, they were certainly not speculative issues. It seems to me that nearly all the adverse criticism against Mafekings comes from people totally unconversant with facts—people who, for the moment, actually appear to forget that Mafeking was in a state of siege, and under strict martial law. Under the existing circumstances, it is surely the height of folly to imagine that the stamps as authorised could have been of a speculative character. All the evidence to hand is diametrically opposed to such a conclusion.

Moreover, since not more than one out of every dozen stamps newly issued is really necessary *from a stamp collector's point of view*, it is immaterial whether Mafekings were *absolutely* necessary or not. At the same time it should be apparent to every fair-minded Philatelist that the authorities at Mafeking were far better able to judge of the postal needs of the place than irresponsible people sitting comfortably at home over 6,000 miles away! *

* Mr. Turner asks our insertion of following correction in his article in the last number.—Ed.

Page 289. Foot of page. Sentence beginning "It appears. . . . aforesaid Private Tugwood" should have been continued as follows:—"that some wear boots and some do not."

The words "(see illustrations)" in middle of same page are misplaced; they should have been inserted at end of previous sentence.

Occasional Notes.

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

WE are requested by the Expert Committee to repeat the following announcement:—

New Arrangement.

1. The Committee can in future examine stamps only once a month, and will meet for that purpose at dates as nearly as possible at the commencement of each month.

2. All stamps submitted to be expertised must be received not later than the last day of the month preceding.

3. The fees must always be sent with the stamps, and in future will be as follows:—

For Stamps Pronounced Genuine.

Three shillings for a single stamp.

Two shillings and sixpence each for more than one stamp; a proportionate return being made in the case of forgeries or reprints

FOR STAMPS PRONOUNCED FORGERIES OR REPRINTS.

One shilling and sixpence each.

Pairs, strips, and blocks counted as one stamp.

It should be remembered that the fee for genuine specimens includes a certificate and photograph of the stamp, and it has been found that the expenses of registration and postage between the various members of the Committee, with the photographs, has on the average entailed a loss to the Society. The difficulties that blocked the path of the Committee have happily been removed, and we are confident that the announcement of the continuance of this good work will elicit the approval of all classes in Philately.

CAPE G.P.O. AND MAFEKING STAMPS.

THE *Cape Government Gazette* of November 9th, 1900, contains the following interesting announcement. It will be observed that the Postmaster-General calls the Mafekings "a reissue by the Military Authorities" and "specially issued local stamps." We are indebted to Mr. H. L. Ewen for the copy of the notice:—

Departments of Posts and Telegraphs.

"MAFEKING BESIEGED" POSTAGE STAMPS.

It is hereby notified for general information that the reissue of Cape Colony and Bechuanaland Protectorate Postage Stamps placed in circulation by the Military Authorities during the investment of Mafeking, as well as the specially issued local stamps, are not available for the prepayment of any article of mail matter which may be posted at any Civil Post Office in the Cape Colony. A list of the stamps referred to is published hereunder.

S. R. FRENCH,
Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
1st November, 1900.

LIST OF POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUED BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AT MAFEKING DURING THE SIEGE.

FACE VALUE.	DESCRIPTION.
½d.	Cape of Good Hope (old design), overprinted and surcharged "Mafeking 1d. Besieged."
½d.	Cape of Good Hope (new design), overprinted and surcharged "Mafeking 1d. Besieged."
½d.	Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate," surcharged and overprinted "Mafeking 1d. Besieged."
1d.	Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 3d. Besieged."
1d.	Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 3d. Besieged." (Smaller type.)
1d.	Cape of Good Hope, overprinted and surcharged "Mafeking 3d. Besieged."
2d.	Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 6d. Besieged."
2d.	Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 6d. Besieged." (Smaller type.)

Face Value.	Description.
3d.	Cape of Good Hope, overprinted "Mafeking 6d. Besieged."
3d.	British Bechuanaland (lilac series), overprinted "Mafeking 6d. Besieged."
3d.	Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 6d. Besieged."
4d.	Great Britain, overprinted "British Bechuanaland" and "Mafeking 1s. Besieged."
4d.	Cape of Good Hope, overprinted "Mafeking 1s. Besieged."
6d.	Great Britain, overprinted "Bechuanaland Protectorate" and "Mafeking 1s. Besieged."
6d.	Great Britain, overprinted "British Bechuanaland" and "Mafeking 1s. Besieged."
1s.	Great Britain, overprinted "British Bechuanaland" and "Mafeking 2s. Besieged."
3d.	Local postage stamp, with photograph of Lieut.-General Baden-Powell's bust. (Small size.)
3d.	Local postage stamp, with photograph of Lieut.-General Baden-Powell's bust. (Large size.)
1d.	Local postage stamp, with photograph of Sergt.-Major Goodyear on bicycle.

A GERMAN VIEW OF OUR COLONIAL STAMPS.

THE noblest and most beautiful stamps have been, and always will be, the old issues of the British Colonies, which will always be sought after as long as Philately exists. Self-praise is no recommendation, but the preceding sentence is no concoction of an English editor, being an excerpt from an article in *Der Philatelist* of November 20th. It occurs in an able article on the relative appraisement of stamp values by Dr. Szalay, which goes minutely and with great discrimination into the several points that should guide a collector in purchasing the various grades of stamps. It is always good to see ourselves as others see us, and especially pleasant when we are so favourably regarded, which in this mundane sphere does not always happen!

PHILATELIC PRESENTATION TO THE U.S. POSTAL MUSEUM.

THE following correspondence, taken from the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, affords at once pleasant reading and a wholesome example to this country:—

"WASHINGTON, D.C., *November 22nd*, 1900.

"*The Honourable the Postmaster-General.*

"SIR,—It has been with much gratification that Philatelists throughout the country have observed the interest which the Post Office Department has of late been paying to the collecting of postage stamps. Especially do they appreciate your efforts to secure for the Postal Museum a representative collection of the postal issues of the United States.

"Closely allied with the collecting of United States postage stamps, and almost inseparable from them, in the mind of any collector specialising in the issues of our country, are its revenue stamps. It was during the Civil War that the first set was issued, and this is of special interest from the historical standpoint as well as on account of its beauty of design and workmanship.

"Stimulated by the interest your department has taken in our pursuit, and its close connection with same, we take great pleasure in presenting to the Postal Museum a complete set of the first issue of United States revenue stamps, framed,

and in uncancelled condition, consisting of 102 varieties, and ranging in face value from 1 cent to $200.

"Trusting that it will prove an acceptable gift, and find a suitable place in the Museum of the Department, we are

"Respectfully yours,

"J. M. Bartels Co."

To the above the appended reply was received:—

"Washington, D.C., *November 26th*, 1900.

"*The J. M. Bartels Co., Washington, D.C.*

"Gentlemen,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst., presenting for display in the Post Office Department Museum a handsomely mounted and framed collection of unused United States internal revenue stamps of the first issue. Permit me to assure you that the generous public spirit that prompted your action is duly appreciated. I take pleasure in thanking you therefore on behalf of the Post Office Department. A prominent position in the Museum will be given the collection, and it will be, no doubt, of great interest to the many Philatelists among the daily visitors to the department.

