

SAPPHIRE

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The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. JANUARY, 1895. No. 193.

IF we are permitted to draw any augury from the usual signs of the times, stamp collecting seems to have made progress during the past year. We do not attach much importance to the increase of the periodical philatelic literature, because it is a well-known fact that not one in a dozen of these periodicals is a source of direct gain to the proprietors unless assisted by advertisements; but we see more societies springing up, and though in the meetings of many of these the real business bears a very small ratio with the conversation, yet the mere assembling together of those who take a common interest in the subject is of great advantage in promoting the general spread of stamp collecting. Stamp collectors have suffered in the past from the non-appreciation of the objects they had given themselves such a vast amount of trouble and expense to get together. If a collector showed his stamps, not one out of a hundred who looked at them and thought them very pretty, had any idea that one was more rare than another, and a set of reprints was as interesting, perhaps more so, than a set of originals, because they looked so much fresher. In fact collectors became disgusted at the ignorance of those who bored them to show their collections. Things now are happily somewhat different. The number of outsiders who know something of the respective rarities of stamps has increased, and will increase the more that knowledge, however small, is diffused, and we know no more effectual means of diffusing it than by the intervention of societies where at any rate stamps are talked of, if not studied.

Signs of the Times.

The annals of most of our societies are so poor that we are forced to look at those of other countries, and the year-book for 1894 of the American Philatelic Association affords us a peg on which to hang a few remarks. This Association was threatened with disruption, when Mr. Tiffany, after a stirring speech at the Annual Convention of 1891, proposed that it should be remodelled

and incorporated as a scientific society. The objects as set out in the application were for "assisting its members in acquiring knowledge in regard to philately, of cultivating a feeling of friendship among philatelists, and enabling them to affiliate with members of similar societies in other countries." The Association was incorporated in December, 1891, until 1st November, 1941, with a capital of 10,000 dollars divided into shares of 1 dollar each, each member being required to hold one share and no more, and these are issued as occasion requires. At the end of 1893 there were 404 members; in December last there were 773. Other societies have since been incorporated, "The Philatelic Society of New York," the "National Philatelic Society," &c.

It is to be regretted that in England scientific societies are exposed to so much difficulty as they are, in obtaining a legal status by constituting themselves into a corporate body. What are the special benefits they would obtain by this, it is not for us here to explain, but they will present themselves to any one acquainted with the ordinary distinctions between a corporate and an incorporate body, and who may become acquainted with the laws which affect each; our object is merely to testify to the general spread of societies devoted to promoting the advance of philately, and which we consider to be the most encouraging of the "signs of the times."

Dealers also are not only purchasing largely, but are giving high prices for all that is good, and it is not to be supposed that they, as men of business, purchase to sell at a loss. This also is another healthy sign of the times. The prices for good stamps have long since passed out of the limited range of the schoolboy's purse, though, like the late Mr. Tapling, he may at the age of fifteen have some kindly-disposed old gentleman who presents him with a Christmas "tip" of £100; but the philatelic army is not now composed of boy-recruits. The recruits of twenty years since have not as a body been unfaithful and deserted the ranks, but are now evidently bent upon improving and enlarging their collections, and "advancing with the times." There are now so many more real students of philately than formerly, that we feel as each New Year commences that our ability to present to advanced collectors what is worthy of their attention becomes less, and anything new is more difficult to find. We can only do our best, and trust that we may at all events be able to assist some.

* * *

The above few remarks were in the hands of the printers before we received *The London Philatelist* for December, in which we

find some remarks under a similar title. We mention this because we have not filched our title, though we have unintentionally stumbled upon a similar one. The Editor there, however, draws his horoscope from commercial signs, to which we do not attach so much importance, regarding them as the effect rather than the cause.

A Stamp Raid.

The Government of the United States has proceeded against the dealers in stamps in what seems to be a very arbitrary manner. Without any notice all packets in dealers hands that bore any impress of a stamp upon them of any country with which the United States has treaty relations have been seized and confiscated. Albums with illustrations of such stamps have also been seized; but there is a pause as to whether those in the hands of collectors should suffer the same fate. A general raid has been made on all electrotypes, &c., used for the production of these stamps. This is understood to be grounded on the powers that the Government possesses of seizing "securities" of other nations with which it is in treaty relations; and postage and revenue stamps are considered by Mr. Hazen, who is responsible for this raid, as falling under the denomination of "securities." It is difficult to believe that stamps that have been demonetised, like Mr. Seebeck's and a host of others, can be classed as securities, however current issues may be. But we understand that no quarter has been given. Of course, this extends to illustrations in philatelic journals. For our own part we should not object to abandon our pictures, but it would be hard upon the makers of catalogues, which would be spun out to an outrageous size if descriptions had to be given, whereby stamps could be recognised. Many of the illustrations, it is true, are little better than caricatures, but they serve their purpose. We do not believe that any Government has ever been injured by the multiplication of these illustrations. We have never illustrated the stamps of our own country except where they have been locally surcharged or overprinted. We are aware also that our own Government possesses the power of prohibiting reproductions of any stamps, but they have been too enlightened to make use of this power in an arbitrary manner. It is bound to do everything necessary to protect its own interests, but to go tilting all over the world is, we trust, a missionary enterprise that will be left solely to the United States to indulge in.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* THEODOR BUHL, LIMITED, *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Angola.—Annexed is an illustration of the mode in which the 2½ reis was, for the nonce, changed into 25 reis, as mentioned by us last November.



Bermuda.—The colour of the 2 pence has been changed to brown-violet, and that of the 1 shilling to brown.

2 pence, brown-violet; wmk. ♕ CA; perforated 14.
1 shilling, brown ,, ,,

Brazil.—The following additions to the new series are reported:

300 reis, green; centre black (effigy of Republic).
500 ,, blue ,, ,,
700 ,, violet ,, ,,
1000 ,, green ,, (head of Mercury).
2000 ,, yellow-brown ,, ,,

The issue of a letter card of 100 reis and post card of 80 reis is also announced.

Letter Card. 100 reis, red; centre black, on grey, landscape blue.
Post Card. 80 ,, red on white, landscape blue.

British Guiana.—If we may draw any conclusion from the notice of the issue of the envelopes described in our last, taken from the *Australian Philatelist*, and that given in the *Timbre-Poste*, we should say that Australian and Belgian mètres somewhat differ in length. The latter gives the sizes as—1 cent, 141 × 79 mm.; 2 cents, 145 × 89 mm.; and the 5 cents as 134 × 107 mm.

Canada.—The reply card of 1 cent now comes to hand with stamps of the same type.

Post Card. 1+1 cent, black-grey on buff.

Cape of Good Hope.—We have the post card of 1 penny (Type 1882) in red-brown, surcharged with "ONE | HALFPENNY" in two lines of sans serif capitals.

Post Card. ½d. on 1d., red-brown on white; surcharged in black.

Chile.—We annex an illustration of the new "Accusar Recepcion" stamp of Chili, which we have already described.



China.—We have now received these stamps, which have been designed by Mr. R. A. de Villard, who is in the service of the Chinese Customs, and who has furnished the following explanations of the various designs:

1 Candarin.—In the centre is the old form of the *Shou*, emblematic of *longevity*, round which is the *Wu fu*, emblematic of *five happinesses*, and at the top is the peony, emblematic of *illustriousness*. Outside this on a circular band is "CHINA" in the lower part, and Chinese characters signifying "Chinese Postal Service" in the upper part. The value is in discs in the angles.







2 Candarin.—In the centre is the dragon, above which are the leaves and fruit of the *passiflora*, "a favourite emblem on auspicious occasions." "CHINA" below, and on the sides "Chinese Postal Service" in Chinese, with the values in squares in the angles.

3 Candarin.—In the centre the dragon, above which is the *Pan t'av*, or dwarf peach tree, the fruit being the emblem of *longevity*, the tree being said to bear fruit for 3,000 years. In the angles are the numerals within the octagonal *Pa kua*. "CHINA" is at the foot, and "Chinese Postal Service" in Chinese characters on the sides.

4 Candarin.—In the centre the dragon, with inscriptions, except the value, as in the 2 cand., above which is the peony.







5 Candarin.—In the centre a carp, known as the "messenger fish"; above is the *Lin chih hwa*, a plant emblematic of longevity; and below a bunch of Chinese immortelle. The value is in the four angles.

6 Candarin.—In the centre the dragon, with immortelle at the top, "CHINA" below, and "Chinese Postal Service" in Chinese characters on the sides, with the value in the angles within the *Pa kua*.

9 Candarin.—This is an oblong rectangle, with the *Shou* and *Wu fu* in the centre supported by dragons. Above is "Chinese Postal Service" in Chinese characters, and below is "CHINA," the value being in the angles.





12 Candarin.—This is also an oblong rectangle, with the *Shou* in the centre, but in another character, supported by dragons. Above is the peony, and underneath is "CHINA," the value being in the angles.

24 Candarin.—This is also a transverse oblong, with a junk approaching the land in the centre. Above is the dwarf peach tree, and "CHINA" underneath; "Chinese Postal Service" is on the sides in Chinese characters, and the value in the angles.



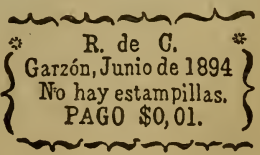
The impression is on native paper, watermarked with the same design, signifying the *yan* and the *yin*, as the former issue, and the perforation is 12.

1	candarin,	red.	5	candarin,	chrome-yellow.
2	,,	pale green.	6	,,	brown.
3	,,	yellow.	9	,,	green.
4	,,	rose.	12	,,	orange.

24 candarin, carmine.

Colombia.—*Garzon.*—In September last we mentioned the existence of two hand-stamps, said to have been employed by the Post-office at Garzon, in Colombia, but in what province our gazetteers fail to tell us, or even to mention the town at all. We now annex engravings, and from our German contemporaries are informed that these works of art are made by two operations.





First, the round stamp with the eight-rayed foliate ornament is stamped in violet, and then the stamp with the inscription in which the Post-office states that it has "got no stamps" is applied in black. The first of the types was on a letter with the post date of 1st April, 1894! The second on one dated 10th June. The description of the stamps is as given by us in September, except that we do not hear of any peso value, which probably was an error, as the stamp shows "Paid $0.01."

Congo.—We read that the stock of 5 and 10 centimes of the new type has been sold out since 24th December last, and of course the holders give out that the colours will be altered in the new edition.

We annex illustrations of these stamps, as already chronicled in our last number.













France.—We read in the *Echo de la Timb.* that an unpaid letter, dated 30th September, 1871, has been found at Mans, bearing a postage due stamp (*chiffre-taxe*) of 25 c., made by overprinting the figure "1" of the postage due stamp of 15 c. with "2." The overprinted numeral is of the same type as the "15," and it is supposed that others were probably overprinted at this

office, either to use up the old stock of similar stamps of 15 c. or because those of 25 c. were exhausted. For our own part, we should think that the former is the better mode of accounting for it, as the unpaid letter stamp of 25 c. was only issued on 1st September, 1871.

Unpaid Letter. 25 c. on 15 c., black (1870), surch. in black.

Hawaii.—A stamp of 12 cents has been added to the new series. It is a transverse oblong rectangle, within which is a three-masted steamer, within an oval band inscribed "REPUBLIC OF HAWAII," the lower part of the band being intercepted by a shield carrying the numeral of value, with "cents" on each side on scrolls. Impression on white paper; perforation 12.



12 cents, dark blue,

Holland.—The *I. B. J.* chronicles the postage due stamp of 12½ cents as appearing in the new colour.

Postage Due. 12½ cents, ultramarine; numerals in black.

The letter card "Post blad" now bears the stamp with the head of the young Queen.

Letter Card. 5 cents, blue on white.

Hongkong.—We have the single and reply cards of 3 cents with the stamp overprinted in red with "4 CENTS." applied diagonally from the left lower angle of the design within the frame.

Post Cards. 4 c. on 3 c., chocolate-brown on white; surch. in red.
4+4 c. on 3+3 c., brown on buff; surch. in red.

Labuan.—The *Timbre-Poste* is informed by the Company "*qui exploite la colonie*" that it never issued in 1894 any *lithographed* stamps having the head of the Queen in substitution of those previously issued. The stamps were so badly printed that the mistake is quite pardonable.

Mexico.—From the *I. B. Z.* we learn that the service stamp is now printed in carmine on plain white paper and perforated 11½.

Service. (No value) carmine.

Monaco.—The 40 centimes of the new design has been in circulation since the 20th November last.—*Timbre-Poste.*

40 centimes, black-blue on rose.



Montenegro.—We owe the following series of unpaid letter stamps to M. Bickel, according to all reports. The impression is on white paper, and the perforation varies from 10 to 11½.

1 nov., red.	10 nov., violet.
2 ,, green.	20 ,, ultramarine.
3 ,, orange.	30 ,, blue-green.
5 ,, olive-green.	50 ,, grey.



Mozambique. — The annexed illustration shows the type of the new issue.

Oil Rivers Protectorate.—In June last we mentioned that some stamps of Great Britain, of the value of 2 pence and 2½ pence, had been surcharged with "*Halfpenny.*" That on the two pence was, according to the *Echo de la Timbrologie*, in 10 varieties; that on the 2½d., according to the *Monthly Journal*, had been received in two varieties. It is evident from specimens which have since come to hand that the surcharging has been done skilfully. The *Timbre-Poste* for the present month has three engravings of surcharges, two varieties on the 2d. and one on the 2½d. The *I. B. J.* has four, one on the 2d. and three on the 2½d., all differing from those given in the *T. P.* We think it will be wiser to abstain from giving a list of these until we have some more definite intelligence, for it appears that, independently of the surcharges differing in type, some have been applied in black, and others in violet, red, and green. We may also add that our contemporary the *P. J. of G. B.* chronicles some others which appear to be different, and, like ourselves, is endeavouring to construct some reliable list. The Postmaster of Old Calabar, or wherever the surcharge was manufactured, must have been a candidate for the prize of who can make the most varieties out of the smallest number of factors.

Orange Free State.—We have received through Mr. M. Z. Kuttner the one penny of the current type, in purple.

1 penny, purple; perforated 14½ × 14.

Panama.—The 50 centavos, brown, of the issue of 1887–8, has been surcharged with 10 centavos in red. The surcharge consists of "HABILITADO | 1894 | 10 | CENTAVOS" in four lines. The amateurs of minor varieties may be interested to know that the surcharge is to be found upside down, and that there is in some copies a comma after centavos in place of a full stop!

10 centavos on 50 c., brown; surcharge in red.

The *P. J. of G. B.* in addition chronicles the following:

1 centavo, in black, on 2 centavos, rose.
5 centavos, in carmine, on 20 centavos, mauve; large 5.
5 ,, ,, ,, small 5.



Persia. — The additional values in the series, which were omitted in our last number, are now chronicled by our contemporaries. A wrapper has also been issued, together with single and reply post cards, and envelopes are to follow. The stamps on the post cards in the right upper angle show the portrait of the Shah, and the inscriptions are in Persian and French.

16 chahi, light rose; Type II.
5 kran, blue and silver ,,
10 ,, rose and gold ,,

Wrapper. 1 chahi, lilac.

Post Cards. 2 chahi, green on light buff.
2+2 ,, ,, light green.
4 ,, rose on light buff.
4+4 ,, ,, light rose.

Philippines.—The following are chronicled by our contemporaries.

1 cent de peso, carmine. | 25 cent de peso, dark blue.

Porto Rico.—The *Coll. de T. P.* chronicles the 40 c. de peso in rose. The 3 c. de peso is also in orange.

3 c. de peso, orange. | 40 c. de peso, rose.

Queensland.—The issue of a reply card of 1 + 1d. is announced of the type of the single one.

Post Card. 1+1d., rose on buff.

St. Helena.—The twopence arrives in light yellow, most ineffective so far as showing the design, but very effective in showing the black surcharge, which is 15½ mm., the barring line being 14½. It is printed on ♕ CA paper, and the last row in the sheet is, in most cases, entirely out of the range of the watermark. The perforation is 14.

2 pence, light yellow; surch. in black; wmk. ♕ CA.
2 pence ,, ,, no watermark; *variety.*

Samoa.—The *I. B. Z.* states that there are two types of the surcharge of "FIVE PENCE" on the 4 pence, blue. In one the surcharge is 6 and 8½ mm., and in the other 4½ and 6 mm.

Selangor.—The current stamp of 5 cents printed in rose has come to hand surcharged in black with "3 CENTS."

3 cents on 5 c., *rose,* surcharged in black.



Servia.—The new issue has made its appearance, showing the head of the King in an upright oval, supported by laurel branches. In a curved uncoloured tablet at the top is the name of the country, and at the bottom, on a straight tablet, the denomination, with the numerals of value in the angles. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 13½.

5 paras, green. | 20 paras, orange,
10 ,, rose. | 25 ,, blue.
15 ,, lilac. | 50 ,, brown.
1 dinar, blue-green.

South African Republic.—We have received the twopence of the new type.

2 pence, olive light brown; perforation 13.

Straits Settlements.—The colour of the 12 cents has, according to the *I. B. J.*, been altered to rose-lilac.

12 cents, rose-lilac ; wmk. ♕ CA ; perf. 14.

Sungei Ujong.—The 2 cents comes to hand in *orange*. The 5 cents has been printed in green, and surcharged in black with "1 CENT," and in carmine, surcharged in black with "3 CENTS."

1 cent on 5 cents, green ; surcharged in black.
2 cents, orange.
3 ,, on 5 cents, carmine ; surcharged in black.

Tahiti.—M. Numa Barbier, of Rouen, possesses the following treasure, viz. the 1 centime, 1893 (goddess with flag), overprinted "TAIHTI" in lieu of "TAHITI."—*Echo de la Timb.*

1 c., black on blue (1893) ; *error* in overprint.

Tonga.—Further surcharges of the late type come to hand. They seem to be popular, as this time they go out of their way to make them. The 4 pence of the Arms' type has been printed in carmine, and surcharged with "SURCHARGE | HALF PENNY," and the 1 shilling, printed in green, has been surcharged with "SURCHARGE | 2½d."

½d. on 4 pence, carmine ; surcharged in blue.
2½d. on 1 shilling, green ,, black.

Travancore.—The ½ chuckram is now said to be printed in pale violet.

½ chuckram, pale violet.

Trinidad Principality.—We give an illustration of the stamps of Prince James I. We are glad to hear that this speculation has fallen very flat.



Turks Islands.—Notwithstanding the long time that has elapsed since we chronicled this surcharge, we have failed to obtain till now an illustration of it. The surcharge is in black on the 4 pence, brown-grey.



½d. on 4d., brown-grey ; surcharge in black.

United States.—The illustration annexed shows the special delivery stamp of the new issue chronicled in our last.

The 50 cents, with head of Jefferson, taking the place of the 30 cents of the issue of 1890, has been issued.



50 cents, orange.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BADEN.

(*Continued from vol. xvi., page* 283.)

"ARMS" SERIES. *Issue V.*

THE dies as engraved by Kurz show the Arms of Baden on a groundwork of horizontal lines within a square frame measuring 15 mm. interior and 22 mm. exterior. In the upper part of the frame was "BADEN," in the lower part "KREUZER," preceded by the numeral of value; in the left "FREIMARKE," and in the right "POSTVEREIN," all in sans-serif capitals on a solid ground. In the angles were rosaces. The Arms in centre were on a shield with the Crown at the top and the supporters of two griffins; the colours were heraldically shown on the shield, bend *gules* on field *or*. The engraving of the dies will bear examination, for it is beautifully and clearly executed.



The plates consisted of 100 *clichés* arranged in rows of ten.

The paper, as has been already said, was white varying in substance.

Before any impression was made, Hasper was desired in February, 1860, to send in some colour trials, which he did on the 12th of the same month. These, to the number of seven, are in the Imperial Post Museum. For this purpose he printed from the 6 kr. in black, from the 3 kr. in steel blue, and again from the 6 kr. in Paris blue, ultramarine, dark and medium chrome yellow, and in cochineal lake. The black was for the 1 kr., the three blues for the 3 kr., the two chrome yellows for the 6 kr., and the cochineal for the 9 kr. These colours not being approved, he, on 3rd March, 1860, sent in six more, printed from the 9 kr. in milori blue, Paris blue and Berlin blue for the 3 kr.; orange chrome for the 6 kr.; and Florentine lake, as also Munich cochineal lake, for the 9 kr. On the 22nd March Hasper was informed that the following colours had been chosen: For the 1 kr., good English black printers' ink; for the 3 kr., Berlin blue; for the 6 kr., dark chrome yellow, and for the 9 kr., light Munich cochineal lake, and he was desired to give particular attention that the tints were kept alike in the various issues, an order he failed however to continue to observe.

The question of the gumming was also considered, and enquiries were made of the postal establishments at Vienna, Berlin, Leipsic, and Hanover, as to the adhesive matter employed. As the result of these communications, it was decided that half the next issue should be gummed with the Austrian adhesive matter, made of pure bone glue, and the other half with the Saxony, made of Syrian gum and glycerine. Observant collectors will therefore find two varieties of gum in the issue of 1860. A subsequent enquiry made in all the larger offices resulted in preference being given to the Saxony gum, and on 19th March, 1861, it was decided that for the future this gum only should be used.

The perforating machine, which it was proposed to purchase in partnership with Wurtemberg, was ordered in July, 1859, and arrived from Vienna in December of that year. The machine was immediately tried, and was found to wôrk well; but when it was regularly put to work, its manipulation proved to be difficult, and it easily got out of order, the perforation of the Wurtemberg stamps more especially suffering, while those of Baden were better perforated. The reason of this appears to be that the Baden stamps were only perforated yearly, or at long intervals, while those of Wurtemberg were perforated in small quantities at short intervals, and there was therefore more interruption of the work than in those of Baden. The machine gave a gauge of 13½.

On the 14th April it was reported that the whole of the 3 kr. stamps were sold out, and that the stock of the 1 kr. would only last a few months. Hasper was accordingly ordered to print 36,000 sheets of 3 kreuzer stamps, and 12,000 sheets of 1 kreuzer stamps. The printing of these stamps commenced on the 27th April, and did not finish until 25th June. In Hasper's report he stated that the work had proved to be very troublesome and difficult, as he had found that the fast printing presses were not properly adapted to printing in colours, and he had been compelled to resort to the hand presses. The stamps of 1 kreuzer, printed in hand presses, had given the best result, and he recommended this mode of printing to be adopted, though it was more costly. It was therefore ordered on 17th July that the stamps should for the future be printed by hand presses.

The first printing produced the following stamps free from faults:

11,656 sheets of 1 kreuzer, and
31,711 ,, 3 ,,

A notice from the Grand Ducal Ministry of the 30th May, 1860, stated that the new stamps of 1 and 3 kreuzer would soon be ready for issue, and that those of 6 and 9 kr. would not be issued till the following year.

On the 1st July, 1860, a notice was issued from the Direction of the Grand Ducal Post and Telegraph Department announcing the new issue, which we will condense, only mentioning such parts as are necessary to the history.

"By order of the Grand Ducal Post-office the use of the present postage stamps will cease as soon as the stocks in hand are exhausted, and in their place new ones will be issued having the Arms of Baden in the middle on a lined ground, in the upper part of the frame the word 'Baden,' in the lower the particular value '1 (3.6.9) kreuzer,' in the left 'Freimarke,' and in the right 'Postverein.' They will be printed on white paper in place of the coloured paper of the former stamps, and the printing will be in colours varied according to the values, and in order to facilitate their separation they will be furnished round the sides with small round gaps.

"The 1 and 3 kreuzer of these stamps will be put in circulation at once, but on account of the large stocks in hand of the 6 and 9 kreuzer of the old issue, the new stamps of these values will not be issued till next year."

The corresponding public was also informed that up to the close of the year the old stamps of 1 and 3 kreuzer would be available, and could be exchanged for the new issue in any of the Post-offices.

The notice concludes with calling the attention of the public to the necessity of seeing that the stamps were made to adhere properly, as many complaints had been made of the stamps becoming detached from the letters.

From the above, and from instructions given to the various Post-offices, it is clear that up to the end of the year any stocks on hand of the old issue were to be disposed of, but that the public might exchange them for stamps of the new issue. The fact is important, as the Catalogues give the date of the issue as being 1861, whereas the following remarks of M. Lindenberg show clearly that the 3 kreuzer was in use as early as June, 1860.

M. Lindenberg says that Dr. Diena brought to the Berlin Philatelists' Club a 3 kreuzer stamp on a letter bearing the departure postmark of 26th August, 1860; that he himself had found one of an earlier date, but that the oldest letter with a stamp of 3 kreuzer was in the Imperial Post Museum, sent from Mannheim, 26th June, 1860. This latter shows that the first sheets of the Arms' stamps were sent out a few days prior to the date of the official notification. Specimens of the 1 kreuzer issued in 1860 have not yet been noticed, but there is no doubt that they exist.

It may here be remarked that the colours of the first impression of the 3 kreuzer differed from the pattern furnished by Hasper. There is no difference in the 1 kreuzer, black, but the 3 kreuzer of the first impression is of a pale Prussian blue tone, considerably lighter than that chosen from Hasper's trials. It is not possible to say how far light and atmospheric influences may have operated to change the colour, which is at times of a pale greenish hue, but the difference is very appreciable when it is compared with the subsequent printing, which is ultramarine. Mr. Pemberton must have been in error in placing the ultramarine as the earlier printing, and in this he is also at variance with M. Moens, who, while he attributes the *bleu terne foncé* and *bleu terne pâle* to 1861, gives January, 1862, as the date of the issue in ultramarine.

The impression of the stamps of 3 kreuzer leaves much to be desired, as was admitted by the printer. The impressions are blurred, and a clear one is seldom to be found.

In the summer of 1860 the stock of 6 kreuzer stamps was exhausted, and on the 12th July Hasper received the order to print a supply of stamps of that value, of the Arms' design. These were ready early in August, when the Commissary of the Post reported that 11,114 sheets of good copies had been printed. The colour was a fine bright orange-red, and sufficiently in accordance with the dark chrome-yellow pattern of the 12th February, 1860. The date when they came into use has not been ascertained; the earliest date M. Lindenberg has obtained being 1st January, 1861, but he thinks earlier dates might be found.

In many places the old 6 kreuzer, yellow, of the numeral series, was in use throughout 1861, and even in some into the year 1862. The colour of the impression of the 6 kreuzer of this printing is quite distinct from that of the second printing.

On the 10th November, 1860, Hasper having stated that he should be obliged to discharge some of his workmen unless he had fresh work, received an order to print 20,000 sheets of 1 kr. stamps, 30,000 sheets of 3 kr. stamps, 12,000 sheets of 6 kr. stamps, and 10,000 sheets of 9 kr. stamps, but that they were not to be gummed for the present. He must have received an additional order for stamps of 1 kreuzer, as the accounts shew that he had delivered, up to September, 1861, the following numbers of sheets :

32,336	sheets	of stamps	of 1 kr.
29,124	,,	,,	3 kr.
13,128	,,	,,	6 kr.
9,784	,,	,,	9 kr.

Of these

The first 1 kr. stamps were delivered 21st March, the last in September.
The first 3 kr. stamps were delivered 13th April, the last 29th June.
The first 6 kr. stamps were delivered 8th July, the last 15th August.
The first 9 kr. stamps were delivered 4th June, the last 13th July.

These dates will give the earliest possible time when these stamps could have come into use. There is no difference between the 1 kr. of this printing and that of the former, but the 3 kreuzer stamp is no longer in Prussian blue, but in two tints of ultramarine, one of which is deep blue, and the other has a reddish tinge. This printing must have been in use in 1861. The earliest specimen found by M. Lindenberg bears the stamp of 21st December, 1861, but it was not in general use till 1862. The 6 kr. stamp of this printing shows a very distinct variation in the colour from that of the former printing; in place of the fine red-orange it is a middling pale yellow-orange, resembling the chrome-orange of Hasper's trials, which was not approved of. This yellow-orange stamp does not appear to have come into use in 1861, the earliest date found by M. Lindenberg being 8th March, 1862. The 9 kr. stamp is of a clear dark carmine, and answers to the colour described by Hasper as Munich cochineal-lake. This colour is very sensitive to light and atmospheric influences, and shows a great variety of shades that supervened after its issue. The stamp came into use in the autumn of 1861, M. Lindenberg having a letter with this stamp that was posted from Heidelberg on 24th September, 1861.

This completes the printings of the first issue, and we will only add a remark of M. Lindenberg regarding the paper employed for the stamps, which he says was of irregular quality. At times it was so light and flimsy as to have called the attention of the Post-offices to the defect. The gumming on this flimsy paper frequently penetrated through it, giving the stamp an oily appearance, which is especially noticeable in the ultramarine stamps of 3 kreuzer.

(*To be continued.*)

NOTES ON LORD KINGSTON'S RECENT PAPER.

By W. A. S. Westoby.

A paper by Lord Kingston was recently read at a meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, on what the President terms "an *unregistered* plate of the one penny Great Britain, 1840." With all due submission, I think that this is somewhat of a misnomer. It is perfectly true that of the impressions from the first 11 plates of the one penny, 1840, all of which were first struck in black, only those of plates 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8 are found in the archives. Impressions from plates 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 are not there, but the dates of their respective registration are duly recorded. The absence of impressions in the volume of registered sheets in the Secretary's Department is not proof that they were not registered, as seems to be assumed by the paper in question.

Lord Kingston says that he "believes it is an open secret that the book of registration sheets shows traces of missing numbers having been at some time or other in their relative places; and this being so, it is more than probable that all the missing plates were registered." To put this into plain language is as much as to say that it is suspected that the book of registration sheets has at some time or other been tampered with and these sheets abstracted. I do not think that the real facts justify any such conclusion as to the missing sheets of plates 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11.*

The institution of the book of registration sheets does not date back to 1840. It was begun some time subsequently. When the stamps were first brought into use in 1840, the circumstances were so novel that but little order existed in the establishment at Somerset House. Mr. Edwin Hill had been appointed, on 31st January, 1840, as "Inspector of postage stamps," but he had no staff, and when the stamps were preparing he gave his attention more particularly to the production of the Mulready covers and envelopes, which were then considered to be of much more importance than the adhesive stamps. In May, 1841, his son, Mr. Ormond Hill, was appointed to assist him as "Assistant Superintendent of postage stamps," and it is from him that I learnt some years since that the plate register was made under his direction, and filled in from the documents then to be found. He also informed me that for a long time the registered sheets were all loose in the office of the Secretary, Mr. C. Pressly, and on putting them in order several gaps were found. I do not believe that these missing sheets were ever in the book at all; they were simply lost or thoughtlessly made use of, and thus were not to be found when the book was made up. Stamps must have been, so to speak, "lying about in all directions," for I have Mulready envelopes which were part of a pad, made by pasting together half a dozen sheets, which were separated years after by soaking it in water.

I quite agree with Lord Kingston as to the state of ignorance we are in as to when particular stamps were first brought into use. When stamps like Series I. of the 1 penny show no difference that distinguishes those printed from one plate from those printed from another, how is it possible to say when those printed from any particular plate

* I am perfectly aware that there is a note at the foot of page 75 of *The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain* regarding the non-existence of certain registration sheets, but subsequent investigations have cleared up very many things that were obscure in 1880, and amongst them the grounds on which that note was founded.

were first issued? When 20,000 sheets came in from the printer, Somerset House was satisfied if the number of sheets was correct and there were no patent errors. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. had during 1840 ten plates in printing, and at least double that number in 1860. That firm did not keep any register of the plates in daily use; and even had they done so, as regards the early plates, they would not now be found, as the late Mr. Bacon informed me that all the early records of the stamp printing were destroyed in the fire which occurred in their premises in 1857. In the printings in red some attempts have been made to deduce something from the colour, but this is most fallacious, for it was fugitive, and varied, so to speak, almost every day.

In *The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, No. 5, December, 1894, Mr. Hilckes mentions that he had recently found an entire sheet of plate 10, printed in the red colour adopted in January, 1841, and Mr. Philbrick informs me he has met with similar red stamps, with plate numbers in the margins, earlier than plate 12, from which it would appear evident that the plates in use at the time of the change were continued in the new colour, and not changed till they became unserviceable; in other words, the change of colour did not indicate a change of plate.

Lord Kingston says the Stock Receipt and Stock Delivery Books might throw some light on the matter. But these would show nothing beyond so many sheets sent in and so many sent out; and, as a matter of fact, it was frequently the case that those sent in last were those sent out first. But the Stock Books prior to 1862 do not exist. To try to remedy this state of ignorance is, I fear, as hopeless as trying to "extract sunbeams from cucumbers."

When we come to stamps which present some points of difference that serve to distinguish one plate from another, as, for example, the plate numbers on the 1 penny stamps, our ignorance is not so much past remedy. It is often the case, however, that the date of the issue of a stamp from a particular plate varies very much in the different Post-offices. I mean that a stamp from a particular plate may be issued at one office months before it is issued at another. It entirely depends on the stocks in hand. Three things, subsequent to the registration of the plate, can be known in the history of any stamp. (1) When the plate was ordered for use, or, in other words, when it was put to press; (2) how many sheets were printed from it; and (3) when it was defaced. After the plate was ordered for use and impressions were put into stock, the issue might of course take place at any moment, though it does not follow that it did so immediately. For example, plate 71 of the 1 penny was registered 14th March, 1861, but was not ordered for use till 1st March, 1864, nearly three years after the registration. After allowing time for the printing, the gumming, and the perforation, the stamps from that plate *might* have been issued at some office or another at once. So far as I am aware (and in this I am confirmed by Mr. Ewen) the earliest known specimens of stamps of 1 penny with plate numbers are dated in June, 1864, though it is probable that earlier dates may be found.

What Lord Kingston means when he says that plate numbers have been discovered "in some cases of *plates* not known to exist" I fail to divine, unless reference is intended to plate 77 of the one penny, which is the only one that I know of, the existence of which cannot be clearly accounted for. But in the case of plate 77 the plate existed; it was refused registration because the impression showed that the stamps were unevenly laid down, and it was considered to be not properly

adapted for perforation. It is clear, however, that an impression taken from it, though deemed defective, did not find its way into the spoilage, but was perforated at Somerset House. The same thing *may* also have occurred with plates 75, 126, and 128, which were also refused registration, two of them on similar grounds to those of plate 77, and the third that the punching was defective.

I congratulate Lord Kingston on having obtained the block of plate 11, in black, which I regard as a great curiosity. The plate was not registered till 20th January, 1841. This printing in black must be an early impression, as in a very few days after the impressions from all the plates then in use were in red. One more word I must add as an excuse for my having taken the liberty of criticising this paper, and that is that I do not find that the compilation of the first volume of the registration sheets has ever been referred to, and it is better perhaps that the circumstances should now be recorded, as it relates to matters which occurred fifty years since, and only very few of the actors in the opening drama now exist.

WUHU.

We think it only fair on our part, as we have been "slating" the crop of Chinese Locals, that we should lay before our readers some correspondence that has been shown to us, evidencing the special merits of the Wuhu stamps, and endeavouring to prove that they ought to be regarded by collectors with the highest degree of veneration. The correspondence is accompanied by the following extract from the *Straits Times* of 26th September last, which seems to be a fit preface to our subject:

"IMPORTANT TO PHILATELSITS.

"Postage stamps have, within the course of recent years, undergone a remarkable change, there being a very evident desire on the part of those countries which have adopted the new idea to improve the adaptability of the stamp for its work, and to make the stamp artistic. Emulating the example set by the nations of Europe, and France in particular, the Far East has stepped in, and has, and is, bidding for the premier position for artistic stamps. It is generally admitted that the new Borneo stamps (British) were genuine works of art, and there was quite a rage for their possession when they were first issued. British Borneo stamps stand unequalled in elegance of design and artistic merit. But they are run very closely by a new face in the field from Chinawards, and from no other place than the treaty port of Wuhu. We have seen a set of these new stamps, and they are of very fine design, and indicative of the place of issue. Wuhu has a name for being a great country for sport, and the Post-office there was opened on the 1st of July this year. The stamps are designed after the special features of Wuhu. For instance, the noted pagoda faces the fifteen cent stamp; and then on the others there are growing corn, a flock of wild ducks, and pheasant. The execution is really excellent, but the extreme thinness of the paper somewhat detracts from the artistic value. Philatelists will now have another collection to make."

The above specimen of Malagasy English is a little bit complicated, if read according to Lindley Murray, but we hope that our readers will grasp the meaning.

We will now proceed with the letter of the Postmaster and the enclosures.

A single-lined circle with "WUHU" in the upper part, "LOCAL POST"

in the lower part, and the date in the centre, ornaments the letter at the top.

"WUHU, CHINA, *Nov. 15th*, 1894.

"MR. —— ——,

"SIR,—It having been brought to my knowledge that certain erroneous articles have of late appeared in public print about this office and its stamps (and thinking you may have seen them), I beg herewith to enclose you *True Copy* of a letter received from the Municipal Council, Shanghai, *re* the starting of same; also copy of a letter from H. B. M. Consul at this port, authorising me to open and distribute the British mails which arrive here.

"This office, in addition to receiving Local Letters, also accepts and forwards to the respective agents at Shanghai *Foreign Mail Matter*, as well as *receiving* and *delivering same;* and as there are now five different Mission Societies at this port (all having branches in the Interior), besides our other residents, all of whose mails pass through this office, you will readily understand the necessity of having a Postal Department at this port.

"I am, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"(Signed) A. KNIGHT GREGSON,
"*Postmaster.*"

"No. 94/511.

"MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, 23, KEANGU ROAD,
"SHANGHAI, *July 23rd*, 1894.

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., enclosing minutes of a meeting of foreign residents of Wuhu, held on the 23rd June, at which it was decided that you should be appointed Local Postmaster there, and handing me a copy of the rules which you propose should be adopted for the office.

"Your letter and the rules have been submitted to the Council, and in reply I am directed to inform you that they have decided to make the same arrangement with the Local Post-office at Wuhu as they have with the local offices at Hankow, &c., and the Postmaster here has been instructed that the arrangement will come into force from and after the 1st August.

"As requested, I now return you the rules for the Wuhu Local Post enclosed in your letter under reply.

"I am, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"(Signed) W. F. THORBURN,
"*Secretary.*"

"H. B. M. CONSULATE,
"WUHU, *9th Nov.*, 1892.

"A. KNIGHT GREGSON, ESQ.,
"Local Postmaster, Wuhu.

"DEAR SIR,—If agreeable to you, I should be glad if you would open and distribute the contents of mail bags and mail packets that come from the British Post-office at Shanghai addressed to H. B. M. Consul, Wuhu, and you are hereby authorized to do so as long as I remain in charge of the Consulate.

I am, dear Sir,
"Yours faithfully,
"(Signed) COLIN M. FORD."

What do we find about stamps in these letters? All we see is that Mr. Gregson is the Local Postmaster, which we have never denied. He appears also to be the embodiment of the Local Post, for "WUHU LOCAL POST" seems to be nothing more or less than "GREGSON." Though, according to the *Straits Times*, Wuhu is a sporting country, this little philatelic game will certainly not do, for we cannot see how or why collectors should be called upon to aid the funds of the Wuhu Local Post. What we gather from the letters is this, that in 1892 the British

Consul authorized Mr. Gregson to open and distribute the mail bags coming from Shanghai addressed to the Consul, and that these mails are not now addressed to the Consul, but to Mr. Gregson as Local Postmaster, upon which Mr. Gregson issues a dollar set of stamps, which he is desirous of recommending to the notice of collectors.

It appears that Ichang is following in the same footsteps, and rumours are in circulation that something may be expected from Foo-choo. Why not revive the old Amoy stamps, with the Chinaman's umbrella higher than the pagoda? German locals *et hoc omne genus* have been snuffed out by collectors, and we hope that these Chinese Locals will have equal justice meted out to them.

SALE OF OLD STOCK.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies send us the following particulars of old stock, for the purchase of which they invite tenders to be delivered at their offices in Downing Street, London, up to 30th January, 1895. The several parcels cannot be broken, but each line of stamps may be tendered for separately. No tender for the British Honduras under face value will be considered.

British Honduras.

9,366 of 6d., orange, surcharge 20 cents in black in large type; face value £257 11s. 3d. This appears to be the surcharge of 1888, No. 38 in Moens' *Catalogue*, last edition.

4,206 of 1s., grey, surcharged 50 cents; face value £289 3s. 3d. This seems to be No. 39 in Moens.

6,867 reddish-brown 3d., surcharged 3 cents, and afterward 5; face value £47 4s. 2d., corresponding with No. 51 of Moens.

15,542 blue 3d., surcharged 6 cents, anl afterwards 15 cents; face value £320 11s. 1d., corresponding with No. 52 in Moens.

Stellaland.

A large parcel of revenue stamps, which seems to us to be of the white elephant description, and at the best a particularly speculative lot. Many of them are overprinted with the initials *J. P. M.*, which was done to prevent the circulation of a parcel supposed to have been stolen, but which was subsequently recovered. Tenders will be received for the overprinted, and those not overprinted separately, but the several parcels cannot be broken. The stamps are those mentioned in Moens' *Catalogue* 12,000 to 12,008, and consist of:

£5, carmine;	initialed	1,234;	unmarked 42.
£1, violet	,,	39	,, none.
10s., red	,,	906	,, 1,594.
5s., green	,,	2,233	,, 636.
2s. 6d., purple	,,	417	,, 3,643.
2s., blue	,,	3,316	,, none.
1s. 6d., olive-green	,,	2,990	,, 159.
1s., brown	,,	64	,, none.
6d. yellow	,,	191	,, 41.

It further appears that in addition to the above, which after the incorporation of Stellaland with British Bechuanaland were made use of for a time in the latter territory, there were some fiscal stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, bearing the inscription, "STAMP ACT, 1864," overprinted "BRITISH BECHUANALAND," in use prior to 31st December, 1887, when they were withdrawn from circulation. These seem to have escaped the keen observation of M. Moens, as we do not find them

in the *Catalogue*. It is not stated by the Commissioners to which issue of these fiscal stamps the overprinted stamps belong, as the colours are not given. The stamps consist of:

1457 of 1 shilling. | 1430 of 6 pence.

We conclude that these are of the issue with "anchor and cable" as the watermark, the first in brown on white, the second in brown on yellow; but, as we say, the notice of the Crown Agents does not state these particulars.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

THE work of Herr H. Fraenkel, the Librarian of the Berlin Philatelists' Club, is a welcome addition to German Philatelic Bibliography,* as it presents in a tabular form a chronological list of all the German Philatelic periodicals down to the end of 1893. It may be considered as a species of supplement to the great work of Judge Suppantschitsch, which, published in numbers, has only been recently completed, and that portion of the work which gave a catalogue of the German periodical literature was published in 1892, only bringing down the lists till December, 1891. The list contains the 146 titles, of which 38 survive, a somewhat goodly number, the *doyen* of these being Senf's *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal*, commenced in January, 1874, and of which the last number for 1894 is 384, completing the 21st year of its age. The reason of the number of Philatelic journals in Germany is not difficult to explain. The number of Philatelic Societies is very large, and all those at the great centres, Berlin, Vienna, Munich, Dresden, Leipsic, &c., make choice of a journal as their particular organ, and many of them issue to their members a copy of this journal, together with a special supplement giving details of the work of the Society, which only concerns its members, and not the public generally. It is an admirable system, as it shows to the members what the Society is really doing, and keeps up the interest in its work.

The idea of Herr Fraenkel to put the statistics of each journal in a tabular form is highly commendable. It shows at a glance the living and the dead. Perhaps among the list there is not one that shows so many struggles for existence as Grossman's *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*. The issue for 1884 was called vol. xiv.; that for 1885, vol. xxvii. In 1887 eight numbers appeared; in 1888, two numbers; in 1889, two numbers; and in 1890, one number, after which it expired.

* * *

THE *Philatelic Diary* for 1895 is not a quarto volume, but a dainty little book, the size of a halfpenny post card, bound in morocco, furnished with a pencil, three pockets for stamps, and an odontometer. Its interior consists of a diary of a week on each pair of pages, and 25 pages of very useful information, all for the modest sum of half-a-crown. The happy purchaser will not only feel that he has made a useful and pretty investment, but will wonder how he could ever have got on without it. Unfortunately we went to press so early last month, in order not to interfere with the Christmas holidays of our printers, that we could not notice it then to recommend it in lieu of a Christmas card, and we almost fear that it is now "out of stock," as there must have been a "run" upon it. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, were the originators, and are the publishers, of the bijou.

* *Chronologische Tabelle der deutschen philatelistichen Zeitschriften*, 1863–1893. Von H. Fraenkel. 1 mark.

ANOTHER of M. Lindenberg's welcome treatises on the envelopes of Germany has just made its appearance. The present one treats of the envelopes of Hanover, and also of those of the town of Hanover.* We need scarcely say that to those who make a study of the German envelopes these treatises are perfectly indispensable. Nothing hitherto done approaches them in accuracy, because the facts are all drawn from official *data*. The treatises on the envelopes of Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Prussia, and Germany proper will complete the work.

* * *

WE are compelled to defer our notice of *The Stamp News Annual* for 1895 till our next number; but it will be found, like its predecessors, to combine amusement with what is more serious, and though late in making its *debut*, will not be the less welcome.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

MACAO.—*The surcharges on the stamps, &c. of Macao, as recorded in our number for December last.*

Number 37 of the Official Bulletin of the Government of Macao and Timor, corresponding to the 15th September last, contains the following decree:

"No. 189.

"Taking note of the recommendations set forth in the report of the Commission nominated by the provincial decree No. 173 of the 31st August last, in compliance with the proposals presented by the said Commission concerning the stamps on the stamp tax and the stamped paper, as also that which relates to the postage stamps of Macao and Timor, reducing the respective postal rates, in agreement with the equivalents imposed by the Postal Convention of 1891, applicable to the countries where the lawful money is in *patacas;* further

"Considering that paragraph 2 of Article IV. of the regulations for the execution of the Convention of Vienna of 4th July, 1891, determines that in the event of alterations in the monetary system of a country, the Administration of this country must agree with the Swiss Postal Administration in the modification of the respective equivalents.

"Considering also that Article XII. of the decree of 5th July last fixes the monetary values of this province in *patacas*. In accordance with the provincial decree No. 172 of 31st August last, I have deemed it proper to decide:

"1. That the stamps on the stamp tax and stamped paper actually in circulation shall be surcharged with their corresponding values in *patacas* and fractions of *patacas*, and the existing figures obliterated.

"2. That a similar modification shall be made in the stamps and post cards of Macao and Timor, continuing provisionally to collect in fractions of *patacas* the same rates of postage as up to now have been collected in *reis*.

"3. That the form and values of the various surcharges, whether on the stamps of the stamp tax and the stamped paper, or on the postage stamps and post cards, shall be fixed according to the tables below, as stipulated by the Secretary-General of the Government.

"That the authorities and other persons whom the knowledge and

* *Die Briefumschläge von Hannover, bearbeitet von C. Lindenberg. Berlin*, 1893. Verlag von Dr. Brendicke. 4 marks.

execution of the present decree may concern take heed and conform to it.

"Government House, Macao, 14 September, 1894.
"The Governor of the Province.
"José M. de S. Horta e Costa.

"Table concerning the surcharges on postage stamps and post cards.

Reis.	*Avos de patacas.*	*Reis.*	*Avos de patacas.*
2½	½	40	6
5	1	50	8
10	2	80	13
20	3	100	16
25	4	200	31
30	5	300	47

"The surcharges shall be made in the following form :

"In the upper part the new value in *avos de pataca* shall be printed in colour, and the same value in Chinese characters in the lower part. In the centre the word 'provisorio.'"

Note.—From the above it appears probable that the new issue will also be overprinted with "avos."

* * *

Belgium.—The following notice appeared in the *Moniteur Belge* in November last :

"The sale of the special stamps of 5, 10, and 25 centimes issued on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition of Antwerp will cease from the 31st December next, and after that date the said stamps will not be valid.

"The postage stamps affixed to the receipt of the charge for collecting bills and the receipts given prior to the 1st January, 1895, and handed to the post to receive the amounts will alone continue to be admitted."

The sapient Minister, M. Vandenpeereboom, was soon informed by the Press that he had made a mistake, and issued a supplementary order, dated 24th December, to the following effect :

"Taking note of the order of 2nd November, 1894, directing that the validity of the said stamps will cease on 31st December, 1894, it is ordered

"That the postage stamps with the Arms of Antwerp may be exchanged at the Post and Telegraph-offices for postage stamps in current use for a period of two months, from 1st January to 28th February, 1895."

Notes and Queries.

The Registered Letters String.—Consequent on the remarks we made on the story in *Black and White* reproduced in the *London Philatelist*, specimens have been sent to us of the strings used by the Post-office for Registered Letters prior to the issue of the Registration Envelopes. They were of two kinds. The first was a narrow glazed tape of 3 mm. ; and this gave place to a three-strand rough string, so rough as to have the *appearance* of worsted, and this was the last. They are both the same colour, blue-green.

Belgium.—The *Echo de la Timbrologie* says that the Belgian Post-office has a considerable stock of stamps of 5 francs still on hand ; but it will not part with it on any terms, and has the intention of disposing

of the lot singly by auction for as much as they will fetch. This seems a story too wild to be true. Is the Minister of Trade going to open a trade in postage stamps?