"Very respectfully,

"Ch. Emory Smith,

"*Postmaster-General.*"

"This splendid collection came to the department as a personal gift from Mr. J. M. Bartels. The stamps, which are in fine condition, were artistically mounted upon cardboard by Dr. Tarr, and the collection provided with a magnificent frame, the whole making an exhibit of which every Philatelist in America would be proud. I will not undertake to name the value of the collection, but it represents a cash equivalent that few Philatelists would care to donate outright without expectation of substantial return. That this gift will tend to elevate the pursuit of Philately in the estimation of the Post Office Department goes without saying, and every stamp collector in the land owes Mr. Bartels a vote of thanks for his generous offering."

FEDERAL AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTS.

On the 14th of November the permanent heads of the Post and Telegraph Departments of the Australian Colonies met in Sydney to discuss the arrangements consequent on the establishment of the Commonwealth. Among the subjects to be considered, the following were included:—A uniform rate of postage; date on which the Departments will be handed over to the Federal authorities; temporary arrangements pending the establishment of the General Post Office and Government Printing Office at the Federal capital; stamps postmarked to order; the Commemoration stamps; the Federal stamps; universal postage.—*Australian J. P.*

A PHILATELIC CENSUS.

With a most laudable spirit of energy Herr J. Walter has compiled for *Der Philatelist* the following list of new issues during the last decade. The varieties, which are taken from Messrs. Senf's catalogue, do not include

variations of type, watermarks, or any small differences. Were these all counted, as also the marked shades, the total number of "varieties" issued in the last ten years would be well over 10,000! No wonder that the tribe of specialists increases!

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	
Europe	146	89	69	71	61	73	31	56	44	140 =	780
Asia	90	124	100	98	107	119	120	158	148	64 =	1128
Africa	137	221	230	293	260	221	173	319	128	75 =	2057
America	223	259	217	149	207	235	206	333	219	144 =	2192
Australia	52	67	121	20	37	12	35	30	39	65 =	478
Totals	648	760	737	631	672	660	565	896	578	488 =	6635

The relatively small number of the issues of Europe and Australia is doubtless an important factor in their popularity.

Review.

BRIGHT AND SON'S CATALOGUE.*

IT seems hard to realise that nearly two years have elapsed since the appearance of a former edition of this now well-known Catalogue, but the fact is self-evident, alike in the vast number of new issues now incorporated and the greatly increased volume of pages. In the Preface the publishers call attention to this fact, saying that "while no objection can be raised against the legitimate issue of new stamps, we are of opinion that unnecessary issues have lately been alarmingly frequent." But this statement will be, in the minds of some collectors, somewhat discounted by one in the preceding paragraph to the effect that "the improved condition of stamp collecting and dealing, especially during the past nine months, is, doubtless, a good deal due to the issues of the various War Provisionals." Many of these have undoubtedly excited and re-aroused collectors, but some of them are assuredly not free from the suspicions that Messrs. Bright have themselves correctly expressed. An especial feature of this edition is the excellent lists of all the latest provisionals of South Africa, of which Orange Free State and Transvaal are remarkably inclusive, are illustrated with correct representations of the types of surcharge, and embrace some varieties that have not yet, as far as we are aware, been included in any other catalogue. The lists of many other countries have been thoroughly modernised—in many cases by the aid of specialists—and will be found to be excellent guides to the collector.

Another pleasing feature is the large number of new illustrations, which,

* *A B C Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps:* Fourth Edition, Bright and Son, 164, Strand, London, W.C.

needless to say, are far more satisfactory than those produced from older blocks. Apropos of these Messrs. Bright write to us :—

"If you are reviewing our Catalogue we shall be glad if you would kindly mention that by error the blocks illustrating the varieties of type of the 25 cents. Belgium of 1884 have been transposed; blocks illustrating Type II. in the place of Type I. Also that in the price of Mafeking stamps on page 592, Number 110 quoted at 25s. should be Number 111."

In accordance with our custom in reviewing priced catalogues, we do not propose to go closely into detail, as almost every collector becomes the proprietor of the leading catalogues; nor do we consider it advisable to refer to the question of prices, beyond perhaps to call attention to the fact that the South African issues show a remarkable and doubtless deserved jump in their estimated prices. The *A B C Catalogue*, taken in its present entirety, is a remarkably good production; it represents a laudable determination on the part of its publishers to "come and stay," and we are assured that, as representing a wholesome and healthy spirit of competition, it will receive a general and thoroughly well-deserved recognition at the hands of collectors. The initiation of so great an enterprise represents a considerable amount of "pluck" on the part of the publishers, and we cordially wish them the widest possible sale for their valuable work.

We mentioned in our last issue that a new feature in the *A B C Catalogue* was that of quoting prices for fine and medium used stamps, as in Great Britain; but Mr. W. Morley correctly calls our attention to the fact that the last edition of his handbook on the English stamps contained the first attempt to introduce this innovation. Messrs. Bright have, however, gone a good second, and we cordially approve the plan, where countries are either of prime importance or where the attainment of lightly postmarked specimens is the exception. We have pleasure in congratulating Messrs. Bright and Son upon their success in the production of so sound a catalogue in this as in almost all other respects.

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.—A change in the colour of the 48 cents stamp is announced.

Adhesive. 48 cents, dark grey and lilac-brown.

INDIA.—*Cochin.*—The 2 pies post card, carmine on buff, has been issued in reply form.—*M. J.*

Post Card. 2+2 pies, carmine on buff.

MAFEKING.—Further valuable information is given in the *M. J.* Our contemporary writes:—

"Our publishers have obtained, from a thoroughly trustworthy source, some small unused blocks of the stamps with the fancy type surcharge, from an examination of which we are enabled to place on record the following details. Although the distance between the words 'MAFEKING' and 'BESIEGED' differs considerably in the different settings used upon different natures of stamps, the type does not appear to have been entirely reset, but only the spaces increased or reduced; thus the same broken and damaged letters probably appear in the same positions on the sheets of stamps of each value (they do so in the blocks we have examined). The surcharge seems to have been set up in a row of six, and thus the minor varieties described below are repeated all down the sheet. Taking them from left to right we find—.

"1. In 'MAFEKING' the 'E' is battered at the top, so that the serif of the centre line joins the top line; 'K' has both legs broken. In 'BESIEGED' the third 'E' has the lower half of the upright stroke and part of the bottom line gone.

"2. All the lettering is fairly good.

"3. The 'B' of 'BESIEGED' is battered almost into a bad figure '8.'

"4. The bottom line of the 'E' in 'MAFEKING' is broken in the middle; there is a break in the back of the 'G' of 'BESIEGED.'

"5 and 6 have no stop after 'MAFEKING.'

"5. The tip of the bottom line of the third 'E' in 'BESIEGED' is gone.

"6. The left upper corner of the third 'E' of 'BESIEGED' is gone.

"There are, of course, other little points also, which will aid in the detection of forgeries."

The *M. J.*'s correspondent also states that the surcharged stamps were *genuinely used* in Mafeking from March 6th to May 17th *only*, and that—

"All the letters received from Mafeking were checked at the 'Base Camp Post Office,' and again in my office here, with a view to checking the postage. The examining clerk at both offices initialled the envelopes and marked the value of the stamps affixed; all genuine entires, therefore, which escaped the Boers *south* of Mafeking should be so marked."

Upon reference to the list of dates of issue of the various surcharges given in this journal, page 292, it will be noted that the first printing (1d. on ½d., green, and 3d. on 1d., red, Cape) took place on March 23rd, and not March 6th.

MAURITIUS.—Changes have been announced in the Continental journals, and the following are listed:—

Adhesives. One cent, grey-black and black.
Three cents, lilac and violet.
Four ,, lilac on yellow, and carmine.

ST. LUCIA.—From *Ewen's Weekly* we note the issue of a 1d. envelope stamp for this island.

It is described as impressed in carmine (same type and colour as that of the 1d. newspaper), on white laid paper; size 5¼ × 4¼ inches.

Envelope. 1d., carmine, on white laid; size 5¼ × 4¼ inches.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. — *Federated Malay States.*—The *M. J.* includes in its list of the new high values a 25 dollars, green and orange, stamp.

Adhesive. 25 dollars, green and orange.

Perak.—More surcharged stamps reach us from Messrs Whitfield King and Co., or are chronicled. We have, therefore, to list the following :—

Adhesives. One Cent. on $2, green and carmine.
Three Cent. on $1 ,, emerald.
Three Cent. on $2 ,, carmine.

It is almost too much to expect this profitable surcharging to cease just yet. There is, however, a faint hope in this direction, for our Ipswich friends write us :—

"LIST OF SURCHARGES ON PERAK STAMPS.

One Cent. on 2 c. (No. 17)
ONE CENT. on 4 c. (No. 20)
One Cent. on 5 c. (No. 21)
One Cent. on $2 (No. 29)
Three Cent. on 8 c. (No. 22)
Three Cent. on 50 c. (No. 27)
Three Cent. on $1 (No. 28)
Three Cent. on $2 (No. 29)
} Whitfield King & Co's Catalogue.

"In each sheet of 120 3 c. on 50 c. one stamp has no period after 'Cent'.

"The following is a copy of a notice issued by the Government of Perak when no more stamps were available for surcharging :—

"'GOVERNMENT OF PERAK.

"'POSTAL NOTICE.

"'The stock of Postal and Revenue stamps of the smaller denominations having given out, until further notice articles on which the postage is less than four cents must be handed in at the stamp vendor's window, together with the postage required in *cash*. The stamp vendor will give a printed receipt for the amount, stamped with the office date-stamp, and the public are requested to see that they get this.

"'(Signed) P. J. NELSON,
"'Superintendent Posts and Telegraphs.

"'Taiping, 22nd October, 1900.'

"The 'printed receipt' referred to in this notice is a perforated square of white paper about the size of a postage stamp, type-printed in three lines, 'Postal Receipt for 3 cents,' which is affixed to the envelope and postmarked the same way as an ordinary stamp; the word 'PAID' is also stamped on the envelope and initialled by the P.O. clerk."

TRANSVAAL.—Messrs Bright and Son inform us that they have had the following varieties of the stamps surcharged "V.R.I."

The ½d. and 1d. values with *inverted* overprint.

The ½d, 1d., 2½d., and 4d., without stops after "V", and the 10s. without stop after "I".

The ½d., 1d., and 2d., with dropped letter "I", and the 1d. with thick heavy stops.

Adhesives.
½d and 1d values, with surcharge "V.R.I." *inverted.*
½d., 1d., 2½d., and 4d., without stop after "V".
10s., without stop after "I".
½d., 1d., and 2d., with dropped letter "I".
1d., with thick heavy stops.

EUROPE.

BOSNIA.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that three values have been issued to complete the new set.

Adhesives. 40 heller, orange.
1 krone, carmine.
2 ,, blue.

FINLAND.—A mourning label and post card, as reported in the daily press, was lately issued unofficially in this country, being promptly suppressed by the Russian authorities. A correspondent in the *M. J.* gives the following further details :—

"On the 1/14 of August, when the Finnish stamps were replaced by those of Russia, there was issued, by way of protest (not officially, but by private enterprise), a funereal label, with a solid *black* ground, bearing the Arms of Finland in *yellow* and *red*, and the words 'SUOMI' above and 'FINLAND' below, in *white*. There was also a post card, with the same device in the right upper corner, 'UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE—CARTE POSTALE' at top, four dotted lines for the address, and an instruction in four languages at foot, on pale buff card 140 × 91 mm.

"The price of the label, '1 PENNI,' is marked on the back, and the profits, if any, were to be devoted to the national schools. These labels were to be placed on the address side of the letters, and the Russian stamps on the other side.

"The Governor-General soon put an end to these demonstrations. Referring the matter to the Russian Ministry of the Interior, he obtained authority to forbid absolutely the use of these labels and cards, which were in circulation for not more than about forty-eight hours.

"These labels were never sold at the post office at Helsingfors, as has been stated in a French journal."

FRANCE.—The new issue was put into circulation on December 7th, and Mr. Franz Reichenheim has kindly sent us the full set.

Accompanying illustrations will save a description of a set of stamps inferior, in our judgment, on the whole to any of the previous issues of this country. The oblong values are little, if any, better than the French Congo issue so generally condemned.

The French philatelic journals express entire dissatisfaction with these new stamps, and echo our own profound disappointment.







The stamps appear to be unwatermarked, but the five higher values are bicoloured. The centre, showing, we presume, a laurel branch or tree, is in pale blue or lavender on the 40 and 50 centimes, and yellow on the 1, 2, and 5 francs. All are perf. 14 × 13½.

Adhesives.

1 centime,	grey;		Type 1.
2 centimes,	claret		,,
3	,,	orange-red	,,
4	,,	brown	,,
5	,,	pale green	,,
10	,,	carmine;	Type 2.
15	,,	yellow-brown	,,
20	,,	brown-lilac	,,
25	,,	blue	,,
30	,,	mauve	,,
40	,,	red and blue;	Type 3.
50	,,	brown and blue	,,
1 fc.,	lake and yellow		,,
2 fcs.,	mauve	,,	,,
5 ,,	blue	,,	,,

GERMANY.—We have received from Mr. Franz Reichenheim specimens of the 5 marks stamp just issued.

This handsome stamp is printed in black and lake, the centre being of the latter colour.

The design shows His Majesty the German Emperor surrounded by his generals and ministers.

At the top of the stamp we have the word "Reichspost," and at foot, in a scroll, "Ein Reich, Ein Volk, Ein Gott," with "5 M" in each top corner, and a shield in each lower corner.

Adhesive. 5 marks, black and lake; perf. 14½.

Levant (German P.O.).—In addition to the adhesives announced on page 304 there are, we are told, two post cards.

Post Cards.

20 paras on 10 pf., black and carmine.
20+20 ,, 10+10 pf. ,,

RUSSIA.—Advices from this country foreshadow an entirely new issue on the 1st January next. The reason is stated to be that it has been found necessary to take greater precautions to prevent the frequent removal of obliteration that has taken place with the existing series. We are promised a very bright and handsome series of stamps, as indeed have been all the Russian issues.

WURTEMBERG.—It is reported that a 25 pfg. has been added to the Municipal Service set, but the colour is not given.

Adhesive. 25 pfennig, colour?

AMERICA.

CHILI.—A post card must be added to the list of new stationery.

The value is 2 centavos, and the design of the new issue of adhesives.

Our contemporaries differ as to colour of stamp and card; the *M. J.* has it red on pale blue, and the *M. C.* carmine on white.

A pair of 2 centavos adhesives of the current issue is reported by the former journal imperforate vertically.

Post Card. 2 centavos, colour, etc.?