PERU.—The old stock of Peru stamps that have been ornamented with an overprint of the bust of Morales Bermudez is, we are informed, not limited to the values we stated; but *Die Post* professes to give a circumstantial list, from which it would seem that there has been a complete clearance of old stock composed of remnants of all dimensions. The following is the list as given by that journal:

1860.	1 d., blue	200.	1882.	10 c., green	361,170.
,,	1 p., red	100.	,,	20 c., carmine	680.
1862.	1 d. ,,	1,400.	,,	5 c., blue	263,285.
,,	1 p., brown	100.	,,	50 c., rose	49,400.
1866.	5 c., green	1,200.	,,	50 c. ,,	36,500.
,,	10 c., vermilion	200.	,,	1 s., brown	41,800.
1871.	5 c., red	500.	1883.	1 c., orange	41,867.
1874.	2 c., violet	883,260.	,,	10 c., green	34,230.
,,	50 c., green	76,485.	,,	50 c. ,,	1,000.
1876.	5 c., blue	71,980.	,,	1 c. ,,	380.
,,	10 c., green	1,568,160.	,,	5 c., blue	2,080.
,,	20 c., carmine	1,200.	,,	2 c., vermilion	16,323.
1879.	1 c., orange	175,164.	,,	5 c, blue	10,950.
1880.	1 c., green	1,240.	,,	2 c., vermilion	543,127.
,,	2 c., carmine	1,406.	,,	5 c., blue	499,615.
1881.	1 c., green	68,678.	,,	1 c., green	516,823.
,,	5 c., blue	1,430.	,,	2 c., carmine	631,057.
1882.	1 c., orange	224,963.	1884.	5 c., blue	580.
,,	2 c., violet	199,105.	1885.	10 c., grey	10,400.
,,	2 c., carmine	34,416.	,,	10 c., olive	5,500.

AREQUIPA.	1883.	10 c., red	8,200.	
	1885.	10 c., olive	1,300.	
HUACHO.	1884.	10 c., green	420.	
CUZCO.	1883.	10 c., red	1,200.	
PUNO.	1885.	10 c., grey	500.	

TONGA.—We seem last month to have overstated the case regarding the former Postmaster, but we took the story from some of our contemporaries. The Postmaster was not, however, tried for malversation, but he was accused of it, and brought an action for libel against his accuser, in which he failed to obtain a verdict in his favour. Again, the *L. P.* says that the printers made the amounts £26,775 3*s.* 4*d.* and £55,517 1*s.* 6*d.*, which ought to have been $26,775·3·4 and $55,517·1·6. They evidently, like ourselves, did not understand these double decimals, which we confess is a novel feature to us in decimal calculation.

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON, Esq.
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer—Mr. G. JOHNSON, B.A.

Dec. 6.—R. H. Hunter, Esq. (Ottawa), and J. Figuet (Paris), were elected members.

Display—"*Great Britain.*"—The President exhibited a fine lot of unused, nearly every variety being shewn in nice shades, singles, pairs, strips, and blocks.

Messrs. Pimm, Walton, and Johnson shewed collections of used and

unused, including reconstructed plates of various values; some of the most interesting were the separate plates of the dies, perforations, and paper of the early issues of 1d. red.

Dec. 20.—C. Manby, Esq. (Bath), and Dr. G. H. Hart (Birmingham), were elected members. A subscription was voted to W. Brown's *Straits Settlements*. Votes of thanks were given to Messrs. T. Buhl & Co. for complete files of the *Philatelic Record* and *Stamp News* for 1894, to C. G. Vojel for the *I. B. Offertenblatt*, to H. Hilckes for *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, to L. M. Staebler for *Canadian Philatelist*.

Mr. W. Pimm read his paper on Ceylon, illustrating it by means of his very large and fine collection of these stamps.

On December 21st the September packet was returned, and next day all amounts due to members were sent out. The last three packets were £167 3s. 6d., £177 15s. 9d., £202 14s. 11½d., and with the last one, a nice packet (£118 7s. 8d. nett cash), was included from Canadian Society, It has also been arranged that a packet from the Canadian Society shall be circulated each month.

Jan. 3, 1895.—The Hon. Secretary read his paper on South Australia, illustrating the issues, shades, perforations, and papers from his own collection, arranged according to the *Handbook on South Australia*, and pointed out several varieties not chronicled therein.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED MAY, 1890.

President—T. K. SKIPWITH.

THE 66th meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Leeds, on Saturday, 1st December, 1894. Eleven members were present, and the chair was occupied by the President, Mr. T. K. Skipwith.

The donations included the current numbers of the *Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser* and *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*.

Mr. Fred. A. Padgett was ballotted for, and unanimously elected a member.

The Rev. T. S. Fleming showed some good copies of very early stamps of Hawaii, and Mr. John H. Thackrah a copy of the 6d., blue, New Zealand, star watermark, perf. $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

A proposal from the Manchester Philatelic Society for the establishment of a federated system of exchanges was laid before the meeting. It was decided that the Committee consider it, and report to the next meeting.

Mr. John F. C. Sieber then read a most interesting paper on "Methods of Production of Stamps," in which, by the aid of actual examples of copper and steel plates, matrices, stereotype and wood blocks, lithographic stones, &c., he gave a clear and useful account of the *taille-douce*, *epargne*, and "lithographic" methods of manufacturing stamps, with the view of enabling inexperienced members to understand how the various styles may be distinguished from each other. At the close Mr. Sieber received a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. W. Beckwith, seconded by Rev. T. S. Fleming.

W. DENISON ROEBUCK, *Sunny Bank, Leeds,*
JOHN F. C. SIEBER, *Guiseley, near Leeds,*
} *Hon. Secs.*

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

THE fourth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel on Friday, November 9th, 1894. Present, nineteen members. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Abbott took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary read the correspondence. Mr. Sellud was elected a member.

Mr. W. W. Munn read the first portion of his observations upon the adhesives of the United States, pointing out, *inter alia*, the means by which the originals could be distinguished from the reprints. He also referred to the recent discovery of the so-called provisional of the Confederate States, viz., the United States 3 c., 1861 issue, perf. 12, surcharged "C S A." Mr. Munn pointed out that the stamp so surcharged was mentioned as being on the original envelope postmarked February to May, 1861, whereas the particular 3 c. stamp (perf. 12) was not issued, according to Tiffany, until 14th August, 1861.

Several fine collections of United States were exhibited.

The fifth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel, on Friday, November 23rd, 1894. Present, fourteen members, the Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Committee reported upon the desirability of forming a Federation of the leading provincial societies for the purpose of exchange. Mr. Duerst, on behalf of the sub-Committee, read the draft of the suggested rules. These rules were considered, revised, and adopted. Resolved that the other societies be approached with a view to ascertaining their views on the matter.

Mr. Munn read the continuation of his paper on the adhesives of the United States, for which he received a hearty vote of thanks.

W. Dorning Beckton.

Daisy Bank, Swinton Park.

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting was held at the President's (Dr. J. A. H. Murray) house on Tuesday, January 8, nine members and one visitor present. The Hon. Secretary read his Report for the year, from which it appeared that ten meetings were held, with an average attendance of 50 per cent. of the members; five members were elected, and two resigned.

Papers have been read at the meetings, and some of these have already been printed in the philatelic periodicals.

The library has been increased by presents from Messrs. Theodor Buhl & Co., Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., the Mekeel Co., Mr. W. Morley, and others. The books have been much used by the members.

The Society's collection of forged and reprinted stamps has been increased by fifty specimens, and the whole are being arranged for reference. The Secretary would like to exchange duplicate specimens with other Secretaries. The stamps should be clearly defaced, so as to prevent them being taken as genuine.

The exchange section connected with the Society has been managed by Mr. J. F. Burnett, and has been of interest to the members.

The balance sheet was also read by the Treasurer, and this showed a balance of about £2 in hand; part of this was ordered to be spent upon books. These two reports were approved, and votes of thanks passed.

In future the June meeting will not be held, but one in September instead.

Dr. J. A. H. Murray was unanimously re-elected President; the Rev. H Cummings to be Vice-President; F. A. Bellamy, F.R.MET.S. (15, St. John's Road) was re-elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for the fifth year; and Mr. J. F. Burnett, F.C.S., as Assistant Secretary; Messrs. Heurtley Sankey, M.R.C.S., Harold Thompson, M.R.C.S., J. R. F. Turner, C. S. Millard, and W. J. Jeeves to complete the Committee.

One name was proposed for membership.

The usual votes of thanks were passed.

INDEX TO PHILATELIC GAINS

CHRONICLED IN VOL. XVI. OF "THE PHILATELIC RECORD" FOR 1894.

NOTE.—In deference to the wishes of many of our subscribers, we have this year considerably curtailed the issue of list of "Philatelic Gains in 1894," confining it to those recorded in the volume of the *Record* for that year, and abstaining from setting out the values of the stamps of new issues separately, which seemed to us to swell out the length of the list without any corresponding advantages. We had hoped to have been able to combine this with the index of the volume for 1894, and avoid having two indices; but in December we are obliged to go to press early in the month, or our issue would have to be deferred till after the Christmas holidays.

Unless otherwise described, the values are adhesives. Words in Italics refer to a particular feature or change in the stamp. The references are to the *Philatelic Record* for 1894. A note of interrogation denotes that the authenticity of the stamp is doubtful.

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Theodor Buhl, Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. FEBRUARY, 1895. No. 194.

PHILATELY is not so simple a matter as it may appear to be to the outside world, if it is treated as a science; and we constantly find ourselves at fault. We do our best to unravel one difficulty, when another springs up, and we do not know that we have met with one more knotty than the composition of coloured inks used in the printing of stamps. And yet the subject is of importance at the present day, when the use of fugitive and doubly fugitive inks is so common. Let us not be mistaken. We do not want to find the recipes of the coloured inks, or to dive into inkmakers' secrets, but we want to ascertain whether the component parts of a particular colour are permanent or fugitive, for if an ink is composed of a permanent colour and a fugitive one, the chances are that the colour will become altered by one or other of the enemies—age, light, or atmospheric influences. Very little has been written on the subject, and what has been written is, we think, scarcely to be relied on. Doubly fugitive inks confined to two colours seem to be the speciality of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and were made the great feature of the unified stamps issued in consequence of the legislation of 1881 and 1882, by which about 5 per cent. of the postage stamps were made available for revenue purposes—that is, the public were themselves allowed to obliterate that proportion of the postage stamps. They were instructed how to do it, but we think it would have been more effectual had it been ordered that the document would be regarded as unstamped were the regulations not strictly complied with, for half the receipts, etc., given are not obliterated in conformity with the regulations. It will be remembered that in the unified series there were in reality—putting out of the question the stamp of 2s. 6d.—five types for ten stamps, each type printed in lilac, and also in green, the

A Word on Colours.

halfpenny being the odd man, and not altered or unified; and though its colour was changed to a funereal one, yet it seems to have been regarded with a want of respect somewhat akin to that with which Mr. Mantilini treated the coin of similar value. When, however, the fact became known those two halfpennies were equivalent to one penny, on the issue of the new series, the halfpenny was also made a unified stamp, though, unlike the rest, it was printed in a singly fugitive colour. Happily for the general appearance of the series, the greatest possible ingenuity was brought to bear upon the designs, and while the greater number of them were in doubly fugitive colours, yet several have been varied by the introduction of portions in simply fugitive ones so as to brighten the effect.

If we take our own line-engraved one penny stamps, it was virtually admitted by the late Mr. J. B. Bacon, in his examination before the Committee of 1852, that the colour was subject to decomposition. The base of that ink was a vegetable dye-stuff. But of all the colours which appear to us to have undergone changes by time or atmospheric influences, those in which the lakes were in combination with any other colours seem to have suffered most. There are several reds which come from natural sources, having their bases in cochineal, madder, logwood, etc. These are all subject to deterioration by exposure to light. Those reds which are formed from mercury, lead, and iron do not appear to suffer, except those which have lead as their basis, as by exposure to air these become blackened by the formation of sulphide, and this applies to chrome-yellow, which is also a lead compound.

There are a few vegetable yellows—saffron, quer-citron, etc., but the yellow commonly used is chrome, and this also in combination with blue to form green, which is termed chrome-green, Brunswick-green, etc. In the blues we seem to have only two natural sources, indigo and ultramarine, but the latter is mostly a chemical composition. The other blues are chemical ones. We do not know of any greens that are vegetable except sage-green, though we believe there is a green lake, but are not aware that it is used except as a dye-stuff. Browns are, for the most part, of a mineral nature, while purples are almost all vegetable, and highly fugitive.

We fear that we are exhibiting a lamentable amount of ignorance in the above few remarks, but we risk that in our desire

to ventilate a subject respecting which the only attempt that seems to have been made was in the *Philatelic Record* for 1881, and we would invite the attention of our readers to it, especially with a view of determining what colours used in the production of stamps are liable to suffer principally from age, or from light and atmospheric influences. In our early days of collecting we had a whole page dedicated to varieties of the $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling of Hamburg, 1864, the greater part of which were due to a judicious application of sunlight upon them. The barbarous system also of the bath is in many stamps attended with the result of deadening the colour of the impression and also of enfeebling it. In some few stamps aniline colours are said to have been employed, but these do not appear to have been successful, as the use of them was abandoned by the printing establishments which adopted them.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* THEODOR BUHL, LIMITED, *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Abyssinia.—Doubts have been expressed whether the stamps recently described as having been made for the Negus Menilek are not *articles de Paris*, and belong to the genus "*carotte*," the principal reason alleged being that at present there are no post-offices in this territory. M. Maury stands valiantly forward in their defence, and states that the stamps were manufactured at the National factory in Paris, and that the engraving and impression have been duly paid for. The stamps have been sent out *viâ* Obock, but whether they are in use is quite another question. The specimens that have been seen have not come from Ethiopia, nor have they travelled even so far as Obock, but seem to have been disposed of in Paris, perhaps to help to pay the bill.

Austria.—We learn from the *T.-P.* that the 5 and 10 kr. are now printed on thinner paper, with an increased quantity of coloured fibres in it. The perforation is also changed.

5 kr., rose and black; perf. 13.
10 „ blue „ „ $10\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

Azores.—The *A. J. of P.* states that it has seen the 80 reis of the 1868 issue with the overprint of that of 1875, with broad "O" and open "S," and that the specimen is undoubtedly genuine.

80 reis, orange (1868), with overprint of 1875; perf. 12½.

Bamra.—The *T.-P.* chronicles a new composition of the sixteen varieties of the stamps of ¼, 2, 4, and 8 annas, there being no change in the 1 anna. It is stated that the first and third of the four horizontal rows have "Postage" with a capital "P," while in the second and fourth it is a small "p." For a wonder no errors are discoverable. In the ½ anna the alteration of the composition has changed the position of the "totem," and the capitals and small letters of the "p" are distributed as follows:

P	P	p	P
P	P	p	p
P	p	p	p
P	p	P	P.

Nine capitals and seven small "p's."

All the values are in sheets of 80 stamps.

¼ anna, black on violet-rose.
½ ,, ,, on yellow-green.
½ ,, ,, on blue-green on thick paper.
2 ,, ,, on salmon.
4 ,, ,, ,,
8 ,, ,, ,,

Bhopal.—The same journal has received the ¼ anna in eight varieties, in two horizontal rows of four, pierced in points, and also imperforate. In the former the last stamp shows the omission of the last "A" in "NAWAB," leaving a vacant space; but in the imperforate ones this letter is inserted, and the inscriptions in relief are also inverted in these. Probably these varieties are not peculiar to the imperforate stamps, and are common to both. The impression is on white laid paper.

¼ anna, black; imperforate.
¼ ,, ,, punctured in points.

British Bechuanaland.—We are reminded that we have omitted to chronicle the following post cards, overprinted in black, for this colony: The 1 penny, Cape of Good Hope, brown on white; the 1d. + 1d. of Great Britain, in red on buff; and the single card of 1d., surcharged with "THREE HALFPENCE" in two lines.

Post Cards. 1d., brown on white (Cape of Good Hope).
1d. + 1d., red on buff (Great Britain).
1½d. on 1d. ,, ,,

Brunei or **Borneo Proper.**—Sarawak and North Borneo being furnished with stamps, the latter in an eminent degree, it is not to be wondered at that the Sultanate of Brunei, which with the abovenamed territories and the island of Labuan have been for some years past under the Protectorate of Great Britain, should

have a series of stamps. The territory of the Sultan of Brunei lies between Sarawak and that belonging to the North Borneo Company. Accordingly we find that the Sultan is provided with a series of 10 adhesives. The stamps are of large size, being rectangles of 26 × 22 mm., the design showing a five-rayed star, over which is a crescent with inscription in Malagese. There is a picture of land and water as the background, and on the sides of the framing are "POSTAGE & | REVENUE," and in the upper part is "BRUNEI" on a solid tablet. The numeral of value is at the bottom on an escutcheon, with the denomination on each side. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 14.

½ cent, light brown.	8 cents, brown.
1 ,, brown-red.	10 ,, orange.
2 cents, black.	25 ,, pale blue.
3 ,, violet-blue.	50 ,, olive-green.
5 ,, blue-green.	1 dollar, light olive-brown.

Cape Verde Islands.—We appear to have omitted to mention that these islands have not been overlooked in the general supply of stamps, but we believe that up to the present time, besides the stamp of 2½ reis, only the following values have been actually issued; viz., 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 50 reis; but the other values will be issued as occasion requires. The first four of the above were issued on 5th September last.

Chinese Locals.—*Chunking* furnishes a supply of this rubbish. The *Timbre-Poste* gives a list of five values—2, 3, 4, 16, and 24 candarin—but an engraving of another value, the 8 candarin, so we suppose there are more.

Gregson's Wuhus seem to have a "a downward tendency," to use a Capel-court expression, and the reports of Tientsins are by no means favourable. Mr. Benjamin writes to the *P. J. of Gt. B.* that he is officially informed that no such institution exists as the Tientsin Local Post-office.

Congo.—The colours of the 5 and 10 centimes have been altered. The two values have, however, only exchanged colours.

5 centimes, brown-red and black.
10 ,, blue ,,

Ecuador.—The fiscal stamp of 2 centavos, 1891–1892, has been utilised for official purposes by hand-stamping on it, in black, "OFICIAL 1894 y 1895."

Official. 2 cents, claret; overprint in black.

Great Britain.—If our memory does not deceive us we have seen the letter "P" stamped on the remains of "M" in one of the plates of the One Penny line engraved stamps to cover an error made by the engraver in the lettering of the vertical alphabetical column. "Q" on "N" is now reported. Not that either of these corrections are of any philatelic interest, but they serve to show the fallibility of handwork.

The halfpenny post card was issued in "Court shape," as it dubs itself, on the 21st of last month, the size being 114 × 88½ mm. The public are a little the gainers, as a schoolboy, who has worked the sum out, informs us that in superficial area it is larger than the other size by a space equal to about ¾ × ½ inch. The width, it will be seen, is more than that of the large size of 1870 which was withdrawn, as it was found to be inconvenient then. But *then* the size was not fashionable!

The *A. J. of P.* has seen the 1½d., line engraved, with "O—P" in the upper angles, and "P—C" in the lower ones. May not the "C" be an imperfect "O"?

Greece.—The letters Δ T, followed by a numeral, which is found on some of the stamps, is said by the *T.-P.* to signify "Δημοτακος Ταχυδρομος," or "municipal letter carrier," with his particular number. It is applied by him to letters which he has to deliver in town.

Guatemala.—The *Coll. de Timbres-poste* announces a stamp of 6 centavos of the current type, due to an increase in the postal rates. The 2 c. is also said to have been surcharged "1894 | 1 | CENTAVO," similarly to those chronicled last year.

1 c. on 2 c., brown; surcharged in black.
6 centavos, lilac.

Holland.—The postage-due stamp of 2½ cents is now in ultramarine, like the 5, 10, and 12½ cents.

Postage Due. 2½ cents, ultramarine and black.

Honduras.—The Seebeck series for 1895 seems to be of moderate dimensions, if the whole of the values are to hand. The design shows the figure of Justice.

The following only are noted. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 12.

1 centavo, vermilion.	20 centavos, blue.
2 centavos, dark blue.	30 ,, mauve.
5 ,, slate.	50 ,, dark brown.
10 ,, carmine.	1 peso, green.

Envelopes. 5 centavo, black on white wove; size 158 × 90 mm.
10 ,, red-brown ,, ,, ,,

Post Cards. 2 centavos, green on brown.
2+2 ,, ,, ,,
3 ,, ,, lilac.
3+3 ,, ,, ,,

Hongkong.—The *T.-P.* states that in the more recent surcharges of the 20 cents on 30 cents, and 50 cents on 48 cents, the Chinese characters in the left upper part of the frame have been somewhat modified.

20 c. on 30 c., green, surcharged in black, *variety.*
30 c. on 48 c., brown ,,

Hungary.—The envelope of 5 kr. has, according to the same journal, appeared in two new sizes on white wove paper.

Envelope. 5 kr., orange; size 150 × 96 mm.
5 kr., vermilion „ 159 × 125 mm.

India.—It is reported that Bamra, Nandgaon, and Wadhwan will for the future issue no stamps of their own; and it is also said that it will be the same with regard to Jamu-Kashmir. All these States will for the future be served by Indian stamps. We fear this is too good news to be entirely true. At present there is no stamp of ¼ anna in the Indian series of adhesives.

Italy.—We have omitted to chronicle the new postage due stamp of 20 centesimi, which has superseded the provisional "goggles." It is similar in type to the other values.

Postage Due. 20 centesimi, carmine and buff.



Mozambique.—The annexed engravings show how the surcharge of the values in "avos" has been applied as chronicled by us at the end of last year.



Nicaragua.—The Seebeck series for 1895 has been issued, and possesses no very novel features. The Arms, which are the distinguishing feature, are in a triangle, with a trophy of battle-axes, bayonets, swords, and flags behind. There is also an official series printed uniformly in green, and overprinted in blue with "FRANQUEO OFICIAL" in graduated capitals at the top. The envelopes show the Arms embossed within an oval band, intercepted by two discs near the bottom carrying the numeral of value. The impression is on white wove paper, and the perforation of the stamps is 12.

1 centavo, yellow-brown.
2 centavos, vermilion.
5 „ blue.
10 „ slate.
20 „ carmine.
50 centavos, mauve.
1 peso, brown.
2 pesos, green.
5 „ red-brown.
10 „ orange.

Official. 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 centavos; 1, 2, 5, 10 pesos; green, overprint in blue.

Envelopes. 5 centavos, blue; size 158 × 90 mm.
10 „ slate „ „ „
20 „ carmine; size 238 × 102 mm.
30 „ brown „ „ „
50 „ mauve „ „ „

Wrappers. 1 centavo, green on blue wove.
2 „ „ „
4 „ „ „

Post Cards. 2 „ vermilion on buff.
2+2 „ „ „
3 „ blue on light blue.
3+3 „ „ „

Niger Coast Protectorate.—Last May! we chronicled this issue, and have only just received engravings of the types. Though very late we still give them, as they are worth recording.



Nyassa Company.—The *P. J. of Gt. B.* has seen two vertical rows of the 20 reis, violet, imperforate in the centre. This is not startling news, as very probably other varieties may be found before these stamps are finally disposed of; but from all we learn they have never been issued, and are never likely to be issued. The paternal government that supplies the wants of its children so liberally will not allow them to be the spoil of outsiders, and refuses to recognise these stamps. We should like to know to whom collectors are indebted for the lot. The *P. J. of G. B.* states that Mr. W. Brown is the agent for the stamps, whatever that may be, and *pending negotiations* has very properly decided to hold his hand, and we suppose will, as the agent, be prepared to receive back any that may have been already disposed of. When we announced this issue in October last we intimated our suspicions about them, which are more than justified.

Panama.—The *A. J. of P.* gives a most formidable list of errors, chiefly dependent on punctuation, in the surcharges mentioned in our last, but states that it has since received a further supply of those of 1 c. and 5 c., in which these errors have been corrected; but there is an additional error of an inverted "ʌ" in place of "v" in "CENTAVO" in the 1 c. There are two varieties of the numeral in the surcharge of 1 c., one with a straight serif, and the other with a slanting one, and the same is found in the 10 c. There are *three* varieties of the "5," thick figure with straight top, thick figure with curved top, and thin figure with curved top.

Russian Locals.—From the *Timbre-Poste:*

Ardatoff.—Since the end of last year a stamp of a new design, shown in the annexed engraving, has been in use. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$.



3 kopecks, green.

Bogorodsk.—During the latter months of 1894 the postage due stamps of 2 kopecks, light brown, and 4 kopecks, red, being exhausted, an impression was made of these values in rose, of which it is stated that 340 of those of 2 kopecks and 1000 of those of 4 kopecks were only printed, which it was considered would suffice till the 1st January, when new regulations were to come into operation; but on the 20th December they were obliged to have recourse to the 4 kopecks prepared for 1895.

The Secretary of the Administration has, however, been equal to the occasion, for, knowing the weakness of collectors for provisional stamps, he, like a prudent man, keeps back in reserve some of those stamps, which, out of regard for collectors, he proposes to sell at a good price, and no doubt this kind forethought of his will be duly appreciated.



Postage Due.

2 kopecks, rose. | 4 kopecks, rose.

The stamps for 1895 are similar to those of 1894, except that the inscription at the foot is suppressed. The date 1894 has not been altered. The impression is as before, on plain white paper, and the perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$.

2 kopecks, blue. | 4 kopecks, blue.
3 „ „ | 8 „ green.
20 kopecks, ultramarine.

Postage Due. 2 kopecks, brown-red. | 4 kopecks, brown.
3 „ rose. | 8 „ vermilion.
20 kopecks, brown-red.

The regulations fixing the rates on letters do not contemplate any higher one than 8 kopecks, which is for registered letters. The stamps of 20 kopecks are therefore most probably added as a special favour for collectors, for they appear to have no postal use. Possibly that model secretary might be induced to have a few cancelled if proper representations were made to him by collectors, accompanied by adequate remunerating fees for the extra trouble.

Lawny.—A new stamp of the type shown in the engraving has made its appearance, and will doubtless be hailed with what Dickens calls the proper amount of "entonsionsy."



5 kopecks, blue on white; perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$.

Liebedjan.—It is gratifying to see how attentive the Administrations are in Russia in producing efficient varieties in their goods. This stamp, after having been printed in red on yellow and in black on green, dons for the year 1895 the new colour of blue on white. 5 kopecks, bright blue.

Ochansk.—A disinterment of an issue prior to the well-known square one, the date of the issue of which has hitherto been erroneously given as 1871 in place of 1872, has lately been made. It appears that in 1871 a demand for the introduction of stamps in Ochansk with the Arms of the district was made to the provincial regency of the Government of Perm, but by reason of the mass of business pressing on the provincial regency, the necessary authority was not given at the general assembly, and its members hesitated to give effect to the proposal before a general assembly could be again held.

The harvest of 1871 was a complete failure in the southern part of the district, while that in the northern part was good; the members of the regency decided that in order not to restrain private correspondence the southern part of the district should be exonerated from paying the rate on correspondence. As, however, the prepayment had been declared obligatory the regency decided, without waiting for the next assembly, to manufacture the following stamps:

1. For the northern part of the district a stamp of 3 kopecks.
2. For the southern part of the district a stamp without value.

The following stamps shown in the annexed engravings were therefore prepared and issued:





The stamps found on old correspondence are obliterated with a cross in pen and ink, as in the first of these engravings. The hand obliterating stamp, shown in the second, dates from 1872, when it was ordered.

This history has been discovered from the archives of the district, which have lately been put in order by the direction of the new president of the regency. It may not be out of place to state that there are two types of the stamp with the Arms of 1872, one manufactured at Ossa, and the other, the only one hitherto known, manufactured at Perm. In the former there is an arabesque pattern round the escutcheon.

Issue of 1871. 3 kopecks, dark blue.
No value, light blue.

Salvador.—This Republic is in the happy condition of having two sets of stamps for 1895. The stamps were originally prepared with a portrait of the ex-President Ezeta, but owing to a revolution the stamps were ordered to be overprinted with the Arms of the Republic, and a fresh set has now been prepared with the Arms as the central design. The position will best be explained by the following letter from Mr. Seebeck to the *P. J. of A.*, in sending specimens of the new issue:

"The other set sent you previously, bearing the portrait of the ex-President Ezeta (surcharged with a coat of Arms), will only be used provisionally, and then the new set herewith enclosed will go into use. The reason for the necessity of this double set is, that during the administration of President Ezeta a set of stamps was ordered bearing his portrait. By order of the new government the set of stamps bearing the portrait of Ezeta, already engraved and a small quantity printed, were surcharged with the coat of Arms. As the quantity received by the Government was very small, they will no doubt last but a very short time, and then the new set will be put in use."

This is very pretty but not very satisfactory to collectors of such stamps, as we may possibly have a set with and without the overprint, &c., &c.

The central design is the same in all the values, but the frames are varied. The impression is, as usual, on plain white paper, and the perforation is 12.

Provisional Issue.

1 centavo,	brown	; Arms in	green.	
2 centavos,	green	,,	blue.	
3 ,,	brown	,,	brown.	
5 ,,	blue	,,	,,	
10 ,,	orange	,,	,,	
12 ,,	maroon	,,	,,	
15 ,,	vermilion	,,	vermilion.	
20 ,,	yellow	,,	brown.	
24 ,,	purple	,,	,,	
30 ,,	blue	,,	blue.	
50 ,,	carmine	,,	brown.	
1 peso,	black-brown	,,	,,	

Permanent Issue for 1895.

1 centavo,	olive-brown.	15 centavos,	vermilion.
2 centavos,	green.	20 ,,	dark green.
3 ,,	brown.	24 ,,	purple.
5 ,,	blue.	30 ,,	dark blue.
10 ,,	orange.	50 ,,	carmine.
12 ,,	rose.	1 peso,	black-brown.

The envelopes have the Arms embossed within an oval band with irregular outline, inscribed "CORREOS DEL SALVADOR" in the upper part, and the value in words in the lower.

Envelopes.

1 centavo,	olive-brown	on white wove ;	size	158 × 90	mm.
3 centavos,	brown	,,	,,	,,	
5 ,,	blue	,,	,,	,,	
12 ,,	lake	,,	,,	,,	
15 ,,	red	,,	,,	,,	

Wrappers. 2 centavos, green on blue wove ; size 170 × 255 mm.
3 ,, brown ,, ,, ,,
4 ,, blue ,, ,, ,,
6 ,, lake ,, ,, ,,

Post Cards. 1 centavo, blue.
2 centavos, green on rose.
2+2 ,, ,,
3 ,, brown on blue.
3+3 ,, ,,

Sarawak.—Amidst all the very commonplace work of the present day, it is more than refreshing to have a series of four values in well-printed line engraving. There is no mistaking the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. The design shows the portrait of Rajah Brooke, three-quarters to the left in an oval, with different frames for each of value in bold unhackneyed styles. All the stamps bear the inscriptions "SARAWAK" and "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," as also the indication of the value. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 12.

2 cents, red-brown. | 6 cents, violet.
4 ,, black. | 8 ,, dark green.

San Marino.—New colours of the following are announced.

2 centesimi, rose.
20 ,, violet.
1 lira, sky-blue.

Selangor.—The annexed engraving illustrates the surcharge chronicled last month.





Sungei Ujong.—We illustrate the surcharge as chronicled by us last month.

South African Republic.—It is said that the new design will be re-engraved, as the bullock waggon in the Arms has shafts in place of a pole.

United States.—The adhesives of 1, 2, and 5 dollars have now been issued, and the Bureau of Engraving appears to have improved in its work. The 1 dollar shows the bust of Commodore Perry, the 2 dollars a portrait of James Madison, the 5 dollars that of John Marshall. The series is therefore now complete, with the exception of the 8 cents.

The *A. J. of P.* has seen the new 1 and 2 c. envelopes, and the 1 cent wrapper. The stamps are exactly the same as the preceding

issue, as are the shapes; but there is a material difference in the watermark, which consists of the letters "U.S." in large double-







lined capitals, 20 mm. wide by 27 mm. in height, with the letters "P O D" in small single-lined capitals sideways, inside the "U," and the figures "9" and "4" sideways, inside the top and bottom curves of the "S."

1 dollar, black (Perry).
2 dollars, blue (Madison).
5 ,, green (Marshall).

Envelopes. 1 cent, blue, on white laid; size 160 × 89 mm.
2 cents, green ,, ,, ,, and amber laid.

Wrapper 1 cent, blue on manilla; size 140 × 239 mm.

TELEGRAPHS.

Ecuador.—From the *T.-P.* we learn that the fiscal stamp of 10 centavos, 1891–1892, has been utilised for telegraph purposes by overprinting it in black with a hand-stamp with "TELEGRAFOS," and that this was so used 2nd October last.

10 centavos, orange; overprinted in black.

Nicaragua.—The Seebeck series for 1895 has been issued, the type being the same as that for the postal adhesives, but the colours are different. The word "TELEGRAFOS" is overprinted in blue, in sans-serif capitals, on all the values.

1 centavo, red.
2 centavos, green.
5 ,, orange.
4 ,, yellow-brown.
20 ,, blue.
25 centavos, violet.
50 ,, rose-vermilion.
1 peso, vermilion.
2 pesos, green.
5 ,, dark brown.
10 pesos, violet.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BADEN.

(*Continued from vol. xvi., page* 287.)

Issue of 1862.

In March, 1861, the Prussian Postal Administration addressed a circular to the States in the German-Austrian Union, proposing that uniform colours should be adopted throughout the Union for stamps of the same or corresponding values, so as to facilitate the control that the postage was of the proper amount. This was to be applicable only to the stamps in use for the three rates of postage of 1, 2, and 3 sgr.; the 1 sgr. being equivalent to the Rhineland 3 kreuzer, the Austrian 5 new kreuzer, the 1½ schilling of the Mecklenburgs, the 2 schilling of Hamburg and Lubeck, the 3 grote of Bremen, and the 12½ centimes of Luxemburg. It was proposed that the 1 sgr. with its equivalents should be red, the 2 sgr. with its equivalents should be blue, and the 3 sgr. with its equivalents should be dark brown. It was also mentioned that the stamp should always be affixed in the right upper corner of the letter, and the stamp on the envelopes should also be on the right side. The Postal Administration of Baden, on 18th March, 1861, replied that they would concur in making the proposed changes.

At the close of the last printing of the stamps of 3 kr. in June, 1861, it was found that the *cliché's* were completely worn out, and that it would be requisite to have a new set. Advantage was taken of this to ascertain whether a modification of the design would not be desirable, as it was considered that the lined background prevented the Arms from standing out and injured the appearance of the stamp. The engraver Kurz was therefore asked whether, when the new *cliches* were made, the design could not be modified by removing the lines, and he was desired to send proofs in blue, yellow, black, and red when he had made the alteration. M. Lindenberg says that Kurz at first misunderstood the instructions, thinking they related to the lines on the shield of the Arms, and replied that it could not be done, as the lines showed the heraldic colours, but stated that he could make some trifling alterations, and sent two specimens of what he could do. He was at once informed that the alterations proposed were in the lines of the background, which it was thought would, if removed, improve the appearance of the Arms. Kurz accordingly took two *cliches* of the 3 kr., and from one of these he removed every other line, and from the other all the lines, leaving the background perfectly plain. He sent, on 19th July, 1861, impressions of each of these in black, blue, yellow, and carmine, seven of which out of the eight are now in the Imperial Post Museum. The General Direction of the Post decided in favour of the design from which the background had been entirely removed, and on 26th July sent the other dies of the 1, 6, and 9 kr. to Kurz to remove the lines. Kurz completed the work on the 7th August, and sent with the dies two proofs on India paper, which are also in the

Imperial Post Museum. For the present it was only necessary to make use of the 3 kr. die, as the stock of the other values was sufficient, and on 12th August, 1861, Hasper prepared 110 new *clichés* from the die as altered by Kurz, but was not ordered to proceed with the printing of the new stamps.

As the Postal Administration of Baden had heard nothing more from the Prussian Postal Administration regarding the unification of the colours of the stamps, it enquired, in September 1861, as to what replies had been received from the other States in the Union, and in a few days was informed that almost all of them had agreed to make the proposed change, upon which the Baden Postal Administration determined to give effect at once to the alterations so far as it was concerned, and desired Hasper to send in colour proofs, which are now in the Imperial Post Museum, consisting of the 3 kr., without background, in black, carmine, deep blue, red-brown, green, and yellow, and of the 6 kr. with lined background in carmine, Prussian-blue, pale brown, and yellow-brown. For the 3 kr. cochineal-lake was chosen, for the 6 kr. the finest Berlin printer's-blue, and for the 9 kr. burnt-umber.

In the same year there had been a manifest wish for stamps of a higher value than 9 kreuzer, the first step being taken by the Chamber of Commerce of Mannheim, who proposed to the Baden Ministry of Commerce the creation of stamps of 18 kr. and 30 kr., after the precedent of Tour and Taxis. This proposal was sent to the Postal authorities, who reported that the question had previously occupied their attention, and although the use of the envelopes of 12 kr. and 18 kr. had been very limited, they would recommend the introduction of stamps of 18 kr. and 30 kr. On the 26th August, 1861, the Ministry of Commerce authorized the creation of these values, and Kurz was applied to as to the preparation of the necessary dies with Arms on an uncoloured ground. These were delivered on 28th October, and the *clichés* were at once made by Hasper. For the 18 kr. Hasper proposed a light chrome-green, and for the 30 kr. cinnabar-red. On the 20th January, 1862, however, Hasper reported that the cinnabar-red was not fit for printing from galvano-plastic plates, as the quicksilver acted injuriously on the copper; it was consequently ordered that for the future the 30 kr. should be printed in dark chrome-yellow.

As at the end of the year 1861 it became necessary to have a fresh supply of the stamps of 1, 6, and 9 kr., and Hasper was on 31st December ordered to print the following. The paper was furnished by Buhl Brothers, of Etlingen, whose tender for the same had been accepted.

20,000	sheets of	1	kreuzer	in black.
60,000	,,	3	,,	cochineal-lake.
10,000	,,	6	,,	Berlin-blue.
10,000	,,	9	,,	umber.
2,000	,,	18	,,	light chrome-green.
2,000	,,	30	,,	cinnabar-red, later in dark chrome-yellow.

The 3 kr., 18 kr., and 30 kr. were printed from the new *clichés*, with uncoloured background, the 1 kr., 6 kr., and 9 kr. from the old *clichés*, which had the lined background.

The printing seems to have occupied considerable time, as the whole of the stamps were printed by hand-presses. Those of 3 kr. were ready the soonest, as there was urgent need of a supply of this value, and Hasper delivered the first 2,000 sheets of these on 26th March, 1862. The next delivery was of 5,000 sheets, on 4th June following. Altogether up to 26th July, 60,160 sheets, or upwards of six millions of stamps of 3 kr., were delivered.

In the year 1862 it became necessary to thoroughly overhaul the perforating machine, which was fitted with a new set of punches, giving a gauge of 10 in place of 13½.* There does not appear to be any official record of this alteration, but it must have taken place some short time before the month of June, as the first stamps of some of the other values delivered early in June were perforated 10. It is clear that the 2,000 sheets of the 3 kr. delivered in March, 1862, are the only stamps of this printing that were perforated by the set of punches giving a gauge of 13½, and that the rest of the printing of this value and the whole printing of the other values were perforated with the new set of punches. The simple fact therefore of only 2,000 sheets or 200,000 stamps of the 3 kr. being perforated by the machine prior to its alteration accounts for the scarcity of this stamp, especially in an unused state.

The other stamps of the printing of 1862 were delivered as follows:

1 kr., black . .	21,805	sheets during the summer of 1862
6 kr., blue . .	10,073	,, in August and September.
9 kr., brown . .	10,029	,, in June and July.
18 kr., green . .	2,158	,, on 13th September.
30 kr., orange . .	2,304	,, on 11th September.

M. Lindenberg says that it is difficult to determine the dates of issue of these stamps. An announcement of the change of colour, not only of the 3 kr., but of the other values, was made to the various post-offices on 29th January, 1862, and Moens has given this as the date of the issue of the 3 kr., rose, perforated 13½, which must be an error, as it is clear that the first lot of 2,000 sheets was not delivered until 26th March, 1862. M. Lindenberg has examined a very large number of the stamps of this printing, and is unable to fix an earlier date than 1st July, 1862, for the 3 kreuzer, and has not found any of the other values used in 1862, though the existence of them may very probably have been known.

On the 25th April, 1863, Hasper was ordered to print 5,000 sheets of 1 kreuzer, 15,000 of 3 kreuzer, and 5,000 of 9 kreuzer, and he delivered, on 3rd September of that year,

4,953	sheets of	1 kreuzer.
14,876	,,	3 kreuzer.
3,868	,,	9 kreuzer.

* It may here be remarked that this perforating machine, unlike those made use of in England, was of a similar construction to that employed for the stamps of Bavaria, inasmuch as the set of punches was adapted to perforate a whole sheet of 100 stamps at one operation. The alterations in the machine were therefore probably confined to the substitution of new punches stouter than the previous ones, which with a new matrix-plate constitutes what is termed a "set of punches."

The number of 9 kr. stamps was less than that mentioned in the order, and arose from its having been discovered during the printing that the plate was worn out. M. Lindenberg remarks on this that it is curious that this was not noticed before the printing began, as in that of 1862 many of the stamps are badly printed, being blurred and indistinct. The stamps of this printing can readily be distinguished from those of 1862, since these latter are in a deep brown with a dark orange tint, while those of 1863 are in a pale dull yellow-brown.

No more of the 1 kreuzer with lined background than the above were printed, the next printing in 1864 being with the background removed.

The printing of the 3 kreuzer with background removed was continued up to the change of type in 1868, and the following numbers are given by M. Lindenberg, exclusive of the 2,000 sheets which were perforated 13½:

In the summer of	1862 . .	58,160 sheets.
,,	1863 . .	14,876 ,,
On 27th April	1864 . .	12,000 ,,
On 27th June,	1864 . .	29,589 ,,
In the summer of	1865 . .	45,340 ,,
,,	1866 . .	51,166 ,,
,,	1867 . .	53,833 ,,

Judging from an examination of this issue the colour of the 3 kr. is fairly uniform, differing only in depth of tone. M. Lindenberg states that he has found tints varying from very pale-pink to a dark violet-red, but it appears doubtful whether this latter tint is not attributable to atmospheric influences. The printing began in a fine carmine-rose, as is clear from the specimens perforated 13½. The printings in 1865 and 1866 were in lighter tones, while that of 1867 appears to be in a darker tint.

No more of the 6 kr. with the lined background were printed after 1862. The colour of the impression was Prussian-blue, varying from dark to a lighter shade.

It has been mentioned above that the printing of the 9 kr. in 1863 was stopped on account of the bad state of the *clichés* composing the plate. When the stamps of the two printings were put in circulation, so many were found badly printed that they were returned to the head office, and upwards of 70,000 were destroyed in October, 1865.

Of the 18 kr. stamp it appears from M. Lindenberg's account that a further printing of 994 sheets was delivered by Harper, 18th August, 1867, making with the first printing a total of 3,152 sheets, or 315,200 stamps, but he thinks that none of this latter printing were ever issued, as in July, 1870, 151,012 of the stamps were destroyed, since there was no demand for them, and the new postal regulations of 1870 rendered them perfectly useless. The colour of the impression of 1862 was chrome-green, but whether there was any variation in the colour of the printing of 1867 is not known, as probably the whole of that was destroyed. M. Lindenberg has met with some specimens with a bluish

tinge, but as chrome-green is a compound colour, we think that this variation may be only due to extraneous circumstances.

The demand for the stamps of 30 kr. was but small, and no more were ever printed, the remainder of the stock being sold to dealers some years after. Specimens on letters are rare, but unused specimens are common enough. The colour of the impression varies from deep orange-yellow to yellow.

It may be noticed that the paper of this issue is thicker and whiter than that of the previous one. The perforation was in many cases done very carelessly, extending into the printed portion of the stamps.

The next printings comprise those of the 1, 6, and 9 kr. from the plates made from the new dies, from which the lined background had been removed, and these will form the subject of our next article.

(*To be continued.*)

FURTHER NOTE ON TWOPENCE VICTORIA (QUEEN ON THRONE).

In former articles on the lithographed impressions of the Twopence, Queen on Throne, we remarked on the errors found in one of the stones, probably in the last printing, consisting in the substitution of U—Y for A—E, T—X for L—P, D—I for V—Z, and C—H for Q—V, which was evidenced by these substitutions being found in horizontal pairs, with the corresponding stamps in the second vertical row. The only pair not then discovered (Vol. xv. p. 124) was S—W and G—M, which has since been found. The effect of this was to show that the second vertical row of the sheet was not altered, but that the first vertical row had been mended up by inserting stamps taken from some other transfer.

We also mentioned that Mr. Hill had found another error, consisting of a vertical pair W—A, W—A, which he considered as belonging most probably to another stone. Events have shown the accuracy of this opinion. In a letter to the editor of the "*Australian Philatelist*," in the December number of that magazine, Mr. Hill says, "I have just been favoured by Mr. F. Hagen, of Sydney, with a horizontal strip of four of the lithographed stamps lettered V—Z, W—A, H—N, I—O; *i.e.* the first two stamps of the third row, and the third and fourth of the fourth row." It may make it more intelligible to recapitulate the first letters in these two rows:

3rd row. V—Z, W—A, X—B, Y—C, &c.

4th row. F—L, G—M, H—N, I—O, &c.

As H—N, I—O have not been found in combination with any other letters, it may be inferred that the vertical pair W—A, W—A belongs to this third and fourth row, and that the second of these is a substitution for G—M, rendering it probable that some accident occurred to the first two stamps of the fourth row. Should a vertical pair, V—Z, V—Z, turn up, which Mr. Hill has every expectation will be the case,

the proof will be complete. However, this fact is now established, that the error W—A, W—A was not on the same stone as the other error, and it would seem that some accident occurred to the fourth row, which necessitated its being mended up.

Mr. Hill does not say whether he gathers from the colour of the impression that it belongs to one of the stones used in the last printing, which the former error clearly seemed to do. But we conclude from his previous remarks that it is in this printing, which was very carelessly done by workmen who seemed not to know their business properly.

Philatelists are greatly indebted to Mr. Hill for what he has done in explaining these errors, which puzzled collectors so much when five-and-twenty years since they began to re-construct this plate.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

THE *Stamp News Annual** was somewhat late in making its appearance as a Christmas appendage to *The Stamp News*, but this was perhaps a matter of foresight, as Christmas seems this year to have been put off till February, if the weather were taken as any criterion. There is the usual admixture of the grave with the gay, and among the latter there is a good story by Mr. Douglas Mackenzie, that has the great advantage of being very well told. Our evergreen friend Dr. Viner contributes some "Jottings" from his repository, and has been refreshing his memory from an ancient trunk, where he seems to have found some specimens of old philatelic literature belonging to the early days of collecting. There were curious notions also in those days of the relative value of stamps as compared with those of the present day, the rarities being now, according to Mr. Castle in the paper contributed by him, undergoing the operation of shrinkage—not that the stamps themselves are growing smaller in size—but Mr. Castle contends that they are every year becoming fewer in number, some expiring from age, others from sudden death by fire or water, while others become absorbed in great collections, where they are secured by bolts and bars against collectors. Mr. Dunbar-Dunbar has contributed a few additional notes to his exceedingly clever diagnosis of the Bavarian stamps, which he contributed to the Annual two years since, and in these notes he has accurately summed up the peculiarities of the paper on which the kreuzer series of the Arms type was printed. The paper was badly made with old-fashioned machinery, and it is only a wonder to us how they succeeded as well as they did in imitating "Dickinson" paper. This paper must have given them some trouble. The silk thread was not intended to be in the middle of the substance of the paper, but more at the back, and many years ago dealers used to make a variety of those which showed the threads in the front, though this really only arose from the printer placing the sheet in the press wrong way downwards. There is a paper which ought to be mentioned, by Mr. Nankivell, on the minor varieties of certain Transvaal stamps, on which no one is more capable of writing than he, as he has made a special study of these

* *The Stamp News Annual*: Theodor Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria St.; pp. 88, price 2s. 6d.

stamps, the more commendable because they are not very attractive, and came into existence under very unfavourable auspices.

There is nothing of what we may term dry philately in this Annual, but while it affords the reader amusement, he will also find profit as well, and as such we wish it the success that has been accorded to its predecessors.

* * *

We have received a "Catalogue and Price List of the Stamps of Great Britain," by Mr. Walter Morley,* who is well known to our readers as a specialist in all sorts of English stamps. We need scarcely say that Mr. Morley has endeavoured to make his Catalogue as complete as possible, and has bestowed great care and attention in its production. We heartily recommend it to the notice of all those who take an interest in the stamps of Great Britain, as it contains not only a list of postage stamps, but of fiscal stamps, postal curiosities, railway letters and newspaper postal stamps, etc., etc., and a very creditable attempt on fiscal impressed stamps.

We need scarcely add that Mr. Morley's Catalogue, being that of a specialist dealer, introduces various postal curiosities which have no philatelic interest except as such, and do not constitute varieties. "Ivory heads"—white islands in a sea of blue—are of course duly noted, and topsy-turvy watermarks, and a few, but not many, engravers' errors. Mr. Morley has introduced varieties of the 1 penny line-engraved stamp on what he terms "pelure" paper. We have seen a good many stamps on very thin paper, and the late Mr. Pemberton mentioned some stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. on paper so thin as almost to resemble *papier de pelure*, but this is the first time we have seen it absolutely termed "pelure" paper, which designation we reserve for paper like that on which the early stamps of the Dominican Republic were printed, and one of the issues of New Zealand. Hand-made paper frequently varies in thickness, and where a ream has to be of a certain weight, the thin is sorted into the thick to equalize the weight.

The Catalogue is well "got up," and has the advantage of being of *most* moderate price.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

COLOMBIA.—The *Timbre-poste* publishes the following extract from the *Diario Oficial* of the 16th January, 1894:

"Decree No. 1679 of the year 1893.

"The Vice-president of the Republic charged with the executive power.

"In virtue of the power given to him by the first part of the general enactments of the Law 109 of 1892, and considering

"1. That the system actually adopted for the telegraph service extraordinarily complicates the accounts of the offices and the supply of stamps, and is prejudicial to the revenue of the State, as it frequently occurs that dispatches are sent without stamps.

"2. That the said system also does not give the public that make-use of the telegraphs all the guarantees that are desirable.

* *Walter Morley's Catalogue and Price List of the Stamps of Great Britain:* WALTER MORLEY, 184, West Green Road, Tottenham; pp. 140, price 1s.

"It is decreed :

"ARTICLE 1. On and after the 1st day of that year the use of telegraph stamps shall cease, for which shall be substituted a stamped telegraphic form of a value equivalent to the proper tax, and on which shall be marked the date of the handing in, the direction, and the destination of the telegram. This form, which shall be of the size of 20 × 152 m., shall have at the top the following stamp, 'Telegraphic paper stamp.'