NICARAGUA.—Particulars of the Asenjo issue of stationery are coming through slowly.

Two envelopes are reported, design similar to the adhesives, in a transverse oval frame.

Some officials are reported by the *M. C.* to have been made by surcharging four values of the Postage Due stamps of 1896, "Franqueo Oficial," in two lines.

Envelopes. 5 cents., dark blue on white.
10 ,, violet on white.

Officials. 1 centavo, orange.
2 centavos ,,
5 ,, ,,
20 ,, ,,

PARAGUAY.—Three values of a new set are listed by the *M. J.* on the authority of *Le T. Belge*. Design, arms in an oval band, inscribed "UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL" in the upper part, "PARAGUAY" on a fancy label below, and value at foot.

Adhesives. 2 centavos, olive-grey; perf. 11½.
5 ,, deep green ,,
10 ,, carmine ,,

UNITED STATES.—Information has reached us that the ordinary U.S.A. stamps without surcharge may now be used in all the U.S.A. colonial possessions, and that the overprinted stamps of Porto Rico, Philippines, etc., are equally serviceable on letters circulating in the United States only. We doubt whether many will be used in the latter fashion, and

probably none of the Guam can be spared. Cuba, being under protection, will have her own set.

VENEZUELA.—More of the stamps for inland postage are chronicled by the *M. J.*, changed in colours and surcharged "1900"; also the 50 cents., yellow, official, of 1898, with similar overprint.

Adhesives. 5 centavos, orange, surcharged "1900."
10 ,, blue ,, ,,
25 ,, purple ,, ,,
50 ,, yellow-green ,, ,,
1 bolivar, grey-black ,, ,,
Official. 50 cents., yellow ,, ,,

OTHER COUNTRIES.

COREA.—On page 232 we referred to the 25 poon, surcharged "1," and gave our reasons for thinking the new value was intended to be 15 poon.

This stamp now reaches us from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. The copy before us (see illustration) is surcharged "1" ex-



actly between the "2" and "5" of "25," and we are told the value is 1 poon.

Two new values of the current set are reported, and we are promised a new set in cents, etc., shortly.

Adhesives. 1 poon on 25 poons, lake.
15 cheun, purple-grey.
25 ,, red-brown.

DUTCH INDIES.—An interesting discovery has been made by a correspondent of the *Philatelic Record*, and we copy the following from our contemporary:—

"Mr. R. Macalpine, writing to us from Java, says:—'In the July, 1900, issue of 10 cents Dutch Indies postage stamps, which are the present issue Holland stamps, surcharged with value above and "NED-INDIË" at bottom of stamp, there occurs an error. On an average one stamp in every 400 or thereabouts has the surcharge at bottom as follows, "NED-INDIE," that is, without the two dots above the "E" of "INDIE." Our correspondent kindly incloses a specimen, which is very clearly minus the usual diæresis, or dots, over the final vowel of the word 'INDIË' Mr. Macalpine adds that he has also seen a few specimens with only one dot over the 'E'".

Some envelopes of the mother country are reported surcharged for use here, with value at top and "NED-INDIE" in block capitals at foot, in black.

We listed some surcharged envelopes on pages 232 and 257, but believing the undernoted to be a fresh issue, we chronicle them.

Envelopes. 10 cents on 10 cents, grey-lilac.
12½ ,, on 12½ ,, blue.
15 ,, on 15 ,, yellow-brown.
20 ,, on 20 ,, yellow-green.

FERNANDO POO.—Mons. J. Bernichon sends us the 4 c., orange, of 1899 with the "Habilitado" surcharge, No. 3 of Gibbons, in violet, and also with a double overprint, first in green and secondly in violet.

Further, the 10 cents. Timbre Movil of 1900, surcharged obliquely "CORREOS" in red, similar to No. 8 of Gibbons.

Adhesives.
4 c., orange, of 1899, surcharged "Habilitado," 50 cents., (Gibbons' Type 3), in violet.
4 c. ditto double surcharge, as above, in green and violet.
10 c., blue, Timbre Movil of 1900, with oblique overprint "CORREOS," in red, in large letters.

FRENCH COLONIES AND POST OFFICES.—*China.*—The 2 francs French stamp has also been surcharged for use here "Chine," and Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us a specimen, and inform us that on October 26th 3,000 provisional 25 c. on 1 franc stamps were issued.

Adhesives.
2 francs, French, overprinted "Chine," in black.
25 c. on 1 fc. French, provisional issue.

Senegal.—It is reported in several quarters that owing to the expected change of colour of the 10 cents. to *carmine* (so often denied, too), as in the new set for home use, to comply with the requirements of the U.P.U., the 50 cents. is to be printed in brown colour, with the name of the Colony in carmine, and that indeed the change has actually taken place for this Dependency.

Adhesive. 50 c., brown on bluish and carmine.

It is not surprising to hear through the *Monthly Circular* that eight *new* sets of stamps are in preparation for the French Post Offices in foreign parts, and we can only hope to see something more artistic than the new issue for home use.

Vathy.—It would appear that a 20 piastres stamp has been issued here, the 5 francs stamp having been so surcharged.

Adhesive.
20 piastres on 5 francs, lilac; overprinted in black.

GERMAN COLONIES.—*Le T. Belge*, supplements the information we gave on page 56, as follows:—

"*Le T. Belge* chronicles a complete outfit of adhesives for all the colonies, in two new designs, each of which bears a Ship as a central device. The lower values, up to 80 pfennig (or 40 pesa), are of rectangular shape, the Ship is shown almost end on, the name is on an arched scroll above, and the word 'PFENNIG' (or 'PESA'), between numerals, on a scroll at foot. The higher values are oblong, and bear a side view of the Ship; the name is on a scroll above and the value in the lower corners.

"For the *Cameroons*, *Caroline Islands*, *German New Guinea*, *German South West Africa*, *Marianne Islands*, *Marshall Islands*, *Samoa*, and *Togo* the following is the list:—

2 pf., grey.
3 ,, brown.
5 ,, green.
10 ,, carmine.
20 ,, blue.
25 ,, black and red on *yellow*.
30 ,, ,, ,, orange on *buff*.
40 ,, ,, ,, carmine.
50 ,, ,, ,, violet on buff.
80 ,, ,, ,, carmine.
1 m., carmine.
2 ,, blue.
3 ,, violet.
5 ,, carmine and black.

"For *German East Africa* the values are—

2 pesa, brown.
3 ,, green.
5 ,, carmine.
10 ,, blue.
15 ,, black and orange.
20 ,, ,, ,, carmine.
25 ,, ,, ,, violet.
40 ,, ,, ,, carmine.
1 rupee, blue.
2 ,, violet.
5 ,, carmine and black."

List of post cards to follow.

JAPAN.—A 3 sen letter card with stamp of the new design is chronicled by the *American Journal of Philately*.

Letter Card. 3 sen, violet on brownish buff.

MOROCCO (GERMAN P.O.).—The new set must have added to it four post cards, described by the *M. C.* as follows:—

Post Cards. 5 centimos on 5 pf., green.
5+5 ,, 5+5 pf. ,,
10 ,, 10 pf., carmine.
10+10 ,, 10+10 pf. ,,

PERSIA.—On page 278 we listed a 5 ch. overprinted with some undecipherable device, and it would appear from the *P. J. G. B.* that other values on white paper have met the same fate.