"Shall be excepted from this regulation the official telegrams, those of persons who are entitled to free transmission, which shall be written on a sheet of stamped paper by the receiving office, or on ordinary paper.

"ARTICLE 2. The Decree No. 200 of the 29th May last, which has relation to the matter, is entirely suspended.

"Given at Madrid, Department of Cundinamarca, the 16th December, 1893.

M. A. CARO.

The Minister at War charged
with the affairs of the Government,
José Domingo Ospirna, C."

* * * *

GREAT BRITAIN.—There seems to be some misapprehension regarding the new Regulations applicable to post cards franked with adhesive stamps, as the notice issued by the Post-office gave only the summary of them ; we therefore publish the Treasury Warrant allowing them, which expresses the conditions very clearly, though in a mode which shows that prolixity cannot be charged entirely to lawyers. The Treasury clerks seem masters in the art.

"We, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of the powers given to us by the Post-office Acts or any of them, and of all other powers enabling us in their behalf, do, by this Warrant made on the representation of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General (testified by his signing the same) and under the hands of two of us the said Commissioners, order, direct, and declare as follows :—

"1. This Warrant may be used on the 'Inland Post Amendment Warrant, 1894.'

"2. This Warrant shall be read as one with the 'Inland Post Warrant, 1892' (herein after referred to as the 'Principal Warrant'), and all Warrants amending the same.

"3. In this Warrant and in the Principal Warrant and all Warrants amending the same,—the expression 'Post-card' means a card bearing either an impressed or an adhesive stamp denoting a rate or duty of postage—the expression 'Official Post-card' means a post-card bearing an impressed stamp—the expression 'Private Post-card' means a card bearing an adhesive stamp—the expression 'Reply Post-card' means a post-card in two parts, connecting together and of such a character that the person receiving the same through the post may, without further payment, again transmit one part of such card through the post ; and the expression 'Return Half' means the part of such reply post-card used or intended to be used, for the purpose of a reply—the expression 'Official Reply Post-card' means a reply post-card bearing impressed stamps on both parts of such card—the expression 'Private Reply Post-card' means a reply post-card bearing adhesive stamps on both parts of such card.

"4. The following rules shall apply to post-cards.

"(1) On all post-cards there shall be charged and paid the rate of postage of one halfpenny.

"(2) On all reply post-cards there shall be charged and paid the rate of postage of one penny.

"(3) A private post-card and a private reply post-card must, respectively, be made of ordinary cardboard, not thicker than the cardboard of which the thickest inland official post-card and inland official reply post-card respectively, are, for the time being, made.

"(4) The maximum size of a private post-card shall be (as near as may be, having regard to variety of form) that of the inland official post-card for the time being in use; and the minimum size of a private post-card shall not be less than three inches and one quarter of an inch in length and two inches and one quarter of an inch in width.

"(5) The maximum size of a private reply post-card shall be (as near as may be, having regard to variety of form) that of the inland official reply post-card for the time being in use, and neither part of a private reply post-card shall be less than three inches and one quarter of an inch in length and two inches and one quarter of an inch in width.

"(6) Nothing shall be written, printed, or otherwise impressed on the side of a post card, or reply post-card, which bears the postage stamp except:—

(*a*) The address at which such card is to be delivered.

(*b*) The name and address of the sender of the card; and

(*c*) Any direction as to the mode in which the post-card is to be dealt with—such, for example, as 'Immediate,' 'Local,' 'Forward,' 'O.H.M.S.'

"(7) Nothing shall be written or printed or otherwise impressed across the postage stamp.

"(8) Anything (including a letter) may be written, printed, or otherwise impressed on the side of the post-card, or reply post-card, which does not bear the postage stamp.

"(9) Nothing whatever shall be in any manner attached to a post-card or reply post-card except:—

(*a*) Postage and Inland Revenue stamps, in payment of postage or stamp duty; and on the side which bears the postage stamp:—

(*b*) A gummed label, not exceeding two inches in length or three quarters of an inch in breadth, and bearing the address at which the post card is to be delivered.

"(10) Neither an official post-card nor an official reply post-card shall, after the issue thereof, be cut or folded or otherwise altered, except that the return half may be severed from the other half.

"(11) A private post-card shall not be in any way folded, but shall be sent in one piece, open, through the post.

"(12) The two parts of a private reply post-card may be folded together, but not in any way attached or fastened, and, save as aforesaid, a private reply post-card shall not be in any way folded, but shall be sent open through the post.

"(13) The postage payable on every private post-card or private reply post-card must be prepaid.

"(14) (*a*) A postage stamp on a private post-card or private reply post-card shall be in such position as the Postmaster-General may deem convenient, having regard to the obliteration of such stamp, and generally to the mode of dealing with such post-card or reply post-card in the post.

(*b*) Any private post-card or reply post-card bearing a stamp which is not, in the Postmaster-General's opinion, placed in such convenient position as aforesaid may be either returned to the sender or otherwise disposed of as the Postmaster-General may think fit.

"(15) Subject to the provisions of this Warrant, if any post-card or reply post-card, or the return half of any reply post-card is sent by post, otherwise than in conformity with this Warrant, it shall be forwarded to its destination, charged on delivery with postage as an insufficiently paid letter of the same weight.

"5. The Principal Warrant is on and from the day on which this Warrant comes into operation, repealed to the extent specified in the schedule hereto.

"6. This Warrant shall come into operation on 1st September, 1894.

"Dated this 24th August, 1894.

"RICHARD K. CAUSTON,
"R. M. FERGUSON,
"*Two of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.*
"ARNOLD MORLEY,
"*Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.*"

Here follows the schedule, showing the Articles of the Principal Warrant that are repealed.

Notes and Queries.

OXIDATION OF STAMPS.—Mr. Ransom has given the most sensible explanation that has yet appeared, of the oxidation of stamps, as it is commonly called; but which he rightly says is really a misnomer, and is caused by the sulphuretted hydrogen in the atmosphere acting on the lead in the pigment and forming black sulphide of lead. An oxide of lead was, for some time, used in the coloured pigment of our one penny line-engraved stamps; but this was only for a time. The principal action has been on stamps which contained red lead and chrome. Akin to this, we may mention that the 2nd and 3rd issues of Prussia were printed on a *burelé* paper, the lines of which, in nine cases out of ten, we failed to discover even with a high magnifying power, until we submitted the stamps to the fumes of sulphuretted hydrogen, when the lines became clearly visible. Madame Nicolas, the dealer in Paris, told us in 1868, that she found a brimstone match sufficed for the purpose. In fact, the *burelage* was not intended to be visible, but was introduced as a means by which the authorities could test the genuine nature of the stamp. If any of our readers wish to try it, they can render the lines again invisible by peroxide of hydrogen.

FRANCE.—M. Maury has given in the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, for January, some very interesting details as to the splitting of the die of the current issue, and the mode of manufacture adopted by the Bank of France when it was taken from M. Hulot and given over to that establishment, which, at first, offered to fix the price at 40c. per 1000 in place of 60c., then paid to M. Hulot; but the offer was not accepted by M. Léon Say, the Minister of Finance, who proposed that the manufacture should be *en régie* with the Bank.

In the die as first engraved by M. Mouchon, a rectangular hole was made to insert the numerals of value, and when the die was completed several impressions were taken from it in gutta-percha before the hardening. In this latter process the die split in a diagonal line,

extending from below the arm of the goddess, across the value space, and through the letters C A of "FRANÇAISE." The split was almost straight, and its course can readily be seen by putting a straight edge across the stamp, as shewn in our engraving, vol. xiv. It was attempted to remedy this by applying an iron frame round the die; but it was found that the die had twisted, and the broken corner was higher than the other part of the stamp. It was necessary, therefore, to make a new die. For this purpose the tablet was plugged, the parts too high were filed down and an impression struck from it on soft steel. The defective parts were then re-engraved, and the die being hardened, impressions were taken from it in soft steel, on which M. Mouchon engraved the figures of value. In the re-engraved die the letters in "J. A. Sage, Inv," are closer together than in the stamps which were printed from *clichés* made from the gutta-percha moulds taken from the original die before it was hardened, and in which the numerals were moveable.

It also appears that the moulds from which the *clichés* are made, by the galvano-plastic process, are no longer taken in gutta-percha, but have, for some years, been taken in wax; which, as it does not require so much heat as gutta-percha, is not so liable to shrink irregularly in cooling. The present perforating machines are made in France; those which M. Hulot used came from England.

LE VIEUX-NEUF.—This was the title of a column in *Le Timbrophile*, in which M. Mahé was wont to describe discoveries of obsolete stamps, and their varieties. Our contemporary, *The London Philatelist*, has evidently, in its number for January, imagined that it was doing a similar thing in announcing under the head of Great Britain (page 18), a copy of plate 13 of the 6d. (see also *L. P.*, vol. ii, p. 99), printed in light buff, and giving the credit of the discovery to Mr. H. Hilckes, who, by the way, at p. 57 of his own Catalogue, records it as having been already discovered. But a slight mistake has been made here, which, as the history belongs to a period anterior to the birth of the *L. P.* we will endeavour to explain.

This variety was first disinterred by the late Mr. Firth, who sent the specimen to Mr. A. H. Wilson, for examination. It was duly perforated and post marked, and bore the letters $\frac{A—F}{F—A}$, being printed in light buff, similar to that in which plate 12 was printed, till the colour of the impression was altered to olive-grey. Mr. W. E. Jeff shewed the specimen at the exhibition of the London Philatelic Society, in 1890, to many who were present; and it was described by him in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* for September, 1890, and was also chronicled in the *Philatelic Record* for June of that year. On enquiry, it was clear that the specimen must have come from one of the surplus sheets struck in buff for the registration of the plate, 21.12.72; but which was not put to press for general use till December, 1873, before which time the colour of the sixpence had been altered to olive-grey. Besides Mr. Firth's copy another has been since reported, and now a third is reported as a *discovery!* We should not have referred to this had we not received letters on the subject from more than one philatelist, expressing astonishment that the announcement should have been made of a discovery in 1895 of a stamp the history of which dates from 1890.

"Proceedings of Philatelic Societies" are unavoidably held over.

Theodor Buhl, Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. MARCH, 1895. No. 195.

MOST probably every collector has noticed that at the first introduction of stamps the colours of the respective values formed the characteristic feature especially chosen to distinguish one value from another. Black and blue were chosen for distinguishing the two values in Great Britain (1840), afterwards changed to red and blue. In Belgium (1849) we find black-brown and blue. In France (1849) black and red. It is true that in the Zurich stamps (1843) both the values were in black, and a large figure of value was employed, and the same may be said of the first issue for Brazil (1843), where there was no mistake about the numerals of value on the three stamps; but as a general rule it is the colour of the stamps that has been regarded as the first thing that strikes the eye of those who have the manipulation of the letters as soon as they arrive at the Post-office. When one examines the interior arrangements of the focus in London of this great carrying institution, which has to deal each day with nearly four millions of packets, it is clear that the unified series of 1881–4 must have been a very great hindrance to the work. The first sifting that the letters undergo when they are thrown on the "facing table," and after the larger letters have been picked out, is the picking out of all letters bearing a blue stamp upon them. When this stamp therefore was of the same colour as the rest of the values from one penny up to threepence, the sorters were unable to have recourse to the colour in this preliminary operation. Mr. F. E. Baines, C.B., one of the Assistant-Secretaries of the Post-office, who has lately quitted the service, has been employing his leisure time in writing an account of his forty years' services, in which he describes the inner life of the Post-office, and which forms agreeable and pleasant reading to those who take an interest in learning what

Distinguishing Features in a Stamp.

becomes of their letters after they have dropped them into the Post-office Letter-box. It would be out of place for us to give any sketch of the incidents of a letter on its road until it arrives at its journey's end and is delivered to its addressee; but some of them have to travel farther than at first sight appears to be necessary. Mr. Baines says, by way of example, that letters received in the night mail travelling Post-office, intended for such places as Bickley, Croydon, Faversham, &c., on the road to Dover, go down to the latter place, and are brought back again and left on the up-journey. So also letters received in the London and Exeter travelling office for places near Staines go down to Bath and come back again.

But we are somewhat digressing from philatelic matters. A great deal has been said, and it is also a matter of general opinion, that the numeral of value should appear very distinctly on the stamp. This is, no doubt, a most important desideratum, especially at the present day, when the number of values in a series of stamps is so great in comparison with what it was during the earlier times, and it is not easy to select some eight or ten colours, which will be essentially different by daylight and also by artificial light. It must have been a most difficult problem to solve, in the case of our own stamps, to design thirteen stamps which should be satisfactory to the Post-office. The enunciation of the values seem to us, however, to be more useful to the public than to the officials of the Post, for they evidently look primarily to the colour, and next to the general features of the design, and therefore each value has to be made as different from its fellows as is possible. This latter consideration has also been forced upon those who have to provide the stamps, from the increased number of values in the series. It is almost impossible to combine all the elements. The French at present depend only on colour and distinct numerals of value, disregarding any difference in design; but when we look at the internal working of the Post-office, it appears to us that this latter is of more importance than the numerals of value, which to make them distinguishable at a glance require to be of such size as to occupy a large portion of the small surface of the stamp. At all events, those stamps which show as their characteristic features varieties in colour and design, are more pleasing to the collector than those in which the varieties depend only on colour and the numerals of value.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* THEODOR BUHL & CO., *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Abyssinia. — M. Maury has received a letter bearing four stamps of the Menelik issue, obliterated at Hadar 29 Jan. last, and bearing the hand-stamp of Djibouti 7 Fevr. 95. The stamps franked the letter as far as Djibouti, when it was re-franked with the French Colonial stamps. It seems clear, therefore, that the Negus can play at postage stamps within his own territory, and that they have duly arrived there.

Bolivia.—The *Timbre-Poste* reports the following of the new series as being on thick paper, perforated 13.

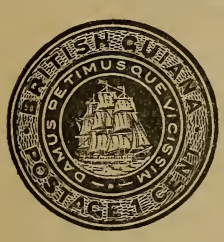
20	centavos,	blue ;	perf. 13.
50	,,	violet-brown ;	perf. 13.
100	,,	flesh	,,

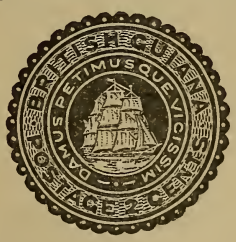
Brazil.—The issue is announced of a reply card of 80+80 reis, corresponding to the single post card of 80 reis as chronicled in our January number.

Post Card. 80+80 reis, carmine on white.

The *I. B. Z.* states that no more of the current newspaper stamps will be issued, but that they will be superseded shortly by a fresh issue.

British Guiana.—The accompanying engravings are intended to illustrate the stamps on the envelopes recently described.







Chili.—Provisional postage-due stamps have been issued at Valparaiso, somewhat similar in design to that of 10 c. chronicled in the *T.-P.* for March, 1879, consisting of hand-stamp bearing the inscription "VALPARAISO MULTADA," with the numeral of value

in the centre, and a single line round, this line and the inscription being in tranverse oval in all the values except in the 10 centavos, where it is circular. The stamps are of yellow wove paper, and the impression is in black; they are perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$. The stamps were used from 1st November to the end of December, when the series next described was issued. This regular series is an upright rectangular frame crossed by a scroll inscribed "MULTADA" and the value. In the left upper angle is the bust of Columbus in a circle, and in the right lower angle the numeral of value. In the frame at the bottom is "VALPARAISO," and in the other sides "CORREOS | DE CHILE | POSTES." The impression is in red on yellow wove paper, and the perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$.

A new post card of 1 centavo has also been issued. Within a frame of a cable pattern with angle ornaments is the stamp in the right upper angle, and to the left on a scroll "TARJETA POSTAL." Then follow three lines for the address, the first preceded by "Sr" in script. The instructions are in the left lower angle.

A letter card of 2 centavos has also been issued. On the left of the stamp is the inscription "CARTA TARJETA | PARA EL INTERIOR," then three lines for the address, above which to the left is "SENOR" in script. The instructions are at the foot within the lines of perforation which cross at the lower angles.

An "officially sealed" stamp has also been issued, a large upright rectangle of 34 × 29 mm., with the bust of Columbus in the centre within a circular band inscribed "ADMINISTRACION P. DE CORREOS" in the upper part, and "SANTIAGO" in the lower. Above this on an arched tablet is "REPUBLICA DE," and on a straight tablet within is "CHILE." On a curved tablet underneath is "CIERRO OFICIAL." The stamp is lithographed on plain white paper, and perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Postage Due (provisional issue).

1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 16, 20, 30, 40 centavos, black on yellow.

Postage Due (permanent issue).

1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 16, 20, 40, 50, 60, 80 c., 1 peso, red on yellow.

Post Card. 1 centavo, dark green on pale green.
Letter Card. 2 centavos, carmine on rose.
Officially Sealed. No value, violet-brown.

Cook Islands.—A post card with stamp of the type of the current adhesive is said to have been issued.

Post Card. 1d., dark blue on buff.

Cuba.—The *Timbre-Poste* for the present month publishes a copy of the Order of the Director of the Post, dated from Havanna, 15th November, 1855, which throws considerable light on the surcharge of the 2 reales stamps with $Y\frac{1}{4}$, which has so much puzzled collectors as to its real meaning, it having been generally considered as importing an addition of $\frac{1}{4}$ real to the stamp of 2 reales. It appears from this Order that it was no such thing, but was to pay a special rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ real chargeable on letters

HIGHEST AWARD FOR PHILATELIC JOURNALS,

PARIS, 1892.

THE PHILATELIC RECORD.

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Vol. XVII. commences with the Number for JANUARY, 1895.

ORDER FORM

FOR VOL. XVII.

To MESSRS. THEODOR BUHL & Co.,
11, Queen Victoria Street,
LONDON, E.C.,
ENGLAND.

Please send me the **Philatelic Record** *for One Year, commencing with the Number for* JANUARY, 1895, *in payment of which I enclose* .....*for Five Shillings, being the Annual Subscription.*

NAME .....

ADDRESS IN FULL .....

DATE .....

circulating within the town of Havanna and its suburbs, which came into operation on the 19th November, 1855; and these stamps were sold at $\frac{1}{4}$ real silver each, for the purpose of prepaying that rate, which was obligatory. The only point which is in the least degree obscure is *why* the surcharge was preceded by Y. That the explanation so far as it goes is perfectly true and complete there can be not the least doubt.

Ecuador.—The *Timbre-Poste* states that the fiscal stamp of 1 centavo, grey-green, 1891–1892, was overprinted, in red, with "OFICIAL, 1894 y 1895"; but just when it was about to be put in use the Post-office received a supply of the stamps it was in need of, so that neither this stamp nor the one chronicled last month were actually issued.

Gwalior.—The *I. B. Z.* chronicles the envelope of 1 anna, brown on blue, overprinted with the name and Arms, size 120 × 71 mm.

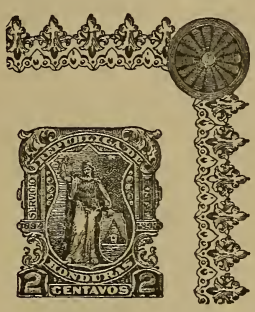
Envelope. 1 anna, brown on blue (size 120 × 71), overprint in black.

Holland.—The 1 cent is to hand in bright green. The postage due stamps of 15 and 25 cents have also been issued in the new colour.

1 cent, bright green.
Postage Due. 15 cents, ultramarine.
25 „ „

Honduras.—We illustrate the designs on the adhesives, post cards and envelopes of the new Seebeck series described in our last.







India.—The 1 rupee of the new type has been overprinted in black for service with "On H.M.S."

Service. 1 rupee, green and red; overprinted in black.

Italy.—The 10 lire has now, according to *T. P.*, the numerals in carmine instead of dark brown; as also the 1 lira, which so appeared some time since.

Postage Due. 1 lira, carmine and blue.
10 lire „ „

The post card of 10 c. has the date of 95.

Post Card. 10 centesimi, carmine on buff.

Lorenzo Marquez.—We some time since chronicled the issue of the 2½ reis for this colony. The *I. B. J.* informs us that the rest of the values have been now supplied—5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75, 80, 100, 150, 200, 300 reis—in their appropriate colours.

Mexico. — In consequence of an alteration in the rates of postage, a post card for the interior of 3 centavos was issued 9th February last. The type is similar to that of the 5 centavos shown in our number for October last (vol. xvi. p. 230), except that the pattern in the frame is different, and the instructions are in lower case and not in capitals. In the lower right angle is "1895." A new issue is expected to be made in April next, so that this post card will probably not have a very long life.

Post Card. 3 centavos, red on yellow-buff.

Morocco.—Some of the stamps of 10 and 25 centimos overprinted on the French stamps have lately come to hand with the overprint in vermilion in place of carmine.

10 centimos, black on violet, overprinted in vermilion.
25 ,, ,, rose ,, ,,

Newfoundland.—The colour of the 6 cents has been modified.

6 cents, lilac-rose.

New South Wales.—The stamps overprinted with O. S. were withdrawn on the 1st January last.

The *Australian Philatelist* states that the postage due stamps are found with perforations of 10, 10 × 11, and 12 × 10, and it is not unlikely that similar varieties exist in the higher values. This is good news for the specialists.

Postage Due. 1d. and 2d., green; *varieties of perforation.*

Nicaragua.—The first of the annexed engravings illustrates the type of the adhesives described in our last, the second the official series, and the third the stamp on the post cards.







The stamps embossed on the envelopes and wrappers are shown in the two next engravings.





New Zealand.—The letter card announced for the 1st December last was, according to the *Australian Philatelist*, a month after date. The design has been engraved by Mr. Cousins, to whom the adhesive of 2½d. is due, and is of similar beauty. The head of the Queen, as on the Jubilee coinage, is surmounted by an arched label carrying the name of the colony, between repetitions of the value (1½d.) in figures. Above this again is "POSTAGE AND REVENUE." Why "*Revenue*"? At the foot of the stamp is the value in words. To the left of the stamp are the Royal Arms and "NEW ZEALAND LETTER CARD" in small capitals. An ornamental border encloses the whole, and the instructions are outside the line of perforation. The back is ornamented with landscapes.

Letter Card. 1½d., mauve on green.

Orange Free State.—The 1 penny, purple, has been surcharged with "2d.," according to the *I. B. Z.* The 1 shilling appears in spring colour.

2d. on 1 penny, purple; surcharge in black.
1 shilling, green.



Panama.—The annexed engraving shows one of the surcharges of 10 centavos recently described.

Perak.—The stamp of 5 cents, blue, has been overprinted with "SERVICE" in black for the purposes mentioned in the notice set forth in "Official Documents."

It is stated that the post cards of 1 cent and 1 c. + 1 c. have no longer the Royal Arms upon them.

Service. 5 cents, blue, overprinted in black.
Post Cards. 1 c., green on buff; *altered type.*
1 c. + 1 c. ,, ,,

Philippines.—The *I. B. Z.* states that the stamp of ⅛ centavo has appeared in brown-violet, and the 2 c. de peso in grey-brown.

⅛ centavo, brown-violet.
2 c. de peso, grey-brown.

Portugal.—The following, we are told, is the balance sheet of the Don Henrique stamps. The whole issue was of a value of 248,500,000 reis, out of which were sold to the amount of 81,728,855 reis, or nearly one-third. The rest, it is said, are to be surcharged for ordinary use. The stock is said to consist of

5	reis,	in Portugal	126,700	; in the Azores	293
10	,,	,,	254,062	,,	2,871
15	,,	,,	304,341	,,	531
20	,,	,,	319,993	,,	23,097
25	,,	,,	162,258	,,	59,499
50	,,	,,	333,029	,,	78,916
75	,,	,,	361,559	,,	86,461
80	,,	,,	366,814	,,	87,444
100	,,	,,	355,774	,,	86,434
300	,,	,,	3,106	,,	226
500	,,	,,	5,745	,,	269
1000	,,	,,	6,714	,,	645

Russia.—The *Timbre-Poste* mentions that besides the two types of the surcharge of 7 kop. applied to the envelopes of 8 and 10 kopecks in 1880, in one of which the frame of the surcharge measures 21 mm. in length, and in the other 21½ mm., there is a third type, which has been found on the envelope of 10 kopecks, large size, of 1875. In this latter type the ornaments at the top and bottom appear to be more distinctly detached than in the other two types.

There are also *three* types of the double-headed eagle in the stamp of 10 kopecks on the envelopes of 1845, dependent on the fan-shaped tail of the eagle.

7 kop. or 10 kop., brown, 1875, surcharged in red; *three varieties.*
10 kop., black, 1848; *three varieties.*

St. Thomas and Prince Islands.—The issue of the series of the new design is said to have been made, and to consist of the usual supply of adhesives—5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75, 80, 100, 150, 200, 300 reis—in the usual colours.

We may here add that *O Philatelista* throws considerable doubt upon the surcharge of 2½ reis on 25 r., lilac, which was chronicled by some journals. In fact, so far as we can comprehend the Portuguese language, the varieties of surcharge chronicled in the *Echo de la Timb.* a few months since are more than doubtful. The party who issued provisionals at St. Thomas has had his knuckles well rapped by the superior authorities.

Salvador.—The following three engravings are those of values that had first borne the portrait of the President Ezeta, and had been overprinted with the Arms of the Republic.







The frames of the whole twelve values in the permanent series also differ from each other. We annex an engraving of the 1 peso value.

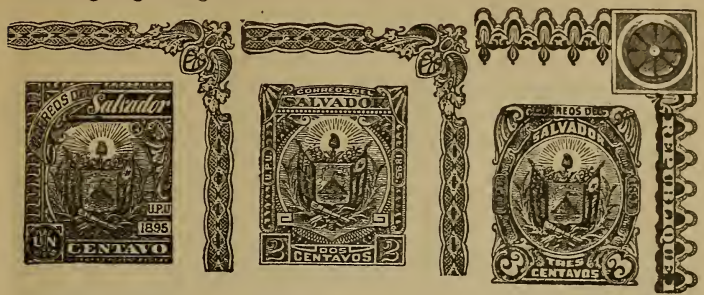
The stamp embossed on the envelopes is shown in the second engraving, and that of 1 centavo on the wrappers is shown in the third.







The types of the post cards of 1, 2, and 3 c. are shown in the following engravings.



Samoa.—The *P. J. of G. B.* states that it has received copies of a new surcharge, consisting of the 2d., with "SURCHARGED | 1½d." in two lines, and also with "R. | 3d.," also in two lines.

1½d. on 2d., orange; surcharge in blue.
3d. on 2d. ,, ,, black.

Servia.—The issue of a post card of 5 para, with stamp of the type shown in our last, is announced. Size 150 × 95 mm.

Post Card. 5 para, blue on buff.

Seychelles.—We learn from the *Coll. de Timbres-Poste* some particulars of the new envelopes which have arrived. They are of three values—8, 15, and 30 cents—and are lithographed in bright colours from transfers made from engraved plates. There appear to be two types, one of which belongs to the 8 and 15 cents, the other to the 30 cents. The first shows a turtle promenading towards the left, and there are palm trees, &c. The second type is more complicated. The turtle is coming out of the water, and marching also towards the left; in the angles are four medallions, two with the Arms of the island of Mauritius, a third with a palm tree, and the fourth an Eiffel tower in wood, with an exterior staircase. We give the description as we find it.

Envelopes. 8 cents, carmine; turtle and palm tree.
15 ,, dark blue ,,
30 ,, light brown; landscape.

Sirmoor.—Our contemporaries state that the head of the Rajah has been superseded by that of an elephant.

3 pies, orange.	1 anna, blue.
6 ,, green.	2 annas, rose.

South African Republic.—On the 25th January another value of the new type was issued, according to the *I. B. Z.*

1 shilling, green.

Straits Settlements.—The 3 cents has been issued of the type of the 25 and 50 c.

3 cents, rose; wk. ♕ CA; perf. 14.

Victoria.—The *I. B. Z.* chronicles the issue of an envelope 145 × 89 mm. with the embossing stamp of one penny (stamp duty) in rose.

Envelope. 1 penny, rose, on white laid; size 145 × 89 mm.

The *Monthly Journal* mentions that it does not find that the following registration envelopes of fourpence have been chronicled, viz.: with instructions (1) in sanserif capitals, (2) in fancy capitals, (3) in Roman lower case, two sizes, (4) in similar lettering, but with the stamp-flap pointed, which in all the others is rounded, and this latter envelope is of a different size. But all of these really constitute the issue of 1st June, 1887, as it appears to us, for we have compared the descriptions with our own specimens of that issue received long since from Mr. D. Hill. The two first inscriptions were employed for the two sizes of the issue of 1885, bearing a stamp of the type of the duty adhesive of January, 1885. The setting up in Roman lower case was introduced with the issue of 1887. In Victoria the envelopes are first made up, then the inscriptions are printed, and lastly they are stamped. When the embossing stamp furnished with the inscription "Stamp Duty" was introduced in 1887, some of the unstamped envelopes prepared for the 1885 issue were stamped with this stamp. We were not aware that those envelopes were unchronicled, as the issues were pointed out by Mr. D. Hill in 1890. Four official sizes only are recognized as existing in the first three issues; but as the envelopes are hand-made, the actual sizes at various times may vary from the normal ones, which are given below in inches:

1881. 2 sizes (*a*) $5\frac{3}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ in. (135 × 79 mm.), (*b*) $5\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ in. (144 × 89 mm.).
1885. 2 sizes (*b*) and (*c*) $5\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ in. (133 × 79 mm.).
1887. 3 sizes (*b*), (*c*), and (*d*) $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$ in. (140 × 79 mm.).

Zambesia.—We recently chronicled the issue of these stamps, and now give illustrations of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ reis, and of the type of the remainder of the series.





THE STAMPS OF SAINT LOUIS.

The Philatelic Journal of America published in its issue for December, 1894, an elaborate and exhaustive paper on the stamps of Saint Louis, Missouri, from the pen of that veteran in philately, Mr. J. K. Tiffany.

Anything which comes from him is worthy of attentive examination; and we have deferred our notice of his extremely able and careful analysis of these stamps, until we had an opportunity of reviewing at leisure the various contributions on the subject which have appeared in the English journals during the last twenty-five years.

The Editor, in publishing Mr. Tiffany's paper, calls it the "most valuable" philatelic article that has appeared in the American press—a statement which an attentive study of its contents justifies.

Mr. Tiffany's reputation will be enhanced by this article; higher praise we can scarcely award. By the friendly assistance of his colleagues, under exceptionally favourable circumstances, he managed to assemble no fewer than twenty-six specimens of the stamps, and subjected them to a critical examination, which alike attests his patience and care.

Every appliance known to modern science was freely made use of; and the analysis was extremely minute, and is, to our mind, thoroughly complete from a philatelic point of view, although Mr. Tiffany regrets he was not able to subject the paper on which the valuable stamps entrusted to him were printed to a destructive analysis, involving loss or injury to its substance; but short of this every process that could afford information appears to have been adopted.

The general result may be shortly stated. It is a most remarkable confirmation of the sagacity and prescience of the views of the late Mr. Edward L. Pemberton, a philatelist of the very first order, who possessed the true *flaire* of the connoisseur, and whose critical acumen was hardly ever at fault.

It is well established, and has been so accepted for many years, that the original plate consisted of six stamps, three of ten cents in the upper, and three of five cents in the lower row.

The demand in use for the lower value was small, and a higher denomination was required for longer postal distances. Hence the plate was altered; the second and third dies of the five cents had the figure removed, and "20" was substituted in its place. The plate as thus printed from contained the original top row of three ten cent. stamps, while the lower row had the first die of five cents remaining, somewhat retouched, and the two others altered to 20 cents. At a later period the plate was restored to its former condition, and the highest value done away with.

To bring the dies back to a state fit for printing some retouches and alterations were necessary, so that the first die of the 5 c. was again altered, and the second and third stamps of the lower line may be said to have been re-engraved.

In addition to these three states of the plate there were three separate printings, all clearly distinguishable by the paper employed on each occasion.

Thus far Mr. Pemberton's investigations had led him. Mr. Tiffany's researches entirely confirm the hypothesis suggested by Mr. Pemberton. The latter had, with the assistance of Mr. Philbrick, succeeded in assembling thirteen copies of the five and twelve of the ten cents, twenty-five in all; but he did not find among them the third state of the die of the five cents, and therefore was compelled to infer its existence from analogy.

This inference has now been carried into direct proof by Mr. Tiffany, and is, as he states, the only absolute novelty in his results. Mr. Tiffany lacked in his specimens the second die of the 20 cents, and has had to describe it in part from a photograph, and to rely on Mr. Pemberton's "Investigation" for other details.

The engraver, Mr. Kershaw, speaking from memory to a correspondent of Mr. L. W. Durbin, had an idea that he had engraved *two* plates, each containing three dies of the 5 and 10 cents. This recollection has proved defective, as Mr. Pemberton stated in 1871, for only three dies of the 10 cents value have been discovered; and after the careful attention given to the matter for so many years, it may be taken as fully established that only one plate was ever constructed, though altered and re-altered as already indicated.

Being hand-engraved, the dies all differ, and the varieties in the altered states are persistent, and conclusively show the identity of the dies throughout, notwithstanding the alteration and re-alteration.

Mr. Tiffany somewhat labours this point; but it is clear no human hand could reproduce defects and peculiarities of the kind noticed in the dies, marks so salient in themselves as to enable Mr. Pemberton unfailingly to describe and state their underlying unity with the originals. In fact the engraver, whose work was not of the highest class, appears to have made intentional and marked distinctions in the first engraving, by placing one flourish under Post-office in the first die of the ten cents, two under the second, and three under the third die, while in the five cents, as Mr. Tiffany points out, the varied positions of the supporting Bears as regards the outer frames at once distinguish between the dies.

Many of our readers can hardly recall the great controversy which the first announcement of these stamps occasioned in Europe.

Le Timbrophile gravely doubted their authenticity, and several of its leading contributors roundly asserted them to be fraudulent concoctions, probably emanating from the "Boston Factory." On the Continent generally they were suspected; even M. Moens was careful in reticence on the matter. But in England Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Philbrick both took part in the discussions as their champions, and the pages of the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* from 1867 onwards contain some lively and interesting dialectics; the writers of those days hit hard, and were not such adepts at "sitting on the fence" as the opportunists of the present day.

But to return to Mr. Tiffany ; after minutely describing the dies, he turns to the papers, which he subjected to various microscopic and optical tests, again establishing the perfect enumeration of the three different kinds already published by Mr. Pemberton. It is hardly needful, nor would it be quite fair to the writer, to detail these here ; suffice it to say they are exhaustive and satisfactory.

Perhaps in dealing with the blurs and defects which occurred in the printings, and are due in part to the plate, in part to the paper, and most of all to the carelessness of the printer in wiping the plate, Mr. Tiffany has here a little over-elaborated his remarks ; but the error, if it be one, is venial, and serves to call attention to the illustrations, which are numerous, and represent not only Scott's and Grant's (Pemberton's) photographs, in all of eighteen dies (two being forgeries) of the actual size or a little larger, but also the three original dies of the 10 cents, and the two dies of the 5 cents, B & C, which were altered to 20 cents in all three stages on a greatly enlarged scale, thus enabling the reader to follow the very clear and lucid remarks in the text. It is matter for regret that an enlargement of the 5 cents, die A, in the second and third states is not in the series, which is otherwise complete. Mr. Pemberton, in his "Investigation" (*Stamp Collector's Magazine*, vol. ix., p. 11), gives the variations in his usual scientific arrangement, except of the third state, which he had never seen. Mr. Tiffany's paper supplies the want, so that by collating what was published in 1871 in England with the paper now under review, the complete history can be arrived at.

We can hardly conclude without adverting to these more modern developments of philately, of which sales by auction are the most outward and visible sign.

At the first sale by Messrs. Sotheby on 18th March, 1872, one great attraction held out by the vendor (Mr. J. W. Scott) lay in the series of St. Louis catalogued, viz., three original varieties of the 5 cents ; their fate was, "bought in" at £2 13s. ; the three varieties of the 10 cents "bought in" for £2 7s., and a 20 c. "bought in" for £6, while another described as "unique" was "bought in" for £8.

The reader, who may wish a few minutes' entertainment, cannot do better than refer to the lively account written by Mr. Pemberton in the April number of the *Philatelical Journal* for 1872, and lay to heart his wise remarks : "Philately is not yet on the wane, *and never will be*," is his final verdict. He has not lived to see the day of constant auctions and misleading quotations ; but had that prince of philatelists been spared to us, how his heart would have rejoiced at the verification of his forecast. His intimate associates always recall his memory with affectionate regret, nor can they feel other than legitimate pride that the "old school" has received so marked a tribute to its accuracy and research, and the memory of their departed friend so signal and just a eulogium, as the admirable paper from the accomplished pen of Mr. Tiffany, to which we have thus feebly attempted to do justice.

[We will only supplement the above notice of Mr. Tiffany's paper by transcribing an episode in the history of these stamps, which appears

in Mr. J. W. Scott's magazine, *The Metropolitan Philatelist*, for this month, as it was from this source that Mr. Pemberton had his copies, and from which we obtained our own copies of the 5 and 10 cents.

"These stamps have been well known for the past twenty-five years. It is a long story, well known to old collectors, but for the benefit of the present generation we may state that about the year 1869 Mr. J. W. Scott purchased a lot of St. Louis stamps from a clerk in one of the well-known mercantile houses of the day. The lot consisted of about one hundred 10 c., fifty 5 c., and three 20 c. All the parties to the transaction are still alive, as well as the other dealers to whom the lot was offered. These parties have been frequently interviewed by people in interest, and affidavits could have been had for the asking; but certain parties thought it would be to their advantage to throw doubts on the character of the 20 c. stamp, while it remained the property of a dealer. At the time of this historical purchase, the few 10 c. known sold at about $1.50 each. Mr. Scott paid $375 for the lot—a very large sum in those days, and above the actual market price of the stamps. The selling price was fixed at $5 each for the 10 c., $10 each for the 10 c., and one 20 c. stamp was sold for $100, the other two being placed in the private collection of Mr. Scott, where they remained up to 1872, when they were included in the auction of Mr. Scott's collection which was sold in London. The price offered on these two lots was so inadequate that they were bought in, and one presented to Sir Daniel Cooper in recognition of his many acts of kindness. The remaining stamp was the gem and commencement of Mr. Scott's second collection, and remained in it up to the time of its dispersion.

"There was some difficulty in finding a buyer for this stamp, owing to the doubts which rival dealers continually insinuated against its authenticity, but the price was continually advanced, and it finally found a buyer in a gentleman whose intelligence could not be blinded by palpable falsehoods, and who had the courage of his conviction."

We now trust that the theory of certain unbelievers that the figure "5" was erased from the *stamps* and "20" inserted with pen and ink is finally disposed of. At all events, few adherents to this theory will now be found among collectors.—Ed.]

A NOTE ON THE FIRST ISSUES OF NEW ZEALAND.

By G. de F.

I have recently seen in *The Australian Philatelist* a short summary of a communication made by Mr. Bate to the New Zealand Philatelic Society, in the formation of which my lamented friend, the late Mr. John Davies, took so warm an interest. Immediately after the appearance of the paper he read to the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, and communicated to the *Philatelic Record* (*Phil. Record*, v. xi. p. 171), it was conceded that an error had been made in the catalogues in giving priority to the stamps on unwatermarked paper; but the

history of the stamps between the date of the first issue, given by Mr. Davies as 13th July, 1855, and February, 1862, when the stamp printing was started in the Post-office in Auckland, is still to be written. Mr. Bate states that the stamps ordered from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co., viz., 12,000 1d., 66,000 2d., 8,000 1s., together with six reams of watermarked paper, and shipped per "*Simlah*" in September, 1854, arrived at Wellington, February, 1855, and were transhipped to Auckland in March. These stamps were distributed as follows:

	1*d.*	2*d.*	1*s.*
Auckland	5,120	25,700	3,880
New Plymouth	600	3,500	350
Nelson	750	5,000	450
Wellington	3,500	20,500	2,100
Canterbury	1,530	8,300	970
Otago	500	3,000	250
	12,000	66,000	8,000

He says the official date of the issue was September 1st; but it is clear that this did not refer to Auckland, for stamps of 2d. were noted in the *London Philatelist* as postmarked in August, 1855. It would appear therefore that Mr. Davies's date, founded on the official notice of the 13th July, 1855, must be taken in preference.

Mr. Bate now goes on to say that in October, 1855, it was reported to the Colonial Secretary that there was but one person in Auckland who was capable of printing stamps (that is from plates by a roller press), that he had a printing-press of his own, and would print the stamps for 3s. per 1000, finding his own colours and gumming the paper, the Government to supply paper, blanketing, and stones on which to grind the colours, and that some responsible person should be present during the time he was at work, and he stipulated that he should be allowed to print all the stamps required by the Government for the ensuing six months on the terms specified. This was approved on 30th October, 1855, and Mr. G. E. Eliott was requested to superintend the printing, using all precautions to prevent unauthorised impressions being taken. On November 2nd Mr. Eliott reported that he had made arrangements for the printing to commence on the 5th, the quantity to be printed being the same as that imported, viz., 12,000 1d., red, 66,000 2d., blue, and 8000 1s., green, making a total of 86,000 stamps, consuming therefore about $\frac{3}{4}$ ream of paper. On the 12th November the printer stated that he had found the work more costly than he had supposed, and should be obliged to charge 4s. per 1000, which was agreed to.

Mr. Richardson, who was the printer employed, appears to have continued to print the stamps up to January, 1862; at least Mr. Davies makes mention of no other person, and the natural inference is that he would continue to use the six reams of paper so long as it lasted, before he had recourse to the paper supplied in the colony. But now comes a difficulty. Mr. Davies is said by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. to have left England about July, 1861. According to their statement they furnished a 6d. plate and one ream of paper January 21st, 1859, and on October 5th, 1861, four reams, and then no more till 1862, when six reams, with a plate of 3d., were sent out. Mr. Davies says he brought out with him what was considered equal to a year's supply. Is there not a mistake in dates, and are not the four reams of paper said to have been furnished in October, 1861, the supply which Mr. Davies took out with him? Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. would probably be able to find how these four reams were sent.

Judging from the probable time that the six reams sent in 1854 would last—a quantity sufficient to print seven millions of stamps—it is not likely that any printings on blue paper and plain paper commenced before 1858. The printing on blue paper seems to have preceded that on the plain white paper, as the 6d. is not found on blue paper; but as probably no record will be found of the various kinds of paper employed, the only evidence will be the exhumation of old letters bearing these stamps. Looking at the colours of the issues on plain paper of the period anterior to 1862, which, however, is only a deceptive test, I should think that, at all events, for some of the values of 1d., 2d., and 1s. on blue paper, there was only one printing; but that in those on the plain white wove paper there is evidence of at least three printings of the values of 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1s., or at all events of some of them. If collectors in early days had only been so prescient as not to have removed stamps from the covers, how much easier it would have been for philatelists of the present day to establish a closer date to the time of issue. Now we appeal almost in vain for dated copies, or copies attached to letters showing the dated postmark.

At a recent meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, a paper was read which has not yet been published, but from the notice of it that has appeared, the author finds nothing to show that there was any use for a value other than that of 2 pence, which was the rate for letters under ½ oz. But was not this the rate from bureau to bureau? Was there no smaller charge for letters posted and delivered within the same bureau?* The history between 1855 and 1862 appears at present, as I have said, very obscure. I cannot, however, but think it to be more probable that the authorities would first employ the paper sent by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, and Co. before they had recourse to unwatermarked paper.

THE PURCHASE OF THE TELEGRAPHS IN 1870.

In *The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain* an account is given of the mode in which the purchase of the telegraphs by the Government was effected; viz., by an Act passed in 1868 authorising the purchase, followed by a subsequent Act in 1869 providing the money for the purpose. It was in the Bill brought in during 1868 that the battle was fought for the possession of them by the Government, and we think it would be useful to record in our pages what Mr. Baines, who was in the thick of the fight, says on this: The chief companies, independent of the railway companies, then in possession of wires were the Electric and International, the British and Irish Magnetic, the United Kingdom, the Universal Private, and the London and Provincial. There were some others of less importance, and terms had to be made with all of them. All the interested parties as a body petitioned against the Bill, which was referred to a committee before which the late Mr. Rodwell, Q.C., appeared as leading counsel for the Post-office; Mr. Denison, Q.C. (now Lord

* That the twopenny value was looked upon as that for which there would be the greater demand is clear from the proportions of the supply sent out, and the same proportions were observed in the colonial printing of November, 1855. What do the dated specimens of the 2d. on blue paper say? Let these speak, and we shall all know something.

Grimthorpe), instructed by the late Mr. G. Leeman, of York, appeared for the railway companies; and Sir W. Vernon Harcourt and other eminent counsel for the other parties. Terms were at length arranged with the railway companies, but the telegraph companies hung back. When matters seemed to be at a dead-lock, Mr. Scudamore came to some informal arrangement with Mr. W. Andrews, the manager of the United Kingdom Company, which brought about a meeting at the house of Mr. Croll, the chairman of that company, at which four persons only were present. After draft upon draft of the proposed terms had been prepared, only to be torn up, an agreement was finally arrived at before the party broke up. The concurrence of the Government and of the other companies was then obtained, and all further opposition to the Bill collapsed, and it was duly passed.

Parliament by the Act had established the basis on which the valuation of the property of the companies was to be made, which proved to be a most laborious and troublesome operation; but on the 29th January, 1870, the purchase from the various companies was completed, the largest sum—£2,938,826 9s.—being paid to the Electric and International Telegraph Company, Lord Hartington, the Postmaster-General, remarking that that was probably the largest cheque he would ever have to sign. The business was taken over by the Post-office on the 5th February following, at 10 o'clock a.m., at the central office of the Electric and International Telegraph Company, where the pressure for the first day or two was tremendous, due to the lowering of the charge to 1s. for 20 words, and the press telegrams to 2d. for seventy words. The business was carried on there until January, 1874, when it was transferred gradually to the new Post-office buildings, which was done without any interruption. As an example, Mr. Baines gives the following: "Late at night, on a local wire set up for the purpose, Telegraph Street says to Post-office, 'At 11 p.m. we put through 45, Liverpool.' At 10.59¾ Telegraph Street said to Liverpool, on circuit No. 45, 'Wait,' and at 11 all that the Post-office at St. Martin's-le-Grand had to do was to call on Liverpool on the instrument fixed at the new end of No. 45, and say 'G' (that is 'Go on'), and Liverpool went on with the messages, perfectly unconscious that it was then telegraphing to a new point a mile away from the old one."

We have now done with our extracts from Mr. Baines' work. It is somewhat curious that one who was 40 years in the Post-office should have nothing to say about postage stamps, but this was a part of the inner life which never fell within the range of his duties.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

It is well to find that there are those who will take the trouble to exercise their inventive powers and strike out some new path. Not long ago Messrs. Hilckes & Co. started *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, and the numbers we have seen of this magazine contain some solid information, mixed up with what is of a more sprightly and playful nature, which renders it acceptable to every class of stamp collectors, whether they are philatelists or only collect for amusement apart from study. This firm has now produced the first volume of *The Universal Series of Postage Stamp Albums*, which is intended for the reception of a specialist's series of the Postal and Telegraph Adhesives

of Great Britain.* Nothing can be better than the mode in which the Album is produced, especially the edition in best clothes, and it reflects the highest credit on the compiler, the printer, and the binder. The position of each stamp—and there are spaces for about 450 ordinary stamps, with the varieties—is marked out with small dotted corners, and the particular stamp to be placed there indicated by a short reference. We cannot do better than quote what the publishers say in their preface :

"In designing this new Album we were at some pains to ascertain what the Public really wanted. Finding that some liked the pages of their Album mapped out in the German fashion, while others would have nothing to do with the 'picture book' type, we decided to compromise matters by indicating the squares for the various stamps by means of dotted corners.

"Although we have left room for all such unnecessary varieties as 'Ivory Heads,' inverted watermarks, &c., there is nothing to prevent their insertion, if desirable, in the liberal spaces between the dotted corners. It was in fact with the idea of providing room for special varieties, curiosities, pairs, &c., that we decided to leave such a generous margin around the space allotted to each stamp.

"We place this Album on the market with a consciousness that it is at least faultless in mechanical workmanship ; of its merits as an Album for English specialists we leave our patrons to judge."

Collectors have here a summary of what they may expect to find in the Album, and they will not be disappointed.

For our own part we have every reason to be more than satisfied. We were among the first, if not the first, to use our pen to insist on the variety in the stamps dependent on the introduction of the plate numbers on the face of them, a variety which had, however, been recognised by Mr. Regnard in 1864, but had failed to take root in England till many years later, and even now seems only to be partially recognised on the Continent, though it is fully accepted in England. We consider that Mr. Hilckes has conferred a benefit on the collectors of English adhesives, and has done much by this work to promote the collection of them.

We wish that all the attention, however, should not be turned to the adhesives. The envelopes of Great Britain deserve quite as much attention as the adhesives. There is a great deal to be learned from them and about them, and hitherto they have not found much favour, far less than they deserve.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

GUATEMALA.—The following is the order regarding the recent surcharge :

"The General Direction of the Post informs the public that in consequence of the postage stamps of 1 centavo, ordered from the United States, not having as yet arrived, there has been issued from this day, with the approval of the Secretary of this administration, postage stamps surcharged 1 centavo on the 2 centavos of the current issue, with the annexed legend in black, '1894—1 centavo.'

"The National Post of Guatemala, 21st December, 1894.

"EMILIO UBICO."

* *The Postal and Telegraph Adhesives of Great Britain*, arranged and compiled by HARRY HILCKES. London : Harry Hilckes & Co., Ltd. ; oblong imp. 8vo., pp. 48. 4/6 to 10/-, according to paper and binding.

PERAK.—The following circular explains the overprint of "Service" on the stamp of 5 cents :

"CIRCULAR—GOVERNMENT PARCELS.

"No. 219.—1. On and after the 1st June next, all Government packets over a pound in weight requiring to be posted, must be treated as parcels, and the postage is to be paid for. No franking of packets over one pound in weight will be recognised.

"2. The postage rate for parcels will be five cents per pound or part of a pound.

"3. Service parcels should be sent to the Post-office with a parcels' despatch book, in the accompanying form, during the hours for which Post-offices are open for registration and parcels, and a Post-office clerk will acknowledge the receipt of the parcel in the column provided for the purpose.

"4. To obviate the handling of money, a certain number of five cent Perak postage stamps surcharged 'Service' will be supplied to each Department, free of charge, as stock, and a strict account will be kept of them and submitted for audit.

"5. No surcharged stamps will be recognised as payment of postage, on anything that is not handed into the office through a parcel despatch book. No such stamps, under any circumstances, are to be sold for cash.

"7th May, 1894."

* * * *

PERU.—With regard to the overprinting the stamps with the head of General Morales Bermudez the following Order was made :

"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"Lima, 23rd October, 1894.

"Taking note of the declaration made by the Director-General of the Post, announcing that the supply of stamps now in circulation is almost exhausted; that in execution of the principal resolution of the 23rd January of the present year, he had ordered to qualify more than 2,000,000 of stamps that had been withdrawn from circulation, representing a value of 153,449 sols, and that he had sent to each of the offices of the Postal Union five collections of these kinds, restored to value, according to the provisions of Article 33, par. 2 § 2 of the regulations sanctioned by the Postal Congress of Vienna.

"Considering that it was indispensable for the General Direction of the Post to dispose of the quantity of these forms of franking necessary for the requirements of the consumption, and that having complied with the regulations of the Postal Union as regards the stamps surcharged with the bust of General Morales Bermudez, there was nothing to prevent their issue.

"The Direction of the Post is authorised to issue the above-mentioned stamps without this measure implying the withdrawal of those already in actual use, which will continue to be sold until exhausted.

"That this be registered.

"CHACALTANA."

* * *

TRINIDAD PRINCIPALITY.—The following will remind the reader of the decree issued by the Minister of the King of the Sedangs :

"PRINCIPALITY OF TRINIDAD—ADMINISTRATION OF THE POST.

"It is announced for general information that from and after the

1st November, 1894, the following postage stamps will be put in circulation, viz. :

"Stamps of 5 centimes, in green and black.
„ 10 „ brown „
„ 25 „ blue „
„ 50 „ orange „
„ 75 „ lilac „
„ 1 franc, in cinnabar-red „
„ 5 „ grey „

"These stamps will be rectangular in form, with a view of the south coast of the island of Trinidad.

"The value, in francs or centimes, will be found in the two upper angles.

"The left portion of the frame bears the inscription 'TIMBRE POSTE,' and the right 'AND FISCAL.' Below, in a curve, 'PRINCIPAUTÉ DE TRINIDAD.'

"For official correspondence these postage stamps will be provided with the superscription 'OFFICIAL.' Further, there will be envelopes of 5 and 15 centimes in white and buff paper.

"Post cards of 5, 10, and 10+10 centimes of buff card, with a stamp similar to that of the postage stamps, and letter cards of 25 centimes, blue and rose card.

"Trinidad, the 15th October, 1894.

"The Chancellor,
"CTE. DE LA BOISSIÈRE."

The above is extracted from *Der Philatelist.* The provision made for official correspondence is sublime.

Notes and Queries.

THE FIRST SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.—We suppose it is not, properly speaking, part of the business of the *Philatelic Record* to record anything that has not an immediate reference to stamps, but the labours of the man which were the origin of two sets at least of telegraph stamps are we think worthy of being recorded in our pages. It is known that the South Eastern Company in 1860 issued a series of stamps of the values of 9d., 1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 6d., 2s. 3d., and 2s. 9d., and that the Submarine Telegraph Company issued stamps in the following year, some of which were applicable to the payment of the rate on Telegrams between London and Paris, and which naturally passed over the wires on the South Eastern Railway. Long prior to this, however, the public were admitted to the use of the telegraph on the South Eastern line, which in 1850 was under the superintendence of Charles V. Walker, who was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1858, and died at the commencement of 1883. Under Mr. Walker's superintendence the conduct and management was carried on at Tunbridge, as being a central position and a sort of halfway house. The charges were heavy, as a telegram of twenty words to Dover cost 11s., and to Folkestone 10s. 6d., with 1s. porterage in both cases. It is chiefly, however, as being the pioneer of the submarine telegraph that the name of Mr. C. V. Walker should be remembered. The story may best be told in his own language, as extracted from *Electric Telegraph Manipulation* published by him in 1850. He says :

"I selected upwards of two miles of No. 16 copper wire, provided with a coating of guttapercha. I personally tested the whole, piece by piece, under water, and also the several joints. It was then wound on a wooden drum mounted on a frame, and so conveyed to Folkestone. I erected a pole in the *sands* (*?*) just above high-water mark, by which I led a wire from the telegraph office to the margin of the sea. On the evening of the 9th (9th January, 1849) I, for the last time, tested the continuity of the wire by placing the drum on the sands, and connecting the covered wire with the wire that led from London, and then with the ripple at our feet, and by the glare of lamps, among a motley and wondering crowd of fishermen, seamen, revenue officers, and others, we proved the circuit was good by holding converse with the clerks at London.

"Our plan for the morrow was to take the drum out in a small boat, somewhat in a direct line from the shore, uncoiling and submerging the wire as we went on, and then to have remained at anchor till the time of the arrival of the train from London, when the steamer was to sail out with our friends, and, having the telegraph apparatus on deck, was to take us on board with the end of the wire. But the aspect of nature changed during the night. The wind rose, and the sea became so disturbed that, instead of the ship going out to the boat, the latter went alone, paying out the wire in its progress, and returning with the end to the shore. It terminated at the instrument on the deck of the steamer moored alongside the pier. The conditions of the experiment were therefore all complied with, but the effect was not so striking as if the ship should have gone out to receive the end of the wire.

"It had previously been arranged that the telegraph business for this day should be conducted on our wire No. 2, leaving No. 1 at liberty for these experiments. The Folkestone end, as I have said, was joined to the submerged wire, the other end of which was also now connected with a single-needle instrument on deck, and the circuit was completed by an earth-plate dropped overboard. All being ready, I took the handle of the instrument and made the letter L the call for London. The acknowledgment of the call was instantaneous, and at 49 minutes past noon the first telegraphic despatch passed beneath the British Channel, in direct course to London. It was 'Mr. Walker to Chairman. I am on board the *Princess Clementine*. I am successful.'"

Such was the beginning of ocean telegraphy. It is true that Wheatstone had drawn plans of a projected telegraph between Dover and Calais in 1840, and Mr. Brett also submitted a similar plan to Louis Philippe in 1847 without success; but he obtained the permission from Louis Napoleon, and made an attempt in August, 1850, which, though unsuccessful then, proved the feasibility of the project, which was successfully carried out by the two brothers Brett on 13th November, 1851. Still, Mr. Walker must be regarded as the pioneer who first proved the practicability of passing an electric current through an insulated wire submerged in the ocean.

Nyassa Company.—What we said regarding these stamps last month has we find been somewhat misinterpreted. In the first place we had previously said that the stamps were in our opinion ephemerals, and we added that our suspicions were more than justified, as they had not even reached the ephemeral state. So far as the dealers are concerned they have acted in perfect good faith, though, to speak in legal phraseology, they were somewhat too hasty in accepting the title to these stamps without the production of the title-deeds. We find fault with the parties whose title was all wrong.

PHILATELIC BIBLIOGRAPHY.—We have received the following extract from the Aberdeen *Notes and Queries* of 9th March, from an old contributor to the *Philatelic Record*, and have much pleasure in finding space for it. We have lately received a communication from a careful philatelist who is disposed to take up the subject, on the lines of Judge Suppantschitsch's work, and we have hopes that something may come of it. At any rate we have promised our aid.

"The bibliography of Philately has been very fully discussed by English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish writers. The twenty-one items noted below are the more important books and articles dealing with the subject.

1. *A Hand Catalogue of Postage Stamps for the use of Collectors.* John Edward Gray. London, 1862. (First edition, see p. xv. "Works or articles printed on the subject of stamp collecting.")

2. *The Stamp Collector's Review and Monthly Advertiser.* Vol. i. p. 18. Liverpool, 1863. ("A Review of our Postal Literature": W. H.)

3. *The Stamp Collector's Magazine.* Vol. i. p. 41. Bath, 1863. ("On Postage Stamp Catalogues": J. E. Gray.

4. *Album Timbres-poste.* Justin Lallier. Bibliographic Information in several editions. Paris, 1863-7.

5. *The Stamp Collector's Gazette.* Vol. ii. pp. 139, 145. St. John, N.B., 1867. ("English and Continental Philatelic Literature.")

6. *The Philatelist.* Vol. i. pp. 90, 118, 170, 187; iii. 99, 124; iv. 117; vi. 10. Brighton, 1867-72. ("Philatelic Literature": W. D. Atlee.)

7 *The American Journal of Philately.* Vol. iv. pp. 122, 127. New York, 1871. ("Philatelic Literature of England and America.")

8. *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung.* No. 12. Dresden, 1871. *Moschkau's Magazin für Markensammler.* No. 9. Oybin, 1872. *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal.* Nos. 5, 30, 33, 36. Leipzig, 1874-6. (These articles reproduced in "*Geschichte der Briefmarken und der Philatelie*"; Alfred Moschkau. Leipzig, 1878.)

9. *The Philatelical Library*, a Catalogue of Stamp Publications. John K. Tiffany. St. Louis, 1874. (122 pp. 4to. An admirable piece of work.)

10. *Literatura Philatelica en España;* Dr. Thebussem [Señor Pardo de Figueroa.] Seville, 1876.

11. *Guida Illustrata del Timbrofilo.* Vol. i. pp. 127, 135. Bologna, 1877. ("Bibliografia timbrologica dell'Italia": Giuseppe Leoni.)

12. *Bulletin de la Société Française de Timbrologie.* Vol. i. pp. 101, 131, 221, 283. Paris, 1875-8. (These Contributions republished as "*Bibliographie Timbrologique de la France et de la Belgique*": Philippe de Bosredon. Brussels, 1878.)

13. *The Foreign Stamp Collector's Journal.* Vol. iv. p. 30. Bury St. Edmund's, 1882. ("Philatelic Journalism in Great Britain.")

14. *The Philatelic Record.* Vol. vii. pp. 78, 89, 113. 130, 146; viii. 23 London, 1886-7. ("Notes on early English Philatelic Literature"; P. J. Anderson.)

15. *Illustrirte Briefmarken Zeitung.* Vol. i. No. 17; ii. 22. Leipzig, 1888-9. ("Bibliographie der Briefmarken Kunde," "Philatelistische Bibliographie"; Alfred Moschkau.)

16. *Das Postwertzeichen.* Vol. i. pp. 5, 21; ii. 66, 80. Munich, 1889-9. ("Ein Nachsclagebuch über Philatelistische Literatur;" Emilio Diena.)

17. *The Stamp Collector's Library Companion.* John K. Tiffany. Chicago, 1889. Addenda to ditto, 1890.

18. *Die Postwertzeichen-Kunde.* Vol. i. pp. 15, 32, 56, 103, 137, 151, 161, 177. Munich, 1893. ("Versuch einer Bibliographie der Fremd-

sprachigen Philatelistischen Zeitungs-literatur Europa's bis ende 1891"; Victor Suppantschitsch.)

19. *The Stamp News Annual* for 1894. Lond. (P. 40, "English Stamp Publications"; John K. Tiffany.)

20. *Bibliographie der Deutschen Philatelistischen Literatur.* Victor Suppantschitsch. Munich, 1894. (750 pp. 8vo. A Model Bibliography.)

21. *Chronoolgische Tabelle der Deutschen Philatelistischen Zeitschriften,* 1863–93; H. Fraenkel. Berlin, 1894.

P. J. Anderson.

University, Aberdeen.

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer—G. Johnson, B.A.

January 17th.—W. G. Hawkins, Esq. (London), F. A. Wickhart (London), W. A. Woolley, Esq. (Ironbridge), were elected members.

The President exhibited part of the De Coppet collection of Mexico, carefully pointing out the various errors and varieties, in four vols. out of the sixteen of which the collection consists.

February 8th.—Messrs. F. J. Lord, F. Seyde, H. W. Hodges, and P. T. Deakin were elected members.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co. for a copy of their recently published handbook on Shanghai, by W. B. Thornhill.

Mr. W. B. Avery then exhibited his magnificent collection of South African stamps. The well-filled pages of wood blocks, with the various errors and varieties, all in superb condition and in a fine range of shade, were especially remarkable.

Mr. Avery took very considerable pains in carefully explaining all the minor details of some of the rarer varieties.

Mr. Castle, who had made a special journey for the benefit of the Society, brought with him a grand selection of his Europeans. His Oldenburgs, early unused French, including several 1 fr., vermilion; Saxony, including a unique block of four of the error ½ neu.-gr.; Tuscany (800 in number, a large proportion being unused); Spain, unique strips and blocks of the rare values; Sweden, etc., excited the admiration of all.

Mr. C. A. Stephenson was elected a member of the Committee in place of Mr. D. Ostara, who has removed to Manchester.

February 21st.—Mr. M. P. Castle had sent his fine collection of Swiss Cantonals for exhibition. The President gave all necessary information and remarks. The whole collection was certainly a great surprise for very many of the members, who had scarcely ever seen some of the varieties which were here shewn in such profusion.

A very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Castle for sending his stamps for the inspection of the members brought a very interesting meeting to a close.

March 7th.—Walter Morley, Esq. (Tottenham), Mrs. L. Rondel (Jersey), Harry Hilckes, Esq. (London), Monsieur P. de la Tournière (Paris), E. F. Broderip, Esq. (Clifton), were unanimously elected members.

Messrs. Wilson, Pimm, and others then exhibited fine collections of the obsolete stamps of the Leeward Islands, etc.

The last two exchange packets were £197 5s. 1d. and £248 19s. 5d. respectively. The December packet was returned to the Hon. Secretary on March 14, and all accounts due to members were settled on that day and the following one.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—Vernon Roberts.
Hon. Sec.—W. Dorning Beckton.

The eighth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel on Friday, January 18th, 1895, 14 members being present, with Mr. Grunewald in the chair. After the formal business

Mr. J. C. North read an interesting communication on the Post-office and conveyance of mails at home and to foreign parts, with rates of postage chargeable, taken from "an abridgement of the statutes in force and use in the year 1687 (third year of King James the Second)."

Mr. E. Petri read a paper on "The Postage Stamps of Sicily." He said: "These stamps are interesting, both on account of their exceptional beauty as well as the historic interest attached to them. For richness of colouring, combined with simplicity and effectiveness of design, I consider these stamps fully equal, if not superior, to any that have ever been issued. The portrait which figures on the stamps is that of the infamous King Ferdinand the Second, perhaps the most unscrupulous tyrant that has disgraced any European throne during the present century. He was nicknamed Bomba owing to his inhuman bombardment of Palermo, Messina, and other towns, which had risen in insurrection against his tyranny in 1849. After his own misdeeds and cruelty, probably no one was more instrumental in paving the way for his downfall than Mr. Gladstone, who, in his celebrated letters on the subject, in 1851, computed there were at least 13,000 political prisoners in gaol. In accordance with an Act passed October 29, 1858, the stamps were issued on January 1, 1859. These consist of seven values, engraved in *taille-douce*, on yellowish wove paper; namely, ½ grano, deep yellow; 1 grano, olive-brown and olive-green; 2 grana, light blue; 5 grana, vermilion and deep rose; 10 grana, indigo-blue; 20 grana, slate; and 50 grana, reddish-brown. As 100 grana equals one ducat (3s. 4d.) the Sicilians appear to have been in advance of us with regard to cheap rates of postage, the ½ grano being rather less than a farthing of our currency. The obliteration invariably used by all Sicilian Post-offices was a highly ornamental design, composed of elegant curbs, resembling a Florentine picture-frame—certainly the handsomest and most artistic of all known postal obliterations. It is said that King Bomba strongly objected to having his effigy defaced in the manner usual in other countries, and issued special instructions that all stamps were to be cancelled in such a manner as to leave his portrait untouched. Bomba died in May, 1859, and was succeeded by his son Francis the Second, nicknamed, in derision of his character, Bombino (who died only a few weeks ago at Rome). The kingdom of the Bourbons, however, was already tottering to its fall, and on the 11th of May, 1860—barely a year afterwards—Garibaldi landed at Marsala with his 1000 heroes, took Palermo, and entered Naples in triumph on September 7, 1860, the kingdom being shortly afterwards incorporated with the dominion of Victor Emmanuel. The stamps were continued in use until May 1, 1861, when they were superseded by the Italian issue. Sicily has evidently been a favourite country with the forgers, judging from the large number of spurious stamps found in all collections of the schoolboy type. In all cases the latter can easily be detected by anyone familiar with the genuine stamps."

Mr. Petri exhibited his collection of Sicilian stamps, and pointed out the differences between the genuine and forged stamps.

Theodor Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. APRIL, 1895. No. 196.

WE have always been led to believe that the essential object of a postage stamp was to provide the public with a ready means of defraying the cost of the conveyance and distribution of the correspondence confided by it to the Post-office for that purpose. Rightly or wrongly the Post-office has been converted into an engine for taxation, and consequently the postage stamp has become the representative of a tax levied by the Government for the conveyance and distribution of correspondence. Not content with this, some impecunious Post-offices are now seizing on every opportunity possible of diverting postage stamps from their primitive purpose, and making them the means of plundering collectors. One of the chief sinners during the past few months has been Portugal. Not only did the mother country put forth a new set two years ago, consisting of some fifteen values, but on its issue it began to overprint all the old stock with various devices to make it saleable, and the printing press has been constantly kept going ever since with whole lists of adhesives and stationery for Angra, Horta, Porta Delgada, Funchal, Cape de Verde Islands, St. Thomas and Prince, Angola, Mozambique, India, Macao, Timor, Congo, Lorenzo Marquez, Zambesia, and Guinea, with a due admixture of overprints, and there may be more to come if work gets slack in the Lisbon factory. Besides these we have had a sort of apotheosis of Dom Henrique, and probably the collectors in the next century will have the sixth centenary of the birth of Columbus, who for the present has been pretty well used up. The Portuguese, however, have found someone who will do for the present year; a Portuguese Saint, not the patron Saint, who is St. Sebastian,

A Philatelic Protest.

but St. Antonio, better known as St. Antony of Padua, is to be served up on a postage stamp, and his remarkable feat of preaching to the fishes when he could not get people to listen to him, is to be similarly recorded. Fortunately in England we cannot be tempted into any saintly vagaries, for though St. George has his day, yet no two people are agreed when he was born or died, nor even whether he was St. George of Lydda or St. George of Cappadocia, or some other George. France also has made a considerable addition to the stamp collector's volumes, but its colonial issues are much more pardonable than the wholesale surcharging that was going on before their issue, and now the National Stamp factory takes in work for other countries, and the government establishment for making postage stamps is a trading one.

In the case of Portugal it is not to be conceived that the correspondence will be increased during the days when the St. Antonio stamps are in force, and that the people will write more letters because they can use the Saint's stamps. The only inference therefore is that the profits are to be made out of collectors, who we heartily wish would set their faces against this system of picking their pockets. At present every man's hands are against the collectors, from the United States with its Columbus issue to Gregson with the Wuhus, and from Seebeck to North Borneo, besides the freaks of "fakers" and manufacturers of false overprints and surcharges to which they are every day exposed. We feel so strongly on this that we could not go on recording stamps which are produced with no other object than to plunder collectors, without a word of protest on our part as to this diversion of them from their legitimate object.

A Philological Protest.

We must indulge in one more protest. A word seems to be creeping into the philatelic vocabulary to which we, in common with many others, specially object, and that is the describing envelopes that are envelopes, and not mutilated ones, as "entires." Dr. Legrand has also raised his voice against the use of the word. For the origin of the practice of cutting out the stamps and calling these envelopes, the first album producers, MM. Lallier and Moens, are chiefly responsible. Instead of providing albums for envelopes they mixed them up with the adhesives, and provided spaces for them only large enough to contain the stamp. To fill up the blanks the collectors were obliged to cut the stamp out and ruin the envelope. In

those days the franking power of the envelope resided in itself, not exclusively in the stamp. Although it was the custom in England to obliterate the stamp, yet it was not so universally where special paper as in England or paper with some device upon it was made use of, and at most the stamp was ticked with a blue pencil or some such mode. Things are different now, since the paper is held of no account and the franking power lies entirely in the stamp, though by some strange notion, in many countries it is not permitted to do duty as a stamp if cut from its surrounding paper, a piece of absurdity in England worthy of the attention of Mr. Henniker Heaton.

Dr. Legrand says in his *Manual* that the word "*Entier*" is given as a translation of the German word "*ganzachen*," which means "complete things." The word "ganzachen" can therefore be employed *à la rigueur* in German as a generic term for designating cards, envelopes, wrappers, preserved entire. In France this has been translated by the word "*Entiers*." But this word in the French language is only a simple adjective. If it only expressed a quality like the *good*, the *dying*, the *learned*, one could understand what it was intended to express, but he adds that "in our language it is habitually united to a substantive," of which he gives examples, and concludes by saying "that the only case when the word is used as a substantive is when it is employed to express the last term of a charade, a *whole*, or an *entire*." Similarly in English this latter is always expressed as *whole*. The etymological dictionaries give the derivation of "Entire" as "*Entier*," French, and "*Integer*," Latin; and the only use of the word as a substantive is defined as "Porter or stout as sent direct from the brewery," which we suppose means that it is unadulterated, and has not been improved by the publican's doctor.

What we wish to inculcate is this, that the word should be dispensed with as useless. Logically or illogically the postal envelope is not an envelope if only the stamp is shown. It is even gilding the gold to call it an *entire* envelope, and when the portion with the stamp on it is severed from the rest, that portion is no longer an envelope but an envelope stamp. To introduce the word "entire" even as an adjective is superfluous, to turn it into a substantive is a barbarism, and an innovation not appreciated even in America, where our transatlantic brethren are gifted with the art of coining words by which time and trouble may be saved.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* THEODOR BUHL & CO., *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Abyssinia.—We have news of another letter having been received bearing the new postage stamps. The letter which M. Maury received used up four stamps, and now four more have been used on a letter addressed to a correspondent of the *Timbre Poste* in Russia, together with the intelligence that a camel post is to be dispatched weekly to Obock.

Austria.—The *I. B. Z.* chronicles the following varieties of perforations of the unpaid letter stamps:

Postage due.	1 kr.,	perforated	10, 10½, 11½.
	3 kr.	,,	10, 10½, 11½.
	5 kr.	,,	10, 10½, 11½.
	10 kr.	,,	10, 10½, 11½.
	20 kr.	,,	10½, 11½.
	50 kr.	,,	11½.

Bavaria.—The wrapper of 3 pfennig is now of yellow in place of white paper.

Wrapper. 3 pf., brown on yellow.

Belgium.—No wonder the *Timbre-Poste* lifts up its voice against the proceedings of the Minister responsible for the Post-office. A "fad" caused a change to be made in all the stamps—the exhibition at Antwerp was used as a pretext for a special issue of stamps—and now the withdrawn stamps of 5 francs are being made the object of competition in lots of 50, but *without warranty.* As the *Timbre-Poste* justly asks, What does this mean? Is it that there is a doubt whether the stamps are reprints?

The same journal states that in the sheets of stamps of 5 centimes, which are printed in six panes of 50 each, the 55th stamp (or the 5th stamp of the 4th row of the 2nd pane) has an inverted "J" for "I" in the word "POSTERIJEN." We thought that these stamps were printed from electrotypes, and think so still, and that the so-called error is only a distorted letter.

Bermuda.—Messrs. A. Smith & Son have shown us a block of the one shilling, green, watermarked Cr. CC, with two rows of the horizontal perforation missing, so that specimens can be made of a stamp wanting perforation at the bottom or the top, or both at the top and bottom.

1 shilling, green (1865). *Error in perforation.*

Brazil.—We would correct an error in our January number as to the colour of the 1000 reis of the new issue. It should read, centre *violet*, and not "black."

1000 reis, green, centre violet (head of Mercury).



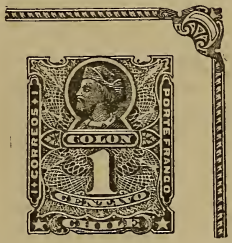
Brunei.—The annexed engraving shows the type of the issue for this Sultanate as described in our February number.



Cape de Verde Islands.—The annexed engraving shows the type of the new issue as chronicled in our February number.

Chili.—We annex illustrations of the postage due stamps, and of the post card of 1 centavo described in our last.







Colombia.—It appears that we have omitted to chronicle a new stamp of 5 centavos that has lately appeared. The Arms are in a circle, with "CORREOS" on a tablet, and "REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" on another tablet above, both following the curve of the circle. On an arched tablet below is the value in words, and under the arch the numeral of value. It is lithographed on plain white paper, and just as badly executed as its predecessors.

5 centavos, light brown on yellow; perf. 12.

Cuba.—Now that it has been rendered clear by the disinterment of the order of the Director of the Post, as mentioned by us last month, the *Timbre-Poste* has had several suggestions made as to the reason why Y preceded the surcharge. They appear wild and improbable. The letter was, we think, never used on a stamp except to designate "and" in the sense of "as also," but *not* in the sense of "in addition." The particular stamp had a double use, for it represented 2 reales, and was available as such for postage purposes; but it was also made use of for a second purpose by surcharging it with "$\frac{1}{4}$" real. M. Moens brings forward the instance of a fiscal stamp which had the value in words "DOS PESOS" in the frame and inside Y. II. Here the Y was used as explanatory. It must be borne in mind that this surcharge was

made in 1855, long before the art of surcharging had reached the perfection that it has at the present day, and when surcharges were made for postal use, not for plundering collectors.

Great Britain.—In a recent number of the *Ill. Br. Journal* M. Th. Haas has an article upon unknown and known varieties in stamps; and amongst the rest he has singled out the two varieties of the halfpenny wrapper stamps, which, however, are not unknown to us, though they may be to many of our German friends. The new type came into use in June, 1883; but the old type still continues to be used on all wrappers printed at Somerset House on paper brought in by the public. M. Haas's test is not ours, which has been the variation in the arabesques above the tablet carrying the value, as mentioned in *Phil. Record*, vol. viii. p. 156 (1886). That of M. Haas is perhaps more readily seen, and therefore we mention it. It is that in the second type the third or outermost uncoloured circle is wider than in the first type. In this latter type the width of the uncoloured circles is much more equal.

Italy.—A stamp of 45 centesimi has been issued. The words "POSTE ITALIANE" surround the upper part of the oval, under which, on an uncoloured tablet, is "45 CENTESIMI 45." The impression is on white paper, watermarked "Crown," and the stamp is perforated 14.



45 centesimi, light green-grey.

Madagascar.—The following letter (headed "Sole proprietor Mr. WALTER HADDON") has reached us:

"BOUVERIE HOUSE, SALISBURY SQUARE,
"FLEET STREET, E.C.
"*London, March 25th*, 1893 (*sic*).

"DEAR SIRS,—We have issued, in conjunction with the British Inland Mail, Madagascar, a stamp for use by this Postal Service, and we think perhaps it might interest you, so send you along advance specimens showing the different values.

"You will notice that the value is printed in both English and Malagasy. The stamps of different denominations will be printed in different colours.

"Yours faithfully,
(Signed) "JOHN HADDON & Co."

Accompanying this was a specimen of a stamp of the value of 2d., with an indication that other values were to come; viz., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s., 4s.

This thing, called in the above a "stamp for use by this Postal Service," purports to represent 2d., and is printed in blue. In the centre are two natives, one carrying two boxes on his shoulder inscribed "BRITISH MAIL | MADAGASCAR," so far as we can decipher. On a curve above is "MADAGASCAR," and above that "BRITISH | INLAND MAIL," in two lines, flanked by "2d." in octagonal tablets at the angles. At the foot is "VOAMENA," which we conclude is the Malagasy for twopence. The perforation is 12. For our own

part we have seen quite enough of the wares of Mr. W. Haddon and the Malagasy gentleman carrying the letter-box, and have no wish to see the other values.



A series of stamps of the French colonial type is preparing for Madagascar, and in the meanwhile the following of the current issue have been overprinted in three lines, "POSTE | FRANÇAISE | MADAGASCAR."

5 c., 10 c., 15 c., 25 c., and 75 c., overprint in red.
40 c., 50 c , 1 fr., and 5 frs. ,, black.
Post Card. 10 c., black on green ,, red.

Mexico.—The post cards which we chronicled last month did not have a very long existence. Possibly the edition was too small. But we are informed by Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son that they were exhausted on the 9th March, when another issue was made of similar designs, but on white card. This is the only difference we detect, except that in the urban one the instructions in the left lower corner commence nearer the border of the frame than before. The new issue of adhesive post cards and other postal stationery was to take place on 2nd April.

Post Cards. 2 centavos, maroon inscription, rose on white ; for urban use.
2 „ „ „ green „ for exterior use.
3 „ vermilion „ „ „ „

We have received the new adhesives, which are printed in one colour on thin white paper, bearing a watermark in the sheet. The series is composed of eleven values—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 15, 20, 50 centavos, and 1 peso.

There are five types of the stamps: 1st, for the 1, 2, and 3 centavos, in which the central design is a pedestrian with a knapsack on his shoulders, a staff in his hand, with a little dog running at his side; 2nd, for the 5 centavos there is a single type of a statue, a javelin in its hand, representing, it is said, Guatimozin, the last of the Aztec emperors; 3rd, for the 4 and 12 centavos the central design shows a man on horseback with a packhorse—both animals being probably intended for mules—in front; 4th, for the 10, 15, 20, and 50 centavos the central design is a carriage like a Lord Mayor's coach, with two wheelers and three leaders abreast; 5th, a locomotive and train on the seashore. The engraving of the stamps is poor, the printing worse, and they are ineffective, though somewhat pretentious. All the stamps are inscribed with "CORREOS," the value in words and numerals, and "MEXICO," except in type 2, where the inscription is "Republica Mexicana." At the foot of the statue in this type there is also an inscription that we fail to decipher.

The perforation is 12, rather roughly done; and the outer margin of the outside stamp is imperforate, the perforation being done by a single line machine.

1 centavo, green ; Type 1.	10 centavos, lilac ; Type 4.
2 centavos, carmine-red ; Type 1.	12 „ dark olive-brown; Type 3.
3 „ chestnut-brown „	15 „ light blue ; Type 4.
4 „ vermilion-red ; Type 3.	20 „ lake-red „
5 „ ultramarine ; Type 2.	50 „ purple „

1 peso, olive-brown ; Type 5.

We have also envelopes of plain white wove paper, size 148 × 90 mm. In the right upper angle of the front is the stamp of the type of the adhesive of similar value, and in the left upper angle the Mexican Eagle in pink.

Envelopes. 4 centavos, vermilion-red ; Type 3.
5 ,, ultramarine ; Type 2.
10 ,, lilac ; Type 4.

There are also a wrapper of 1 centavo, post cards of 2 and 3 centavos, as also letter cards of 4 and 10 centavos, which we will describe in our next.

Natal.—We have the 6 pence, violet, watermarked, Crown CC, roughly-perforated 12½ or nearer 13 by a single line machine, overprinted in red with "POSTAGE" and "Half Penny," and the original value barred with a double thick line. The stamps, considering their advanced age, are in a remarkably good state of preservation. We understand that the supply of the halfpenny stamps ran short—a common complaint with stamps of low value—that £500 worth of the sixpence were after a repose of some 30 years called out and made to do humble duty, and that £300 worth were bought up in two days, the issue having taken place on 12th March. The surcharging plate takes in 5 rows of 12 stamps, so that a pane of 120 stamps is twice passed under the press. There is a broken letter in the 2nd and 4th stamps of the 4th and 9th horizontal rows, and a "y" which has lost its tail and is a "v." In the 10th stamp of the 5th and 10th rows there is a clear error of "E" for "H" in "Half Penny."

There are also various printers' vagaries in "POSTAGE" intended to be in Roman capitals, the principal being the introduction of "P" and "A" several times in Rustic capitals. Sixty of these inscriptions in Roman capitals of the same fount were clearly more than the printers could manage.

½ penny on 6d., violet (1864), overprinted in red.
½ ,, ,, ,, ,, *errors.*

On the 18th March the above provisional of halfpenny on sixpence having been sold out, a new one, consisting of the one penny carmine, was surcharged with "HALF" in black in fancy capitals. The pane of sixty stamps in 10 rows appears to be surcharged two rows at a time, and not too skilfully. We have a stamp surcharged twice, another one not at all, and ups and downs without end.

"Half" on 1 penny, carmine ; surcharge in black.

Orange Free State.—The issue of a post card of one penny, made by surcharging the stamp of 3 pence, blue, with "1d." is announced. *Post Card.* 1 penny on 3d., blue on white.

The *I.B.J.* was in error last month in its statement about the 1 shilling, green. It confounded it with the South African Republic.

Persia.—The annexed engraving shows the type of the post card of 2 shahi.



Philippines.—Further additions are announced.

1 c. de peso, carmine.
25 ,, dark-blue.

Portugal.—It is said that a series of stamps is in course of manufacture to celebrate the birthday of St. Antony of Padua, born in Lisbon in 1195. We hear that the subjects are to be the Ascension of St. Antony, his preaching to the fishes, and a portrait of the Saint. We find no account of his ascension, but he was transported from Padua to Lisbon by an angel, as he was obliged to go there from Padua in a hurry, his father being accused of killing a man; but the Saint set this all right, for on the day of trial he had the dead body of the man brought into court, and asked him whether it was his father who had killed him. The dead man at once replied "Certainly not, the accusation is false and malicious." The Saint's father was of course acquitted, and came off with flying colours, and the Saint was re-transported the same evening to Padua by the same angel.

St. Antony preaching to fishes is we think the subject of more than one picture, and specially of one looted in Spain by Marshal Soult. The event took place at Marecchia. St. Antony was so disgusted with the want of attention to his preaching at Rimini that he went to Marecchia, and called on the fishes to hear him. Instantly from the depths of the sea shoals of small and large fish thronged the shore. "From all sides they came in countless numbers, crowding thick upon one another, their heads above water with their big eyes turned to the preacher, and as he waxed eloquent the fishes testified in a thousand ways their desire to do homage to their Creator."

From all accounts St. Antony was a wonderful preacher, and must have been endowed with a powerful voice, as when he was preaching at Bruges on one occasion he was heard distinctly at a distance of *three miles!* If any of our readers are curious to know more about the Saint that Portugal is so desirous to honour, and to make a little money out of, we would refer him to *Abbé Guyard's Life of St. Antony*, which tells of the miracles he wrought. We do not see, however, that it was ever revealed to him that he was to figure on a postage stamp.

The stamps are to have currency from Saint Antony's Day, 13th June, to the end of the month. They are, it is said, being made

at Leipsic, possibly because the factory at Lisbon has too much work on hand at the present moment; or is it a private speculation? It looks "fishy." The quantities ordered are, according to M. Maury:

2,000,000 of 5 reis.	300,000 of 80 reis.
500,000 of 10 ,,	300,000 of 100 ,,
500,000 of 15 ,,	500,000 of 150 ,,
500,000 of 20 ,,	50,000 of 200 ,,
2,500,000 of 25 ,,	50,000 of 300 ,,
1,000,000 of 50 ,,	50,000 of 500 ,,
300,000 of 75 ,,	50,000 of 1000 ,,

together with 1,500,000 post cards of 10 reis, designed by Casanovo, and engraved on wood by Pedroso. The total value exceeds £80,000, which collectors are expected to furnish.

But this is not all. The present Don Carlos series is, it is said, doomed, though the mother country has supplied all its bantlings with the new issue. An entirely new set is in course of being engraved by M. Mouchon, of which there will be four types—one for the mother country, another for the islands, a third for the Indies, and a fourth for the foreign territories. Are we wrong in saying that these are not very creditable proceedings on the part of a country in the financial condition in which Portugal is at the present time?

Queensland.—The stock of the ordinary postage stamp paper of Crown over Q having run short, a temporary supply of the One Penny and Twopence of the current type has been printed on the Beer Duty paper. The paper is rather thick, and has the Crown over Q different from that in the postage stamp paper. As the paper has only 100 watermarks in the sheet they do not fall correctly under the stamps, but each stamp seems to have a portion, though some may possibly escape. It is said that the issue is regarded with so much dissatisfaction, on account of the want of adhesiveness in the stamps, that an issue on thinner unwatermarked paper will shortly be adopted.

The Australian Philatelist states that it is intended to alter the design of all the current series by removing the lined background so as to leave the profile on white.

The Halfpenny wrapper has been so treated, and the other values will follow in due course.

We have received the One Penny adhesive with the background removed; naturally the head is more prominent, but the line of the profile is about as thick as a cart-rope, and there is an ugly chop in the bust. One must not however criticise too closely this attempt at an outlined profile, which Messrs. De La Rue and Co. say is one of the most difficult pieces of engraving that is possible.

1 penny, orange-vermilion, on "Beer Duty" paper.
2 pence, blue ,, ,,
1 penny, orange-vermilion ,, ,, *altered type.*
Wrapper. ½ penny, green on manilla, *altered type.*

Russian Locals.—From the *Timbre-poste.*

Borovitchi.—The type of 1886 has been redrawn without any other alterations than those attendant on a copy. Thus the rays of the sun are smaller, the letters in the circles larger, the pearls larger, the shape of the lozenge different and more marked, and the numeral longer. 3 kopecks, carmine; perforated 12.

Bougoulma.—The 2 kopecks, red, perforated, has been redrawn. There are three types in the sheet of 70 stamps in 7 rows of 10, and on the sheet there are twenty-two copies of one type, thirty-six of another, and twelve of the third type. No further mention is made of the thirty-eight parishes, and a separate number for each of them, as noticed in our number for October last.

2 kopecks, blue-green.

Gdoff.—There is a new stamp for this rural post, which is now a transverse oblong rectangle with inscriptions in three lines, the first signifying "District of Gdoff," the second has the value in words and the numeral, and the third signifies "rural post." It is printed on plain white paper and perforated 11½.



2 kopecks, yellow-green.

Oustsysolsk.—There is an adhesive stamp of the same type as the stamp on the envelope depicted in our number for last June. 5 kopecks, red and black; perf. 11½.

Podolsk.—This is a new stamp printed in two colours, the type resembling that of the 3 kopecks described in our November number. There is no change in the inscriptions. The two last stamps of the two last horizontal rows are inverted. The collectors, therefore, of topsy-turvies have been most considerately remembered. The perforation is 11½.



5 kopecks, green; inscriptions, brown.

Sapojok.—The stamp of 10 kopecks has the numerals on each side of the shield besides those in the oval. The perforation is 13.

10 kopecks, green and yellow.

Stawropol.—The stamp of 3 kopecks, as shown in our number for June last, is now printed in brown-red.

3 kopecks, brown-red; perf. 11½.

Tichvin.—There is a new issue of a new type for 1895, but which bears the date 1894. The date 1773 is in the centre of a shield, with sun's rays above and a crown underneath, which constitute, we suppose, the Coat of Arms for the district. The value is in numerals in the four angles, and at the foot in words. The impression is on thin white paper in blue on a green ground. The perforation is 11½.



5 kopecks, blue and green.

Tscherdina.—The stamp of 2 kopecks is now printed in mauve on thin white paper, and perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

2 kopecks, mauve.

There are also, since January last, new values of 1, 3, and 10 kopecks. They are of the usual type, but vary in size, according to their value. They were issued in September, 1894.

1 kopeck, brown ; size $18 \times 24\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
3 kopecks, blue ,, 21×29 ,,
10 ,, rose ,, $22 \times 32\frac{1}{2}$,,



Werchotour.—There is a new type of a stamp of 10 kopecks, resembling somewhat that of 2 kopecks depicted in our number for July, 1893. It is printed in ultramarine and carmine with inscriptions as in the former type The impression is on white paper, and the perforation $11\frac{1}{2}$.

10 kopecks, ultramarine and carmine.



Zadonsk.—This post appears not to have been satisfied with its stamps, as values of a new design have been issued. The impression is on white paper, and the perforation $11\frac{1}{2}$.

1 kopeck, brown-red.
5 kopecks, mauve.

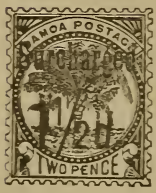
Salvador.—We illustrate three values of the last Seebeck series.







Samoa.—We give illustrations of the surcharges on the Twopence recently described.





Siam.—Messrs. A. Smith & Son have shown us the seven varieties of the surcharge of 2 atts on the 64 atts, chronicled in our number for October last. The letters seem nearly the same in all, except in one. There are six varieties of the numeral 2; in two the numerals are small, one with straight tail, the other with

a curved one; three have the numeral larger, one of which is an Italic "2," another, which has a curved tail, and the other a straight one; and the third is of Egyptian type, with a straight tail. In the seventh type the inscription is only 12 mm. long, and is of much less heavy nature, and the Siamese characters are of a different form from those in the other six varieties.

Sirmoor.—We find that the design of the new issue is an elephant within a transverse oval band, inscribed in the upper part "SIRMOOR POSTAGE," and in the lower, "AND INLAND REVENUE." In the corners of the rectangle are the numerals of value and "PIES" on a straight label under the oval band. The values and colours are as in our last. The perforation is 15.

Timor.—It was to be expected, after what has occurred in Macao, that the 2½ reis and the Don Luis stamps overprinted with "PROVISORIO," should have the values in "avos."

2½ reis,	brown;	overprinted	"½ avo,"	in black.
5 ,,	black	,,	"1 ,, "	in red.
20 ,,	rose	,,	"3 avos,"	in green.
25 ,,	lilac	,,	"4 ,, "	in black.
40 ,,	brown	,,	"6 ,, "	,,
50 ,,	blue	,,	"8 ,, "	in red.
80 ,,	grey	,,	"13 ,, "	in black.
100 ,,	red-brown	,,	"16 ,, "	,,
200 ,,	violet	,,	"31 ,, "	,,
300 ,,	orange	,,	"47 ,, "	in green.

United States.—In our October number we chronicled the discovery of a 5 cents stamp (1890) printed in the colour of the 4 cents. The question as to whether it was an error has been submitted to Mr. Tiffany, who, with the thoroughness which distinguishes all his investigations, has come to the conclusion that it is a real error, not on the part of the American Bank Note Company, but on the part of the Department. The stamp in question was a "finished proof" as it left the hands of the American Bank Note Company, but how it came to be issued is an unfathomable mystery, considering that it had to pass through fourteen hands before it was issued, and had thus been subjected to the eyes of all these gentlemen only to be discovered by a pair of philatelic eyes.

Venezuela.—The annexed engraving represents the impression of a hand-stamp used to commemorate the first centenary of Marshal Sucre. It is not surcharged on the stamps, but was only used as a stamp on the letters during three days in February.



Victoria.—To the announcement in our number for last November, relative to the new issue of the postage-due stamps in green and red, we may add that the values there enumerated have now all been issued, and the remainders of the

old stock destroyed. The stamps are watermarked "V and Crown," and are perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Zululand. — Our contemporaries state that the rest of the values of the new series mentioned in vol. xvi., p. 203, are now issued, so that we give an enumeration of them, including the $\frac{1}{2}$d., 1d., and £5 already chronicled.

$\frac{1}{2}$ penny, purple, tablet in green.
1 ,, ,, ,, rose.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ pence ,, ,, light blue.
3 ,, ,, ,, bronze.
6 pence, purple, tablet in black.
1 shilling, green.
4 shillings ,, tablet in red.
£1, purple on red.
£5, purple on red, tablet in black.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BADEN.

(*Continued from page* 50.)

It was mentioned in the last paper (page 49) that during the printing of the 9 kreuzer in 1863 it was found that the plate had become so worn as to be no longer serviceable, and it was also noticed, on page 46, that Kurz, in August, 1861, had removed the background from the dies of the 1, 6, and 9 kr. No printing, however, had up to the close of 1863 been made from any of the altered dies except from the 3 kreuzer, for which Hasper had constructed new plates. From each of the altered dies of 1, 6, and 9 kr. 110 electrotypes were now made to be ready for the printing of 1864, the quantities of which were ordered to consist of 15,000 sheets of 1 kreuzer, 10,000 sheets of 6 kreuzer, and 15,000 of 9 kreuzer. We have already given the printings for 1864 of the 3 kreuzer. The new stamps of 1, 6, and 9 kreuzer were delivered as follows :



On 21st June, 1864	.	15,825 sheets	=1,582,500 stamps	of 1 kr.
On 27th April, 1864	.	10,855 ,,	=1,085,500 ,,	6 kr.
On 6th and 21st June, 1864		15,346 ,,	=1,534,600 ,,	9 kr.

On the 17th June, 1864, a circular was sent to the various post-offices to inform them that the new postage stamps of 6 and 9 kreuzer, without lined background, would be supplied from the General Post Store in the next quarter, and the new stamps of 1 kreuzer in the next following quarter, and the post-offices were desired to use up the old stamps before issuing the new ones. From this order it cannot be doubted that the 6 and 9 kreuzer could only have been first issued early in July, and the 1 kreuzer early in October. Moens gives the issue as February, 1864, without assigning any reason. The issue of the 6 kreuzer was first announced in the *Timbre-Poste* of September, and that of the 1 kreuzer in November, 1864. As regards the 9 kreuzer, the issue of it was not noticed at all.

The account of the printings of the 1 kreuzer, of the type without the lined background, inclusive of those mentioned above, was as follows :

To 21st July, 1864 .	15,828 sheets	=	1,582,500 stamps.
In July, 1865 . .	15,325 ,,	=	1,532,500 ,,
On 17th August, 1866 .	8,181 ,,	=	818,100 ,,
From April to August, 1867,	25,870 ,,	=	2,587,000 ,,
In May, 1868 . .	9,950 ,,	=	995,000 ,,
			Total, 7,515,400 stamps.

The black colour of these stamps presents at times some difference, and the impressions are bad and feeble. They are also more or less grey, which is principally apparent in the issues of 1865 and 1866.

The following are the printings of the 6 kreuzer : '

On 27th April, 1864 .	10,855 sheets	=	1,085,000 stamps.
On 18th and 20th July, 1865,	10,023 ,,	=	1,002,300 ,,
On 6th August, 1867 .	9,938 ,,	=	993,800 ,,
			Total, 3,081,600 stamps.

The number of stamps of 6 kreuzer is therefore much smaller than that of the 1 kreuzer, only three printings having been required, which are distinguishable by the colours of them. That of 1864 is ultramarine-blue, not very bright in colour; that of 1865 is a dull dark blue, which may not be incorrectly called Prussian-blue, though not quite of the tone of Berlin-blue, which is found in the remaining printings. It is doubtful, however, whether the whole of the 1865 printings were in this tone, as the dark blue would in that case stand in the proportion of 1 to 2 with the ultramarine; but they are found far too seldom for this. Besides, letters of 1866 are frequently found with the ultramarine stamps. It seems more probable that only a small portion of the printings were in this colour. The printings of 1867 are certainly in ultramarine of a clear but somewhat reddish tint, and are in comparison with those in Prussian-blue very common in an unused state, as a lot of unused remainders were sold to dealers.

These conclusions are arrived at by M. Lindenberg, after the careful examination which marks so clearly the thoroughness of all that his treatises, and he adds that he has laid particular stress on the peculiarities of the colours, as it has heretofore been the opinion, even of most experienced philatelists, that in Baden, as at the time in Prussia, the Prussian-blue colour supervened on the ultramarines, which is not the case, as it falls between two printings in ultramarine. Of the 9 kr. stamps the following were printed :

In June, 1864 . .	15,346 sheets	=	1,534,600 stamps.
In July and August, 1865	15,455 ,,	=	1,545,500 ,,
In August, 1866 . .	16,924 ,,	=	1,692,400 ,,
To 9th August, 1867 .	6,953 ,,	=	695,300 ,,
Total . .	54,678		5,467,800

These stamps are found in two very distinct colours, in both of which there are several shades. Thus there is a brown, more or less pale, very similar to the light shade of the second printing of the previous issue, and some of the shades of this are occasionally so pale that it is difficult to distinguish the details of the design. The two first printings are in this colour, after which a colour was used which can best be described as russet-brown, and in this the printings of 1866 and 1867 were made, the latter printing, of which a large part remained on hand, being apparently somewhat paler than the printings of 1866. While the pale-brown stamps, unused, are seldom found, the russet-brown shade of the remainder is more scarce used than unused.

The paper of this issue shows considerable variations. The documents do not show from whence it was obtained, but it may be presumed that with the exception of any on hand it was obtained from Buhl Brothers, of Etlingen, as before. Specimens are found especially of the stamps of 6 kreuzer, ultramarine, and we may add also of the 1 kr., black, in which, on account of bad glazing, the colour has so penetrated the paper that the stamp can be seen clearly through the back.

The perforation was invariably the large perforation of 10, and was generally satisfactorily done, though specimens are found in which nearly the whole of the border on one side is gone, and the stamp has borrowed the difference from its neighbour.

As to the actual consumption of the stamps M. Lindenberg is only able to give it for the years 1864, 1865, and 1866, as unfortunately the returns for the earlier and later years are not to be found. These, however, are of some interest, and may be taken as belonging to this issue.

	1 kreuzer.	3 kreuzer.	6 kreuzer.	9 kreuzer.	18 kreuzer.	30 kreuzer.
1864	1,130,321	3,744,368	639,256	718,480	23,991	13,746
1865	1,330,677	3,786,290	672,243	669,265	29,850	11,863
1866	1,557,342	3,907,995	690,152	690,152	30,698	13,882

(*To be continued.*)

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.

Our apology for devoting a small space to this subject must be that we do so by request, and to enable us to comply with it we have ourselves been compelled to refer to our philatelic library in order to furnish materials for the following sketch of the objects of this Union, and what has been accomplished through its instrumentality. We can tell, therefore, nothing new, though we have found a mass of protocols and other documents relating to the various Congresses that have been held up to the present time. What we propose to offer to our readers must be taken to be only a very short and imperfect summary of the various subjects discussed, and of the principal resolutions adopted at the several meetings.