Adhesives.
1 ch., grey on white paper; violet surcharge.
2 ,, brown ,, ,,
3 ,, violet ,, ,,
4 ,, red ,, ,,
8 ,, orange ,, ,,
12 ,, carmine ,, ,,

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

Philatelic Society, London.

Council for the Year 1900–1901.

President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.
Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.
Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.
Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.
Hon. Assistant Secretary—H. R. OLDFIELD.
Hon. Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

W. B. AVERY. L. L. R. HAUSBURG.
E. D. BACON. C. E. MCNAUGHTAN.
W. D. BECKTON. R. MEYER.
R. EHRENBACH. F. RANSOM.
H. J. WHITE.

THE second meeting of the season 1900–1901 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 9th November, 1900, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present:—M. P. Castle, Herbert R. Oldfield, Rudolph Meyer, William Silk, jun., E. D. Bacon, B. D. Knox, Earl of Crawford, Franz Reichenheim, F. E. Horton, L. S. Wells, J. A. Tilleard, A. R. Burnett, W. B. Avery, Rudolph Frentzel, T. Maycock, L. L. R. Hausburg, C. Neville Biggs.

Visitor, Herbert Smith.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the meeting on the 26th October, 1900, were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from the President of the Chili Society at Santiago, and it was resolved to make a grant to that Society of such of the volumes of the *London Philatelist* as were still available.

Mr. E. D. Bacon then read a short note upon new varieties recently discovered in the letter "G" of the 4d. Griqualand West stamp, being Type I. of the 4d. blue stamp, with a small surcharge. This surcharge had formerly been condemned, but owing to discoveries recently made by Lieutenant F. H. Napier it now appeared that the same were genuine varieties.

The meeting then proceeded to examine the magnificent collection of the German States stamps, eight volumes of which had been brought by the Vice-President to the meeting, and were inspected with very considerable interest.

A vote of thanks was subsequently passed to the Vice-President, on the motion of Mr. E. D. Bacon, seconded by Mr. H. R. Oldfield, and the proceedings then terminated.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—
G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

DECEMBER 6th.—The members held their first auction on the above date at the Great Western Hotel, Mr. H. W. Plumridge, of Chancery Lane, London, wielding the hammer. The attendance was the largest that has ever been at a philatelic auction in the city, and showed the effect of advertising, and the increasing interest of the public in stamp matters. The auction was arranged for the benefit of members and to encourage Philately locally, and to this end the Committee allowed a proportion of small lots to be included. They made no charge on unsold lots, and there was no minimum commission, the Society being prepared to meet any loss incurred, but it was so successful even under these conditions that all expenses will be covered.

For fine stamps good prices were realised, but poor specimens ruled low. Some collections of fiscals and entires went very cheaply.

The best prices realised were :—

Triangular Capes, four unused, 50s. (cat. 85s.); twelve used, 55s. (cat. 98s.); fourteen used, in pairs, 23s. (cat. 34s.); eight used singles, 38s. (cat. 60s.). New South Wales, 1d., Plate I., 21s. (cat. 28s.); Plate II., 19s. (cat. 25s.); 2d., Plate II., 19s. (cat. 25s.); Plate II., 21s. (cat. 25s.); 2d., Plate III., 19s. (cat. 25s.); Plate III., first retouch, 21s. (cat. 25s.); 2d., Plate III., laid paper, 19s. (cat. 22s. 6d.); Plate III., second retouch, 15s. (cat 25s.). Hong Kong 96 c., yellow-brown, mint, but slight tear, 64s. Grenada, 1s., mint, 16s. Antigua, 1s., mint, 14s. 6d. St. Kitts, 1s., mint, 14s. Great Britain, 2s., brown, 30s. West Australia, block of six, 6d., CC, 44s. Many of the mixed lots and some original envelopes with "V.R.I." Orange Free State stamps on also fetched good prices.

The ordinary meeting followed, and the following were unanimously elected members :—Mrs. R. H. Harris, Dr. W. J. Tivy, Messrs. J. E. Joselin, F. J. Henderson, J. B. Vickerman, C. C. Bentzen, M. Z. Booleman.

Votes of thanks were accorded Messrs. Bright and Son, Th. Lemaire, J. W. George, and H. E. Deats (American Philatelic Association) for donations to the library.

It was decided to form a collection of priced auction catalogues, and to have them bound in volumes for reference. Any member who has any old catalogues, priced or unpriced, which are of no use to him, would confer a favour by sending them to the Hon. Sec., who will defray expenses. If anyone has bound volumes priced, he would greatly oblige by lending them to the Society for a short time in order that the prices may be copied.

NEXT AUCTION.—The next auction will be held on February 14th, 1901. Lots must reach the Hon. Sec. by Jan. 28th at latest.

NOTICE.—The so-called Birmingham Philatelic Exchange recently advertised by Mr. W. G. Watson has, of course, no connection whatever with the Birmingham Philatelic Society or its exchange packets.

Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.

THE usual fortnightly meeting was held on Thursday. In the absence of the President, Mr. D. H. McPherson was requested to take the chair. After the ordinary business of the evening was disposed of, including the election of a new member, a very interesting collection of forgeries was exhibited. Those shown by Mr Perrett were especially so, consisting of both Colonial and Continental stamps in blocks, in some of which it required the critical eye of an expert to detect the differences between the genuine and the forged stamp. Messrs. McPherson, Dalton, and Stooke showed several specimens. Mr. Dalton's exhibit contained a reconstructed sheet of the 2d. lithograph; also a copy of the L Q. Messrs. Lloyd and Cartwright, who were unable to be present, also sent specimens, Mr. Cartwright sending three values of the late Orange Free State stamps, with forged "V.R.I." surcharges, likely to entrap the unwary collector. A vote of thanks was heartily accorded to Mr. Perrett for his interesting and instructive exhibit of many years' gathering, and this largely contributed to what was considered by all present to be a most enjoyable evening. The next meeting will be on November 1st, when the President (Mr. P. J. Lloyd) will read a paper on "The Stamps of the United States of America."

Cardiff Philatelic Society.

President—WALTER SCOTT.

THE first annual meeting of this Society was held on the 16th October, when the secretarial and financial reports for the past year were submitted.

Twenty-six members had joined, and six meetings were held, one being formative, and five being Displays with introductory remarks.

The financial statement showed a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £1 8*s.* 4*d.*, which was considered satisfactory.

The officers and committee were elected for the ensuing year as follows :—

President—MR. WALTER SCOTT.
Vice-Presidents—MR. E. W. SHACKELL, J.P., ALDERMAN W. J. TROUNCE.
Committee—MESSRS. C. J. BEDLINGTON, J. L. EVERETT, G. E. PETTY, W. H. RENWICK, and B. ROWLANDS.
Hon. Sec.—MR. W. A. JUTSUM.
Librarian—MRS. GROVES.

At the conclusion of business Mr. Everett gave a paper on "The Stamps of Cuba," and displayed his collection. The President and Mr. Petty also displayed their collections of that country.

PROGRAMME.

1900.		
Oct. 16.	Annual Meeting.	
Nov. 13.	Display with Notes, "Ceylon."	MR. WALTER SCOTT.
Dec. 11.	Display with Notes, "Brazil."	MR. G. E. PETTY.
1901.		
Jan. 8.	Display with Notes, "Canada."	MR. W. H. RENWICK.
Feb. 12.	Display with Notes, "United States."	MR. W. J. TROUNCE.
Mar. 12.	Display with Notes, "Greece and Ionian Isles."	MR. E. W. SHACKELL.
April 9.	Display with Notes, "Gibraltar and Morocco Agencies."	MR. W. A. JUTSUM.