The object of the Universal Postal Union is to facilitate the

exchange of correspondence of all kinds between the various nations of the world, but as it exists at present it has been a plant of gradual growth. The first idea of a Union for postal purposes was one on a comparatively small scale. In the year 1850 the Austrian and Prussian governments entered into a convention for the mutual exchange of correspondence at certain fixed rates, and the other states of Germany, as also the administration of the Post-office of Tour and Taxis, were invited to join and soon afterwards gave in their adherence to the Union, whereby fixed rates were ultimately established throughout the various states of Germany for the interchange of correspondence at the rates agreed upon, without interfering with the autonomy of each State so far as the interior communication was concerned. The Union thus established, entered into various postal arrangements with other States of Europe for facilitating the postal intercourse between the countries, and in 1863 a meeting of delegates from several countries was held in Paris, where certain bases for a more general interchange of postal matter were laid down, but nothing effectual was accomplished. At length it was determined to hold a meeting of delegates from various countries at Berne in September, 1874, and an invitation was, at the instance of Herr von Stephan, the head of the German Postal administration, addressed to various States to send representatives to this meeting. Austria and Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Servia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States, responded to the invitation by sending delegates to Berne, who met there on 15th September, 1874. On the motion of Mr. Page, the delegate from Great Britain, M. Eugéne Borel, the Director of the Swiss Post-office, was elected to preside, and he took a most active part in the deliberations of the Congress at that time, and at the subsequent meetings until his death in 1892, at which time he was Director of the Office of the International Union at Berne.

The principal decisions of the Congress were embodied in the form of a treaty so far as concerned those States that were represented at the Congress, of which the following is a brief summary :

Art. 1. The countries between which the present treaty is made shall form, under the designation of the "General Postal Union," a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence between their Post-offices.

Art. 2. The provision of this treaty shall extend to letters, post-cards, books, newspapers, and other printed matter, samples of goods and commercial papers originating in one of the countries of this Union and destined to another of these countries.

By article 3 the rate was fixed at 25 centimes for a single prepaid letter, which as a transitory measure might rise to a maximum of 32 centimes and descend to a minimum of 20 centimes.—The weight of a single letter was fixed at 15 grammes, with an additional rate of postage for every 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes in excess.—Letters not prepaid to pay double rates. Post-cards must be prepaid, and the rate was fixed at half that of prepaid letters.*—Provisions for extra charge of half-rate on letters conveyed by sea for more than 300 miles.

By Art. 4, the rate on newspapers, printed matter, samples, and commercial papers was fixed at 7 centimes for a single packet under the weight of 50 grammes, which might be raised to 11c. or lowered to 5c. The increase of the rate was by 50 grammes or fraction of 50

* We see here the origin of the Foreign Post-card of 1½d.

grammes, but the maximum weight was fixed at 250 grammes for each sample and 1,000 grammes for the rest.

Art. 5 relates to registered letters.

Art. 6. The prepayment to be by stamps or stamped envelopes available in the country of origin. Newspapers and printed matter not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid not to be forwarded, but other articles to be charged as letters, subtracting the value of the stamps.

Art. 7. Letters to be returned without charge.

Art. 8. Official correspondence of the post alone exempted from postal charges; no other franking or less charge than that fixed to be allowed.

Art. 9. Each Post-office to retain what it had received.

Art. 10. Transit charges to be allowed to certain countries.

Art. 11, 12, 13, 14 are without any particular interest.

Art. 15. The international office is established at Berne.

Art. 16. Is of no interest.

Art. 17. Relates to the admission of other countries to the Union.

Art. 18, 19, 20 provide for the meeting every three years; that the Treaty should commence to take effect 1st July, 1875 (in the case of France this was postponed to 1st January, 1876); abrogates all provisions in special treaties inconsistent with the present one, and stipulates for its ratification. This ratification took place 3rd May, 1875.

Many other postal questions were discussed, some of which were rejected, while others were postponed.

So far as England was concerned the twopenny-halfpenny rate was a considerable advance, for it altered many rates. For instance, the rate to Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, and the United States was at that time threepence; that to Roumania, Sweden, and Norway fivepence; that to Portugal, Russia, Spain, and Italy sixpence; that to Greece eightpence, and that to Egypt ninepence; and as the *Daily Telegraph* of the time said, "Twopenny-halfpenny," from being an adjective of contumely and depreciation, became respectable as the first symbol of common interest and union between the countries of Europe, and we may now add "of the world."

The second Congress assembled in Paris on 2nd May, 1878, and many other countries having in the interval joined the Union, no fewer than thirty-one countries were there represented. The Union therefore having become so large it received the new name of the "Universal Postal Union." One point that does not concern Great Britain, but may attract the notice of those who study the postcards of other countries, was fixed, viz., that the post-cards should no longer be called "Correspondence Cards," but "Post-cards." The rate on commercial papers was fixed at a minimum of 25 c. per packet, and on samples at 10 c., and provisions were made whereby they could be registered. The Treaty was signed on 1st June, 1878, to take effect on 1st April, 1879. At this Congress a table was commenced to be drawn up, showing the equivalent of the rates of the Union in the money of each country which did not possess the *franc* as the monetary unit.

A third Congress was held at Lisbon, 4th February, 1885, when several questions were discussed, but none of any importance so far as postage stamps were concerned, except that a proposal for uniformity in colours was discussed, but it was not adopted, and each country was left to itself in that respect.

The fourth Congress was held in Vienna 20th May, 1891, when delegates were present from Germany and the German Protectorates, The United States, The Argentine Republic, Austria and Hungary, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chili, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark and Colonies, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ecuador, Spain and Colonies, France and Colonies, Great Britain and Colonies (including Australia, Canada, India), Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hawaii, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxemburg, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Holland and Colonies, Peru, Persia, Portugal and Colonies, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Siam, South African Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Regency of Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The late Secretary of the Post-office, Sir S. A. Blackwood, and Mr. Buxton Forman, were present on behalf of Great Britain. The discussions seem to have travelled over a variety of postal matters, and a General Treaty was made which came into effect on 1st July, 1892, but other treaties were made for special purposes, to which Great Britain was not a party. The principal questions decided seem to have been the providing reply cards, fixing the size of packets of samples and printed matter, and the extension of insurance of letters to 500 francs in those countries which were willing to enter into such arrangement, and advances were made in generalising the parcel post communications.

Art. 18 was to the following effect: "The high contracting parties engage to take, or to propose to their respective legislatures, the necessary measures for punishing the fraudulent use of stamps that were forged, or had been previously used for franking correspondence. They also engage to take, or to propose to their respective legislatures, the necessary measures for interdicting and repressing fraudulent operations for the fabrication, sale, hawking, or distribution of vignettes and stamps in use for the postal service, counterfeited or imitated in such a manner that they may be confounded with the vignettes and stamps issued by the administrations of any of the countries in the Union."

It was decided that the next meeting should be held at Washington.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

We have received a copy of a paper of which the following is a translation: We are assured that it is genuine, though it looks so much like a hoax, for it is difficult to believe that a government would make a sale of 8 sheets of old stock, even if they were stamps of a nominal value of 100 francs each. Why not burn them at once? It would be far more respectable, and much more acceptable to collectors. The copy of the conditions sent to us is in French, but doubtless there is one in Flemish, and perhaps others in English, Spanish, Russian, &c.; and ample time is given for any amount of publicity and due reflection over this trumpery sale. Why cannot the Minister be quiet. He has had his Sunday "fad," and now wants Belgium to deal in stamps like one of the little colonies.

CONDITIONS.

"For the public sale of 2,400 unused Belgian postage stamps, bearing the effigy of King Leopold II., of the nominal value of 5 francs, issued in 1878, and have ceased to be valid since 31st October, 1894, and forming the stock of the Administration of the Post-office."

"Art. 1. The adjudication will be made publicly by offers or sealed tenders. In case of these applications being sent by the post they must be addressed by a registered letter, and be enclosed in two envelopes; the first addressed to the Receiver of the Domains at Brussels, No. 11B, Boulevard Barthelemy, the second bearing the superscription of 'Tender for the purchase of postage stamps.'

"The tenders may be for the whole, or only for one or more lots of 50 stamps each. In the latter case they must, under penalty of being void, indicate the number of lots for which the offer is made, and the price per lot. Tenders for a smaller number than 50 stamps will be thrown aside. If the highest offer for the whole is equal to or less than the total of those made in lots this shall be preferred.

"Art. 2. In the event of the offers being equal the Receiver shall make a proportionate distribution. If the last of the tenders admitted is for a larger number of lots than there remains to be disposed of, the tenderer must accept this quantity, though less than that contained in his tender.

"Art. 3. The tenders must reach the office of the Receiver of the Domains at Brussels at latest the day before that fixed by the next Article for the opening of them. If they are not sent to the office through the post, they cannot be received after 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

"Art. 4. The opening of the tenders will be made by the Receiver publicly in the saleroom of the Domains, 23, Rue Bissé, at Cunghem-Anderheht, on 25th June, 1895, at 11 a.m. A minute of the operation will be made. Any disputes which may occur during the meeting will be decided by the Receiver without appeal.

"Art. 5. The highest bids will be accepted, subject to the approval of the Minister of Finance, which will be notified by the Receiver to the purchasers by registered letters.

"Art. 6. The stamps will be sold just as they are, without any warranty. The sale will be without charges to the purchasers. *

"Art. 7. The prices must be paid to the Receiver on the spot, under the reserve of being returned without interest in the event of the sale not being ratified.

"In default of the purchaser failing to pay the price immediately, his offer will be thereupon annulled, and the stamps offered to the next highest bidder.

"Art. 8. The purchaser must choose a domicile in Bruxelles or one of the suburbs, and in default of doing so, any notifications will be valid if addressed to the Secretary's office for the town of Brussels."

Our readers will, we think, agree with us that there is "much cry and little wool" in all this rigmarole about 8 sheets of 5-franc stamps. Perhaps another lot of sheets may turn up; and as the sale is "without warranty," what is to prevent a few more sheets being printed, for the Government has the plates.

Should the sale prove to be a success—which we devoutly hope will not be the case—we understand that it is in contemplation to sell the stamps from the old telegraphic despatches and some other antiques.

* On all ordinary sales by auction in Belgium the costs are borne by the purchaser, and amount to 10 per cent., out of which the Government Duty on the sale is paid.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

MEXICO.—A notice has been issued by the Post-office Department, of which the following is a free translation.—*Ph. J. of A.*

"By order of the Secretary of Communications and Public Works, the postage stamps now in use in this country will become void for postal purposes on 2nd April, 1895, and the stamps of the new issue will go into use upon that date. The Public is hereby notified of the following Article, No. 201 of the Postal Code :

"ARTICLE No. 201.

"Upon issuing a new series of stamps, the Department will announce the fact to the Public three months prior to the date of placing new stamps in circulation. The public will then be granted three months from the date of the new issue, to exchange the stamps on hand of the old issue for those of the new issue. After three months have elapsed, all persons will forfeit their right to exchange the old stamps for the new, and the loss shall be their own.

"Mexico, December 26th, 1894.

"FRANCISCO P. GOCHICOA,
"*Postmaster-General.*"

VENEZUELA.—From the *Official Gazette*, February 5th, 1895 :

"*Ministry of the Interior—Direction of the Posts and Telegraphs.*

"CARACAS, 30 January, 1895—84° and 36°.

"It is resolved—

"By order of the President of the Republic, the stamps sent by M. Tomas de Arredondo and Betancourt to this Ministry to commemorate the centenary of the Grand-Marshal of Ayacucho are accepted, to be used on the envelopes of letters passing through the Direction of the Posts on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of February next. Thanks are in consequence sent to M. de Arredondo and Betancourt, and this resolution is to be transcribed for the Director of the Posts that it may be put in execution and published.

"For the National Executive.
"A. LUTOWSKY."

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

(FOUNDED MAY, 1890.)

President—T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.

SIXTY-SEVENTH meeting, held at Municipal Buildings, Leeds, December 15th, 1894, nine present, the President in the chair. It was announced that proposals for a federated exchange among local societies had been made by the Manchester Society, but were considered to be hardly feasible on the conditions stated. Also that Mr. A. N. Skipwith, to whom the Leeds Society had been much indebted for his services as Exchange Manager, had been compelled to retire from want of time, and that his brother, Mr. W. K. Skipwith, had been appointed in his place. The donations announced included the first report of the Oldham Philatelic Society. The exhibits included a used copy of the 5 cent stamp of Nashville, Confederate States, sent by Mr. Wm. Gunn, of the Excise, Liverpool, and a curious doubly-perforated English stamp, shown by the President.

Mr. W. Denison Roebuck, F.L.S., then described in detail the Alfonsist stamps of Spain, including the issues of 1875, 1876, 1878, 1879, 1882, and 1889, his remarks being illustrated by his own and Mr. John H. Thackrah's collections.

SIXTY-EIGHTH meeting, held January 11th, 1895. An informal meeting for exhibits and exchange, and at which were present eight members.

SIXTY-NINTH meeting, held January 19th, 1895, ten present, with the President in the chair.

The donations included a booklet reprint on "Minor Varieties," given by Mr. W. Beckwith. The exhibits included various new issues, shown by Messrs. Beckwith, Roebuck, Sieber, and the President; also a forgery of the obliteration on the surcharged 300 reis stamp of Timor, shown by Mr. W. B. Simpson, who had received it from Messrs. Mattos & Co., of Lisbon.

Mr. W. B. Simpson then gave a full description of the stamps of Portugal, illustrated by Messrs. Jefferson's and Skipwith's collections as well as his own.

SEVENTIETH meeting, held February 2nd, 1895, thirteen present, the President in the chair.

Mr. John F. C. Sieber intimated by letter his resignation of the office of Secretary, necessitated by his approaching removal to Perth. The resignation was accepted with many expressions of regret that the Society were to lose so excellent and valued a member.

The donations announced included Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' excellent new work on the *Stamps of Shanghai* (written by Mr. W. B. Thornhill), and Mr. Walter Morley's new *Catalogue of English Stamps*. Various new issues were shown by Messrs. C. Quarkowsky, Roebuck, Beckwith, Duffield, and the President.

Mr. John M. Thackrah then gave a full account of the English four-penny stamp, which was illustrated by his own and the collections of the President, and of Messrs. Egley, Roebuck, Duffield, and Sieber.

Notice of intention to amend the rule relating to membership was given before the meeting terminated.

SEVENTY-FIRST meeting, held Feb. 8th, 1895. An informal meeting for exhibits and exchange, at which four members were present.

SEVENTY-SECOND meeting, held Feb. 16th, 1895, eight present, the President in the chair.

The 4th rule was altered so as to admit of philatelists who are neither resident nor in business in Leeds, being eligible for election as corresponding members, with the full benefit of the exchange clubs, at an annual subscription of half a crown and without entrance fee. The Rev. F. S. Fleming showed a number of Russian and Turkish stamps, including at least one new issue.

Mr. Eugene Egley then gave an interesting and exhaustive account of the "Cantonal stamps of Switzerland and Forgeries of them," illustrating the remarks by his collection and the Society's "Black Book."

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.
Vice-President—F. BARRATT.
Hon. Sec.—W. DORNING BECKTON.

THE ninth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel on Friday, February 1st, 1895, at which 19 members were present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Abbott took the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Hon. Sec.

read the correspondence. The Librarian reported that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., had presented the Society with their latest publication; viz., *The Stamps of Shanghai.* A vote of thanks was accorded to that firm for their kindness.

Mr. G. B. Duerst read the first part of a paper on the Postage Stamps of Roumania. The Roumanians, who call themselves "Romani," claim to be descendants of Roman colonists, but this is open to some doubt. Their language indicates them to be a mixture of many races, though the greater part undoubtedly owes its origin to the Roman tongue. About B.C. 400 the district was occupied by a tribe called Getas. Under the name of Dacia it was conquered by the Romans under Trajan, A.D. 106, and made into a Roman province. Afterwards the country was successively overrun by Goths, Huns, Bulgars, Avars, and Slavs, all of whom left traces on the land and people. Early in the ninth century it formed part of the great Bulgarian kingdom. After its fall in 1019 it belonged nominally to the Eastern Roman Empire. In 1389 the country was conquered by the Turks. During the following century the two principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, or, as we now call them, Roumania, were the scene of many battles between the Christians and Moslems. In 1490 Mathias Corvinus, of Hungary, made himself master of the land, but in 1524 the Turks, under Sultan Soliman the Great regained the country. By the Peace of Passarovitz in 1718, Wallachia went to the German Empire, then by the Peace of Belgrade in 1739 it returned to Turkey. On the downfall of Napoleon both principalities were finally ceded to Turkey. Each principality was now governed by princes (called Hospodars) elected by representatives, and confirmed by the Sultan. In 1859 Colonel Couza was elected by both principalities. In 1866 a *coup d'état* took place. Prince Couza was imprisoned, and a provisional government formed. The younger brother of Leopold the Second of Belgium was next chosen prince, but declined. The next choice then fell on the second son of Prince Charles Anton of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who accepted the position, but it was nearly six months before the Sultan would confirm the election. On May 13, 1877, Roumania, in conjunction with Russia, declared war against Turkey, and in March, 1878, by the Treaty of San Stefano, became independent. In May, 1881, the Chamber created the principality into a kingdom, with Charles the First as the first king. Roumania has an area of 50,760 square miles, with a population of five and a half millions. By decree of May 1, 1858, the first stamps were issued for the principality of Moldavia, consisting of four values, 27, 54, 81, and 108 paras. In 1858 a reduction of postage led to a new issue of 5, 40, and 80 paras. In 1862 stamps now appeared with the combined arms of Moldo-Wallachia, in three values, 3, 6, and 30 paras. In January, 1865, three values were issued, 2, 5, and 20 paras, with a portrait of Prince Couza. In July, 1866, the same three values made their appearance, with portrait of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, printed on white paper, later on changed to coloured paper. Subsequent issues appeared in 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1871, all in the new currency of bani (100 bani = tenpence).

In addition to Mr. Duerst, Messrs. Beckton and Abbott also showed interesting collections of the numerous varieties of Roumanian stamps. At the next meeting Mr. Duerst will read the second half of his paper.

The tenth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel on Friday, March 15th, 1895. In the absence of both the President and Vice-President Mr. Duerst took the chair, sixteen members being present.

After the formal business, which included the election of two new members, Mr. W. Dorning Beckton read his paper on "The Adhesives of Italy," issued prior to 1890, including the stamps of Sardinia. Giving a brief history of Italy, Mr. Beckton alluded to the numerous small States, each issuing its own stamps, into which Italy was split up, prior to 29th November, 1857, the date of the decree authorising the first issue for Italy, some of the values of which, namely the 5 c., 20 c., and 40 c. had been previously in use in Sardinia. The war of 1859 between France and Austria ended in the cession of Lombardy and part of Venetia, and soon after the

central Italian States voted themselves into the kingdom, and Southern Italy welcomed Garibaldi and his volunteers, and for ever expelled the Bourbons.

In 1866 the Austro-Prussian war gave Venice to Italy, and during the Franco-German war of 1870 Victor Emmanuel entered Rome. The unification of the kingdom was now practically complete. The Republic of San Marino is independent, while ardent Italian patriots regard the Southern Tyrol, Trieste, Istria, the Dalmatian Coast, Nice, and Savoy as "Italia irredentia" whose incorporation is yet to be worked for. On November 18th, 1850, a law was enacted introducing various changes in the administration of the post, and a decree was published on December 3rd authorising the first issue of Sardinia. The stamps were lithographed, and in use from January 1st, 1851, to July 1st, 1853. The next or second issue for Sardinia were available for both fiscal and postal purposes. These stamps, which are embossed, were printed at twice, the frame being printed separately to the head. It was found inconvenient to have one set of stamps for the dual purpose, consequently this issue was withdrawn and superseded by the third issue, in which the frame of the stamps is embossed in colour, and the head is embossed in white. The same die was used for embossing the head as in the last issue. The tone of the 20 c. in this issue was made much darker. This was done on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had the control up to this time of the Postal Department, owing to the frequent mistakes which were made between the 5 c. and 20c. Soon after, the control of the Post passed to the Minister of Public Works.

The fourth issue of Sardinia and the first issue of Italy contained additional values, and was lithographed, except the centre, which was embossed, the same die again being used. These stamps were printed by Matraire, and after his death a large quantity of sheets (rejects) were found, including varieties with head inverted, head sideways, and no head. It is quite possible some may have been issued in error, used specimens, which have every appearance of being genuine, existing. Great care should be exercised in purchasing these varieties, as the cancelling dies were sold together with the plates, and the stamps have been reprinted. These stamps were perforated in 1862, gauging $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. Owing to the scarcity of all the perforations other than 12, it is reasonable to conclude that this was the only official one, and that the others were only trial ones, or those done by private firms. The better opinion is that the 3 lire exists only with forged perforations, when found in that state. The stamps issued in pursuance of the Royal decree of 29th October, 1863, were printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., and issued on December 1st of that year. It is of interest to note that the 20 c. of this issue was the first European stamp to be surcharged. The two well-known varieties of this stamp (20 c. surcharged 15 c. in brown) with the four dots, and the other with twelve dots were described, the dots being due to the repair of the plate, which was much worn. The four dots were issued first, and the twelve dots was due to a further repair of the plate.

After describing the subsequent issues, Mr. Beckton described two interesting Carnival Stamps, which are often found in old collections. These were issued on July 1st, 1870, and contained the head of M. Revans to left, the 20 c., blue, containing an inscription in a rectangular frame, and the 50 c., brown, bearing the same inscription, "Neo Regina, 1870," and value in an oval frame surrounding the head. The two stamps served to prepay the maskers on their entering into the theatre and ballrooms on the occasion of the carnival. All who were completely masked were required to have a 20 c. stamp stuck on the mask, and another on the right glove. Persons in demi costume, or wearing only a false nose, were to be provided with a 50 c. stamp. Unstamped ladies were not to be invited to dance, and ladies properly labelled might refuse to dance with gentlemen not so decorated, and so on.

Representative collections of Italy were shown by Mr. Beckton and Mr. Petri.

Theodor Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. MAY, 1895. No. 197.

THERE seems to be a general consensus of opinion among philatelists that something should be done to arrest the invasion of the useless, and worse than useless, stamps that are now threatening the best interests of philately—perhaps even it is not too much to say, its very existence; but as to the mode in which this is to be effected scarcely the same unanimity exists, and we purpose during this and the succeeding month or two to endeavour to examine the whole subject, with a view of placing before our readers what these invading hordes consist of, and what we think are the causes that have led to this invasion; and will sum up our observations with our own ideas as to the best mode of resisting it, and of saving the republic of philately from the dangers which threaten it. The present is no common invasion; all former ones have been trifling in comparison. We pointed out in 1886 the absurdity of the creation of a mass of German locals. Since then we have shown the true character of some things nearer home which it was attempted to induce unwary collectors to believe were postage stamps. We have also endeavoured to throttle the more recent Chinese inventions. But all these are puny things compared with what collectors have now to face, and which they will have to face in increasing numbers if they will not set a firm front to oppose them; for we are convinced of one thing, that the philatelic press is utterly unable of itself to cope with the matter, or to do anything to effectually stem this flood, unless vigorously supported by the collectors themselves.

The Situation.

If we take a glimpse at the press we find a divergence of opinion as to the way it should be met. One recommends that the stamps should be "boycotted," but for effectual boycotting

there must be a league. Another counsels a general onslaught, or rather a "crusade," and we think the term is most apposite; for if we read history aright the Crusades never effected much. There was a vast expenditure of "blood and iron"; and though the invading Crusaders were frequently victorious in battle, yet their ultimate object of freeing Palestine from the Moslems was not accomplished. We may slay the Moslems within, but we want more than this; we want to create some effectual barriers to keep out reinforcements.

What do our enemies consist of? We will put the weakest first. The multiplication of local stamps; the unnecessary creation of surcharged stamps, with all their concomitant varieties; the issue of stamps that are not really required for the purpose of defraying postage; and lastly reprints.

With regard to local stamps we do not apprehend that the danger is great. Even the best of them are collected by only a few. We say the best of them, for some are among the most interesting stamps that fall under the notice of a collector; but we fear that some which began well are fast travelling along the speculative road. We allude specially to the Russian locals. The Scandinavian locals were also pure in their origin, but when it became evident to collectors that they were being produced for speculative purposes they soon lost favour, and the latest productions of Tromso, &c., are now scarcely ever heard of. Who put an end to these stamps? Not the press, not the dealers, but the good sense of the collectors themselves. We believe that the same fate will attend the late issues of Chinese locals. The good fortune that had attended the local post of Shanghai in its endeavours, since 1875, to make money out of collectors, stirred up the envy of other treaty ports, and at length this petty plundering has become so shameless that disgust has followed among collectors, and we have ceased to chronicle the stamps as postage stamps, which was not the primary object of their creation. Little, we think, is to be feared from the multiplication of local stamps; the extra growth of weeds such as these will most probably simply die of inanition.

But now we come to a more serious class of the invaders, the mixed multitude of surcharged stamps. For the last five years the *Philatelic Record* has been combating these in vain. Already in 1890 the plague of these advancing hordes had begun to be felt, and an Anti-surcharge Society on the boycotting principle

was proposed in New York, but, we suppose, fell to the ground. Since then legions of fresh additions have been made, and are constantly being made, until at last we feel at times ashamed of our chronicle of new issues, in which more than half consists of freshly-surcharged stamps.

States that depend for their supplies of stamps upon another country, and that possibly a distant one, frequently find that their stock of a particular value is running short, and this generally occurs in the lower values. The obvious way of meeting this is the prepayment in cash when the stock is exhausted. But this is seldom resorted to, and stamps for the most part of a higher value are surcharged with the value required. There may also be an alteration in the currency, and rather than destroy the stock in hand, it is surcharged with the values in the new currency. Provision is also at times made temporarily by overprinting stamps of one country for use in another, as was the case with the first issues for Gibraltar and Zululand. In all these cases the surcharging is the creation of a stamp for a legitimate though temporary purpose; but it is manifestly open to great abuses, and is not always free from them even in the case of meeting a temporary requirement, as may be seen by the discussion now going on with regard to the surcharges on stamps of St. Thomas and Prince Islands some two years since, when the Postmaster in office at that time is accused of having retained a large quantity as a private speculation. The Government of the mother country passed the matter over, but the Postmaster no longer holds his office. If this be so, it rather tends to show that the Government of the mother country does not intend that outsiders should meddle in this game, and desires to keep it all to itself. In most of the countries, however, where surcharging has been particularly rife, there are wire-pullers, whose functions we will now describe.

These gentlemen are speculators on the spot, and it is evident that though in some cases they possibly may have nothing to do with the Post-office itself, yet they are well informed of the state of matters within it. If the stock of a small value is growing low, it is clear that, by purchasing a large lot, in which no risk is involved, a surcharge may be promoted to supply its place. Nine-tenths of the number surcharged are bought up at once, and a further surcharge is made, and so the game goes on. It is not the interest of any of the parties to surcharge too many, for the fewer there are the more valuable they will be in the eyes of the

collectors of such things. When the number is small, the surcharge is ordinarily made by a hand-stamp, which gives the further varieties of horizontal, diagonal, vertical, and upside down positions; and even were these altogether unintentional, it is reasonable to expect that the operator, if interrupted in his work, may very likely stamp some upside down. Anyone attempting to stamp a sheet of 120 would find that he did not do many exactly alike. But when the surcharging is by a printing press, another class of varieties may be looked for, consisting of faulty type, letters not all of the same fount, full stops for commas, and *vice versâ*, &c.

We will go further into this subject next month.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* THEODOR BUHL & CO., *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Angra.—We are reminded that we have omitted to chronicle a post card of 20 reis, lilac on buff. The *T.-P.* states that the post card of 30 reis and the letter card of 25 reis have only been issued two months since.

Post Card. 20 reis, lilac on buff.

Austria.—The *I. B. Z.* reports that three new values have been added to the Postage Due series, 2, 6, and 7 kr. The series therefore now consists of 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 20, and 50 kr.

Postage Due. 2, 6, 7 kr., brown.

Bavaria.—From the *I. B. Z.* we learn that the following post cards, watermarked vertically, have the date of '95.

Post Cards. 3+3 pf., brown on buff; date '95.
5+5 pf., green; date '95.
10 pf., carmine ,,
10+10 pf. ,, ,,

Brazil.—The *Timbre-Poste* has seen the envelope of 100 reis in two sizes, in which the letters in the word "REIS" are very close together.

A slight modification has been made in the post card of 40 reis

by printing the instructions in small thick letters. There are blue lines on the back of the card.

Envelope. 100 reis, red; sizes 100 × 91 mm., 133 × 107 mm.
Post Cards. 40 ,, orange and ultramarine on white.
40 ,, orange and blue on yellowish white.

British Central Africa.—We learn that a series of stamps special to this territory is in contemplation, and if all we hear is true we fear that we shall be obliged to deal somewhat roughly with them.

British Honduras.—We hear that the 6 cents, blue, and 12 cents, purple and green, have given their colours to two values of 5 and 10 cents of the current type.

5 cents, blue; watermark ♕ C A; perf. 14.
10 ,, purple; tablet in green; watermark ♕ C A; perf. 14.

Ceylon.—A wrapper with stamp of 5 cents of the usual type has been issued.

Wrapper. 5 cents, ochre-yellow on brown-buff.

Chili.—A correspondent of the *A. J. of P.* states that no provisional "postage due" stamp of 1 centavo was issued.

China.—M. Maury states that the change of colour from carmine to vermilion in the overprint of the French stamps, which we stated in March last had been made in the case of Morocco, has been extended to those overprinted for China, and had appeared on the following:

5, 10, 15, 25, and 75 c., overprinted in *vermilion.*

It appears likely that this modification in the colour of the overprint will be extended to all the French stamps overprinted in red. For our own part we do not attach much importance to it, except that it may be taken as marking a particular period.

Cook Islands.—The post card is, it is said, not of buff, but of yellow-brown. The inscription is "FEDERATION OF COOK ISLANDS," under which is "POST CARD," the words separated by a star with six smaller ones round it in form of a hexagon. Under this is "WITHIN THE FEDERATION ONLY," followed by the instructions, "THE ADDRESS," &c.

Fernando Po.—The *Timbre-Poste* chronicles the surcharge of the 1 centimo and 5 centimos, with "HABILITADO PARA CORREOS 50 CENT. PTA." in a circle. We have some suspicion that we have seen these before, but they may be a fresh issue.

50 c. de p. on 1 c., green; surcharge in blue.
50 c. de p. on 5 c., blue ,, ,,

French Guiana.—The *Timbre-Poste* states that the stamp of 75 c. is now on paper coloured on both sides. Does not this rather mean that yellow paper has now been adopted in place of paper faced yellow? The alteration is not special to French Guiana.

75 c., black on yellow paper.

Great Britain.—Noticing the mention of certain changes in the embossing dies recorded by our contemporaries, we looked back on our letters and find that more than twelve months since a change was made by suppressing the dates in the stamps embossed on paper brought in by the public, and filling up the plug holes with florets of small dots. For the sixpence, a set of new dies has since been made, in which no plug holes have been drilled. Probably as new dies are required at Somerset House, the plug holes will all be done away with. They are no ornaments, and as *at last* it has become acknowledged that the dates are of no use in a postage stamp, there can be no further need to drill holes merely for the sake of filling them up with dots, the pet ornamentation of the engraver at Messrs. De La Rue & Co.'s establishment. It may be remarked that the dies of 2½d. used by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. for the foreign envelopes differ a little from those used at Somerset House, noticeable in the spacing of the lettering, and are not drilled for dates.

The upshot of this is that at present, on paper brought in by the public to be stamped with embossed stamps, the 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., and 1s. have the plug holes filled up with florets, but the 6d. and 10d. are not drilled.

Haiti.—The 20 centavos with head of Liberty has now been replaced by a stamp of similar value of the palm-tree type.

20 centavos, brown; perf. 14.

Horta.—To complete our chronicle of the postal stationery, we have to add the post card of 20 reis.

Post Card. 20 reis, lilac on buff.

Italy.—The post card of 10 centesimi for the Chamber of Deputies dated "91" has given place to one dated "93," in which there are some modifications in the inscription. The words "CARTE POSTALE D'ITALIE" have been introduced in brackets under the Italian heading, the words "Provincia di" have been suppressed, and the inscription up the left side has been altered by the insertion of the words "della presente."

10 c., carmine on light buff.

Luxemburg.—Some values of a new type, with head of the Grand Duke, are to hand, which we will describe in our next.

Madagascar.—In our last we mentioned the overprint of the French adhesive stamps, and the post card of 10 centimes. To these M. Maury adds the reply card of 10 + 10 c., the envelope of 5 centimes, and the letter cards of 15 and 25 centimes.

Madeira (Funchal).—Although we in common with our contemporaries chronicled the post card of 30 reis, the letter card of 25 reis, and envelope of 50 reis, as having been issued in 1893, yet from the *I. B. J.* we learn that the actual issue did not take place till 1st January last, when another post card of 20 reis was

issued, which we have not chronicled. The envelope of 50 reis is not on white but on buff.

Post Card. 20 reis, lilac on buff.
Envelope. 50 ,, light blue on buff; size 142 × 110 mm.

Mexico. — We will now complete the list of stamps and stationery that we commenced last month. The watermark on the paper of the adhesives is "CORREOS E U M," and we understand that there are two higher values of 5 and 10 pesos which we have not seen, and which are of the type of the 1 peso.

5 pesos, rose. | 10 pesos, deep blue.

We have also, in addition to the envelopes described in our last, two wrappers of 1 and 2 centavos, of the type of the adhesives. They resemble their predecessors in other respects, though the type is differently set up, and the 1 centavo covers 100 grammes, and the 2 centavos 200 grammes. In the specimens we have seen the word "Fajilla" under the eagle is by mistake spelt "Fajillla."

Wrappers. 1 centavo, blue-green on manilla ; thick and thin.
2 centavos, rose-red ,, ,, ,,

The post cards referred to in our numbers for March and April, as issued prior to the 2nd April, should have been described as bearing adhesive stamps on them. The new post cards, which are of 2 and 3 centavos, bear stamps of the type of the adhesives, and the inscriptions are arranged in the manner shown in our number for July last with the small eagle. Those for the interior are of white card, with the inscriptions in red, but we have since seen the 2 centavos on yellow; those for the Postal Union are on yellow, with inscriptions in blue-green.

Post Cards. 2 c., rose ; inscriptions in rose on white.
2 c. ,, ,, ,, yellow.
3 c., chestnut-brown ; inscriptions in rose on white.
2 c., red ; inscriptions in blue-green on yellow.
3 c., chestnut brown ; inscriptions in blue-green on yellow.

There are also two letter cards, with the inscription "SERVICIO POSTAL MEXICANO" arranged as on the post card shown in our number for last October, with the large eagle.

Letter Cards. 4 c., vermilion-red ; inscriptions in dark blue (URBAN).
10 c., lilac ; inscriptions in black (INTERIOR).

The wrappers, post cards, and letter cards all bear the date "1895," except the post card of 2 c. on yellow.

From the *A. J. of P.* we chronicle the envelopes of the Express Hidalgo and that of the Nacional Mexicano that have appeared with stamps of the new type.

EXPRESS HIDALGO.

15 c., brown ; stamp 10 c., rose-lilac ; on pink laid paper, 153 × 90 mm.
15 c. ,, ,, ,, yellow ,, ,,
15 c. black ,, ,, buff ,, 165 × 93 mm.

EXPRESS NACIONAL MEXICANO.

15 c. green ; stamp 10 c., rose-lilac ("para sobres media oz.—15 gramos" in blue), on white wove ; 153 × 86 mm.
25 c., green ; stamp 20 c., brown-lilac on white wove, 153 × 86 mm.
25 c. ,, ,, ,, ,, 240 × 106 mm.

Oil Rivers Protectorate.—We have waited since January last, in the hope that we should be able to give an accurate list of the surcharges of a "HALFPENNY" on the stamps of 2d. and 2½d.



TYPE I.



TYPE II.



TYPE III.



TYPE IV.

referred to in that number, but we have not been able to gain any further intelligence than what we have seen in our contemporaries. The whole thing is about a year old now, and we hoped to have escaped the necessity of referring to a nauseous subject. Though we decline to vouch for them, those which appear accepted are:

"*Half Penny*" (Type I.) on 2d., green and carmine; surch. in violet.
" " on 2½d., purple on blue; surch. in red and blue.
"HALF PENNY" (Type II.) on 2d., green and carmine; surch. in violet and black.
"HALF PENNY" (Type II.) on 2½d., purple on blue; surch. in blue and red.
"HALF PENNY" (Type III.) on 2½d., purple on blue; surch. in red and green.
"*HALF PENNY*" (Type IV.) on 2½d., purple on blue; surch. in green.

There are other surcharges of 1s. in red, black, and violet on the 2d., green and carmine, and some higher values have been chronicled—probably used for special purposes—namely, 5s., in violet, on 2d., green and carmine; 10s., in red, on 5d., purple and blue; and 20s. on 1s., green, in black, violet, and red.

Persia.—There are three envelopes with stamps of the types of the adhesives, 5 chahi, in light blue; 8 chahi, brown; and 16 chahi, rose. They are of hard, hand-made, thin wove cream-coloured paper. That of 8 chahi is 152 × 109 mm.

5 chahi, light blue on thin wove cream.
8 „ brown „ „
16 „ rose „ „

Portuguese Indies.—The stamp depicted in our number for June last appears to have been an essay; but the issue of the series is now announced, which, if we mistake not, makes the eighteenth of the new Colonial issues. We need to do no more than give the values and colours.

1½ reis, black.
4½ „ yellow.
6 „ green.
1 tanga, light blue.
2 „ rose.
4 „ blue.
8 tanga, violet.

Queensland.—The specimen of the one penny, with background removed, that we described last month, was wrongly classed as belonging to the printing on the "beer duty" paper. It was on the ordinary "Crown and Q" paper. Besides the issue of the 1 penny and 2 pence on the "beer duty" paper, as described last month, there was a small printing of the 1 penny on the old fiscal paper, with *burelé* bands on the back, which also did postage stamp duty in 1880 for a short time. The *Australian Philatelist*, in mentioning this, states that after the printing had commenced it was found that in one of the *clichés* the two first letters of "PENNY" were wanting, so that a valuable error is thereby created. The defect was remedied, and the printing proceeded. The plate with the shading removed was then brought into use, and the first printing was on unwatermarked thin paper, but was stopped on the arrival of the "Crown and Q" paper.

1 penny, orange-vermilion ; on *burelé* paper, old type.
1 ,, ,, on unwatermarked paper, *altered type.*
1 ,, ,, "Crown and Q" paper ,,

South African Republic.—Our contemporaries announce the issue of the one penny and one shilling adhesives of the new type re-engraved with the error corrected, a pole having been substituted for shafts in the bullock-waggon.

1 penny, rose. | 1 shilling, green.

South Australia.—Messrs. A. Smith & Son have shown us a 9d., type 1860, *imperforate*, on part of a letter, side by side with a one shilling, in canary yellow, rouletted, which, if we mistake not, was not issued till the early part of 1862.

9 pence, dull violet (1860) *imperforate.*

Spain.—We have seen the 15 centimos of the current type, printed in pale yellow, for the use of the Chamber of Deputies. The specimen we saw bore the obliterating mark of the Chamber.

15 centimos, pale yellow.

Tonga.—We have seen another of these abominations in the guise of a surcharging of a fresh value—the 4 pence, in brown-carmine, with "SURCHARGE | HALFPENNY," in blue, upon it; and we see that a variety has been made by substituting "C" for "G," and turning it into "SURCHARCE." The *Australian Philatelist* mentions also a surcharge, in black, of "2½d." on the 1 shilling, green, of the *first* issue, similarly disposed in two lines. Looking at the manipulations that these stamps have undergone, there can be little doubt of the reason why they have been so treated.

½d. on 4d., brown-carmine, surcharge in blue.
2½d. on 1s., green (first issue) ,, black.

Tunis.—The stock of 75 c., carmine on rose, being exhausted, it has made its appearance in black on yellow.

75 c., black on yellow.

United States.—The *A. J. of P.* states that the current two cents stamp has been re-engraved; the lines inside the triangular frames in the upper angles are thinner in the new type than in the previous one, and do not run through the frame. The current 5 cents has also been re-engraved, by the addition of a thin frame around the oval containing the portrait of General Grant. The head of General Grant on the 5 cents envelope has been entirely re-engraved. The 8 cents, with portrait of General Sherman, has been issued of the same type as that of 1893, with the addition of the triangles in the upper angles.

We refer our readers to our "Notes and Queries," as to some fresh light on the so-called error in the 5 cents, 1890 issue, referred to in our last, and which we are glad to say has had a quietus administered to it.

2 cents, rose, *re-engraved.*
5 ,, brown ,,
8 ,, green

Envelopes. 1 cent, dark blue on white, size 160 × 90 mm.
1 ,, ,, amber ,,
1 ,, ,, manilla ,,
5 cents ,, white ,, new die.
5 ,, ,, amber ,, ,,
5 ,, ,, white, size 150 × 87 mm. ,,
5 ,, ,, amber ,, ,,

TELEGRAPHS.

Brazil.—We read in the *Coll. de Timbres-Poste* that by a decree of the 25th February last the rate on telegrams between the various stations of the capital, fourteen in number, has, since the 1st March last, been fixed at 500 reis for a despatch of twenty words, with an increment of 200 for every additional ten words or fraction of that number, and that stamps of 500 reis and 200 reis were to be immediately issued to facilitate the payment of the rates.

Ceylon. — We have lately found the following surcharged stamps, which we fail to find chronicled:

20 on 50 cents, blue.—"20 Cents" in small thick letters over "FIFTY CENTS," and "20" in large numerals over "50."

80 on 1 rupee.—"80 Cents" in small thick letters over "ONE RUPEE."

80 on 1 rupee.—Original value barred by a single line, "EIGHTY CENTS" in one line of thick capitals above the head, and "80" in large numerals in the centre.

This latter appears to be chronicled in Moens' Catalogue, 3075, but not in the work of the London Philatelic Society.

Great Britain.—When the date plugs in the embossing dies employed for stamping paper and envelopes brought in by the public were superseded by florets, a similar change was made in the dies of sixpence used for stamping the telegraph forms A1.

No alteration was made in the wording of the form itself, but all those that we have seen are from a new setting up. This may at once be seen from the type, which is clearer, and a sure test exists in the six dotted message lines, which in the new setting up, measuring the depth from the first to the last, are 42 mm. distant, while in the former the distance is 41 mm.; though the most ready test is that in old setting up, the fourth line of the fourth paragraph of "Notice to the Sender" commences with "Office," while in the new setting up it commences with "General." Whether the new setting up was contemporaneous with the change of the stamp from the dated to that with the florets we are unable to say, having only specimens before us of the new setting up. A further alteration was also made in the books of these forms, which is an improvement. Hitherto the form has been divided from the *souche* by a dotted line of printer's rule, a very imperfect mode of rouletting, if it may be so called. In the new forms a line of perforation allows of the form being separated from the *souche* much more readily.

Since this, and in the autumn of last year, the new set of dies of sixpence, not drilled for dates, numbered we believe 31 to 36, have been brought into use for telegraph forms, which are of the recent setting up. We *may* have therefore:

(1) 6 pence on white wove (new setting up), die dated (?)
(2) 6 ,, ,, (old setting up), die with florets (?)
(3) 6 ,, ,, (new setting up) ,, ,,
(4) 6 ,, ,, ,, die not drilled.

We should esteem it a favour if any of our readers would inform us if they have met with either (1) or (2), as we have not seen either.

In the recently-printed A form the imprint has been altered from "Printed by McCorquodale & Co., Limited," to "This Paper Manufactured and Printed by McCorquodale & Co., Limited." We do not admire the new *rédaction*. We thought it was the formula, not the paper, that was printed. But we live and learn.

Nicaragua.—Mr. Morley has shown us several used specimens of the series for 1891, and amongst the rest several of the postage stamps of 1 centavo, *chestnut-brown*, overprinted in black locally with "Telegrafos" in lower case Albion, 25 mm. long; and also in capitals in violet, 15 mm. long. Both of these surcharges are hand-stamped. See *Philatelic Record*, 1894, pp. 120, 171.

In the list we gave at page 70 of the *Philatelic Record* for 1894, which was in reality the issue for 1893, not 1894, we may remark that in all the specimens we have seen, the overprint is not at the top of the stamp, but across the middle, and is in sans-serif capitals.

THE LEAGUE.

THE following communication has reached us :

EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET,
STRAND, W.C., 10*th May*, 1895.

DEAR SIR, — The Philatelic Society, London, having recently appointed a Committee to consider the best means for putting a stop to the great increase in the production of unnecessary and speculative stamps, a special meeting, to which representatives of the leading stamp importers and members of the Philatelic Press were invited, was held at the Society's Rooms on Monday evening, the 6th May, 1895, for the consideration and discussion of the whole subject.

I have been directed to forward to you the following report of the proceedings at such meeting. Yours truly,

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Sec. to the Committee.

The report is as follows :

There were present at the meeting of the members of the Committee Messrs. M. P. Castle (in the chair), R. Ehrenbach, J. A. Tilleard, E. J. Nankivell, and H. R. Oldfield, and in addition Messrs. Percy C. Bishop, Theodor Buhl, F. R. Ginn, M. Giwelb, H. Hilckes, W. H. Peckitt, C. J. Phillips, H. Stafford Smith, and D. W. Wood.

Numerous letters, regretting the inability of the writers to be present at the meeting, and expressing sympathy with the movement and promises of practical support, were read, including communications from Messrs. Butler Brothers, of Oxford ; Messrs. Clark & Co., of Bushy ; Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich ; Messrs. Alfred Smith & Son, of Bath ; and Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham.

The Chairman having explained the object of the meeting, moved the following resolution :

"That this meeting is of opinion that the great increase in the production of speculative stamps for sale to collectors threatens to have a very serious effect on the collection of general postal issues throughout the world."

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Castle called attention to the strong feeling on this subject, which had been expressed both in this country and abroad, and pointed out that the steps proposed to be taken were for the common good, the interests both of collectors and of dealers being identical, so far as these issues were concerned.

Mr. C. J. Phillips, in seconding the resolution, referred to correspondence which had passed between Messrs. Stanley Gibbons & Co., Ltd., and various leading houses, representing the chief European firms of dealers and importers.

The following are short extracts from the replies received by Mr. Phillips, which were of considerable length, and showed a remarkable unanimity of opinion amongst the writers as to the desirability of some steps being taken to put an end to speculative and unnecessary issues of stamps.

Messrs. Whitfield King, of Ipswich, write : "We had already, on our own initiative, decided some time ago not to buy or sell any more speculative issues."

Monsieur J. B. Moens, of Brussels, writes: "As regards the rubbish that comes in from all quarters, and that will be the death of philately, I share your opinion that they ought not to be sold."

M. Senf (of the firm of Senf Bros.), of Leipsic, writes: "I too share your doubts as to the future of philately. I am not aware if you know that for many years past I have been of opinion that everything not unavoidably necessary should be rejected, and I have always borne this in mind when writing our postage stamp albums."

M. Maury, of Paris, writes: "I have always in my journal warmly spoken against these speculative stamps. . . . It would be very useful to have the assent of editors of albums that they will not provide spaces for these stamps."

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd., of New York, write: "We think the subject worthy of serious consideration, and we certainly feel inclined to join you in the matter."

Messrs. C. H. Mekeel & Co., of St. Louis, U.S.A., write: "The future of philately is certainly menaced by the issues of stamps continually prepared for the benefit of collectors. . . . If four or five of the leading firms agree to a certain policy with regard to stamps of this character, we shall be glad to co-operate with them."

After some further discussion the above resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then submitted the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Buhl, and after some discussion was carried unanimously:

"That it is desirable to form a representative committee of the leading dealers and importers and of the Philatelic Press in Great Britain, to co-operate with the committee of the London Philatelic Society in considering the measures to be taken to prevent the issue of unnecessary stamps and surcharges, and to warn collectors against purchasing them."

Various matters of detail in connection with this resolution were discussed, and ultimately postponed for consideration by the two committees.

In response to questions, the Society's committee explained the many obvious reasons which had actuated the members in suggesting the formation of separate committees, representing the "trade" and "collectors," rather than a joint committee, and it was also pointed out that consultations could be held when required, and that emergency sub-committees could be appointed if necessary to deal with pressing matters.

The following further resolutions were then duly considered and unanimously agreed to:

"That it should be the duty of the two committees to enquire into the status of all future issues, and to decide what shall be classed as unnecessary or speculative, and to arrange for public notice being given of their decision in the Philatelic Press." (Proposed by Mr. Castle and seconded by Mr. Nankivell.)

"That the two committees shall use their utmost efforts to secure the exclusion from all journals, catalogues, and albums of all unnecessary issues." (Proposed by Mr. Castle and seconded by Mr. Peckitt.)

"That with regard to existing issues, the two committees shall consult, and public notice shall be given of such stamps as may be agreed to be unnecessary." (Proposed by Mr. Castle and seconded by Mr. Giwelb.)

Mr. C. J. Phillips then intimated that all members of the trade invited to or attending that meeting, together with other well-known stamp dealers and importers, would be asked to meet at the offices of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, on Friday, the 10th May, at 3 p.m., to consider the appointment of a representative committee of the trade.

The proceedings, which throughout had been most harmonious and enthusiastic, then terminated with a vote of thanks to the London Philatelic Society and its special committee to consider this subject, and to the chairman and hon. secretary of such committee.

A MEETING was accordingly held on the day and hour above-mentioned, when a committee of twenty-six representatives of the dealers and importers of stamps and of the Philatelic Press was appointed.

It was decided that the name should be "The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps," and Mr. Gordon Smith was unanimously chosen Secretary.

The first step therefore is taken for the formation of a League, without which it would be impossible to "boycott" the rubbish.

ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMPS, 1889-90 AND 1894-95.

THE following figures have been placed in juxtaposition in order to show more readily what the increase and decrease has been in the consumption of the various values after an interval of five years.

VALUE.	YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1890.	YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1895.	INCREASE OR DECREASE
½ penny	411,609,168	701,353,644	+289,744,476
1 ,,	1,541,217,204	1,688,338,152	+147,120,948
1½ pence	35,968,400	35,178,520	−789,880
2 ,,	17,706,420	19,599,990	+1,893,570
2½ ,,	45,267,240	56,067,720	+10,800,480
3 ,,	30,686,518	33,634,604	+2,948,086
4 ,,	12,070,640	7,173,600	−4,897,040
4½ ,,	.....	14,780,080	+14,780,080
5 ,,	8,327,400	5,957,700	−2,369,700
6 ,,	46,949,548	51,600,769	+4,651,221
9 ,,	5,074,580	5,137,800	+63,220
10 ,,	240,100*	2,207,220	+1,967,120
1 shilling	10,651,320	10,703,140	+51,820
2s. 6d.	600,278	550,669	−49,609
5 shillings	399,846	309,147	−90,699
10 ,,	113,157	95,272	−17,885
1 pound	60,555	56,438	−4,117
5 pounds	13,256	18,196	+4,940

From a rough calculation the net increase in value has been about £1,677,780, of which upwards of £600,000 is due to the extraordinary increase in the halfpenny stamps, and about £613,000 to the penny stamps. The whole consumption of adhesive stamps of the various values for the year ending 31st March last, represents a total of about £12,835,000 sterling, in which about £8,500,000 are represented by the halfpenny and penny stamps, of the latter of which the weekly consumption is upwards of thirty-two millions, being more than 135,000 sheets of 240 stamps each per week.

* For about six weeks.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

It is a matter of congratulation that the labours of the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison on the envelopes of the United States are not to be lost to philatelists, and that the editing of his papers on the Nesbitt issues of these envelopes has been undertaken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, for amongst our ranks it could not have fallen into better hands. The outcome at present is the first few pages of the "Nesbitt stamped envelopes and wrappers," the publication of which has been undertaken by Mr. Castle, as a supplement to his journal the *London Philatelist*. Not only has the study of these envelopes always been one of peculiar difficulty, but so few philatelists have been found who would take up the study, not of these in particular, but of any envelopes. For one who will collect envelopes, and give his mind to the study of them, there are a hundred who confine themselves to adhesives; and yet in our opinion they present one of the most attractive forms of philatelic study that can be conceived. Look at the Exhibition of the London Philatelic Society in 1890. Mr. Gilbert Harrison's exhibit of the envelopes of the United States was a marvel, and there was a grand collection of Austrian and other States by Mr. Schwarz, and of those of Japan by Mr. E. D. Bacon; but with these exceptions there was nothing particularly remarkable, in comparison with the show of adhesives. The simple naked truth is that the collection of envelopes is not popular, and we rejoice to see a work appearing which bears the impress of great philatelic research, and which may possibly induce philatelists to take up the study of a branch that has been so much neglected.

As to the work, or rather the few first pages before us, we will not now enter on any examination of it, for these pages are rather preparatory than otherwise, but are enough to show what we are to expect. We believe that the late Mr. Pemberton was the first who endeavoured to bring any order out of the chaos in the envelopes of the United States as it existed in 1869, but the name of Nesbitt was not even mentioned till some time later. There was at that time a very great difficulty in obtaining specimens, for it was not possible to induce people to hunt them up, and we ourselves were years trying to get specimens with the Nesbitt seal upon them. Mr. Horner's work induced many to take up the study, and it was a praiseworthy attempt on his part to undertake it.

The engravings of the watermarks on the paper, and of the embossed heads, are all that can possibly be desired. They are exceedingly well engraved. We only wish we could say as much for the photographic engravings, which are in what we believe is called collotype, certainly not calotype, which is not fit for philatelic purposes. One likes sometimes to see beauty's face, and not always to look at it through a veil; and in this species of engraving there is a network of lines which effectually hides the delicate parts of the design. They look very shaded, or shall we say "shady," by the side of the Society's clear plates of the stamps of British India and Ceylon. Still, they serve to convey an idea, though we should prefer them without the addition of the cross-hatching.

We shall look with interest for the succeeding parts, which we doubt not will make us wiser than we are now, on matters that interested us ever since the appearance of Mr. Horner's book in 1879.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

India.—We extract the following from the *Indian Philatelist:*

"Issue of Postal Service Postage Stamps.

"The Government of India have sanctioned the issue of postage stamps, overprinted with the words 'Postal Service' for sale to post-offices without any allowance on account of discount. Indian postage stamps bearing this overprint will hereafter be known as *Postal service postage stamps.*

"2. For the present the issue of Postal Service postage stamps will be confined to the denominations noted in the margin;* and until further orders these stamps will be used for the sole purpose of accounting for sums collected as *customs duty* on parcels delivered in India. Sums collected as *postage* on parcels delivered in India will continue to be brought to account by means of ordinary postage stamps. Postal Service postage stamps are not to be sold to the public either by treasuries or by Post-offices.

* ½ anna, 1 ,, , 2 annas, 4 ,, , 8 ,, , 1 rupee — Ordinary Indian adhesive postage stamps overprinted in black with the words "Postal Service."

"3. Ordinarily only head offices will be authorised to keep supplies of Postal Service postage stamps. The Head of the Circle may, however, specially authorise any sub-office at which inward foreign parcels are usually or frequently received for delivery to keep a supply of these stamps. The names of the sub-offices specially authorised in this behalf will be communicated by the Head of the Circle to their head offices, the Divisional Supervising Officers, and the Circle Examiner.

"4. Postal Service postage stamps will be obtained by Post-offices from the same sources of supply and in the same way as ordinary postage stamps, except that no discount will be allowed on purchases of the former; and the stock of Postal Service postage stamps held in an office will form part of its cash balance in the same way as its stock of ordinary postage stamps.

"5. Postal Service postage stamps will be brought into use for the purpose of accounting for sums collected as customs duty on parcels delivered, with effect from the 1st April, 1895. All head offices and sub-offices specially authorised to keep these stamps should obtain supplies before that date.

"6. On and after 1st April, 1895, when a parcel charged with customs duty is received for delivery at a head office or a sub-office authorised to keep a supply of Postal Service postage stamps, the whole amount due on the parcel will be recovered as at present in cash before delivery; and if the whole amount recovered represents customs duty it will be converted into Postal Service postage stamps, which will be affixed to the parcel receipt. If only part of the amount recovered represents customs duty, Postal Service postage stamps will be affixed to the parcel receipt to denote the amount of customs duty, while the remainder (*i.e.*, the postage due) will be denoted as at present by ordinary postage stamps affixed to the receipt.

"7. When a parcel charged with customs duty is received at a sub-office which does not keep a supply of Postal Service postage stamps for delivery from the office or from one of its branch offices, the sub-postmaster will send a requisition at once to the head office, for the necessary Postal Service postage stamps required to bring the amount of customs duty to account when collected. The parcel will be delivered by the sub-office or sent to the branch office for delivery as the case

may be, in the ordinary course; but if it is delivered by the sub-office or if the parcel receipt for the delivered parcel is returned by the branch office, before the Postal Service stamps are received from the head office, the amount recovered as customs duty will be kept in the office safe and be brought to account when the Postal Service stamps reach the sub-office by affixing them to the parcel receipt. So long as such sums are kept out of account, a note of the amount will be made day by day in the column for remarks of the sub-office account and sub-office daily account.

"8. When a parcel charged with customs duty is delivered at branch office, the amount collected will be disposed of as follows:

"(1) The amount which represents postage due (if any) will be converted into ordinary postage stamps, which will be affixed to the parcel receipt, as at present, by the branch postmaster.

"(2) The amount which represents customs duty will be sent in cash to the account office at the same time as the parcel receipt, entered on the branch office daily account in the place for the entry of documents sent to the account office. Such sum will *not* be shown in the accounts as cash remittances from the branch office to the account office.

"(3) In the account office the amount will be converted into Postal Service postage stamps, which will be affixed to the receipt. If the account office is a sub-office which does not keep a supply of Postal Service stamps, the sub-postmaster will obtain the necessary Postal Service stamps from his head office, and affix them to the receipt, in accordance with the procedure described in paragraph 7 above.

"9. The value of the Postal Service postage stamps sent from a head office to a sub-office will be treated like a cash remittance from the head office to the sub-office in the same way as the value of ordinary postage stamps sent to a sub-office on its requisition, except that there will be no allowance on account of discount.

"10. Should a sub-office to which Postal Service postage stamps have been sent under the provisions of paragraphs 7 and 8 above be unable to use the stamps, owing to the non-delivery of the parcels, the stamps will be returned to the head office, the amount being treated as a cash remittance.

"11. The Postal Service postage stamps affixed to a parcel receipt to denote the amount of customs duty collected, will be checked and defaced in the head or sub-office of delivery in the same way as the ordinary postage stamps affixed to a parcel receipt to denote amount of postage due collected. The Circle Examiner will check and deal with both classes of stamps in the same way, but he must in future also see that on and after the 1st April, 1895, amounts collected as *customs duty* on parcels delivered are no longer brought to account by means of ordinary postage stamps.

"12. In consequence of head offices and certain selected sub-offices being required in future to keep Postal Service postage stamps, in addition to ordinary postage stamps, some revision of the maximum stamp balances which they are at present authorised to hold may be necessary, although the Postal Service stamps will take the place of the ordinary stamps that are now used to denote customs duty collections.

"Heads of Circles and Superintendents should arrange as soon as practicable for any such revisions that may be required.

"K. M. KISCH,
Offg. Director-General."

"*March* 2.

Notes and Queries.

THE SURCHARGED STAMPS OF ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS.—A small war is going on in Portugal over the surcharges of these stamps in 1891 and 1892, between M. J. A. de Silva, the former Administrator of the Posts of these islands, and M. F. A. Martins, the Editor of *O Philatelista*, the latter asserting either that they were not genuine, or that they were speculative stamps. M. de Silva has published his case, affirming the genuine character of the stamps, in a sheet entitled *La Guerre aux timbres surchargés de S. Thomé e Principe.* We remember well at the time that we received the 50 RS on 40 reis, brown, that we were informed that the issue was made for the letters going by one particular mail only from Prince Island, and we thought then that it seemed unnecessary to have surcharged these stamps for such a purpose. Still, it is stated to have been done, and we saw them used on letters arriving by that mail. They were evidently stamped with a hand-stamp anyhow, and of course specialists have been able to obtain copies stamped upside down, or in any position. How many were so surcharged we have no returns to enable us to say.

The history of the surcharges of 2½ reis on the 5, 10, and 20 reis is of another kind. The statement of M. de Silva is as follows:

"The Article 7 of the Decree of 2nd June, 1892, published in the 'Bulletin Officiel of the Province of St. Thomas, No. 26,' of the 25th of the same month, put in force in the Colonies beyond seas the tariff annexed to the Decree of 29th June, 1886, in which the rate of 2½ reis was fixed for the postage on journals, the minimum rate being at that time 5 reis in the Portuguese Colonies, as is well known. The question was how to put the law in force without having stamps of 2½ reis.

"In all the other Portuguese Colonies measures were taken to surcharge the stamps, for the Decree had not been followed up by a despatch of formulas of 2½ reis, and it was necessary to wait till the 1st October, or three months and six days after the promulgation of the law.

"During a short period there was a hesitation, as it was desired to dispense with a surcharge, but the public exclaimed against having to pay 5 reis for what the law granted could be done for 2½ reis; and the Governor consequently seeing that the complaints were just, ordered that surcharges should be made on some stamps of 5, 10, and 20 reis.

"These stamps were sold to the public during *about two hours*, and were stamped by the *employé* of the Post-office who gave them out. The Governor then ordered the surcharge of 2000 stamps of 25 reis, which were not issued, as the Administrator of the Post informed the Governor that they would disappear in an instant, and that the stock in the province would be soon exhausted. The bands of the newspapers were then stamped with "FRANCA" [which might just as well have been done at first, as it appears to us]. The surcharged stamps of 25 reis were never used, and were subsequently purchased by an individual at the facial value of 25 reis. These are, therefore, utterly worthless.

"The surcharge of 2½ reis was made with two special stamps in green on the 5 reis, and at first in black on the 10 and 20, but afterwards in green, as that in black could be effaced."

This is the history as given by M. de Silva, from which we gather that the surcharging was really made, but it appears to us that it was useless and unnecessary; in fact, the resorting to the expedient of

stamping the wrappers of the newspapers with "FRANCA," when it appeared that further surcharging would lead to an exhaustion of the stamps of higher values, is evidence that it was unnecessary.

It is no purpose of ours to go into the question farther, for we have already wasted too much space over the controversy. We think the true character of the stamps may be gathered, not from the mode in which one party abuses the other, but it happens that the party who made the stamps is a large holder of them, and we hope will continue to be so. We shall not break the Tenth Commandment over them ourselves, and we counsel our readers to follow our example.

UNITED STATES.—5 cents, 1890, error. From the *A. J. of P.*

"For the past six months an extended controversy has run through the stamp papers on the question of a so-called error in the United States stamps of the 1890 issue; viz., a five cent stamp is said to have been printed in the colour of the four cent.

"The party who fathered this particular stamp even went so far as to threaten a libel against publishers of newspapers who had the audacity to throw a doubt on the genuineness of the error, but fortunately the publishers in question did not allow themselves to be frightened by any such ludicrous procedure. The modest price of 30 dollars for each specimen was asked, and collectors to the number of thirty-five have purchased specimens at the figure named; however, when asked for advice on the question by some of our friends, we always refused to express any opinion, although we never placed any confidence whatever in the genuineness of the error.

"We ourselves, by means of various acids, were able to produce the exact colour from an ordinary specimen of the five cent stamp; and Mr. Henry Gremmel, who led the fight against the recognition of the stamp, has for some time offered to supply genuine specimens of the error, *which he himself had made*, at 50 cents apiece.

"To prove the authenticity of the stamp, letters were adduced from the Post-office Department, showing that the stamps were genuine—just as if anyone had ever doubted the fact—and also the opinion of an expert philatelist, that, to his mind, the colour was exactly like that of the 4 cents. This expert philatelist, however, was not satisfied with the meagre researches which he had originally made, and he thought it well to investigate a little further, with the result that he discovered that a slight application of the deoxidising fluid which is now in general use, restored the so-called error to its normal colour of yellow-brown. This, of course, knocks the entire error theory on the head, and the result is, that the dealer who fathered the stamp has had to back down as gracefully as he could, and offers to refund to every purchaser of the stamp the 30 dollars which he paid for his specimen.

"This instance merely proves how careful dealers and collectors should be about accepting varieties of shade or colour, which might easily be produced by the action of chemicals, moist atmosphere, or any one of a dozen different agents."

One more stamp out of the collectors' way!

WUHU.—Postmaster Gregson, says M. Maury, states that in accepting the office he had only in view the interests of the residents at that port, and that his stamps are accepted by all the other local Post-offices in China. A missionary also backs him up, but an angel would not suffice to induce collectors to invest their dollars in such things. It has been carried too far, and now it will be found that the philatelic journals will refuse to chronicle *les Chinoiseries.*

THE PHILATELIC PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

We have received the following with a request to publish it:

143, Strand, London, W.C.,
3*rd May*, 1895.

Dear Sir,—It having been suggested by some of the members of the Association that the Committee should furnish them with some information as to the work which is being done, I am authorised by the Committee to point out that much of the work of the Association is necessarily of such a nature that it is not desirable to print an account of it, even in a private circular.

At the same time, as a specimen of the work that is in hand, the Committee have much pleasure in communicating to members that a most important matter, on which much labour and patience has been bestowed, has been brought to a successful and practical issue.

For some considerable time past representations have been made to the authorities respecting the production and importation of forgeries into the United Kingdom. The negotiations have been conducted by the solicitor to the Association (Mr. J. A. Tilleard), and have resulted in a material acknowledgment of the Association's work and influence.

That this is a practical result will be seen from the following: The Association, having learned that an attempt was being made to place on the English market a very large parcel of forgeries, numbering nearly 600,000, at once communicated with Somerset House. The Board of Inland Revenue used special means to trace the parcel in order to prevent the delivery, and arrangements were made for the detention of the stamps by the Customs if the importation was attempted. Having located the parcel in Germany, the Board communicated with the Berlin authorities with a view to their co-operation, and the result is awaited with interest.

The Association is to be congratulated on the fact that the Board of Inland Revenue are willing to give their powerful support to the Association in the work of putting a stop to the manufacture and sale of forgeries, and the communication with the German officials will no doubt have a beneficial and far-reaching result.

The Committee need hardly point out that this is a most important advance in the best interests of philately, and the result in many respects is by far the most influential acknowledgment of the claims for protection from forgery, &c., that philatelists have received from official sources.

The negotiations have necessarily been prolonged and of a confidential nature. The Committee therefore have not been in a position to report until the present time.

In communicating the above the Committee appeal for your continued hearty support and interest, especially in the active participation in the work of the Association by attending the meetings as often as possible.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

Fredk. R. Ginn, *Hon. Secretary.*

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Hon. Secretary & Treasurer—G. Johnson, B.A.

March 21st.—Display: *Victoria.*—Messrs. Wilson, Pimm, Johnson, and others showed very complete collections of this interesting country. A large number of rarities and minor varieties sustained the attention of the meeting until a late hour.

April 4th.—F. J. Crick, Esq. (Northampton) and C. W. Boyton, Esq. (Great Yarmouth) were unanimously elected members. Mr. W. Pimm then read an interesting paper on the stamps of Spain, illustrating it from his own collection. The Hon. Secretary and others also showed fairly complete collections of the same country.

April 18th.—Display: *India and its Native States.*—The President showed almost every one of the rarities of type and surcharge of India unused. The Hon. Secretary showed a general collection of the country and states, used and unused, with their entire envelopes and cards; also stamps used at Zanzibar and those of East Africa. Other members showed smaller collections of the same.

May 2nd.—E. Slinger, Esq. (Grenada, W. Indies), was unanimously elected a corresponding member. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. C. J. Phillips for presenting to the Society the minute book of the old Birmingham Philatelic Society, when he was hon. secretary. It was certainly received with as much enthusiasm as anything that has been presented to the Society, owing to its interest as a link with the past.

The meeting then resolved itself into an extraordinary general meeting, to draw up the programme for 1895-6, which was nearly completed. It was also unanimously resolved to issue an annual report, in neat book form, containing lists of members, rules, balance-sheet, *résumé*, programme, advertisements of members and the trade, and to deposit copies of the same with every Society, English and foreign, which is mentioned in the official lists or otherwise known to the Society.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

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

The tenth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 25th, nine members being present, Mr. Willett in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. J. W. Gillespie exhibited his collection of Denmark, Iceland, Schleswig-Holstein, and Danish West Indies, by which he illustrated the interesting paper he read on the stamps of these countries. He gave an

account of the different issues, and said that of the current Denmark 5, 10, and 20 ore there were two types, with large and small figures of value in the corners, and that both varieties were on the same sheet, as he showed an unsevered pair of the two types. He also mentioned, what he believed had not previously been noticed, that in the issues of 1851–53 there is over the posthorn in the lower angles a minute figure of value in the left and an "s" in the right. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Gillespie for his paper.

The eleventh meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 11th, eleven members being present, the President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary read a paper on the imperforate, perforated, and no watermark issues of Ceylon. He described at some length all the chief points of interest in connection with these three issues, and exhibited his collection of the same, containing, among many other fine specimens, imperf. 4d., unused, and a pair used; pair of 2s. used; no watermark 1s., imperf., unused; several shades of all the perf. and no watermark issues, &c. He also showed an almost complete series of the envelopes, unused and entire. A cordial vote of thanks was given to the Hon. Secretary for his paper.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

(Founded May, 1890.)

President—T. Kershaw Skipwith.

Seventy-third meeting, held March 2nd, 1895, eleven present, the President in the chair.

The Rev. T. S. Fleming showed an entire sheet of the current 2 cent stamp of Ceylon, pale green, plate 2; Mr. J. H. Thackrah, what was considered an imperforate copy of plate 13 of the English halfpenny; the President, some new provisionals of Queensland: Mr. Egly, some new issues of Servia; Mr. Roebuck, a couple of the O.H.M.S. envelopes of New South Wales, now in use without stamps; and Mr. Sieber, examples of the old United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Co.'s stamps.

The members then proceeded to compare their collections of the twopenny stamp of Great Britain, the collections of the President, Messrs. Roebuck, Sieber, Fleming, and Thackrah being shown. The requisite explanations were given by Mr. Roebuck, supplemented by the President.

Seventy-fourth meeting, held March 8th, 1895. An informal exchange and exhibit night, at which four members attended.

Seventy-fifth meeting, held March 16th, 1895, twelve present, the President and (during the reading of the paper) Mr. John H. Thackrah, Vice-President, in the chair. Among the stamps shown were used examples of 2 annas and 4 annas Poonch, on pieces of the original envelopes, brought by Mr. Egly.

The President then continued the description of the stamps of Victoria, taking the complicated issues through which the 11th and 12th types of the London Society's work on Oceania. It was illustrated by his own and the collections of Messrs. J. H. Thackrah, Jefferson, and Egly.

W. Denison Roebuck, *Hon. Sec.*

Sunny Bank, Leeds.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—Vernon Roberts.
Vice-President—F. Barratt.
Hon. Sec.—W. Dorning Beckton.

The thirteenth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel, on Friday, March 29th, 1895, the President in the chair, supported by the Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, Assistant Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Messrs. Collette, Munn, Grunewald, Gibson, Petri, Harrison, Pemberton, North, Prout, Jones, Whapham, Ranck, Ostaro, Pellew, and one visitor.

After the formal business, which included the election of a new member, the Secretary announced an invitation had been received from the Liverpool Society, and that the Liverpool Society desired one or two of the members to read a paper before their Society. It was resolved that the invitation be accepted, and that the Secretary be instructed to inform the Liverpool Society that one or other of the members of the Manchester Society would on that occasion, as requested, read a paper.

The President then read his paper on *Additions to the Catalogue of English Stamps*, published by Messrs. Harry Hilckes & Co.

After paying a tribute to the care and skill which the author of the catalogue had bestowed upon his work, Mr. Roberts mentioned the following stamps (all of which, other than those specially excepted, were in his collection) which he did not find mentioned in the work in question :

½d. Plate 1. Imperf.

1d. A sheet of stamps was also prepared, but not issued for use, with a silk thread running horizontally through the paper, in lieu of a watermark. This is known as the Dickenson paper.

1d. Die II. Wmk. large Crown. Rose-red. Imperf.

1d. Plate 146. Horizontal pair, used. Imperf.

1d. Plate 191. Vertical pair, used, imperf.; was in the Philbrick collection.

1½d. 1884. Proof in yellow. Perf.

1½d. ,, ,, blue. ,,

2½d. ,, Lilac. Imperf.

2½d. ,, Proof in brown. Perforated.

2½d. Plate 2. Lettered L.H. F.L. (recent discovery).

3d. Plate 3. Perforated. Only one copy of this stamp is known to exist used. It was in the collection of the late Mr. G. W. Binns, of Manchester, and sold by him to the late Mr. Tapling. It is now in the British Museum. Mr. Beckton informs me that perforated copies are being offered in London unused, but they are perforated with the one penny machine, and appear quite different to the specimen in the Tapling collection. These stamps are said to have been found in the effects of an official at Somerset House, and to have been perforated many years ago.

3d. Plate 4. No wmk. Imperf. Probably a proof.

6d. Octagonal. These exist with deep *bleuté* gum, the bluing does not show on the face.

6d. 1856. Plate 1. Imperf. Used.

6d. Plate 9. Imperf. in the following trial colours—brown-red, orange, ochre-yellow, chestnut-brown.

2s. Brown. Plate I. Imperf.

5s. Plate 1. Imperf.

£1. 1884. The wmk. was altered from orbs to 3 crowns again before the colour was changed to green. These stamps can be distinguished from the first printing by reason of their being printed in a darker shade.

1884 Issue.

The following values, overprinted "specimen," exist, perf. 12, 1½d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., and 5s.

Addenda.

10d. Red-brown. Plate 2. A copy on the original envelope, postmarked 12th Dec., 1867, belonging to Mr. W. T. Wilson, was shown at the London Exhibition. Another copy is known to exist, dated 11.11.67.

2s. Plate 3 is known used, in an Australian collection.

1d. Black. 1840. A specimen with double letters in the lower left corner is in Mr. Beckton's collection.

Mr. Roberts then dealt with the present prices of English stamps, after which he received a hearty vote of thanks for his paper.

W. Dorning Beckton.

Daisy Bank, Swinton Park.

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

At the meeting of this Society, held at Mr. Burnett's house on May 14th, the Rev. H. Cummings completed his paper on "Papers and Watermarks." The first part, given at the preceding meeting, was restricted to the hand-made papers, and explained the processes adopted in the preparation of the materials, the construction of the watermarks, and the differences in laid and wove papers. Several large sheets with elaborate and exquisite water-marks were exhibited and greatly admired. The second part was concerned with the manufacture of paper by machinery. Many of the processes differed but slightly from those used in hand-made paper, the chief characteristic differences being in the size of the sheets of hand-made paper, seldom exceeding 40 in. × 30 in., and the rough edges, whereas in machine-made paper the width was often several feet, and miles in length. It was either wound on a drum or roller, or cut into sheets the size required by machinery. The introduction of watermarks in stamps was next dealt with, examples being shown for illustrating his remarks.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Cummings.

A resolution was readily passed to the London Philatelic Society, for the efforts it had taken to discourage the supply of unnecessary stamps and surcharges. The Secretary was requested to convey this resolution to the Society.

Mr. J. F. Burnett, F.C.S., resigned his office of Assistant Secretary, as he would be leaving Oxford shortly. Dr. Murray, in proposing a vote of thanks to him for his past services, expressed his regret that the Society would lose the help of so energetic and keen a philatelist, and hoped that when he had leisure he would not forget the Society of which he would be, in the future, a corresponding member. Mr. Burnett replied.

Mr. F. A. Bellamy proposed, and Mr. Turner seconded, that Mr. W. Francis Jeeves be the Assistant Secretary for the rest of the year. Carried.

Besides Dr. Murray in the chair, nine members and one visitor were present. Two names were proposed.

F. A. Bellamy,

4, St. John's Road. *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*

Theodor Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. JUNE, 1895. No. 198.

CONTINUING our observations on the present situation, the wire-pullers, having made themselves masters of the market, proceed to realise, and the prices that they may ask are influenced by various circumstances. The dealers who ordinarily obtain their supplies direct from the post, or through their correspondents, now find that they are shut out, as the whole available supply is under the control of the speculators, in whose hands they are mere puppets.

The Situation.

The value of one stamp over another is not a thing which is now judged by the ordinary rules that govern the sale of an article of merchandise or bric-à-brac. According to these, all articles blemished in the course of manufacture are of less value than those which are perfect, and a lower price is accepted in order to get rid of them. But it is the reverse in the stamp business as it exists at the present day. Every trifling deviation, every blot in the printing, every mistake made by a careless workman, is eagerly sought after, and the more stupid the error the more it is esteemed. We mention this not for the purpose of decrying the collection of real errors, but for the purpose of showing that it is in the interest of all the parties connected with a surcharging operation, to render the stamps as marketable as possible among collectors, and for that reason an indiscriminate collection of what we think have been somewhat erroneously described as "dealers' errors," tends to foster the disposition to make errors in the surcharges.

If the stamps are surcharged by hand, though the surcharges may be alike, yet no two are applied exactly in the same place, or in the same position on the stamp. If, therefore, a collector deems this to constitute a variety, it is of no use for him to take a sheet and fancy he has all the varieties: one may have several topsy-

turvy surcharges and another none at all. If the stamps are surcharged in the printing-press, it is rare to find a sheet, or a block, free from some sort of error arising from broken letters, letters of a wrong fount, one letter substituted for another, &c., unless the surcharges are done by a plate, and even then they are not always repeated from the original setting up. We do not say that the errors are intentional in either species of surcharge, but at all events they have the reputation of being so in many cases, and, as we have stated above, it is in the interest of those concerned that there should be such, more especially as regards the speculators on the spot, for the price they demand from the dealers is regulated accordingly. As an example, let us take the recent surcharge of "POSTAGE Halfpenny" on the old Natal stamps of sixpence, watermarked Crown CC. These were printed in sheets of 120, and were surcharged in blocks of sixty. It is said that the price amongst the speculators on the spot at one moment touched £10 per sheet, but perhaps this must be taken *cum grano salis*, and we will say that a dealer had to give as much as £5 for a sheet. It would not be extravagant for him to attempt to make £1 profit out of the half sheet of sixty stamps bought at such a rate. Out of the sixty stamps seventeen only had the simple surcharge in what may be termed the normal form. In thirty-eight of the others there was an admixture of rustic capitals in the word "POSTAGE," as six had a rustic P, six a rustic T, three a rustic A, seven had rustic P A, six had P T, six had T A, and four had P T A. Besides these, in one there was no stop, in two there was a comma in place of a full stop, in one "Halfpenny" was "Ealfpenny," and in one the "y" had lost its tail and looked like "v." It is said that a limited number of stamps were so surcharged, and were all, or almost all, bought up immediately.* We ask, What would have been the real value of a sheet of these stamps without all these blunders? But if the dealer has given £2 10s. for a block of sixty stamps, and wishes to realise a profit of £1, he prices them, not at 1s. 2d. each, but somewhat in this way: The seventeen perfect ones at 4d., those in which blunders appear six times at 1s., those in which they appear four times at 1s. 6d., those in which there are only two or three at 3s. or 2s. each, and the single ones at 6s. And this is invariably the case, for the price of the errors varies according to their number on the sheet; that is, according to their relative scarcity.

* See "Notes and Queries" in the present number.

These blunders of the workman, whether intentional or not, or whether caused by his want of necessary printing material, show nothing of the history of the stamp, and are simply a record of the blunders themselves; but there are collectors who esteem the blemished more than the perfect. To gratify these, the first thing that a dealer does when he receives a sheet of surcharged stamps is to go over the whole with his Coddington in search of printers' blunders, which are all carefully reserved for the special collectors; and to such an extent is this carried out, that we have seen so-called errors made out of an accidental slip of part of the sheet in the printing, or of a speck of something having stuck to the sheet and caused a blank spot on the printed stamp. So long as collectors are found who will give large prices for every mistake that may occur in making these surcharges, they will find that the supply is ever ready to meet the demand. There can be none more ready than we are to counsel a collector to secure every legitimate variety, especially those which tend to evidence some epoch in a stamp's history; but we see very little to be gained by stretching one's imagination to make an "F" out of a mutilated "E," a "J" out of an "I" with a broken foot, a "V" from a "Y" that has lost its tail; but if there are collectors who think otherwise, by all means let them indulge in an assortment of these cripples, for we are far from wishing to become a second Mr. Blotton, who put such a damper on the antiquarian researches of Mr. Pickwick. The speculators on the spot are a tribe that have only recently sprung up, and we are convinced that the multiplication of surcharges and their concomitant varieties is in a great measure due to them. It is with these wire-pullers that we are more especially at war. During the inundation of surcharges from the French colonial dependencies, it was shown clearly enough that in most cases the surcharges were not only unnecessarily made, but were being made for speculative purposes, in which some official parties were directly interested, and that collectors of them were therefore being duped.* So long, however, as these

* We read the following in the *Timbre-poste* for November, 1891, under the heading of "Madagascar": "As regards these stamps, this is what they write to us: 'It is almost impossible to procure the stamps of Madagascar or Diégo Suarez for this reason, that a relative of a stamp dealer in Paris, employed on board one of the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes that do the service between these parts and Europe, is on exceedingly good terms with the French authorities in Madagascar, and it is for his benefit that all these surcharges are made. A few are passed through the post, but all the rest, after having been obliterated at the post, are sent by him to his relative in Paris, who sells them at one hundred times their value.'"

will rush wildly after unmeaning errors, no effectual stop can be put to the multiplication of them, or to the development of the art of surcharging.

The multiplication of unnecessary stamps is another of the great evils which collectors have to face. Of late years their number has increased enormously, quite out of all proportion to the legitimate requirements of the Post-office service. The farming-out of the stamps by the small Central States of America is not of such great consequence as the system of making stamps for exhibitions, eleemosynary purposes, speculations of governments and individuals. The United States, with its Columbus issue, we regard as being the most important as well as the deepest dyed sinner in this respect. We cannot defend our own issue of Jubilee post cards and envelopes, commemorative of the introduction of the uniform penny post, though it was for a charitable purpose connected with the Post-office servants; for we think that it was a mistake, and entirely wrong in principle. In practice it was most unfortunate, for it was quoted by Postmaster-General Wanamaker, as a precedent in his defence of the introduction of the Columbus issue, which he cynically admitted in his report was made solely on the anticipation that collectors would be the parties from whom the profits were to be made. We all know what has followed, and how unholy gains have tempted the necessities of some countries and the cupidity of more. The Belgian Minister, who seems chiefly to distinguish himself by restlessly tinkering the postage stamps, authorised a special issue for the Antwerp Exhibition, not for the benefit of the Exhibition, but to try and increase the volume of the Post-office sale of stamps. The Portuguese Government, not content with having flooded us with series after series of a dozen values for almost every division of its colonies, and overprinting a mass of old stock, issued the Dom Henrique stamps for the purpose of taxing collectors to pay for a statue of a worthy for whom they did not care one doit; and are now about to resuscitate a Saint with a similar object of raising money out of collectors—who, however, as a body failed to be deluded by the first experiment, as it did not prove to be a financial success; and we hope they will still more effectually repudiate the one now contemplated. We could go on descanting on the beggarly trade that governments condescend to enter upon for making ill-gotten gains out of collectors, but the matter has now become so self-evident, that no denunciation on our part is necessary to prove it.

Those governments that practise it are diverting the Post-office from its proper duties by turning it into an establishment for trading in its stamps.

And if responsible governments do such things, is it to be wondered at that Indian and petty States, impecunious companies and individuals "drest out in a little brief authority," should endeavour to imitate them, and eke out their slender revenues by cheating collectors? We terminate this portion of our paper by relating what we have seen within the last few days. A trading company, which has been very fruitful already in supplying collectors with a considerable amount of rubbish, has just issued a fresh series of stamps, manufactured in London, and which are supposed to be for the purpose of defraying postage in the East.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* THEODOR BUHL & CO., *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Bhopal.—The *American Journal of Philately* lately chronicled some novelties, consisting of the re-issue of various obsolete types of the ¼ anna, and of the ½ anna square. (1) The ¼ anna, green, imperforate in six varieties, with spandrels in lines following the oval, no letters in the angles, and with "JAN" in place of "JAHAN." (2) The same in eight varieties, red, imperforate, the background being in horizontal lines, and the inscription "JAHAN." (3) ½ anna, red, in eight varieties, the floriated ornament filling the spandrels; and also in black in a similar number of varieties, in which the ornaments in the spandrels are small.

¼ anna, green; imperforate.
¼ ,, red ,,
½ anna, red; imperforate.
½ ,, black ,,

British Honduras.—In chronicling, last month, the 5 and 10 cents we omitted the following:

1 cent, green; watermark ♛ CA; perf. 14.

Ceylon.—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* chronicles the post card of 5 cents as surcharged with "THREE CENTS" in two

lines in red, with the original value barred, and also as surcharged with "3" over the "5."

Post Card. "THREE CENTS" on 5 c., blue, surcharged in red.
"3" on 5 c. ,, ,, black.

Colombia. — In our April number we chronicled the last new 5 centavos stamp of this republic. We now annex an engraving.



Dutch Indies.—The 2 guld. 50 cents has appeared in new colours, according to the *I. B. J.*

2 guld. 50 c., reddish-brown, centre blue.

France.—The "postage due" stamp of 50 centimes has been issued in lilac. *Postage Due.* 50 c., lilac.

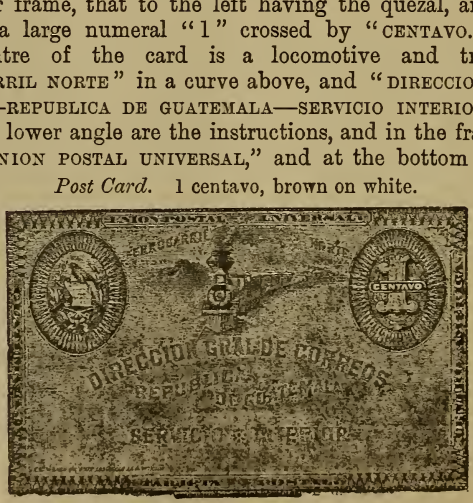
German East Africa.—The reply card of 5+5 pfennig appears to have been surcharged with "3 PESA 3," similarly to the 10+10 pf. with "5 PESA 5."

3+3 pesa on 5+5 pfennig, green; surcharge in black.

Great Britain.—The *Monthly Journal* notes that there is a new setting up of the insurance clause at the back of the registration envelope, size H, in which the heading to the tariff is in rather smaller type than before.

Greece.—The *Postwertzeichen* chronicles the following of the new type: 5 lepta, green; Belgian impression; perf. 11½.
20 ,, carmine; Athens ,, ,, 14.

Guatemala.—On the 2nd April last a local post card of 1 centavo was issued, with oval frames in the upper angles of the rectangular frame, that to the left having the quezal, and that to the right a large numeral "1" crossed by "CENTAVO." In the upper centre of the card is a locomotive and train, with "FERROCARRIL NORTE" in a curve above, and "DIRECCION GRAL DE CORREIOS—REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA—SERVICIO INTERIOR" below. In the left lower angle are the instructions, and in the frame at the top is "UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL," and at the bottom "TARJETA POSTAL." *Post Card.* 1 centavo, brown on white.



Hongkong.—A fresh supply of the post cards of 4 cents of the type of 1886 was issued on 1st May, and the provisional supply made by surcharging that of 3 cents has been discontinued.

Post Card. 4 cents, slate-grey on light buff.

Iceland.—A service stamp of 50 aur of the current type, arms in an oval, has been issued.

Service. 50 aur, violet; watermark "Crown"; perf. 14.

India.—In our last we published the order relative to the overprinting of the stamps with "POSTAL SERVICE." This has, we are informed, been carried into effect on the following, the overprint being in two lines in black.

½ anna, green, overprint in black.
1 ,, brown-violet ,,
2 annas, ultramarine ,,
4 ,, olive ,,
8 ,, violet ,,
1 rupee, green and carmine; overprint in black.

The "Soldiers' and Seamen's" envelope of 9 pies has the value raised to 1 anna, by overprinting the original value in black with "One ♕ Anna."



Envelope.

1 anna on 9 pies, vermilion; surcharge in black.

The service envelopes of ½ anna and 1 anna have the stamps overprinted with "ON H.M.S."

Service Envelopes.

½ anna, green on white laid, overprinted in black.
1 ,, brown ,, ,,

From Mr. Stavridi we have received two wrappers with stamps of rather large size, the central design being the head of the Queen, similar to that on the Jubilee coinage, in an upright oval, three-quarters to the left. Inscription at the top "INDIA POSTAGE," and the value at the bottom.

Wrappers. ½ anna, green on manilla; 126 × 300 mm.
1 ,, purple-brown on manilla; 126 × 300 mm.

Labuan.—The surcharged issue of North Borneo, described farther on, has been extended to Labuan by the addition of "LABUAN" overprinted in black at the top of the stamp.

4, 10, 20, 30, 40 cents on $1, red; surcharge in black.

Lagos.—Registration envelopes in the new form have been issued, according to the *I. B. J.*, with a stamp showing the head of the Queen within a circular band inscribed "LAGOS REGISTRATION —TWO PENCE." The outer edge of the stamp resembles a rack wheel.

Reg. Env. 2 pence, blue; sizes 152 × 94 mm., 253 × 182 mm.

Luxemburg.—A series of values from 1 to 10 centimes was issued on 4th May, with profile of the Grand Duke to the right,

on a solid oval ground, bearing the inscription, "GRAND DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG." The spandrels at the top are filled in with small ornaments, and in each of the lower angles is the numeral of value in white on a solid disc of colour with "CENT" between. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 13.

A few days after, the whole of the above appeared with the overprint S. P. in the upper angles.

1 centime, grey-lilac.	4 centimes, light olive-bistre.
2 centimes, brown-bistre.	5 ,, green.

10 centimes, carmine.

Official. 1 centime, grey-lilac, overprint in black.
2 centimes, brown-bistre ,,
4 ,, light olive-bistre ,,
5 ,, green ,,
10 ,, carmine ,,

Mexico.—We subjoin engravings showing the types of the new series as already chronicled, and which in the stamps themselves are marred by the bad printing:











The annexed engraving shows the letter card as described in our last:



The following envelopes have been issued by Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co., with stamps of the new types. The envelopes are of white wove paper, and are of two sizes; the smaller, which for brevity sake we will call "A," measures nearly 153 × 90 mm., but others of another knife measure only 153 × 87 mm.; both are blue inside. The larger size, which we distinguish as "B," measures 227 × 100 mm.

For the interior.

1. 10 c. stamp, 15 c. vignette; A size, for ½ oz.
2. 20 c. ,, 25 c. ,, A and B sizes, for 1 oz.
3. 20 c. + 20 c. stamps, 10 c. vignette altered to 50 c.; A size, for 2 oz.

For United States.

4. 5 c. stamp, 10 c. vignette; A size, for ½ oz.
5. 10 c. ,, 15 c. vignette altered to 20 c.; A and B sizes, for 1 oz.
6. 20 c. ,, 25 c. ,, 40 c.; ,, 2 oz.
7. 20 c. + 20 c. stamps, 10 c. vignette altered to 80 c.; A size, for 4 oz.

For Europe.

8. 10 c. stamp, 15 c. vignette; A size, for ½ oz.
9. 20 c. ,, 25 c. vignette altered to 30 c.; A and B sizes, for 1 oz.
10. 20 c. + 20 c. stamps, 10 c. vignette altered to 60 c.; A size, for 2 oz.

The various post cards issued on and since 9th February last are now before us. The description in our March number, which was borrowed, might with advantage be made clearer. On the 9th February last a provisional issue was made on yellow-buff, two of which (2 and 3 centavos) were for the Exterior Service, and one of 2 c. for the Urban Service, the inscriptions on the former being in blue-green, and on the latter in rose-red. The inscriptions were in straight lines, and consisted of "SERVICIO" at the top, "POSTAL MEXICANO"—the two words separated by the Arms of the Mexican Eagle—underneath, below which, in the cards for the exterior, was "TARJETA POSTAL—CARTE POSTALE," and in that for the Urban Service the French words were omitted. In those for the exterior "UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL" was introduced into the upper and lower parts of the frame, which was composed of two wavy lines, with a double line between, and "SERVICIO EXTERIOR" in the sides. In the card for the Urban Service "SERVICIO URBANO" was introduced into the sides only of the frame. The usual directions were at the foot, in the left lower angle, and in the right lower angle was the date "1895." There was in all three a compartment in the right upper angle for the reception of an adhesive stamp, which was affixed before the cards were sold. On 9th March a similar issue was made on white card, as mentioned in our April number. The issues therefore stand as follows:

Provisional Post Cards. Issued 9th February, 1895.

2 c., maroon,	inscription in	blue-green, on	yellow-buff (Exterior).
3 c., vermilion	,,	,, ,,	,,
2 c., maroon	,,	rose-red ,,	(Urban).

Issued 9th March.

2 c., maroon	,,	blue-green on white	(Exterior).
3 c., vermilion	,,	,, ,,	,,
2 c., maroon	,,	rose-red ,,	(Urban).

The issues with stamps of the new type were chronicled in our last, with the exception of the 3 centavos for the interior, on yellow. We are informed that the 2 and 3 centavos for the interior were printed by error on white, and have been superseded by those on yellow.

Post Card. 3 c., chestnut-brown, inscription in rose on yellow (interior).



Natal.—The annexed engraving shows the surcharge on the one penny as described by us in April last.

New Zealand.—The letter card of 1½d., described in our March number as being on green, appeared on the 19th February last, printed on dark fawn. There appears to have been some difficulty in obtaining coloured card. It is said that 128,600 were printed on green.

Letter Card. 1½d., mauve on dark fawn.

We have the new halfpenny stamp with diademed profile of the Queen, similar in design to that on the letter card. The head is in a circle, with "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" on a scroll above, and "½ HALFPENNY ½" on a similar scroll below. On a straight tablet at the top is "NEW ZEALAND." The impression is on "N. Z. Star" paper, and the perforation 10. Some sheets were also pin-perforated 12½, but the perforation was considered to be too ragged.

½ penny, black; wmk. "N. Z. Star"; perf. 10.
½ ,, ,, ,, pin perf. 12½.

Niger Coast Protectorate.—The *A. J. of P.* chronicles two surcharges, the existence of which we had before heard of, though we refrained from recording them; but as those chronicled last month appear to have received proper credentials, which seem to cover these, we complete our list by chronicling them. One is a large numeral, "1" on the vertical half of 2d. of Great Britain overprinted for the Protectorate of the Oil Rivers; the other is "½" on the vertical half of the 1 penny of 1894.

1 penny, on vertical half of 2d., green and carmine; surcharged in red.
½ ,, ,, 1d., vermilion (issue, 1894) ,, black.

The British Postal Union card of 1 penny has also been adapted by barring the first line in black and overprinting the second and third lines with "NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE," in large capitals, also in black.

Post Card. 1 penny, vermilion; surcharged in black.

North Borneo.—It is said that the depreciation in the currency has necessitated an alteration in the values of the stamps. A contemporary says that this has been done to put them in accordance with the values of the Hongkong stamps, which we confess we fail to see. The 1 dollar, carmine, has been surcharged with 4, 10, 20, 30, and 40, in large numerals, and "CENTS"

underneath. We have seen these, and also those for Labuan, offered in London at a very large discount below the facial values, and we are glad to see that they have attracted the notice of the "S. S. S. S."

4, 10, 20, 30, 40 cents on 1 dollar, carmine; surcharged in black.

Orange Free State.—In our March number we quoted the *I. B. J.* as our authority for the issue of a stamp of one shilling, green; but our excellent contemporary made an error, as it was the South African Republic. The surcharge of the one penny with "2" was also an error, for it is the Orange Free State twopence, purple, that was so overprinted, most probably to distinguish it more readily from the one penny, in its new colour of violet. We regret the errors, but it is something to find that other philatelists besides ourselves grow at times somewhat confused over African geography.

Pahang.—We remedy an omission by chronicling the 1 cent of the current type. 1 cent, green.

Paraguay.—We read in *Smith's Monthly Circular* that the 1 centavo stamp has become obsolete, and that the stamp of 20 centavos, which was to have been in carmine, but of which no used specimen appears to have been seen, has now come to hand in vermilion. 20 centavos, vermilion.

Perak.—The 5 cents, rose, has been surcharged "3 CENTS," similarly to the 5 cents of Selangor.—*P. J. of G. B.*

3 cents on 5 c., rose, surcharged in black.

Persia.—The annexed engraving shows the stamp on the envelopes chronicled in our number for April.



Queensland.—In our last we mentioned, on the authority of *The Australian Philatelist*, that the printing of the 1 penny of the altered type commenced on unwatermarked paper. The same magazine now states in its number for April that a reliable correspondent writes that the altered type was not put to press on unwatermarked paper, and that the printing from it only began *after* the supply of "Crown Q" paper had been received from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. We are therefore saved from a variety. The halfpenny stamp has had the head cleared of its background, and has also so appeared on the wrapper of that value.

½ penny, green on "Crown Q" paper.
Wrapper. ½ penny, green on manilla.

St. Helena.—The one shilling has appeared on Crown C A paper, perf. 14.

1 shilling, green, surcharged in black; wmk ♛ C A; perf. 14.

Salvador.—The *Collectionneur de Timbres-poste* has received the envelope of 11 centavos, carmine, of last year, surcharged in black with "DOS CENTAVOS" in two lines of thick capitals above and below the embossed central design. The envelope is obliterated with the San Salvador postmark of 2nd December, 1894, and was employed for the urban service.

Envelope. 2 cent. on 11 c. (1894), carmine, sucharged in black.

Samoa.—The great fire which lately occurred at Apia seems to have destroyed most of the stamps in stock, though the plates and printing material have escaped. In *Smith's Monthly Circular* we notice that a letter has been received franked with half a stamp of 1 shilling, bearing the Apia postmark of 24th April last.

6 pence, being ½ of 1 shilling, carmine, cut diagonally.

Selangor.—A stamp of 2 cents of the current type has been issued.—*T. P.*

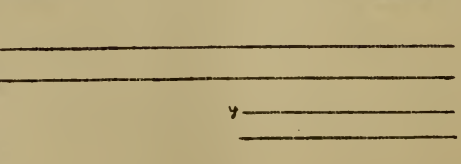
2 cents, orange.



Servia.—A series of postage due stamps was issued on 1st May last. The numeral of value is on an uncoloured disc, covering the body of a crowned double-headed eagle, with a *fleur de lys* on each side of its tail. At the top is a tablet inscribed "PORTO MARKA," and at the foot a similar tablet with "PARA" and the numeral of value on each side. The impression is on thin granite paper with red threads in it, and the perforation is 13.

Postage due. 5 para, lilac.
10 ,, blue.
20 ,, brown-orange.
30 ,, green.
50 ,, carmine.

Post cards have been issued with stamps of the new type; the name of the country is in the frame, and in those for the exterior the inscription is in the two languages. The annexed engraving shows the design on the face of that for the interior.



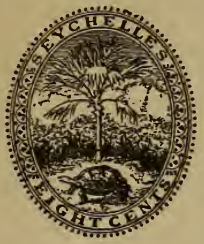
Post Cards.

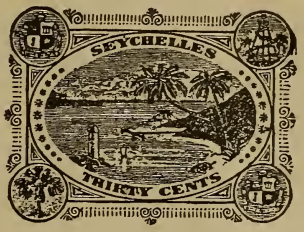
5 para, rose on buff. | 10 para, blue on white.
5+5 ,, ,, | 10+10 ,, ,,

Letter cards of 5 and 10 para have also been issued with stamps of the new type.