All meetings are held at the Y.M.C.A. Hall (opposite the Taff Vale Railway Station) on the second Tuesday in each month, at 7.30 p.m., unless otherwise notified.

THE opening night of the present session, which was held in the Society's new room at the Y.M.C.A. Institute, on the 13th Nov., at 7 30, proved to be a very enjoyable one. The President

was down for a paper on the Stamps of Ceylon, followed by a display of his collection. The paper, a very exhaustive one, dealt with the various issues in detail, and displayed a grasp of the subject such as could only come from one who had well studied the stamps of that Colony. Mr. Scott's display was simply grand. There were specimens of almost every variety, invariably in the finest condition, and it would be invidious to attempt to single out any specimens, as the collection appeared to the members present to be as near perfection as possible. The next display will be on December 11th, when Mr. G. E. Petty is to give "Brazil," with exhibit.

W. A. JUTSUM, *Hon. Sec.*
371, COWBRIDGE ROAD, CARDIFF.

Herts Philatelic Society.

A GENERAL meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, November 6th, at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. Reichenheim (in the chair), Bois, Boyes, Bradbury, Cool, Frentzel, Gaffe, Mardon, Melville, Meyer, Standen, Sutherland, Thomson, Wane, Slade, and two visitors.

The following elections were made: W. B. Avery as a Vice-President, Messrs. Willy Jacoby and H. Hill Smith as ordinary members. Donations to the Forgery book were received from Messrs. Mardon and Reichenheim.

The general business being transacted, Mr. M. Z. Kuttner gave a display of a portion of his collection of South Australians, accompanied by explanatory notes. At the conclusion of the display a hearty vote of thanks was passed by the Chairman to Mr. Kuttner for the entertainment and instruction he had afforded the members, which drew a grateful response from the recipient. A vote of thanks to Mr. Reichenheim for the efficient manner in which he had filled the chair brought an enjoyable evening to a close at 9.30.

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

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. DORNING BECKTON.

THE fifth meeting took place at the Grand Hotel on Wednesday evening, November 21st. The President occupied the chair, and there were eleven other members present.

Messrs. A. D. Leigh and S. W. Massey were elected members.

Subsequently the annual dinner was held, and was attended by twenty-three members and nine guests, amongst the latter being Mr. A. H. Stamford, President of the Bradford Philatelic Society.

In proposing the toast "Success to the Manchester Society," to which the Hon. Secretary responded, the President announced that the sale of the War Fund stamps issued by the Society had realised the sum of £101 4s., which amount would be handed over to the Lord Mayor.

Songs, recitations, etc., were contributed after dinner by some of the members and friends.

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

Suburban Exchange Club.

JULY packets have come back from circulation, and balances have been submitted and sheets returned within four days. Total sales on the packets, £109 1s. 4d. Four packets, containing 191 sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1,717 4s. 2d., were despatched on the October circuit in good time. Many rare and valuable stamps were offered at reasonable prices, and good sales are expected.

During the past month five collectors have been admitted to membership, and two applications are pending for inquiries. Members who cannot contribute sheets regularly, but wish to see the packets, should notify the same to the Secretary. Club sheets (supplied at cost price) should only be used. All Philatelists desirous of participating in the advantages of a good Exchange Club are welcomed, but references are indispensable, and should be sent with every application. Packets are kept in circulation no longer than thirteen weeks, and accounts are settled with the least possible delay. Full particulars, rules, etc., can be obtained from the Secretary.

JUNE and July packets came back from circulation within the specified time, and sheets were returned to their owners and balances adjusted with the least possible delay. Sales for the July packets amounted to nearly £120.

Four packets were made up for the November circuit and were all despatched by the 25th instant. One hundred and seventy-one sheets, valued in the aggregate at £1,889 19s. 4d., were contributed by ninety-five members, and contained some good specimens of rare and medium stamps, marked at very reasonable prices. South Africans and Australians were perhaps more strongly represented than other sections, old Europeans coming next. Collectors having rare duplicates to dispose of are invited to apply for membership, as the Suburban Club contains many non-contributors who are prepared to buy good stamps to a large amount. Satisfactory references should be sent with every application. Sheets for December packets should be sent in early if possible to escape the Christmas holidays. During the past month fifteen new members have been enrolled, and one resignation has been accepted: six applications held over for examination. For copy of rules, etc., apply to the Secretary, H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

The Collectors' Club.

351, FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE fifty-eighth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday, October 8th, 1900. Present: Messrs. Bruner, Luff, Perrin, and Scott. The resignations of Messrs. Baker, Hyatt, Levick, and Serfling were read and accepted with regrets. Other communications were received and read. The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of $403.40, exclusive of U.S. bonds, was read and approved. The House Committee's report was accepted as read. After the transaction of business of minor importance, the Board adjourned at 9.40 p.m.

ALBERT PERRIN, *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. 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.

INVERTED WATERMARKS ON EGYPTIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—In answer to the letter of Mr. W. F. Hughes, the 1879 issue of Egypt exists with reversed watermark in all the six values. The 10 paras, lilac-rose, according to my experience, is always with reversed watermark, and I doubt very much whether it exists with the watermark in the normal position.

In the 1881 issue I know of only the 10 paras, grey, and this is a scarce stamp with reversed watermark. In the 1888 issue the 1 millieme, but probably the others also, exist. The 20 paras on 5 pi. is known with reversed watermark, but I have heard it said that in this state it is the rarest stamp in Egypt.

I cannot agree, however, with a statement of this kind, because however rare it may be it is putting an altogether exaggerated value upon this class of variety, a value which is not warranted by the present feeling collectors evince towards reversed watermarks. In a specialised collection they certainly tend to make it more complete, but the interest attaching to them is very small. Collect them if you will, by all means, but don't look upon them as objects of all-absorbing interest, otherwise you will some day have a cruel awakening.

I venture to refer Mr. Hughes for further information upon Egypt to an article by Mr. Duerst in the *Philatelic Record*, vol. xviii.

Yours faithfully, W. DORNING BECKTON.

DAISY BANK, *November 4th*, 1900.

TRANSVAAL PROVISIONALS.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to your remarks in the October number, the inclosed cutting from a Cape paper to hand yesterday will, I think, throw some light on the authenticity of stamps overprinted with apparently a rubber stamp. My opinion is that all such stamps issued at Rustenburg, Zeerust, Marico, etc., not having been authorised by the Controller of the Transvaal, are nothing more than forgeries. I would like to have other opinions on these curious issues.

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"The following extract from Army Orders is published for information :—

"'HEADQUARTERS, PRETORIA,

"*23rd October*, 1900.

"'1. Overprinting of Transvaal Postage Stamps.—It is notified for information that the overprinting of Transvaal Postage Stamps "V.R.I." by any person but the Controller of the Transvaal is an illegal act, and must not be resorted to. Any Transvaal stamps which may have been overprinted without authority should at once be withdrawn from sale and forwarded to the Administrator of Civil Posts, Pretoria. Postage stamps, etc., found in public buildings in the Transvaal should be forwarded to the Administrator of Civil Posts, Pretoria. By order.—W. F. KELLY (Major-General), D.A.G.'"

Yours faithfully,

W. H. EARL.

TRANSVAAL, *November 26th*, 1900.

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.*

THERE has been considerable animation in the Market during the past month, and some of the auctions have attracted large attendances. The appearance of such valuable items as the Mauritius Plates (Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper) and the blocks of Great Britain (Messrs. Puttick and Simpson) naturally created great interest, and it is satisfactory to note that sales were in all cases effected commensurate with the values of the lots submitted.

* * *

THE general features of the stamp trade in the Metropolis during the month have been satisfactory, most of the leading dealers reporting excellent sales. The trade in South Africans has been remarkable, and the cry is, "Still they come!"

* * *

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON'S sale of November 13th and 14th.—Ceylon, 9d., imperf., unused, fair, £6 10s. British South Africa, 1896, pair of 1d. on 3d., grey, used, £7 7s.; a single ditto and a 1d. on 4s., used together, £5 7s. 6d. Cape Woodblock, 1d., red, used, £4 4s.; and a block of five 1s., yellow-green, used, £5 5s. Mafeking, 1s. on 6d., brown on red, with *sans-serif* surcharge, used, £6; 2s. on 1s., green, used, £3 5s. and £3. Transvaal, Queen's head,

pair of 1s., green, mint, unused, £2 6s.; and pair of 2s., blue, also mint, £4. U.S.A., Providence, an entire uncut sheet of twelve, £6 6s.; 1861, 5 c., brick-red, unused, with gum, £7 10s.; Agriculture, set complete, unused, £3 5s.; Executive, set complete, unused, £5 5s.; also a used set, £3 12s. 6d.; Justice, set complete, used, £4 14s. Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, No. 10, unused, no gum, £11 10s.; 4d., orange, litho, unused, mint, No. 4, £3 10s.; another, No. 5, £3 12s. 6d.; 6d., grey, unused, mint, No. 11, £4; another, No. 12, £4 5s. New South Wales, diadem, 6d., grey-brown, wmk. 8, unused, large margins, no gum, £7 15s. A collection of 7,047 stamps went for £44.

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Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's sale of November 27th and 28th.—The following superb lots of British stamps were the feature of the sale: Great Britain, 1840, imperf., 1d., black, V.R., a block of six, unused, in mint state and in brilliant condition, one stamp at left has the outer line very slightly cut into, in all other respects the block is superb, £40; ditto, a pair, unused, in mint state, superb, £14 15s.; ditto, 2d., blue, without lines, a magnificent block of twenty-four, unused, in mint state and in brilliant condition, being the two rows from the bottom of the sheet, with full margins and inscription (there is a slight crease between the two rows, which, however, does not affect its appearance), the finest block of this scarce stamp which has ever been offered for sale by auction, £155; ditto, 1d., red-brown on *bleuté*, a similar block, unused, in mint state and very fine, but slightly creased, £8 5s.; Mulready 1d. cover, an entire uncut sheet of twelve, £4; ditto, £5; ditto, 2d. cover, £8; ditto, £9 5s. Ceylon, 8d., imperf., used, £11 10s. Hong Kong, 18 c., lilac, CC, unused, with gum, £3 10s. Mafeking, 1s. on 6d., lilac-red, *sans-serif* type, used, £6 5s.; 2s on 1s., green, £3 2s. 6d. and £3 5s.; a pair of Baden-Powells, large size, used, £3 7s. 6d. Lagos, 10s., lilac-brown, CA, penmarked, £6 10s. Nevis, 6d., grey, litho, unused, No. 2, mint, £4 4s.; another, no gum, No. 9, £3 12s. 6d. A collection, about 5,000, went for £32, and one of 1,250 in a Lallier, £18.

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Messrs. Plumridge and Co.'s sale of November 20th and 21st.—Barbados, 1d. on half 5s., used, £5. British South Africa, 1891, ½d., 2d., 4d., and 8d. provisionals, unused, £5. Jamaica, fiscal, postally used, on entire, 5s., lilac and blue, £1 12s. St. Vincent, CA, 4d, bright blue, unused, £2 4s. Spain, 1851, 2 reales, used and repaired, £8 5s.; 1853, 2 reales, unused, no gum, £7. Trinidad, litho, blue on thick paper, used, £4 10s. Tuscany, 2 soldi, used, £5 7s. 6d.; 9 crazie, on white, used, £3. A duplicate collection (3,000), £9.

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Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's sale of December 11th.—A catalogue of good useful stamps, but containing little worthy of special notice. A set of nineteen Mafekings sold for £19, and another set without the 1s. on 6d. British Bechuanaland, £14; two specimens of the stamp last mentioned went for £4 12s. 6d. and £4 15s., and the 2s. on 1s., green, £2 18s.; a block of four unused Baden-Powells, large size, realised £9 15s. Collections sold: 3,250 for £15; 5,150, £23; and 3,500, £16 5s.

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Messrs. Plumridge and Co.'s sale of December 4th and 5th.—Cape of Good Hope, triangular (De la Rue type), 1d., bright brown-red, rare shade, a superb mint pair, £2 8s.; ditto, 4d., slate-blue, an equally superb mint pair, £2 6s.; ditto, 6d., bright mauve, a grand mint pair, £3 5s. Ceylon, CC, 12½, 4 cents, grey, with gum, £28. Great Britain, wmk. large Crown inverted, 1d., black, mint pair, £2 10s.; "I.R. Official" on 10s., blue, used, £2 6s., and £1, green, £2 2s. Geneva, the double stamp, unused, £30. Trinidad, surcharged "O.S.", mint set, ½d. to 5s., £5 10s. Virgin Islands, 4d. on 1s., strip of five unused, £4 10s.

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Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale of November 22nd and 23rd.—This catalogue is mainly made up of big, though very useful, lots. Upon running through it we notice: Gibraltar, first issue, complete, unused, £3 15s. A collection of Greek (454), £11. Labuan, 12 c., carmine, unused, £6. U.S.A., 1869, 24 c., inverted centre, used, £20 10s. St. Vincent, 1d., rose-red, with compound perfs, £4 7s. 6d. A book of scarce stamps (351) realised £60, and collections sold as follows: British Colonial (744), £34; general (3,507), £30, and another (5,010) £35.

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Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale of December 6th and 7th.—Great Britain, 1855–57, 4d., rose-carmine on white, wmk. medium Garter, a very fine unused horizontal pair, mint, £16 10s.; 4d., sage-green, plate 15, an entire unused pane of sixty, mint, £10 15s. Gibraltar, first issue, with gum, all but the ½d. and 1d., £3 12s. 6d. Afghanistan, 1290–91, shahi, purple, horizontal pair, unused, £5. Ceylon, 2d., emerald-green, CC, unused block of four, £6 2s. 6d.; similar blocks and strips of 4d., rose, £1 14s., £2 2s.; 8d., reddish brown, £2. British East Africa, first issue, set complete, used, £3 12s. 6d. Lagos, 2s. 6d., olive-black, unused, £3 10s. Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., vermilion, an entire made-up plate, consisting of one vertical pair and ten singles, of which the pair and three others are on bluish—each stamp is fine and of the earliest state, nine of which can be called superb, £110; large fillet, 2d., blue, an entire made-up plate, consisting of a superb vertical pair and ten singles, of which six are fine, and the other four cut close, £178; Post Paid, 2d., blue, an entire made-up plate, consisting of a superb block of four, used on piece, and eight singles, all of which are of the earliest state, and include five very fine specimens, £245; small fillet, 2d., blue, an entire made-up plate, all early impressions and fine, £18. Transvaal, Queen's head, 1s., green, unused block of four, £3 7s. 6d.; ditto, provisional issue, 1 penny, in black, on 6d., black, an entire unused sheet of sixty, showing all the various types, extremely rare and probably unique, £155. Zanzibar, on India, 1 anna, plum, with *blue* surcharge, horizontal pair, used, £3 15s. Canada, 12d., black, heavy postmark, £25.