Letter Cards. 5 para, carmine on grey-blue, white inside.
10 „ blue „ „

Seychelles.—In our March number we described the types of the stamps on the new envelopes as given in the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste;* we now annex engravings of them:





South African Republic.—The issue of the halfpenny, the twopence, and the threepence is announced of the last new "pole" type.

½ penny, grey.
2 pence, bistre.
3 „ violet.

Turks Islands.—The *Timbre-Poste* has received the stamp of 4d., of the type of head within an octagon, in purple, with the inscriptions at the top and bottom in blue. Also an envelope of 2½d., 140 × 80 mm., with stamp similar in design to that on the post card of 1893.

4 pence, purple and blue; watermark ♕ CA; perf. 14.
Envelope. 2½ „ ultramarine.

United States.—The following values of the newspaper and periodical stamps of the new type, with the head of the Indian in face instead of in profile, and with the inscription "U.S. POSTAGE" in a curve instead of straight line, have, according to the *A. J. of P.*, been issued.

1 cent, black.
2 cents „
5 cents, black.
10 „ „

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* notes the issue of the following additions to these stamps:

50 cents, pink.
2 doll., orange.
5 „ blue.
10 doll., green.
20 „ slate.
50 „ carmine.
100 doll., purple.

The *A. J. of P.* states that the 2 cent stamp of the current issue is now printed on watermarked paper, its appearance being due to the counterfeiting discovered recently; and it is informed that the 1 and 10 cent values have also been issued. The watermark consists of the letters "U S P S," in double line capitals, 16 mm.

high, repeated in the sheet as in the following diagram of a quarter sheet:

P S U S P S U S P
S U S P S U S P S
U S P S U S P S U
S P S U S P S U S
P S U S P S U S P
S U S P S U S P S
U S P S U S P S U
S P S U S P S U S
P S U S P S U S P
S U S P S U S P S

It will be seen that there are only nine letters horizontally covering the space of ten stamps and one border, and ten vertically covering the space of ten stamps and one border. The watermark is found on the 2 cents with the three types of the triangle in the angle; viz. (1) where the lines cross the frame of the triangle and are thick; (2) where they cross and are thin; (3) where they do *not* cross and are thin.

Wurtemberg.—The issue of the following post cards is notified by the *I. B. Z.*:

Post Cards.	3 pf.,	brown	on buff;	3.12.94.
	5 ,,	green	,,	1.2.95.
	5+5 ,,	,,	,,	13.12.94, 1.6.95.
Service Card.	5 ,,	,,	,,	26.10.94.

The following envelopes are notified by the *T.-P.*:

Service Envelopes.	5 pf.,	green	on buff;	182 × 120 mm.
	5 ,,	,,	grey ,,	
	10 ,,	carmine	on buff;	350 × 140.

THE OUTCASTS.

We have received the following communication:

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
10*th June*, 1895.

Notice is hereby given that the Society, having taken into consideration the stamps (or other postal matter) enumerated below, has decided, and do declare the same to be speculative or unnecessary, and warns all whom it may concern not to deal in or collect the same.

1. PORTUGAL.—"*Santo Antonio*" centennial stamps.
2. CHINESE LOCALS: That is to say, any issues for Chefoo, Chinkiang, Chunking, Hankow, Ichang, Kewkiang, Tientsin, or Wuhu, appearing after this date, or for any other place in China of a like nature.
3. NORTH BORNEO AND LABUAN.—The 4, 10, 20, 30, and 40 cents, surcharged on 1 dollar, red, appear to be unnecessary.

The above requires no comment on our part, except to beg collectors not to be induced to purchase any of these outcasts.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BADEN.

(*Continued from page* 96.)

THE North German Postal Confederation included Baden, which, by the agreement of the 23rd November, 1867, agreed to establish a new scale of rates on and from the 1st January, 1868. Some, therefore, of the then existing values would become useless for postal purposes within the circuit of the Confederation. Apart from the rate for printed matter, the postage on letters up to 15 grammes was fixed at 3 kreuzer within the States comprised in the Confederation, and at 7 kreuzer (equivalent to 2 sgr.) for heavier ones. The latter rate was also that for ordinary letters to Switzerland, Belgium, North America, by way of Prussia, and was extended later on to other foreign countries. By a circular of the 21st December, 1867, the Post-offices had been instructed that, on account of the altered rates, it would be necessary to have a large supply of stamps of 1 kreuzer; but it soon became evident that a stamp of 7 kreuzer would be required, and the General Direction of the Posts and Telegraphs gave an order, in the early part of 1868, to Maier—an engraver of Carlsruhe—to prepare a steel die for the purpose. As, however, the inscription "POSTVEREIN," hitherto existing in the right side of the frame was, under the altered circumstances, no longer applicable, it was decided to change it by substituting in its place the word "FREIMARKE," which was also in the left side of the frame, and to change, in a similar way, the inscriptions on the stamps of 3 kreuzer, which were those that were principally in demand. The original die was left without the numerals of value, and 1, 3, and 7 were subsequently inserted in the secondary dies made from the original matrix. The construction of these dies, according to M. Lindenberg, cost 55 florins. The making of the *clichés* for the printing was done by Hasper, in July, 1868, who was also then instructed to print 40,000 sheets of 1 kreuzer, 50,000 of 3 kreuzer, and 25,000 of 7 kreuzer.



As compared with the stamps of the Arms series at that time in use, the difference which chiefly catches the eye is the abbreviation of the denomination, the word "KREUZER" being changed to "KR." The word "BADEN" at the top is also made more prominent, while the words in the sides of the frame are in larger characters. The rosettes in the angles are not so ornamental as in the previous issue; the Arms are wretchedly engraved, and the Crown is narrower and higher. Taken as a whole the design is not so effective as that on the dies engraved by Kurz, which was not only more artistic, but the work was finer and executed in a much superior manner.

On the 8th July, 1868, the General Direction of the Posts and Telegraphs made a report touching the question of the stamps to the

Ministry of Commerce, mentioning, at the same time, that of the stamps of 6, 9, and 30 kreuzer, which were still available for postage, there was a supply in hand sufficient to last for several years, so that it was quite unnecessary to come to any decision at present regarding any fresh printing of those values. As a multiplication of the number of the values was undesirable for official reasons, a recommendation was at the same time made that the stamp of 18 kreuzer, for which the demand and the employment were very limited, should be withdrawn. To render the stamps uniform with those of the rest of the German postal administrations, it was recommended that the colour of the 1 kreuzer should be green, in place of black; that of the 3 kreuzer, red, as hitherto; and that of the 7 kreuzer blue, but of a darker tone than had hitherto been used. The Ministry of Commerce, to whom proofs of the new stamp in black had been sent, approved of the recommendations contained in this report.

Under date of the 22nd September, 1868, the General Direction of the Posts and Telegraphs issued a circular to all the Grand Ducal Post-offices, the principal directions of which were as follows:

"A printing of three sorts of stamps from a new die will be ready this year. These are the stamps of 1 and 3 kreuzer, and a new value of 7 kreuzer. The design is the same as before, except that the word 'FREIMARKE' is repeated in the right side of the frame, in place of 'POSTVEREIN,' as heretofore. The value is indicated by a numeral, and the letters 'KR.'

"The colours of the new issue are—1 kreuzer green, 3 kreuzer red, as before, and the 7 kreuzer blue, but of a darker tone than the actual 6 kreuzer stamp. The delivery of the new 1 kreuzer stamp to the Post-offices has already begun, and that of the 3 kreuzer will follow as soon as the old stamps in the chief depôts have been exhausted. The delivery of the 7 kreuzer stamps will follow at the beginning of the next quarter, and, unless otherwise ordered, in the quantities necessary for each of the Grand Ducal Post-offices.

"The latter stamps are intended for heavy letters for the interior, and for bill operations, for postal orders, for correspondence to Switzerland, Belgium, and North America, sent through Prussia. It is, however, to be noted that the stamps of 6 kreuzer can still be used.

"Considering the small use that there is for stamps of 18 kreuzer, it has been decided to call in this value. Postmasters will therefore close their books of account for this stamp, and return their stock to the Chief Office. . . . Letters that are still prepaid with this value are to be allowed to pass, and Postmasters must also exchange any of these for stamps of other values, if requested to do so.

"The sale of the new stamps of 1 and 3 kreuzer is only to commence when the stock of those of the old type is exhausted, and the account for the 7 kreuzer stamp is to be kept in the books under the heading formerly used for the 18 kreuzer stamp."

It will be seen from the above circular that the new stamps of 1 kreuzer had been delivered to some offices in September, 1868, whereas those of 7 kreuzer were not delivered before October. The date of issue of the 3 kreuzer cannot be fixed, but M. Lindenberg has no doubt that it was issued in the course of the year 1868. If we refer

to the journals of the period, we find the issue of the 1 kreuzer and 7 kreuzer announced in the November numbers of *The Philatelist*, *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, and the *Timbre-Poste*, with the remark in the *Philatelist* that it had taken place in the middle of October. It is also further said that the 3 kreuzer would shortly follow. The colours of the impression were said to be yellow-green and darkish blue.

The date of the issue of the stamps is further evidenced by the following Notice from the Postal Department, dated 23rd October, 1868, which appeared in twenty-one newspapers:

"New stamps of a slightly altered design have been manufactured by the order of the chief authority, and are 1 kr., green; 3 kr., red; and 7 kr., dark blue. The stamps of 7 kr. can be obtained at all the Post-offices, but the 1 and 3 kr. will not be given out until the stocks of the old stamps are exhausted. The stamp of 18 kr. has been put out of use, and has been withdrawn from sale. The stamps of 1 and 3 kr. of the previous issue, as also those of 18 kr. that are in the hands of the public, can be still used, though it is desirable that those of 18 kr. should be exchanged at the Post-offices for other stamps."

M. Lindenberg gives an enumeration of the various printings of the 1, 3, and 7 kr. of the new type, which we transcribe:

Of the 1 kreuzer, green, there were delivered!

On 5th September, 1868 .	28,928 sheets	=	2,892,800 stamps.
In Sept. and Nov., 1869 .	60,133 ,,	=	6,013,300 ,,
On 28th November, 1870 .	17,000 ,,	=	1,700,000 ,,
In February and June, 1871	22,908 ,,	=	2,290,800 ,,
Total . .			12,896,900 stamps.

Of the 3 kreuzer, rose, there were delivered:

In September, 1868 . .	49,765 sheets	=	4,976,500 stamps.
On 19th November, 1869 .	50,876 ,,	=	5,087,600 ,,
In July and Nov., 1870 .	59,818 ,,	=	5,981,800 ,,
In June and Sept., 1871 .	44,798 ,,	=	4,479,800 ,,
Total . .			20,525,700 stamps.

Of the 7 kreuzer stamp there were delivered:

From 5th to 10th Sept., 1868	24,829 sheets	=	2,482,900 stamps.
On 19th November, 1869 .	9,953 ,,	=	995,300 ,,
On 6th June, 1871 . .	9,953 ,,	=	995,300 ,,
Total . .			4,473,500 stamps.

The colours of these stamps appear to have been decided on without any trials; at any rate, no reference to any such is found in the official documents, and essays are only known in black, which are now in the possession of the Imperial Post Museum. The 1 kr. was printed in green of a yellowish tone, more especially noticeable in the printings of 1871. The 3 kreuzer was in carmine-red of several shades, though they may not be very marked. The 7 kreuzer was uniformly in dull Prussian blue, with but very trifling variations of shade.

The paper of the issue was pure white, and fairly uniform in substance. The gum was colourless and free from brittleness. The perforation of the stamp was 10 as before, and was carefully done, as badly perforated copies are only occasionally met with.

This completes the account of the impressions of these three stamps, which were the only values of the new type that were ever made, and as the Post-office ceased to exist as an independent establishment from the 1st January, 1872, the history of the various postage stamps closes with this issue. We have so lately published an article on the Land-post stamps of 1, 3, and 12 kr., that it is not necessary to add anything more as regards these; but we cannot close this history without expressing once more our great obligations to Herr Lindenberg, for his kind permission to make use of the facts and statistics contained in the documents that have come into his hand as Director of the Imperial Post Museum, and out of which he has woven such a complete history. We shall in a subsequent paper add a few words as to what became of the surplus stock, and also on the mysterious subject of the reprints.

We subjoin a summary of the issues, merely for the purpose of showing as far as possible the order in which the stamps of the various issues appeared. In some cases it is not possible to fix the date of first issue, and in these we have only ventured to give a date when they *might* have appeared, as they were in stock:

NUMERAL SERIES.

First Issue.

1 kreuzer, 3 kreuzer, 6 kreuzer, 9 kreuzer.

Impression in black on coloured paper; imperforate; gum, yellowish.

1st May, 1851.	1	kreuzer,	black on drab.
	3	,,	,, dark yellow (varying).
	6	,,	,, green.
	9	,,	,, rose-red.
1852.	1	kreuzer,	black on darker drab.
	3	,,	,, light yellow.
	6	,,	,, yellow-green.
	9	,,	,, rose-red.

Second Issue.

January, 1854.	1	kreuzer,	black, more or less intense, on white.
February, 1854.	3	,,	black on green.
	6	,,	,, yellow.
	9	,,	,, rose-red (lighter than before).
December, 1858.	3	,,	,, blue.

ARMS SERIES.

Third Issue.

With lined background; impression in colour on white.

1 kreuzer, 3 kreuzer, 6 kreuzer, 9 kreuzer.

End of June, 1860.	1	kreuzer,	black; perf. 13½.
	3	,,	light Prussian-blue (shades); perf. 13½.
End of 1860.	6	,,	orange-red; perf. 13½.
1861.	3	,,	ultramarine, blue and reddish; perf. 13½.
	9	,,	dark carmine; perf. 13½.
1862.	1	,,	black; perf. 13½.
	6	,,	chrome-yellow; perf. 13½.
	6	,,	Prussian-blue (shades); perf. 10.
	9	,,	full-brown (orange tone); perf. 10.
1863.	1	,,	black; perf. 10.
	6	,,	Prussian-blue; perf. 10.
	9	,,	light yellow-brown; perf. 10.

FOURTH ISSUE.

Same type as before, but with background removed.

1 kreuzer, 3 kreuzer, 6 kreuzer, 9 kreuzer, 18 kreuzer, 30 kreuzer.

June, 1862.	3	kreuzer,	rose ; perf. 13½.
October, 1862.	18	,,	chrome-green ; perf. 10.
	30	,,	cinnamon-red, dark chrome-yellow; perf.10.
1863.	3	,,	rose ; perf. 10.
July, 1864.	6	,,	ultramarine ; perf. 10.
	1	,,	black ; perf. 10.
	9	,,	light yellow-brown ; perf. 10.
1865.	6	,,	Prussian-blue ; perf. 10.
1867.	6	,,	ultramarine ; perf. 10.
	9	,,	russet-brown ; perf. 10.

FIFTH ISSUE.

New type of 1, 3, and 6 kreuzer.

October, 1868.	1	kreuzer,	yellow-green (shades) ; perf. 10.
October, 1868.	7	,,	full Prussian-blue ; perf. 10.
December, 1868.	3	,,	carmine-red (shades) ; perf. 10.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

LUXEMBURG.— "NOTICE—POSTS.

"The public are informed that from and after 4th May, inst., the Director of the Posts and Telegraphs will put on sale new postage stamps of the following values :

"1 centime, light lilac.
2 centimes, grey-buff.
4 ,, pale yellow.
5 ,, grass-green.
10 ,, carmine.

"The present issue is intended to complete that of 16th February, 1893.

"Luxemburg, 1st March, 1895,

"The Director-General of Finance,

"M. MONGENAST."

MADAGASCAR. — The *Timbre-Poste* publishes the following notice regarding the Madagascar rubbish that we noticed in our April number:

"BRITISH POST—NOTICE.

"Notice is hereby given that the monthly subscription to the British post now expires. For the future the correspondence for the coast must be paid in advance, by means of stamps which may be procured from the Postmaster of the British post, Antananarivo.

"*January*, 1895.

"RATE OF PREPAYMENT FOR TAMATAVE.

"Letters . . . . . 4d. per oz.
Newspapers, printed matter and patterns . 1d. ,, "

Is it requisite to have stamps of 2d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s., and 4s., to pay the rates of 1d. and 4d. per oz. from Antananarivo to Tamatave?

INDIA. — The following notice emanates from the Post-office at Calcutta :

"On and after the 1st May stamped wrappers for newspapers and packets will be available for sale at all Post-offices at the following rates:

"Half Anna Wrappers.	s.	d.
"Any number less than 6 . . . each	0	7
Packets of 6 . . . per packet	3	6
"One Anna Wrappers.		
"Any number less than 6 . . . each	1	1
Packets of 6 . . . per packet	6	6

"These wrappers can be used for the transmission of newspapers and packets by either inland or foreign post, and additional adhesive stamps can be affixed to the wrappers when the weight is more than is covered by the stamps printed upon them. "H. M. Kisch,

"*Offg. Director-General of the Post-office of India.*

"Calcutta, 15*th April*, 1895."

The *Indian Philatelist* publishes the following Notice with regard to the employment of private post cards of 1 anna :

"*Conditions under which Cards of Private Manufacture may be used as Post Cards.*

"1. Cards of private manufacture bearing adhesive Indian postage stamps in payment of postage may now be sent as post cards (both single and reply) from India to any Union country or place to which the rates of one anna for a single post card and two annas for a reply post card are applicable, subject to the following conditions :

"(1) The Cards must, as regards size and weight, be in conformity, as nearly as may be, with the Post Cards issued by the Indian Post-office for international circulation.

"(2) The words "Post Card" must be printed on one side of each card at the top, with the addition of the word "Reply" in the case of the reply halves of double cards. In the case of double cards the public are recommended to have the words 'British India' printed on the reply halves.

"2. Cards of private manufacture posted as post cards for transmission by the foreign post will also be subject to the general rules of the Indian Post-office relating to international post cards.

"3. As post cards are sold in India at the face value of the stamps, it is not considered necessary at present to provide ¼ anna adhesive postage stamps to enable the public to use cards of private manufacture as post cards in the inland post. "H. M. Kisch,

"*Offg. Director-General of the Post-office of India.*

"Calcutta, 9*th May*, 1895."

Notes and Queries.

Chinoiseries.—We have seen pictures of a series of stamps for Ichang. We lately had the opportunity of conversing with a gentleman who, a short time since, was Commissioner of Customs at Ichang. The foreign population consisted of the English Consul and his subordinate officer, five missionaries, and ten attached to the Customs, seventeen in all. This population has since increased to twenty-four or twenty-five. Those connected with the Customs, of course, make use of the Chinese stamps, and the Consul sends his own bag to Shanghai, which is the central point, and where all such letters as are addressed to Great Britain have the proper stamps affixed to them. All these stamps for two dozen people !

We have also been gratified with the sight of a large supply of Chingkiang rubbish—a retouched set of about ten values! A whole set of stamps, of which we have seen a sample, has been overprinted in black "POSTAGE DUE," followed by an entire permanent (!) series; and, lastly, a post card of 1 cent has been made.

Then comes Hankow, with a set of 2, 5, 10, 20, and 30 cents, lithographed by Waterlow & Sons.

NATAL STAMP CRAZE.—*The Post-office* gives some extracts from the *Times of Natal* with reference to the late surcharges, which we take the liberty of transcribing, as they are a fit comment on what we have stated in our opening remarks on the present "situation."

"The violet halfpenny stamp, of which a limited number were recently issued by the Postal Department, is rapidly becoming more valuable. Some have been sold for 6d. each, and 1s. each has been paid for a few by stamp collectors. The statement that a green halfpenny stamp will shortly be issued is incorrect, as the Department have an ample supply of penny stamps with the word 'HALF' printed upon them. It appears that on the 16th inst. (March last), when it was discovered that the violet stamps would be speedily disposed of, the following circular was issued by the Postmaster-General: 'As there is a probability of the Department running out of half-penny stamps, Postmasters are informed that they may accept payment of halfpence for postage in money. They should write across any postal article handed to them, and paid or partly paid for in money, signing their names, and writing their designation—Postmasters—underneath. . . .'

"A number of these envelopes were issued prior to the issue of the ordinary penny stamp with the word 'HALF' printed on it; but when the second issue was made, the order as to the envelopes was, of course, nullified. One enterprising citizen, foreseeing that the limited number of envelopes marked in the way described would become valuable, got a friend in Durban to send him 100 envelopes through the post as if they were letters, and each bears the written words, 'ONE HALFPENNY RECEIVED IN MONEY,' and the signature of the Durban Postmaster.

"The *Mercury* reports: 'The old violet sixpenny stamps, marked "HALFPENNY," were freely selling in town on Tuesday at the rate of 2 guineas per 5s. sheet.'"—*Times of Natal*, March 20th.

"The now famous violet stamp is becoming more valuable. A number of 5s. sheets have changed hands in the city at £4, £5, and £6, and a few people are giving more than 1s. per stamp. Dealing goes on everywhere—in the streets, in the stores, canteens, and various places of business—and it is stated that these stamps will fetch high figures at home. Some citizens are buying in at £6 per 5s. sheet, in the anticipation of making a handsome profit through English dealers."—*Times of Natal*, March 26th.

"The stamp boom is reaching dimensions that even a week ago few people would have credited. Yesterday, as much as £10 was asked and given for a single sheet. In the evening the excitement waxed so strong that a few speculators started an open-air stamp exchange, not 100 miles from the *Mercury* office, and prices to buy or sell were sung out in a manner that took one back to the days of the share boom, or between the chains on the Rand."—*Natal Mercury*, March 30th.

The above is an example of speculation entirely independent of the Post-office, or any one connected with it. It was due to the speculators on the spot, and the prices rose as the errors became more patent, and it became evident that the surcharging extended only to a limited number. It is said that £500 or £600 worth were so surcharged; but whether this was the value of the stamps before or after surcharge is not stated.

A SALE OF STAMPS BY AUCTION IN PARIS.—We do not refer to any sales by auction of stamps in England, for reasons which we consider to be good, but perhaps others might not; but those do not apply to sales

abroad, and we therefore give a rough translation of the account of one in Paris, from the pen of Garrulus in the *Gazette Timbrologique* for May last. It may be premised that in sales in France a complete catalogue is not prepared for the use of the public, but a summary description is given of some of the principal objects. The sale was announced as follows :—

"*Office of Maître Sarrus, auctioneer in Paris, Rue Saint Lazare*, 74.

"Sale of the Collection of Stamps of M. Hennet de Goutel, on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24, and Thursday 25 April, 1895, at 2 p.m., in Room No. 9 of the auctioneer's Sale Rooms in Paris, Rue Druot 9. Public view each day from 1 to 2 p.m. Conditions of sale : Cash and 5 per cent. on the price. The view allowing the public to observe the condition of the stamps, and those sold singly having been passed over hot water before the sale, no claim will be entertained after the fall of the hammer."

Then follows a summary of the principal lots, 96 in number, and the prices are attached at which these were sold, twenty-five of which exceeded 50 francs, and nine out of these exceeded 100 fr. And now for Garrulus's account :

"On the receipt of a pretty sea-green ticket announcing to the initiated the sale of the collection of Hennet de Goutel, at the Auction Sale Rooms of Paris, by Maître Sarrus, with the assistance of Maître Boitel, expert in stamps, Garrulus immediately made arrangements not to lose an auction of three formidable days of sale which took place on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th April last, one of which lasted five-and-a-half consecutive hours in 32° centigrade (90° Fahrenheit), amid the special atmosphere of the temple of Mercury.

"The presence of Dr. Legrand alone prevented many of us being struck with apoplexy, or fainting.

"At 2 o'clock, therefore, precise, and amid the general satisfaction of from 150 to 200 adepts, who since 12 o'clock had been in raptures before the marvels piled up in the glass cases, Maître Sarrus made his entry, followed by Maître Boitel, and preceded by the apparitors.

"'Allons, Messieurs, faites vos jeux ! At four o'clock we will sell what you like. For the present we commence with No. 58 of the catalogue, the best stamp in the collection, a 5 pesos, yellow, of Buenos Ayres, perfect cancellation, fine preservation. Two hundred francs is asked. There is an amateur, at 225, 250, 300, 400, 445. Go on. Nobody bids more. It is not in front of me ; it is on my left. Going —still on my left—no one bids more. Gone ! *Pan.*'

"A pretty stamp, but dirty !

"And so for thirteen hours we see marching past us a medley of rarities, leaves cut from albums, black cards of the Barbarin kind, a lot of 600 series of six stamps of the type Roussin, a whole collection of France which only wanted the vermilion, and some other rarities, and which was knocked down to M. Léglise.

"At the announcement of the stamps of Colombia everybody bolted. A very serious journal had published on the day before a sensational article revealing that they were the vehicles for microbes of the most dangerous nature, and Maître Boitel himself declared that they had not been passed through hot water !

"About 4 o'clock there was an amusing incident. A gentleman who had purchased a magnificent lot, which he rammed down into the depths of his pocket, refused, notwithstanding the respectful solicitations of M. Sarrus, to give his name and address. On formal demand, and the threat of putting the lot up a second time, to the great satisfaction

of the audience, he said his name was Tartempion, and that he resided at 567, Rue d'Astorg! M. Sarrus said he was satisfied. He had obeyed the regulations!

"The total amount of the three days' sale was about 15,000 francs, and the prices of the best stamps were well kept up. But we advise moderate amateurs, who wish to add to their collections, to come in crowds to the next sale. They will be able to purchase large lots not too dear, and even for nothing if they sell again two or three good stamps, which are always there, and alone represent the value of the purchase. We saw some of the dealers, who must have done well, aided by their lynx eyes, which enabled them to recognise at a glance the good grain in the midst of the tares."

Bussahir State.—The *A. J. of P.*, in its number for June, thus announces a series of stamps, of which engravings are given: "This State, the geographical position of which is probably known to most of our readers, although we have been unable to find it on any map, has just issued some stamps, samples of which have been sent us by Messrs. Basakhee Ram Hurdial. Each stamp has a monogram formed of the letters 'R. S.' in ornamental type." The stamps are perforated 7, and from the pictures we should say are not of native origin. There are 7 values, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, 12 anna, and one rupee.

Bussahir is one of the Sikh States, close under the Himalaya range, with Rampoor as its chief town, and this appears to be the only Post-office in the State as recognised in the Indian Government list. The State is very small, and the population probably does not exceed 100,000. What it can want with all these stamps—if they are *postage* stamps—we do not know, and would recommend them to the especial notice of the S. S. S. S.

Forgery of Spanish Stamps.—Messrs. Cheveley and Co. a short time since sent us a communication regarding the existence of some forgeries of the 2, 6, and 10 reales of 1851, and the 2 and 6 reales of 1853, which were being offered by a person hailing from Valencia. The 2 reales of 1853, they say, was the cleverest imitation of a genuine stamp which they had seen, and of the whole that it was only by the closest comparison with genuine specimens that it was possible to detect the minutest deviation in the forgeries. Messrs. Cheveley did not say whether these deviations were in the type, the colour, or the paper, but as they were silent we suppose it was in the type. We think Messrs. Cheveley cannot have seen the imitations of 1879, which for the moment deceived the most experienced *cognoscenti;* but ultimately no harm was done, for it made collectors more careful. In these the type was perfect; there was not the variation of a hair from the genuine, scarcely any variation in the paper, but an analysis of the colours disclosed the fraud.

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. Castle.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. de Worms.

The twelfth meeting of the season was held on Monday, March 25th, eleven members being present. The President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. Willett read some notes on the stamps of Nevis, which he illustrated by his very fine collection

of that country. Almost all the different varieties were well represented by unused specimens. He also showed several reconstructed plates, both of the engraved and lithographed issues, besides some entire unused sheets. The President proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Willett, which was seconded by Mr. J. W. Gillespie, and passed.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—Oliver Firth.

The first annual meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening, the 7th May. There were fourteen members in attendance, Mr. Oliver Firth, the President, occupying the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary gave a short report of the position and doings of the Society during the past session. He stated the Society consisted of twenty-three members; that eight meetings had been held, with an average attendance of members of a little over ten; that papers had been read by Mr. Atkinson and the Hon. Secretary, the former on "The Stamps of Great Britain," and the latter on "Watermarks and Perforations"; and that displays and discussions had taken place on the Stamps of Germany, Nova Scotia, and the United States, and a discussion on "Specialism *v.* General Collecting."

Mr. Atkinson, the Hon. Secretary of the Exchange Club, also gave a report of what had been done in that branch of the Society, after which the Hon. Treasurer explained the financial position of the Society, which it appeared was in a very satisfactory condition.

All the present officers of the Society were then re-elected, except that Mr. Stamford was elected as a Vice-President in the place of Mr. W. M. Gray, who desired to be relieved from that position.

The first meeting of the next session will be held on Tuesday, the 1st day of October next.

W. H. Scott, *Hon. Sec.*

1, Piccadilly, Bradford.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

(Founded May, 1890.)

President—T. Kershaw Skipwith.

There was a good attendance at the meeting on April 6th, with the President, Mr. T. K. Skipwith, in the chair.

The subject of the evening was "Philatelic Heraldry," on which Mr. W. Barwell Turner, F.R.M.S., than whom there is no more competent authority in the country, and who has, we believe, a comprehensive work on British heraldry in preparation for publication, gave a discourse illustrated by blackboard drawings, and by the exhibition of a large number of coloured illustrations of heraldic subjects by himself. In the lecture Mr. Turner went through the various stamp-issuing countries in alphabetical order, and touched upon the heraldry of such as afforded the opportunity, mentioning the peculiarities of the royal ensigns of Germany, Austria, and Russia; the arms of Spain, Portugal, and France, with the ancient traditions appertaining to them; the old arms of England, with the incorporation of France, Scotland, and Ireland, under successive sovereigns; and the extraordinary and anomalous "arms" used by certain new countries, savouring rather of travesty than of heraldry.

At the close of the lecture a cordial vote of thanks was adopted, on the motion of Mr. W. Denison Roebuck, F.L.S., seconded by Mr. F. J. Kidson, and warmly supported by Mr. W. A. Jefferson and the President.

It was resolved that the next meeting should be one of a social character, and it was consequently held on Saturday, the 27th ultimo, at the Criterion Restaurant, New Briggate, dinner on the tables at six o'clock p.m.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. JULY, 1895. No. 199.

THERE is not much to be said on the question of reprints. For the last thirty years they have been produced in greater or lesser numbers, and there is no special recrudescence in them. It is certainly more satisfactory when a government at once defaces the plates, dies, or stones that it has ceased to use for the manufacture of its stamps, for had this been done in all cases we should have been saved from the disinterment of some for doubtful purposes, while others would not have fallen into the hands of parties who have made an improper use of them. Provided these are sold as reprints, we see no particular harm in them as postal curiosities; the harm only comes when it is attempted to palm them off as originals, but there are very few that cannot at once be distinguished from the originals by the observant philatelist. There is, however, a class of stamps that has recently sprung up, in which it seems impossible to distinguish whether they are originals or reprints. The contracts made by the Hamilton Bank Note Company, of which Mr. Seebeck is the secretary, with divers States of Central and Southern America, provide that so soon as a new issue is furnished by the Company, the remainder of the old series are to be handed to the Company, which has also the plates in its hands. Not one collector in a hundred purchases a series of these stamps while they are current, knowing that if he waits till the new issue is sent in, he can purchase the former one at shillings for pounds; and who is to say whether these are remainders or reprints?—for there is no possible guarantee that the printing from the disused plates will not go on as long as the plates will give acceptable impressions. We have been informed by one of the oldest, if not the oldest,

The Situation.

stamp dealer, that he is so impressed with this, and so disgusted with this production of stamps for anything but postal purposes, that he has ceased to purchase or sell any of them; and we think he is right. In fairness to the Company, we should, however, say, that it declares that there is no reprinting of these stamps, but that those which are sold are genuine remainders, the old plates being defaced at the expiration of each year's contract.

It scarcely seems necessary to touch upon the question of imitation and "faked" stamps, which, like reprints, are not any peculiarity of the present situation. Such things are only pests common to all times, and it may safely be said that a collector who had never been victimised by them would be a wonder. It is a good and wholesome lesson for a collector, for once bit he will be doubly wary, and it may lead him to study more carefully all the features of the genuine stamps, to enable him for the future to detect any imitations. When Mr. Atlee commenced the "Spud Papers" in the *Philatelist*, we questioned the wisdom of dissecting the forgeries of stamps, on the ground that by pointing out the discrepancies between these and the originals, the next forger would take care to avoid making them, and we thought, and still think, that the study of the originals is the best armour against being deceived by imitations.

The question now arises whether there are any particular reasons for the creation of the trash, and of the unnecessary stamps with which collectors have lately been inundated. If we may judge from the kind of wares so abundantly provided, those responsible for their manufacture cannot have a very high opinion of collectors as a body. It seems to us that the present system of specialising a very small area, has a great tendency to induce the specialiser to swell out his collection, by introducing a number of senseless and unimportant varieties. Probably we shall give offence by saying this, but we know that our opinion is backed by a number of old collectors, who have really made a study of stamps. Perhaps an example, drawn from our own experience, will serve to show better what we mean. When we first began to arrange our Belgian stamps, we found that there were two gauges of perforation of the second type—one 13, and the other 13½. We gave ourselves a great amount of trouble in endeavouring to make up three series of 13, 13½, and 13 by 13½; but there was absolutely no difference in the stamps. MM. Gouweloos, who perforated them, had single-line machines, one perforating 13, and

another 13½, so that the whole varieties depended on accident, which occurred from day to day. When we knew the reason, we thought a good deal of time and trouble had been thrown away. Again, we have seen in dealers' sheets distinctions made, such as the perforation being rough in some specimens of the old English penny stamps. We submitted specimens to those charged with the perforation, and were informed that it was owing to the perforation being made upon a damp day, when the softened gum prevented the punches cutting as clean as when it was quite hard. There has been a disposition to too great wire-drawing, and collecting accidental varieties, which depend only on the workmen, on the state of the machines employed by them, and such like causes. We do not look on this as philately. It is said that there is but one step between the sublime and the ridiculous. There ought to be a considerable number between a scientific study of stamps and childishness, but at the present day there are a good many collectors who seem desirous of knocking away all the steps, if we may form any opinion from the varieties that are noted in the pages of some magazines, and which appear in some catalogues. Is it to be wondered at that the outside world forms an erroneous opinion of collectors as a body, and fancies that those who are deluded by all sorts of pseudo-varieties, are ready to be taken in by anything in the shape of a stamp? To what else can wares, such as the late emanations from China, be attributed, and those manufactured for the glorification of St. Antony, which bear a benediction on the back, gaudy things, only fit for children? It is a satisfaction to know that such things will be banished from the catalogues of all the principal dealers, and we hope that collectors will do all that they can to assist in putting down all those stamps which are created for the purpose of extracting money from them, and not for legitimate postal requirements.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* BUHL & CO., LIMITED, *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Argentine Republic.—The *Timbre-Poste* has received the ½ centavo, in slate blue.

½ centavo, slate blue.

Bavaria.—A new value in the current postage due stamps has been added, similar to the rest of the series.

Postage Due. 2 pfennig, grey; overprint in red.

Brazil.—We learn, from the *A. J. of P.*, the issue, on April 30th, of a post card of 40 reis, with stamp of similar type to that of the current 10 reis. It is printed on card of deep buff, with the reverse in lighter buff. The same journal also announces the reception of a reply card of 80 + 80 reis, with stamp of similar type; and a letter card of 200 reis, issued April 30th, with stamp of the same type as the current adhesive of the same value; the face being lavender and the inside pale buff, ruled blue.

Post Cards. 40 reis, green and dark ultramarine on buff.
80+80 ,, mauve ,, ,, blue.
Letter Card. 200 reis, orange, black and deep ultramarine on lavender.

British Central Africa.—Some of our contemporaries give a list of a series of stamps, up to the value of £25, issued, or to be issued, for this territory. We have not seen them. If the report be true the stamps seem to us to be of the unnecessary kind.

Brunei.—In February last we chronicled a series of stamps said to have been issued for the Sultanate. According to M. Roussin there is no post at present in Brunei, but it is in contemplation to make a post for the stamps. The present issue is the work of an enterprising gentleman, who has obtained a concession from the Sultan to issue them. We recommend the series to the notice of the S. S. S. S.

Bulgaria.—The following modifications in colour are announced by the *Revue Philatélique.*

15 stotinki, red-violet. | 20 stotinki, light-brown.

Canada.—The *A. J. of P.* chronicles the issue, on 14th June last, of an envelope of 2 cents, with stamp of a new type. The

head of the Queen is within a circular band ornamented with foliage, and inscribed in the upper part "CANADA—POSTAGE," and in the lower part "CENTS 2 CENTS"—the numeral being on a solid coloured disc. A beaver is sitting on the top of the circular frame, looking excessively miserable, and, as appears to us, *rather* out of proportion with the head of Her Majesty.

Envelope. 2 cents, blue-green, on white laid; size 150 × 85 mm.

The wrapper of 1 cent is now in grey-black on yellow.

Wrapper. 1 cent, grey-black on yellow.

Chili.—A new "officially sealed" stamp is announced as coming from Valparaiso. The portrait of some modern Columbus occupies the centre, within a circular band, inscribed "ADMINISTRACION PRINCIPAL DE CORREOS"; on each side are arms on a shield; above is "REPUBLICA DE CHILE | VALPARAISO" in two waved lines; and at the foot "CIERRO OFICIAL." The stamp is found in various colours, but we are not informed as to any particular reason for the varieties. The perforation is 12.

Officially Sealed. No value, black on white.
,, black on green.
,, blue on green.
,, brown on rosy-buff.

Clipperton Island.—A series of values, from 1 cent to 1 dollar, of the facial values of $2.08 has been put in circulation among the dealers. They seem to be of the "Trinidad Principality" order, and we believe that the Island is only a rock somewhere in the North Pacific, lat. 10° N., long. 109° W. We are not aware whether it is inhabited. We mention the stamps in order that collectors may avoid them.

Danish West Indies.—The 50 cents was issued on 18th May last surcharged in black with "10 | CENTS | 1895" in three lines. A surcharge of six figures and five letters can scarcely have been made without some varieties, but we have not heard the result of the inspection by the experts.

10 cents on 50 c., violet; surcharge in black.

Falkland Islands.—It is said by more than one of our contemporaries that the 1 penny has reverted to its old colour of claret, but we should like to see this confirmed.

Fernando Po.—The 10 c. de p. has appeared in a new colour.

10 c. de p., claret.

Great Britain.—A letter from a stamp collector appeared in the last number of the *Stamp News*, stating that he had found a specimen of plate 126 of the line-engraved one penny, not at all an impossibility, as, though the plate was refused registration from there being a defect in the punching, yet probably a copy, even

possibly more than one, was struck off for examination by the Commissioner. However, we have received a letter from the collector in question, who informs us that, on submission of the stamp to *expertise*, it turns out to be 123. In the *Fortnightly* Mr. Hilckes says that he and Mr. H. E. Wright examined it, and came to the conclusion that it was 120. Doctors differ, though all agree that it is *not* 126. The little flutter may therefore be quieted.

Specimens of the current 3 pence have come to hand on yellow paper of a deeper tone than the normal colour, being chrome-yellow in place of the ordinary brimstone-yellow. It is purely accidental. The paper makers of the present day experience the same difficulty in maintaining uniformity in the colour of the yellow paper as was experienced forty years ago with the paper for the Baden stamps of similar colour.

Hawaii.—Messrs. A. Smith & Son have shown us the 18 cents of 1871 overprinted "PROVISIONAL GOVT. 1¢93." So the 2 cents has found a partner in misfortune. There is no mistake about the numeral; it is *not* a crippled "8," though it may require the *lunettes*.

Holland.—The following changes in colour are notified:

22½ cents, dark blue green.

Postage due. 1 cent, ultramarine and black; 3rd type.



India.—We annex an engraving shewing the design of the stamp on the wrapper recently described.

Italy.—We have the 20 centesimi, which is very ineffective from the lined background not allowing the head to be more thrown up. The numeral of value is at the foot; to the left is "CENT" and to the right "VENTI" on the ends of a ribbon scroll passing through the frame. The impression is on white wove paper watermarked "Crown," and the perforation 14.

20 centesimi, orange-yellow.



Labuan.—On somewhat a similar principle to the photographing of obnoxious gentry by the police, we give an engraving of the latest production of the Company which takes care of the smallest wants of this island.

Mexico.—The whole of the values of the new series have been overprinted in black with "OFICIAL." One of our contemporaries

states that the overprinting was commenced in red, but was changed to black.

Official. 1 c., 2 c., 3 c., 4 c., 5 c., 10 c., 12 c., 15 c., 20 c., 50 c., 1 peso, overprinted "OFICIAL."

Mozambique Company.—A decree of the 30th April last ordered the surcharge, in red, of 3000 stamps of 80 reis with "PROVISORIO" and "25" over the old value. The fresh supply arrived about a week subsequently, and the remainder of the surcharged stamps were withdrawn.

"25" on 80 reis, green, surcharged in red.



Natal.—The engraving shows the surcharge on the sixpence, violet, recently described.

New South Wales.—We have the tenpence, lilac, perforated 10, and also overprinted for service, though this latter cannot be very recent, as the overprint was abolished since 1st January last.

The letter card has had the instructions on the back re-set, and the perforation is now round the corners.

10 pence, lilac, wmk. *10;* perf. 10.
Service. 10 ,, ,, ,, ,, overprinted with O. S.
Letter Card. 1½d., red on grey; new setting up of instructions.



New Zealand. — We annex an engraving of the recently issued stamp of one halfpenny, described in our last number.



North Borneo State.—The engraving shows the Labuan stamp without the appropriating overprint.

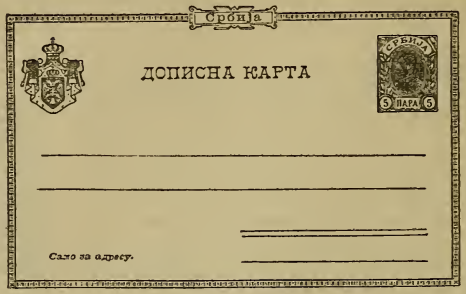
Peru.—The *A. J. of P.* chronicles a set of five provisional stamps issued during the last revolution. They are of three designs—the first being common to the 5, 10, and 20 c.; the second to that of 50 c.; and the third to that of 1 sol. or 100 c. They all bear the Arms of Peru as the central design, and are overstamped in vermilion, with the numeral of value within two concentric circles, within which are the words "PROVISORIO" and "CENTAVOS." They are lithographed on plain white paper, and perforated 11½.

5 c., green, surcharged, in vermilion, "5"; 1st type.
10 c., vermilion ,, ,, "10" ,,
20 c., brown ,, ,, "20" ,,
50 c., ultramarine ,, ,, "50"; 2nd type.
1 sol., red ,, ,, "100"; 3rd type.



Queensland. — We illustrate the stamp of one penny, as cleared from its background.

Servia.—The engraving shows the type of the post card with the name of the country in the frame, as recently mentioned.



Sungei Ujong.—The 2 cents has been issued for this State, similar to that chronicled in our last for Selangor.

2 cents, orange.

Travancore.—The *Timbre-Poste* states that the 2 chuckram is now in pale rose in place of orange.

2 chuckram, pale rose.

Turkey.—The issue of a letter card of 1 piastre is announced. The inscription "CARTE-LETTRE" has the equivalent in Arabic above it, and the instructions down the left side are in Arabic and French. There are three lines for the address—the first preceded by "M" in script, and the last by "*à*" in italic. Of course, there are some errors.

Letter Card. 1 piastre, blue on salmon.

Victoria.—A short time since the price of the letter cards was raised to 1½d.; but since the minimum rate of postage in the Colony has been raised to 2d., the price of the letter cards has been also raised to 2d., the Post-office finding that the revenue was suffering, there being an increased demand for them. A small number in stock of the letter cards with stamp of one penny (about 45,000) were issued with the words "PRICE: TWO PENCE" printed in blue, under the words "LETTER CARD." The definitive issue was made about the middle of May, a specimen of which has been sent us by Mr. D. H. Hill. It bears the stamp of 2d. of the current type, printed in rose, and there is a period after the word "CARD." The inscription on the back has been modified, the third and fourth lines, instead of reading "*and Western Australia* | *but an additional One Penny Stamp must be affixed if addressed to New Zealand or Fiji*," reads "*Western Australia,* | *New Zealand and Fiji.*" The paper is light grey-blue, and the perforation is round the corners.

The wrapper of one penny is now printed in blue in place of orange-brown.

Letter Card. 2d., rose on light grey-blue.
Wrapper. 1d., blue on white.

TELEGRAPHS.

Great Britain.—There seems to be a little unrest at present in the stamped telegraph forms A 1, which we will endeavour to explain.

In our number for May last we stated that there had been a new setting-up of the notice on the back, in which the fourth line of the fourth paragraph commenced with "General" instead of "Office," and we chronicled the form so altered as existing stamped with the 6d., with rosettes and also undrilled. We have since learnt that the new setting-up is found stamped with the dated die of 6d., but we have not heard what is the particular date on the die, but believe it to be January, 1894.

But in those stamped with the die with rosettes we find two varieties of what we have called the new setting-up, as may be readily seen by noticing the position of the words in the last line of paragraph three, in relation to those in the first line of paragraph four.

In both of these varieties in the third line of paragraph five, "telegram" is printed without a capital "t." Those first stamped with Die 32, not drilled for dates, are of the second variety, and have, as in all the former ones, the imprint of "PRINTED BY MC CORQUODALE & CO., LIMITED," on the face to the right.

Since that the form has again been re-set. Instead of the words "The name and address," &c., on the face, being in two lines it is now in one, and the imprint, which is the same as before, is in the middle under a straight line running across the form. In the notice on the back, the word "Telegram," in the third line of the fifth paragraph, has a capital initial. The stamp of those which we have seen is the undrilled Die 31.

We mention these varieties in the settings-up, not so much with a view of putting them forward as matters of importance, because the chief subject of importance to the collector is the stamp, but our principal object in recording them is to show the want of uniformity or of homogeneousness, if we may so term it, in the printing of these forms, which the same contractors in previous years so wonderfully displayed in the manufacture and printing of the registration envelopes. We mentioned in our number for May last that an improvement had been made by a line of perforation being added in the books of the forms. The last one we obtained had neither rouletting by printers' rule, nor perforation. Exactitude is not necessary, either in the inscriptions on the registration envelopes or in the legends on the telegraph forms, for nothing depends upon it, but the absence of it shows carelessness in the work.

We do not see that it has been recorded that the form $A^{S}_{M}1$. now bears the imprint of "WYMAN AND SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON," and is of the size $8\frac{7}{8} \times 5\frac{5}{8}$ in. (226 × 142 mm.) The stamp of 10 pence is of course in brown.

Tel. Form.—$A^{S}_{M}1$. 10 pence, brown on yellow.

ON THE COLLECTION OF ENVELOPES.

It has always been a matter of surprise to us that out of a hundred earnest collectors of stamps ninety-nine will be found who only collect adhesives, and but one who makes it equally his business to collect envelopes, and yet to us the study of these appears to be more fascinating than that of the adhesives. We are afraid to write on them, for we are told that no one would take the trouble to read what we write. They are not popular. This is the simple truth. Is it that they are awkward to make a show of? Amongst the few collectors that take them we find for the most part only specimens of those which may be considered the rarest, but no really scientific collections of shades, shapes, and the other elements constituting varieties. A shilling envelope of Mauritius, yellow on blue wove, is scarce, and, therefore, sought after. The two series of Tour and Taxis, in large and small size, with violet inscriptions, are also prized, but all this is beside the real question. If we look at the prices of the few which are brought to auction, they are perfectly insignificant in comparison with the inflated prices of the adhesives. Take the English envelopes and compare them with the adhesives. Collectors of English stamps now universally collect the plate numbers where they exist. No one can deny that these constitute legitimate varieties, as they were introduced into the stamps by order of the authorities, for the purpose of creating an additional rampart against the forger. The number was not on the original die, but was introduced during the process of transferring the design of the original die on to the plate as printed from. But, independently of this, is not a stamp that has the numerals 123 on it, different from one that has 124 on it, and of a totally different class to topsy-turvy impressions, "ivory heads," and such like accidental varieties? This was first recognised as a variety by M. Regnard in 1863, and has never been since disputed.

There are quite as many elements of variety in the embossed envelopes as in the adhesives. In these latter the elements are—the paper, the die, the impression, the gum, the perforation; in the former we have all but the last of these, and the absence of this is more than compensated by what the American philatelists term the "knife." There are Die I. and Die II. in the old line-engraved stamps. There are also Die I. and Die II. in the One Penny envelope stamps up to 1881. From 1861 to 1879 the One Penny adhesives bore letters in all four angles, and the number of the plate. From 1855 to 1881 the envelopes were stamped with dated dies. Again, when the working die index number 155 had been reached, the initials "w. w." were discontinued, and a later series began with a fresh numbering, though for some years, as in the case of the adhesives, no distinctive die-mark, or lettering, is to be found.

The first philatelist who made a study of stamped envelopes was Dr. Legrand. The German envelopes are now the subject of study by

BUHL & CO., LIMITED,
(Late THEODOR BUHL & Co.)
Dealers in Postage Stamps for Collections
Wholesale and Retail.
PHILATELIC EXPERTS & VALUERS.

PUBLISHERS OF
THE "STAMP NEWS."
THE "PHILATELIC RECORD."
THE "STAMP NEWS ANNUAL."
STAMP ALBUMS, &c., &c.

THEODOR BUHL, *Managing Director.*

Telegraphic Address—
PHILATELY, LONDON.

ESTABLISHED OVER 15 YEARS.

11, Queen Victoria Street,
London, July 1st, 1895.
E.C.

Dear Sir (or Madam),

We beg to inform you that the business which has been conducted for the last fifteen years as THEODOR BUHL & CO. *(with whom is amalgamated the old and well-known firm of* PEMBERTON, WILSON & CO.*) will, from this date, be carried on under the new name and style of* BUHL & CO., LIMITED, *at the above address, and we hope that you will continue to accord to the new firm the same patronage and support with which you have favored the old firm in the past, and we assure you that we will at all times give your commands our best attention and consideration in the hope that our business relations may continue on the same satisfactory terms as hitherto.*

Trusting we shall be favored with your esteemed orders, we beg to remain

Your obedient Servants,

BUHL & CO., LIMITED.