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Mr. W. Hadlow's sale of November 29th and 30th.—British East Africa, first issue, ½, 1, and 4 annas, mint, £5 2s. 6d. and £5. Ceylon, 8d., imperf, used, £12 5s.; same, but perf., used, £3 3s. Gibraltar, first issue, 1s., used, £2. Gwalior, 1 rupee, short surcharge, mint, £2 15s. Nevis, 1s., green, No. 12, o.g., £3 3s.; 4d., orange, No. 10, unused, £3 9s.; 1s., blue-green, o.g., No. 2, £2 18s.; 1s., yellow-green, with gum, No. 1, £12 10s.; 4d., orange, with gum, No. 3, £4 12s. 6d., and No. 11, £4 12s. 6d.;

6d., grey, unused, No. 1, £4 7s. 6d , and No. 4, £4. New Brunswick, 6d., unused, mint, £14 10s. Sydney Views, Plate 1,, 1d., rose, vertical pair, used, £4. Orange River Colony. "V·R·I·", 6d., rose, with *raised stops*, mint blocks of six, £6 15s. and £6 5s. Queensland, 2s. 6d., scarlet, mint pair, £2 2s.; 1s., mauve, perf. 9 × 12, horizontal strip of three, fiscally used, £3 3s St. Vincent, 5s., Star, with gum, £9 2s. 6d. Transvaal, 1877, 6d., blue, surcharged "V.R. Transvaal," imperf., unused, without gum, £1 12s.; another, without stop after "Transvaal", unused, no gum, £2 18s.; same surcharge, 1s , green, fine roulette, unused, with o.g., £4 5s.; ½d., in red, on 1s., green, error "Pennij," used, £1 14s.; 1883, 1s., green, vertical strip of four, the top stamp being inverted, £2; ditto, 1s., green darker shade, block of six, containing the *tête-bêche* pair, £2; ½d., in red, on 1s., green, entire sheet, containing the "Pennij" error, mint, £3.

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THE *Metropolitan Philatelist* makes the following comment upon the sale recently referred to in the *London Philatelist*:—

"The superb Dionian collection is now a thing of the past. The splendid aggregation of stamps which had taken so much money to amass, patient search to secure, and loving care to protect, has now been scattered among some hundreds of amateurs, all of whom, we trust, will be made happier by the beautiful additions to their albums. From a business standpoint the auction was a great success, as practically every lot sold at an advance over prices secured at last season's sales. No small part of this desirable showing is owing to the publicity given to the sale in the pages of this paper—an advantage not shared by the auctions with which a collector would naturally compare the Dionian sale. Many stamps sold much above catalogue price, some as high as three times the regular quotations, all of which goes to show that no hard and fast rule can usurp the place of a careful study of the market by intelligent amateurs. Three-quarters of the collection will remain in New York City, the out-of-town buyers usually sending very inadequate bids. Perhaps the most curious feature of mail bids is the insistence on every stamp being in perfect condition when the price offered could only secure very poor specimens. In a collection like the one under review, where every stamp was perfect, conditions were superfluous, but bids should in no case fall below half catalogue price, while many thousands were offered at from one-quarter to one-third. There is certainly not a single dealer in the United States who had the cash who would not gladly have purchased the entire collection at these prices, and yet amateurs expected to get their pick of a part at less than the value of any portion of the whole. One notable instance of this was the bid on lots 1,320 and 1,321—the penny and twopence Mauritius; these were catalogued as grand specimens and very early impressions, and yet several hundreds of collectors sent bids of from half to full list price ($3 to $15) of ordinary stamps. They sold, after much competition, at $31 and $50 respectively."

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Mekeel's Weekly, in referring to this sale, takes a favourable view of the result, and we quote their conclusion of the whole matter:—

"The value of condition was fully exemplified in the prices realised. Very few great rarities were offered, but catalogue prices seemed at times to be almost entirely unconsidered. While very many stamps were not up to the usual standard as to centering, it was well known that better were exceedingly difficult to obtain, and were eagerly sought by those who are looked upon here as among the most difficult to please. But aside from all this the prices realised tend to show that catalogue quotations are very erroneous when those stamps not listed high, but 'hard to get,' were offered. The total catalogue value of the collection was about $24,000. The total amount realised was a little less than $13,100, a percentage far greater than has been realised in several years. These facts tend to strengthen the market and give tone to business"

* * *

AUCTION sales seem to be taking their place at Berlin in grand style. Messrs. Philipp Kosack and De Vries introduced them here, and by means of well-timed advertisements and invitations to all the well-known dealers, together with a generous distribution of catalogues, produced a large attendance at the first sale, which took place at the Restaurant "Hopfenblute," Unter den Linden, on October 22nd.

There were many good things in the sale which, however, unfortunately by no means realised high prices, and mostly fell into the hands of collectors. Collectors were particularly well represented, though of course dealers were not wanting.

The representatives from abroad who were present were bidders also, and the spacious room provided was full to overflowing.

Thus the first auction sale was a complete success, and we may take it that after so successful an introduction of this mode of selling stamps it will continue to flourish.

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THE first sale by auction of stamps was held in Berlin on October 22nd of the present year in a room of the Restaurant, Unter den Linden 27. This attempt to introduce these auction sales, now long established in London and Paris, into Berlin ought to be regarded as most satisfactory.

The sale attracted a very numerous assembly, including practically all possessors of the larger collections in Berlin. We noticed Herr Heften, jun., whose collection stands unrivalled in Berlin, Herren Huff, Blankertz, Elster, Schneider, etc. Representatives were present from London, Paris, Stockholm, Wiesbaden, and Dresden, as well as from many other places.

Many of the stamps which came under the hammer went out of the country, as, for instance, Mr. v. Blume, of the Parisian Rothschild's house, availed himself of this opportunity to select many particularly rare things. The Roumanian 81 paras, blue, 1858, fetched the highest price in the four hours' sale. The hammer fell after a bid of 5,000 marks for the stamp, which is considered to be the rarest of Europeans. As we ascertained afterwards, a dealer of this place had a commission to bid to 6,000 marks for the stamp, so the purchaser has saved 1,500 marks. There was also a second bid which ran to 4,800 marks, while a third ran to 15 marks! The 27 paras, Roumania, belonging to the same collection, was also bought by Mr. v. Blume, of Paris, for the sum of 750 marks. Among the rest of the stamps other than the Europeans the 5 c., Brattleboro', U.S.A., fetched the highest bid—1,000 marks. Two St. Vincents—the 5s., 1880, and the 4d. on 1s., 1881—went to London for 200 and 100 marks respectively. The 6d., Tobago, realised 111 marks. A 10s., Swazieland, found a purchaser in England for the sum of 130 marks.