EDWARD BUHL,
Secretary.

another great philatelist, Herr C. Lindenberg. Both of these great authorities recognise the differences resulting from the numbers of the dies on the base of the bust in the Prussian envelopes, as well as other elements of the flap seal, the gumming, &c.; but who of the general collectors of English envelopes have taken the trouble to endeavour to form a collection of the numbers of the dies? And more than this, during a period from 1855 to 1881, the dies were dated. It is a matter of no consequence whether the dating of the dies was a foolish idea of Somerset House, or not; they were dated, and that is sufficient of itself to constitute a variety. If not, why do collectors recognise any difference between dated and undated dies, or why do they consider the inversion of the "2" in the registration envelopes, size F, of February, 1882, as a variety worth seeking after? If collectors of English envelopes want to find a field where they may indulge in legitimate varieties, they will find one large enough, and troublesome enough, in seeking for specimens of the numbers of the dies, and of the dates of their usor, between 1855 and 1881. What we mean to assert is this, that, independently of all other circumstances, a stamp on an envelope bearing a number, say of 86, is to be found undated and dated, and of these latter we find specimens dated on many different days between April, 1856, and April, 1861, and we contend that there is a variety between the two and the various intermediate dates, as there is between those series of adhesives of Bolivar, which only differ from one another in the date. The first reply to this will be that there are so few to be found. The reason is, that as the demand is so small no one takes the trouble of rummaging amongst old correspondence to unearth them. Twenty-five years ago the early envelopes of the United States were very superficially known to collectors, but the demand has caused large numbers to be disinterred. In 1872, in conjunction with the late Mr. Pemberton, we did all in our power, by applications to dealers far and wide, to get together a quantity of Mexican stamps, out of which the first attempts were made to give a meaning to the overstamping upon them. It is astonishing how few could be found, when we look at what has been since accomplished. We are convinced that if English envelopes were sought after, specimens would be forthcoming as the demand increased. We do not say that anything would be gained by collecting all the varieties dependent on the dates; we merely mention it as being more sensible than searching after unmeaning varieties. We might, it is true, trace the development of the crack in Die 150, find out when Die 102 got its ugly scar, and when Die 2 of the fourpence had the head of the "T" in "POSTAGE" knocked off: matters, it will be said, but of trifling importance, but, in fact, quite as important, if not more so, than some of the varieties in cripples that we see chronicled in the lists of adhesives. At all events, no collection of English envelopes can be said to be *complete* which does not contain specimens of the numbers of the stereos of the Mulready envelopes and covers, and those of the dies of the embossed stamps, if the collection of the plate numbers on such adhesives as those on the

line-engraved stamps is deemed necessary to a complete collection of the adhesives. Reverting to our example, we maintain that Die 86 of the embossed envelopes bearing a date upon it constitutes a variety of the same die without a date, and Die 86, dated 1.5.56, is not the same as Die 86, dated 2.5.56.

That senseless varieties are made by collectors of envelopes must also be admitted. Take the case of a variety made in the English envelopes of "Dickinson" paper. Before the public were admitted in 1855 to send in paper to be stamped, no objection was raised to a private order being executed; thus we see in the envelopes with tongue-shaped flap that some were not stamped with the seal device in pink, while others before being made-up had mourning edges on them. We find some specimens of the first catalogued as a variety, *because* it bears an embossed arms with a crow as the crest. The variety is not in the crow, but in the fact that the envelope was a private order. We have seen a variety made because the stamp was coloured on both sides. That this did not more frequently happen is the only wonder; it often occurs in stamping cheques and telegraph forms. When the press rises after making the impression, a small tray with rollers charged with ink passes over the surface of the die, and if the paper is not ready to receive the impression when the die descends, the ink is left by the die on the pad, and when the die descends the next time the back of the paper also receives the ink left on the pad. It is a mere printer's accident. While, however, there are such varieties as these duly chronicled, the more legitimate ones are lost sight of.

We have been indulging in a ramble on an unpopular subject, but if we could induce philatelists to bestow a little more attention on the collection and study of envelopes, we should not have written in vain. Thoughtful philatelists, like the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison, find pleasure in their study. It may not be a showy one, but depend upon it the true philatelist will find it a very interesting one.

SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

Audi alteram partem is but fair in matters involving difference of opinion, and therefore we extract the following from *The Philatelic Monthly*, which, we believe, can claim to be the oldest stamp magazine in the United States, though it appears to us that its information is not of the most correct kind. The article in question is headed "A Legitimate Issue," and is as follows:

"We notice that nearly all the English philatelic papers are including the United States Columbian stamps among the speculative issues, but they fail to say anything about the Jubilee stamps, envelopes, and cards of Great Britain. The United States, at least, never sold any of their postal issues at several times their face value, as we are informed by our London agent that Great Britain did in the case of their Jubilee envelope. We wonder if it was not quite as proper for the United States Post-office Department to

celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, as it was for the British Post-office to celebrate the 50th year of the reign of Victoria, whose ascension to the throne was not nearly so important an event as the discovery of America. If our memory serves us rightly, Great Britain was the first country to issue Jubilee postage stamps, and is the only country which ever overcharged the public for their postal stationery.

"The issue of the Columbian stamps was made in compliance with the demand of the people of the United States. At intervals during at least two years before the stamps appeared, the subject was agitated by the Press of the country. Although we are not mind readers, it is quite probable that if the people of the Union, through the daily Press, had not demanded the issue of a set of stamps to commemorate the World's Fair, Mr. Wanamaker never would have issued the set of stamps which has done more to help philately than anything else since the introduction of postage stamps.

"We should be glad to aid the S. S. S. S. in any endeavours to suppress such humbugs as the Principality of Trinidad and the issues of Br. No. Borneo; but if our British brethren of the S. S. S. S. desire their American relations to aid them in their work, they will have to be a little more careful about condemning such issues as the U. S. Columbus set."

On reading the above, we felt considerable astonishment at the ignorance of a journal that is in the 21st year of its existence, but we will endeavour to brush away some of the cobwebs. As a matter of fact, we never have defended the issue of the Guildhall post cards, or the South Kensington envelopes, because we thought, and still think, that the issue of them was wrong in principle, and the object could not justify a departure from it. The issue, however, was *not* made at *many* times their facial value, and had nothing whatever to do with the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, which was in 1887, while the issues were made in 1890 in commemoration of the establishment of the uniform penny post in 1840, the jubilee of the Post. The cards were issued on the occasion of the *Conversazione* in Guildhall, and the envelopes on the occasion of a similar one at South Kensington, and all the profits arising from these entertainments were appropriated to the Rowland Hill Charitable Institution for the widows and orphans of the Post-office *employés*. The envelope, once purchased, could be made more valuable by being hand-stamped with old post-office marks, and a fee of 1d. or 2d. was charged for each stamp affixed. They were nothing more than *souvenirs*, sold only in the buildings where the entertainments were held, and the sale of them, combined with the fees for stamping, added a handsome contribution to the funds of the Charity.*

But if our worthy contemporary had taken the trouble to refer to Mr. Wanamaker's report on the Columbus issue, he would have found that it was not only admitted, but was a subject of boast, that the issue was nothing more than a speculation to make money out of collectors. It is no use to blink the matter. The Post-office of the United States was not doing good business at the time, and the issue was merely a speculation to add to its revenue by issuing a series having values that had never been heard of before, and having concurrent circulation with the existing one, which was of itself a proof that it was unnecessary.

* By giving previous notice, the public could obtain the envelopes without hand-stamps through a post-office on the day of the entertainment.—Ed.

Our contemporary admits that Christopher Columbus would not have been unearthed had it not been for the Chicago Exhibition, and this we can well believe. The people generally did not care a brass farthing about it, for most of our letters were franked with the more convenient stamps of the current types. We hope that another series will not be produced in 1897, to celebrate the discovery of North America by Cabot in 1497, for as to Columbus having anything to do with it, if we read his life aright, as so admirably written by Washington Irving, Columbus never discovered an atom of North America, for it is doubtful whether he even saw Florida; and his time during his three voyages was spent in pottering about the West Indian islands and in the Caribbean Sea, but he was made a peg to hang the issue upon. The issue, in our humble opinion, was nothing better than a State speculation to raise money by sales to collectors, and the example set by a great country like the United States has done more harm to philately than anything that has occurred in recent years. Who would have ever heard of such rubbish as the Dom Henrique or the St. Antony stamps, had it not been for the evil example set by the United States? It would be difficult to deny that the Columbus stamps of the United States, and of other States of far less importance, were not only unnecessary but speculative also, and it is the object of the S. S. S. Society to endeavour to put down all such issues, whether they are unnecessary or speculative, and more than all when they combine the two.

Notes and Queries.

Abyssinia.—Messrs. W. King & Co. write us that they have no doubt that the Abyssinian stamps are genuine, as they have received a letter franked with two of them, and one of Djibouti. We have no doubt of their perfect authenticity, and stated in our March number that M. Maury had received a letter similarly franked. Considering that the stamps were despatched to Abyssinia in June, 1894, and the first used specimens that arrived in Europe were obliterated at Hadar, on 29th January last, it rather looked as if the post was made for the stamps, and not the stamps for the post. It was very thoughtful to leave a few in Paris, so that impatient collectors might have them in July of last year, when they were advertised wholesale at a most reasonable price.

* * *

North Borneo.—In our last number, we inadvertently made a mis-statement with regard to the recent issue of surcharged stamps that we hasten to explain, because, however we may find fault with them, we do not wish to ground observations on false premises. In fact we corrected the error in the revise, but by an accident the correction was overlooked. We allude to our having said that the stamps were to be had in London at a discount. The *facial* value of the stamps is $1.04, which we erroneously supposed to mean about 4s. 2d.; but it appears that the *real* value is much less, being only about 2s. 4d. The days of King Solomon seem to have come back again, when silver was nothing accounted of. We do not see, however, that the dealers' prices have diminished in the same proportion as the silver market.

THE LABUAN LITHOGRAPHED SERIES OF 1894.—Our excellent contemporary, *The Australian Philatelist*, has evidently scored a point with regard to this series, which was not announced in the *Record* till September and October of last year. We think the article will interest our readers, and, therefore, venture to extract it in its entirety from *The Australian Philatelist* of May last:

"Over a year ago, we received direct from Labuan a series of the Queen's head type, on white unwatermarked paper, evidently *lithographed*. We chronicled them in May, 1894 (*V. P. M.* vol. vii. p. 133). The *London Philatelist*, in October, 1894, five months after our notice, said, 'We are in receipt of news of the re-issue of the old Queen's head type, lithographed, the colour remaining practically as before? The *London Philatelist* did not state the source of its information, but possibly had overlooked our paragraph; otherwise it would have been commented upon earlier. *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* did not chronicle the lithographed issue till December, 1894. It must be borne in mind that the gorgeous North Borneo stamps in changed colours, and overprinted 'LABUAN,' had been issued early in 1894, and the *raison d'être* for a re-issue of the presumably obsolete type was not very clear.

"The attention of the Labuan authorities was evidently directed to the change from plate to lithographic printing, for they wrote to the *Timbre-Poste*, stating that *they had never issued the set lithographed.** The *London Philatelist* re-printed this statement in February last, and added, 'If this be so, the stamps must have been *very* badly printed to have been mistaken for lithographs!' This weak retractation, on the part of the *London Philatelist*, suggests either that they had never seen the stamps, and chronicled them on hearsay, or extracted the information without acknowledgment, or else that the editor was by no means confident in his own judgment as to what *was* a lithograph.

"Upon reading the very distinct repudiation of the Labuan authorities, and the above retractation, we had prepared a paragraph offering to back our opinion as to the stamps being lithographed, for anything from £50 to a four-penny stamp, when the following correspondence appeared in the *Stamp News* for March last, and gave such a triumphant vindication of our opinion that we take the liberty of reproducing it in full:

"'When the lithographed set of Labuan stamps first made their appearance, considerable doubt was expressed regarding their *bonâ-fide* character, and to clear up the matter we have been shown copies of two letters, which we now reproduce without comment.

"'22*nd October*, 1894.

"'MESSRS. DE LA RUE & CO.,
"'Bunhill Row, E.C.

"'DEAR SIRS,—Our notice has been drawn to the fact that the Labuan stamps supplied to us as per your invoice of August, 1893, were lithographed, and not taken from the plates as before.

"'We should be glad to know whether this is so.

"'Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "'B. T. KINDERSLEY, *Secretary*.
"'THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO CO.'"

"'100, BUNHILL ROW, 23*rd October*, 1894.

"'THE SECRETARY,
"'BRITISH NORTH BORNEO CO.

"'DEAR SIR,—Referring to your letter of yesterday, we beg to say that we reserve to ourselves the right of printing the Labuan stamps, either direct

* La Compagnie qui exploit la Colonie de Labouan nous fait savoir qu'elle n'a nullement émis, en 1894, des timbres lithographiés à l'effigie de Victoria, en remp'acement de ceux qu 'elle avait émis antèrieurement—un bon point à la Compagnie.—*T.-P.*, No. 385.

from the plate or from lithography. When the quantities are small, it is more economical for us to print direct from the plates, as it is somewhat costly to make up a stone. If, on the other hand, the quantities are large, we should always take transfers from the plate, and make up a lithographic stone. On the last occasion the order warranted our printing by lithography.

"'Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "'THOMAS DE LA RUE & Co.'"

The *Monthly Journal* in its number for January last, observing on the statement in the *T.-P.*, says :

"We were in hopes that the meaning of this was that the lithographed stamps had never been put in circulation, but in reply to an inquiry, the Secretary of the North Borneo Company tells us that there has been no issue of the stamps referred to since August, 1893, and that the stamps in use during 1894 were those of the State of North Borneo, surcharged 'Labuan.'"

The *Australian Philatelist* observes on this :

"It therefore appears that an order so large as to necessitate the preparation of a lithographic stone to facilitate printing was executed by the printers in August, 1893, and almost immediately after a new and distinct series was issued. What became of this large order? Were the stamps obtained for legitimate postal use, or for the 'necessities' of collectors? We believe that some 700 sets were distributed to Postal Union offices, as specimens, but that would be but a small proportion of the 'large order.' Were the lithographs extensively used between August and December, 1893? It would appear that they were extensively *cancelled* about that time, for post-marked sets have been freely quoted by dealers."

Such is the curious story : the Company not knowing whether the stamps had been printed from the plates or by lithographic transfer—the issue of a new series within six months after the execution of a *large order*, and all for a little island of about 31 miles square, not one-fourth of the size of the Isle of Wight, and with a population of between 6,000 and 7,000 inhabitants. They must be writing letters day and night to require such a mass of postage stamps ! As our contemporary says, cancelled stamps are common enough with cancelling marks most neatly applied—quite a lesson to the cancellers at our Post-offices, who do their work in a very "rough and tumble" manner.

Our worthy contemporary is to be congratulated on his attack on these stamps, and also on the little nest of Philatelic Pirates at the North-East of Madagascar, and the neighbourhood.

Our French friends, in order to minimise criticism on the legions of stamps which have been furnished to all their Colonies and dependencies, draw a red-herring across the scent in saying, "Look at all the stamps of the Colonies of Great Britain, you see the Queen's head everywhere." This is very true, but Great Britain does not interfere with the Post-office departments of her Colonies, nor does she open a shop for the sale of their stamps.

* * *

THE SEEBECK STAMPS.—We are rejoiced to hear that there is some prospect of these contracts coming to an end, and we only hope that the rumour may be true. As told to us, it appears that the suppliers and the supplied are both alike discontented. The suppliers do not make the profits that they anticipated, and the supplied are put on such short commons that they are half-starved. Though, under the con-

tracts, the plates are the property of the Hamilton Bank-Note Company, yet this Company has only printed a certain number of impressions from each plate. The interests of the two parties are therefore not identical; in fact, they are opposed to one another. The Bank-Note Company will not supply more than it can avoid, in order to have more remainders out of which to recoup itself for the expenses of the issue, and this can only be done by sales of the remainders to collectors, who are not particularly eager to purchase. As in all stamp-issuing countries, the principal run is on the stamps of low denomination, so that we find that the remainders of the higher values are sold at a price of centavos for pesos. Not one collector, therefore, in a hundred takes a series while it is current, but waits for the remainders, for be he ever so eager a collector, he does not care to feel that his investment in these stamps will be almost worthless after the series becomes obsolete. There are signs of rebellion against the domination of the Company in more than one of the States, and we think that a little more force brought to bear by collectors will suffice to upset the system, which is already tottering.

* * *

St. Antony Stamps.—We clip the following from the pages of a contemporary, which professes to give a *translation* of the legend on the back. We suppose it is a joke, though we are dull enough not to see it, but moods, tenses, cases are all topsy-turvy:

"We have just received some of the Portugal stamps in commemoration of the birth of Santo Antonio, 700 years ago. There are four designs, and on the back of each stamp is the following in Latin:

"'Centenario de Santo Antonio
"'MCXCV–MDCCCXCV

"'O lingua benedicta, quae Dominum semper benedixisti et alios benedicere docuisti: nunc perspicus [*sic*] cernitur quanti meriti fueris apud Deum.
"'S. Boaventura.'

"Which translated is:

"'Centennial of St. Anthony
"'1195–1895

"'O praise the tongue which God always blesses, and others are taught to praise: now manifestly is seen how great its merit is with God.
"'S. Boaventura.'"

* * *

The S. S. S. Society.—While passing through the press, we have received a circular from the Society, appealing to collectors and dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the following stamps: British Inland Mail, Madagascar; Brunei; Clipperton Island; a reported festal series for Egypt; Bussahir; pending further enquiry. The Society adds that, though it expressed an opinion that the late surcharged stamps for North Borneo and Labuan on 1 dollar, red, appeared to be "unnecessary," it did not intend to condemn them, and leaves it open to collectors and dealers to use their own discretion as to accepting them.

We will publish the circular in our next number.

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. Wilson.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—G. Johnson, B.A.
(Official Address—208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.)

May 16th.—Messrs. W. Vibert and W. Ward (Jersey) were unanimously elected members. Offers of exchange were received from the Milan Society, and were cordially accepted, but the final arrangements were deferred until the autumn session. Subscriptions were voted to the *American Journal of Philately*, *Metropolitan Philatelist*, *Philatelic Journal of America*, *Post Office*, and *The Australian Philatelist*. Messrs. Pimm and Johnson then exhibited their collections of British North America.

The January and February packets (£200 14s. 11½d. and £197 5s. 1d.) have been returned; £53 3s. 4d. and £58 11s. 2d. had been purchased from them, in addition to £15 13s. 7d. net cash purchased from the Canadian packet which circulated with the January packet. The last four packets have been £248 19s. 5d., £247 11s. 1½d., £221 9s. 6d., and £254 4s. 4½d. The summer, so far, seems to have enlarged rather than reduced them.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. Castle.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. de Worms.

The thirteenth meeting of the season was held on Monday, April 8th, ten members and one visitor being present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Willett took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the following donations were made to the Society's library: copies of Moens', Mekeel's, and Scott's Catalogues from the President, and two volumes of "Revue Philatelic Suisse" from Mr. Pfenninger, which were accepted with best thanks. Mr. Pfenninger read the second part of his paper on the stamps of Switzerland, dealing with all the Cantonal issues. He gave a lengthy account of the history of these stamps, and illustrated the principal peculiarities of the different designs by photographic enlargements taken by himself. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Pfenninger for his very interesting paper.

The fifteenth meeting of the season was held on Monday, May 6th, at 7.45 p.m., ten members being present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Gillespie took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Thomas gave a short account of the stamps of Roumania, and exhibited his collection of the same, which contained, with exception of the first issue, specimens of all the principal varieties, including the errors in colour of the 1876 issue, the 5 bani, blue, and 5 bani, rose. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Thomas for his interesting notes.

The sixteenth meeting of the season was held on Monday, May 20th, at 7.45 p.m., fourteen members being present. The President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the

President explained that a society had been formed by the London Philatelic Society for the suppression of unnecessary stamps. After a discussion, Mr. J. W. Gillespie proposed a resolution, "That this Society cordially approves of the action of the London Philatelic Society, and the trade, in endeavouring to suppress the issuing of unnecessary stamps." Mr. H. Davis seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The President then gave an account of the stamps of Spain, and exhibited his magnificent collection of this country, every variety being represented by several unused specimens in perfect condition. A vote of thanks was accorded to the President.

List of Members.

Alexander, Colonel R.
Biggs, C. N.
Brown, Colonel A. M.
Bunbury, Sir H., Bart.
Burrows, S.
Castle, M. P.
Clark, H.
Cotton, S. H.
Cruttwell, W. H. G.
Davis, H.
Dill, G. F. Gordon.
Gillespie, H. J.
Gillespie, J. W.
Griffith, H.
Harrison, W.
Hodgson, G. G.
Hughes, W. E.
Manwaring, E. E.
Marshall, C. F. D.
Morse, C. R.
Murray, B. C.
Pfenninger, O.
Redman, J. H.
Sang, E. J. W.
Smith, H. Stafford.
Thomas, A. H.
Thrupp, R. J.
Upton, A.
Willett, W. T.
Woodman, R. J.
Worms, Baron de (Hon. President).
Worms, A. de.
Worms, P. de.
Wright, H. E.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—Vernon Roberts.
Hon. Sec.—W. W. Munn.

The fourth Annual Meeting was held on the 17th May, at the Blackfriars Hotel, Mr. Vernon Roberts in the chair. After the minutes of the last Annual Meeting had been read and confirmed, the President gave a brief address, congratulating the Society on its continued success, and the great interest taken in it by the members, as evinced by the large attendance at the meeting. The Hon. Secretary then read the Annual Report. During the past session, which is the fourth of the Society's existence, fifteen ordinary and sixteen list meetings have been held. At each of the ordinary meetings, as hitherto, papers have been read, which contained matter of a useful kind for the information and guidance of members. The past session has not been at all sensational, but future events will show that good work has been done. There has been a slight increase of members during the year. The opening meeting proved most successful, and the lantern display which inaugurated the session received a most flattering notice in the leading philatelic journal. The lantern exhibitions have become more or less identified with this Society, and all philatelists are greatly indebted to Mr. Ridpath for bringing prominently forward a means by which much more can be learned from the stamps themselves than by a study under a microscope, however careful such study may be. The usual Annual Dinner was held at Christmas. The Society is again indebted to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Mr. William Brown, and others, for gifts of books and magazines to the library. The hearty thanks of the Society are tendered to them, also to the *Manchester City News*, and the various philatelic journals, for the insertion of the reports of our meeting. After careful consideration, the Committee have decided not to publish an epitome of the papers read before the Society during the last session, but arrangements have been concluded for the publication, in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, of the papers read by Mr. G. B. Duerst on the stamps of

Roumania. After their appearance in this journal, it is contemplated to issue these papers in book form. It is to be hoped that philatelists and collectors will communicate to Mr. Duerst particulars of any varieties he may not have chronicled in his papers, and will also criticise the articles as they appear, so that the book, when published, may be as reliable a guide as present knowledge can make it. The Hon. Treasurer then presented his financial statement, showing a balance in favour of the Society of £10 6s. 10d.

The ballot for the election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows :—President, Mr. Vernon Roberts ; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. D. Beckton and J. H. Abbott ; Treasurer, Mr. G. B. Duerst ; Librarian, Mr. F. Barratt ; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. W. Munn ; Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. H. Coote ; Committee, Messrs. G. F. H. Gibson, W. Grunewald, and E. Petri.

After some discussion, it was resolved to try a Stamp Exchange Packet, to circulate amongst members of the Society only. A Secretary and sub-Committee were appointed to draw up rules, so as to start at the beginning of next session. The meeting was brought to a close by a private auction of members' stamps. The bidding was brisk, and a large number of lots were sold.

On the 25th May the session was terminated by a picnic to "Ye Ancient City of Chester," with a sail up the River Dee, past Eaton Hall.

Wm. W. Munn, *Hon. Sec.*

Ashfield, Peel Causeway, Nr. Altrincham.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

At a meeting held on the 31st May, at 391, Strand, London. Present : Messrs. C. J. Phillips (in the chair), J. Scott Stokes, H. Stafford Smith, W. Hadlow, Harry Hilckes, Frederick R. Ginn, W. H. Peckitt, M. Giwelb, and Gordon Smith (Sec.).

The minutes of the preliminary meeting were read and confirmed.

The Draft Statutes of the Society were finally approved.

The following were elected (subject to their acceptance) officers of the Society :—Vice-Presidents, E. Stanley Gibbons, J. B. Moens ; Chairman of Committees, C. J. Phillips ; Secretary, Gordon Smith ; Treasurer, Frederick R. Ginn ; Committee, W. Brown, G. C. Butler (of Butler Bros.), Edwin Clark, E. B. Evans, R. B. Earée, Harold Frederic, M. Giwelb, H. Hilckes, W. Hadlow, Whitfield King, W. H. Peckitt, B. K. Smith (Alfred Smith & Son), H. Stafford Smith, J. Scott Stokes, W. T. Wilson, and W. A. S. Westoby.

The following were elected as a Sub-Committee (to be called "The Executive Committee") : H. Hilckes, M. Giwelb, W. H. Peckitt, J. S. Stokes, W. Hadlow, F. R. Ginn, and Gordon Smith. Three to form a quorum.

Gordon Smith, *Secretary.*

391, Strand, London, W.C.

Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. AUGUST, 1895. No. 200.

THE century which is now fast drawing to its close has been a remarkable one in the history of the Post-offices of the world, but more especially in that of England, where the changes introduced in 1839 led the way to the introduction of Philately, the science that has grown up with the ebbing of the century. In England, when the century commenced, the reign of the autocrat of the Post-office, so well known in the time of our fathers under the name of Sir Francis Freeling, had just begun.

A Vacation Ramble on Postal matters.

This gentleman was born at Bristol in 1764, and commenced his career in the Post-office of that city, where he attracted the notice of Mr. Palmer, who had at that period obtained from William Pitt the necessary authority for conveying the mails by stage-coaches. Palmer had been installed at the General Post-office as Comptroller-General, and in 1787 introduced Freeling into the office, where he became Surveyor, and subsequently joint Secretary. In 1797 he became sole Secretary, and so continued for nearly forty years, down to 1836. He was despotic in his rule, and the terror of the Postmasters-General, who seemed to be completely under his control. The country people thought that Francis Freeling was only another name for the Post-office, for everything relating to it appeared to be transacted in his name, whether on office notices or on letters, written on the hard hand-made paper that our fathers used, writing on which resembled travelling on a corduroy road, and speedily wore the goose-quill to a stump. When the Duke of Richmond became Postmaster-General, in 1830, he, with the assistance of Lord Althorp, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, "tried a fall" with Sir Francis Freeling (who had been created a baronet by George

IV. in 1828), and remedied one or two glaring defects; but Sir Francis Freeling was still too much for the Postmaster-General. He was also in an agreeable position, as, according to Mr. Joyce, he was making some £3,000 a year by franking newspapers to the West India Colonies, and proclaimed far and wide that the Post-office was the most perfect machine that was ever invented, and needed no improvements. How little did he know of the preparation of the mine that, within a short time after his death in 1836, was destined to blow the whole concern up, and not only that, but to destroy its very foundations, laying fresh ones composed of a uniform rate, charge by weight, and the transfer of the charge for postage from the recipient to the sender. At the commencement of the reign of Sir Francis Freeling the revenue of the Post-office was about £700,000 per annum, and when he died it was more than three times that amount. In the first year of the new system it fell to less than £600,000, but has gradually increased until it is now nearly five times that sum. Very much has been done to improve the new edifice since its first foundation by Rowland Hill, in 1840. Each year has added some stone or some new story. The Postmaster-General has become a more important officer, and he has frequently been a Cabinet Minister, though as the Post-office has become a recognised instrument of taxation, he is still subordinate to the Treasury, which is the real master; though many of those capable of judging of the working of the office have expressed well-founded reasons that its administration should be put on a similar footing to the other great taxing departments of the State, the Inland Revenue and the Customs, with a permanent Board. As we have said, many improvements and additions have been made—the parcel post, the insurance of letters, the facilities of sending private post cards with an adhesive stamp, a privilege so long delayed; but there is still great need of reform in the newspaper rate, and what is called the book-post rate. The general outcry on the part of the Post-office has been that there is a loss on the halfpenny rate, and there may well be so long as newspapers over $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. are carried from John-o'-Groat's to the Land's End for a halfpenny. No newspaper has more than half-a-pound of text, the extra weight is made up of advertisements, which we suppose are a source of extra profit. What good reason can there be that the halfpenny rate should not be limited to the first half pound, and by way of compensation to the public, matter wholly printed might be admitted to pass at a farthing rate when under

1 oz. in weight, the delivery of which might be confined to one post per day. For years we have at different times been advocating this change, which would be so acceptable to small traders. Our readers must forgive us for again referring to it; but at the present season our more legitimate business is taking holiday, and we have little to regale them with in the shape of new issues worthy of their attention.

One more desideratum we ought to mention. There is a great difficulty in obtaining a paid reply to a communication within the Postal Union. We have foreign reply cards, which answer well for an open communication, and in France, as now in Ceylon, a reply letter card has been introduced for internal communication. If reply post cards are allowed for external communication, what valid reason is there why reply letter cards for similar communications should not be instituted, or an envelope stamped with a special stamp that would permit of the reply being considered as paid at the other end?

Under the provisions of the Postal Union, each country keeps the money it receives for postage. A project for an international stamp was discussed at the meeting in Lisbon, in 1885, but was considered not to be practicable for various reasons, which appear to be valid; but at the same Congress, reply-paid post cards were admitted, but not declared obligatory. Such States, however, which did not make use of them were simply bound to send back the answer. What prevents the Postal Union from admitting a letter card to similar privileges? Such a thing can be readily invented. Not that we have any particular liking for letter cards. We have not always the means of wetting the gum at hand, and to lick 12 inches of gum margin, furnished with an internal rampart as rough as a file, is not a task for which we are always prepared. Besides which, who knows whether the recent invention of microbes may not be in the gum? They seem to be present everywhere, and are considered in Paris to have found a happy hunting-ground in old postage stamps. We read marvellous stories of what has occurred. They seem to be present in old paper, also, as we read of a Vienna bank-clerk who was eaten of microbes from having swallowed so many in licking his finger to count bank-notes. How many deaths we should have read of had microbes been invented when all the fuss was made about the British gum on the old line-engraved stamps, and that really was very nasty. The wrappers also used to be, but the taste has of late improved, owing, we suppose, to a small quantity of glycerine

being mixed with the gum or glue, as has been done in Germany, to render it less friable.

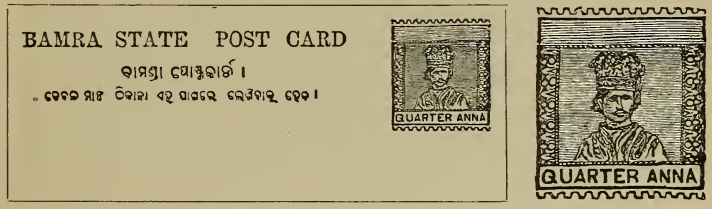
While writing the above, we have seen in one of the daily newspapers a letter from Mr. Merridew, who some time since proposed the introduction of a reply international letter card, in which he says that his proposal was submitted to Sir James Fergusson, then Postmaster-General, through Mr. Henniker Heaton, and that he testified his general approval of the scheme, and admitted the advantages that would result from its adoption. The further history is only a repetition of the old story, as told by Mr. Arnold Morley when he stated that successive Postmasters-General had approved of the admission of private post cards being franked with an adhesive stamp. A long rigmarole of senseless objections came from the Department, concluding with the usual *non possumus*. The system of insurance of the contents of registered letters, so long in use on the Continent, was not adopted in England at the instance of the Department, but was due to the determination of Lord Wolverton, then Postmaster-General, whose whole life was spent in an atmosphere of business, and who knew what the public required far better than those who were shut up within the four walls of the Post-office. How true is the apothegm, that reforms come from without and not from within.

Since the grant of the permission to use private cards with an adhesive stamp, continual complaints are being made that the cards have been taxed when addressed to foreign countries. We have ourselves investigated more than one of these complaints with regard to private cards posted to countries within the Union, but have failed to obtain any evidence that it was the fault of the Post-office, except in one case, where it arose from mistaken zeal on the part of one of the country *employés*. These cards could not be permitted to circulate without the concurrence of the international office at Berne. That office desired that private post cards sent within the Union should have the words "POST CARD" *printed on them*. It is to the absence of attending to this regulation, and the omission to affix a stamp of the proper value, that any taxing at present is to be attributed. We have referred to this at the wish of some of our Continental readers, who have been punished by reason of the non-observance of this regulation by some of their English correspondents. The Post-office is compelled to make strict regulations for the management of its enormous business, and it can scarcely be said to be in fault in those cases where the public choose to disregard them.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* BUHL & Co., LIMITED, *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Bamra.—It is a long time since we chronicled the post card of ¼ anna shown in the engraving which we now annex; but as the engraver has represented the card in reduced size, a further engraving of the stamp in its natural size has been added, doubtless with a view of showing more effectively the crown of the chief of the State. The stamp has an appearance of indecision about it, as if the designer did not know what to do with the top. The tablet at the top can scarcely be considered ornamental; nor does it appear to be useful, as it bears no inscription.



British Central Africa.—In May last, the following appeared in the *P. J. of G. B.*: "We have received from Mr. Maunder a set of stamps, &c., that are to be used in this Colony. The design consists of the Arms and supporters (two negroes), and motto below in centre, and printed in black. Above are two scrolls, the upper one solid, inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE," the other white, and inscribed "BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA." The lower values have the value in small squares in bottom corners, while the higher values of 2s. 6d. and over are larger, and have the value in words at the bottom. The registration envelopes are of the old shape, with flap at right side, large "R" in an oval at left, with inscription "BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE" at the top, above the usual instructions."

Then follows a description of the post cards, which bear the Royal Arms between "POST" and "CARD," and the name in a scroll in two lines. The two lower values bear the word "INTERNAL," the higher one "EXTERNAL." There is a single-lined frame of black, and the card is edged with yellow.

"The stamps appear to be lithographed, are unwatermarked, and perforated 14."

We have not hitherto chronicled these stamps, as we wished to make some previous inquiries regarding them. The "British South Africa Company" states that the stamps have been issued, and are now in use for a small trip of territory near the lake Nyasa, and known as the Nyasaland Protectorate, but that the B. S. A. Company has nothing to do with them.

The next thing we see is an advertisement in the *Bazaar* of July 29th, as follows: "New issue. British Central Africa stamps, unused, value £36. What offers cash or other stamps in exchange? Letters only."

We suppose that the advertisement emanates from the same party who sent the series to the *P. J. of G. B.* The *Monthly Journal* states that it is informed that the stamps are supplied by the Crown Agents to a new British Colony or Protectorate. From the tenor of the advertisement in the *Bazaar*, we should infer that the stamps are to be had at a discount, and should strongly advise our readers to keep their money—at all events for the present, as the issue of them for postage purposes looks very doubtful.

The values are:—

1d., black.	2s. 6d., black and violet.
2d. ,, and green.	3s. ,, ,, yellow.
4d. ,, ,, orange.	5s. ,, ,, olive.
6d. ,, ,, blue.	£1 ,, ,, orange.
1s. ,, ,, rose.	£10 ,, ,, vermilion.

£25, black and blue-green.

One thing can scarcely be disputed, that the last value is something like a postage stamp.

Reg. env.	4d., blue; sizes F. and H.		
P. Cards.	½d., black on white, size 121 × 87 mm.		"Internal."
,,	1d. ,, ,,	,,	,,
,,	2d. ,, size 136 × 85 mm.		"External."

Bulgaria.—The *I. B. J.* chronicles the 1 stotinka in dull flesh colour, in place of mauve. It has seen it used and unused. We should like to see it in sheets before pronouncing it is not a changeling. The operation is so simple to alter mauve to a dull flesh.

Bussahir.—We learn from the *I. B. J.* that the animal on these stamps is intended for a tiger. We are glad to know. Had it not been for the tuft at the end of the tail, we should have thought it was a tom-cat on the spree, but this is also rather against its being a tiger.

Ceylon.—The issue of a reply letter card is announced, similar to that issued for France, in October last, and with similar inscriptions, but in English.

Letter Card. 5+5 cents, black on blue.

Columbia.—In June of last year we chronicled an "acknowledgment of reception" stamp of 5 centavos as being in vermilion

on *white* paper, and perforated 13. The issue really took place on blue paper. The *Austria Philatelist* now states that the colour of the paper has been altered from blue to white, and that the perforation is now 12.

Receipt Stamp. 5 c., vermilion on white, perf. 12.

Falkland Islands.—With reference to the observation in our last number, we learn that the 1 penny has really reverted to its old colour. 1 penny, claret; wk. ♕ C.A.; perf. 14.

Fiji Islands.—*The Australian Philatelist* has received a specimen of the letter card, the issue of which, and of post cards, will be found mentioned in "Official Documents," but had not received the post cards which have also been issued. The letter card bears evidence of having been prepared in the Government Printing Office of Sydney, and is perforated round the corners. The stamp is of the type of the current Fiji adhesives, but the leaves which interfered with the lettering on the circle have been cut away. The value "PENNY HALFPENNY" is inserted in the lower part of the circular band.

Letter Card. 1½d., red on drab; interior white.

France.—At the end of October last, a reply letter card was issued which it appears we failed to chronicle, but have been reminded of our shortcomings by the issue of a similar card for Ceylon. It is in appearance similar to the ordinary letter card, but bears under the words "CARTE-LETTRE" the additional inscription of "*La carte ci-jointe est destinée à la réponse.*" On the other is the word "*Réponse.*" The reply portion is attached to the message card, and travels inside it.

The idea is not a novel one, for many months previously a similar plan, but on a more extended scale, was presented to the English Post-office by M. Merridew, of Boulogne-sur-Mer, which favoured that gentleman with the usual stereotyped answer. We confess that we do not see the great utility of an inland reply letter card. A Postal Union reply letter card is quite a different matter, and is worth the attention of the Washington Congress.

Letter Card. 15+15 c., blue on grey.

Great Britain.—We have recently seen a number of the halfpenny wrapper stamps struck, in brown, on printed forms, which appear to be used for payment of quarterly (Army and Navy?) pensions. These forms have the stamp on the outer side, which is plain. They are of various coloured papers, as we have met with them white, green (in two shades), French-grey (two shades), yellow and pale slate, all *wove* paper, and also pink on *laid* paper; and the coloured papers give a striking variety of shades to the wrapper stamp. Several bear different current postmarks, and we should be glad of any further information as to the use of these forms. If any correspondent could forward us an entire form for examination we should be much obliged.

We are informed that another copy of the 10d., brown, plate 1, on *emblems* paper, has been recently found, but we have not seen the specimen. It will be interesting to learn what lettering this newly-discovered specimen bears, and when it was used. We do not remember whether these particulars of the only specimen hitherto known have been recorded, but that specimen is lettered "$\frac{K\ S}{S\ K}$" and was used in London, according to the postmark, "11 Nov. 1867."



Italy.—We recently chronicled the new type of the stamp of 20 c., and now annex an engraving of it.

Nandgaon.—The *Timbre-Poste* chronicles the 1 anna stamp in brown, in place of red, on wove paper, overprinted across with M. B. D. in violet, and adds that it most probably exists without overprint.

1 anna, brown.
Service. 1 ,, ,, overprinted in violet.

We need scarcely say that as the overprint is done by hand it is sometimes to be found topsy-turvy.

New South Wales.—It will be seen from the notice in "Official Documents" that the 5d. Service Registration Envelope has been withdrawn. This envelope was chronicled by us in December, 1892, the stamp described being similar in type to the 4d., with "O. S." on plugs, but the *Australian Philatelist* states that it was gazetted in error as for ordinary use, and the *Postal Guide* notified that envelopes would be impressed with a 5d. stamp for the use of the public. No such use was ever made of the die, and the few that have been used were employed as registered remittance envelopes by the Department of Public Instruction.

The same journal states that some alterations have been made in the International Post Card. The stamp is now similar to that on the letter card, having the words "Penny Halfpenny" on the label, which was formerly left blank, and the figures of value are smaller. The accent formerly placed over the letter "c" of "côté" has been put in its proper place, and the hyphen between "NOUVELLE" and "GALLES" has been suppressed. The size varies from 148 × 82 mm. to 154 × 89 mm.

Post Card. 1½, blue on lemon; *altered type.*

The 1d. stamped envelopes with "O.S." on plugs have, as well as those of 2d., had the stamps "blacked out" with three parallel bars.

It will be seen from the notice in the "Official Documents" that private post cards with adhesive stamps may now be used. As the official post cards are sold at face value, it is not probable that this concession will be made use of very generally. The Government, in this case, is the gainer by the use of private cards, not the consumer.

New Zealand.—It appears that the reason for some of the New Zealand stamps of ½d. being perforated 12½, as mentioned in our June number, is not quite correct. The machine perforating 10 was fully occupied at the time of the issue of the new halfpenny stamp, and as they were urgently required temporary recourse was had to the old machine.

The letter card of 1½d. does not appear to be an intercolonial one, and only passes free with the addition of an adhesive of a ½d.

Norway.—The *Nordisk Fil. Tidsckrift* having discovered the existence of four types of the 2, 3, and 8 skilling of 1863, the *Timbre-Poste* has examined the other values in that series, the 4 and 24 skilling, and find that these present four types also. The four types are by group in two rows. The differences are difficult to describe, but they will be found to exist throughout the details of the designs.

Orange Free State.—We have seen a post card with adhesive stamp of two-pence, mauve, of the current type, surcharged in red with "1½d." *Post Card.* 1½d. on 2d., mauve; surcharged in red.

Peru.—The *Timbre-Poste* is informed by M. Roussin that the list of overprints given by *Die Post*, and transcribed in the "Notes and Queries" of our January number, is incorrect, and that all except those chronicled by us in October last, are simply forgeries. These are all that were overprinted officially with the bust of Morales Bermudez.

As the game of the makers of the additions appears to have been successful, other stamps have been overprinted at Lima, with the bust of Don T. Seminario; these are also stated to be forgeries.

There is still a third. The stamps we so carefully chronicled last month, on the faith of some of our contemporaries, were lithographed by a Chilian savant, according to *Der Philatelist*, and are rubbish. They looked very "fishy," and we are not surprised







to find that they prove to be what they are. We give engravings of them.

The same Journal mentions an unnecessary issue to be made on the 10th of September, to be used only on one day, to celebrate the triumph of the revolution, and the nomination of the new President, Dr. Nicolas Pierola. The stamps are to bear the head of Liberty, as shown on the coinage, with the inscriptions "UNION POSTAL

UNIVERSAL DEL PERU," "17 DE MARZA DE 1895," day of the attack of the revolutionaries at Lima, and "10 SETIEMBRE DE 1895," date of the presidence of DR. NICOLAS PIEROLA. Of each of the 1, 2, and 5 centavos, 20,000 are to be printed, 10,000 of 10 and 20 centavos, 5,000 of 50 centavos, and 3,000 of 100 centavos. The plates are then to be destroyed, and the stamps unsold on the day are to be burned. This latter part of the tale appears to us to be rather too good to be true, and to be adapted for the marines, and not for stamp collectors.

Persia.—Since June last, Persia has issued stamps of 10 and 50 kran of the large size, with head of the Shah.

10 kran, red and gold.
50 ,, green ,,

Queensland.—We annex an engraving of the halfpenny stamp with uncoloured background.



From the *Australian Philatelist* we learn that a letter card of 2d., of a somewhat attractive design, has just been issued. The stamp is similar to that on the post card of 1½d., but the profile has been divested of its lined background, and the numerals of value on the tablets in the lower angles have been changed to "2," and "TWOPENCE" is on the sides. In the upper part of the card the inscription "LETTER CARD | QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA," is on a triple scroll, with the instructions below, the Royal Arms being to the left. On the reverse are the Arms of the Colony, with "Queensland," followed by "This card may pass through the Post to any place within Queensland, New Guinea, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and Fiji."—"If anything be enclosed in this letter card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter."

We do not know whether it is our contemporary or the government that has left out "Western Australia," but it seems a matter of no importance whatever, for the whole of the notice is absolutely superfluous, as the rate is the ordinary intercolonial rate, and as our contemporary remarks, it would puzzle a postmaster to surcharge such a letter card if it did contain anything, provided it was under ½ oz. in weight.

The stamp of twopence has had the lined back-ground removed.

2d., ultramine, uncoloured back-ground, wk. Cr. Q., perf. 13.
Letter Card. 2d., blue on grey, perforation crossing at the angles.

Roumania.—The letter card has appeared with stamp of the new type. *Letter Card.* 15 bani, rose on buff.

South African Republic.—We have received from Mr. Mohn the 2½d. of the "pole" type, and the stamp "Zegelregt" of 6d., rose, overprinted in green with "Postzegel."

2½d., violet; perforated 12½.
6d., rose; overprinted in green; perforated 11½.

Sweden.—The *Timbre-Poste* chronicles a cripple from Sweden. The 7th stamp in each sheet of the 20 öre service stamps has lost "M" in the inscription "TJENSTEFRIMARKE." If only these cripples were rendered incapable of serving as postage stamps, we should not hear so much about them.

Tonga.—For the last three years the stamps of these islands seem to have been in a revolutionary state, which appear to be more than transient, for we have now to chronicle a fresh lot of surcharges. Pending the advent of a new series, the twopence of 1892 has been lithographed in blue on plain paper, and surcharged with "SURCHARGE," and "ONE PENNY," "1½d.," "2½d.," or "7½d.," all in carmine. The *Monthly Journal* states that the new stamps have since been dispatched, but are, according to report, so unsatisfactory, that it is probable they will not be issued at all, or only as a temporary measure pending the preparation of something better.

1d. on 2d., blue, surcharge in carmine.
1½d. on 2d. ,, ,, ,,
2½d. on 2d. ,, ,, ,,
7½d. on 2d. ,, ,, ,,



United States.—The engraving shows the change of the newspaper and periodical stamp as recently chronicled.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BADEN.

(*Continued from page 147.*)

It will not fail to be interesting to supplement the history of these stamps by a few words on what became of the residue of the stock in hand of the various values when the Post-office of Baden ceased to issue stamps, and the postal arrangements of the Grand Duchy became a part of those of the German Empire. To this we purpose to add some extracts from the work of M. Lindenberg regarding the reprints of the earlier issues.

In the course of this history it has more than once been noticed that stamps were destroyed at different times, principally on account of defects in the printing or the gumming. Thus, in 1861, 3257 sheets of 1 kreuzer of the first issue were burnt. In the same year 8253 sheets also of the numeral series were destroyed; and later on, in 1865, 71,417 stamps of 9 kreuzer, brown, with lined background, were also destroyed.

A great *Auto-da-fé* took place on 23rd July, 1870, when the following were destroyed.

1,622	stamps of	3 kr.,	blue, of 1860.
90,905	,,	6 ,,	orange ,,
16,614	,,	9 ,,	carmine ,,
4,944	,,	9 ,,	red, of 1851.
813	,,	9 ,,	brown, of 1862.
2,060	,,	6 ,,	blue ,,
151,012	,,	18 ,,	green ,,
11,309	Land-post stamps of	12 kr.	

Of each of these stamps, a stock of 3000 stamps had been previously set aside. On 4th April, 1871, a further lot of 27,527 Land-post stamps of 12 kr. was destroyed.

When the Postal Administration of the Grand Duchy ceased to exist as a separate institution, on 1st January, 1872, there were a large number of stamps in the hands of the Administration, the various Post-offices, and the public. In order that the latter should not be the losers, it was agreed, on the 6th July, 1871, that for eight weeks after 1st January, 1872, that is, up to 20th February, 1872, Baden stamps might be exchanged for German stamps of corresponding value or for cash. Baden stamps to the value of upwards of 7000 florins were in this manner received by the German Postal Administration, and were handed over to the Baden Grand Ducal Administration of the State railways.

On 22nd November, 1872, an inventory was made of all the Baden postage stamps then in the hands of the Administration of the State railways, of which the following is the summary:

Issue of 1851.	1	kreuzer,	4,457 stamps.
,,	3	,,	2,260 ,,
,,	6	,,	1,660 ,,
,,	9	,,	2,952 ,,
Issue of 1853.	1	,,	2,461 ,,
,,	3	,,	1,622 ,,
,,	6	,,	2,763 ,,
Issue of 1858.	3	,,	1,859 ,,
Issue of 1860.	1	,,	1,474 ,,
,,	3	,,	2,961 ,,
,,	6	,,	2,953 ,,
,,	9	,,	2,955 ,,
Issue of 1862.	6	,,	12 ,,
,,	9	,,	2,955 ,,
,,	18	,,	2,955 ,,
,,	30	,,	114,400 ,,
Issue of 1864.	1	,,	3,372,700 ,,
,,	3	,,	880,200 ,,
,,	6	,,	1,328,300 ,,
,,	9	,,	672,800 ,,
Issue of 1868.	7	,,	1,057,100 ,,
Land-post.	1	,,	322,800 ,,
,,	3	,,	455,400 ,,
,,	12	,,	160,000 ,,

M. Lindenberg remarks on the above list that it is extraordinary that no mention is made in the issue of 1868 of any but the stamps of 7 kr., and supposes it probable that the 1 and 3 kr. were comprised in those of 1864.

The inventory was evidently made with the object of effecting a sale of the stamps comprised in it. A question appears, however, to have occurred to the Grand Ducal Administration whether a purchaser would not have still a right to use postally those stamps which were current at the end of 1871, and, therefore, whether the Administration had really the right, or was acting rightly, in disposing of them. It was decided, therefore, to exclude from the sale the stamps of 1, 3, 6, 7, 9,

and 30 kreuzer; and the others, with the exception of the Land-post stamps, were sold to Senf, of Leipsic, on 25th June, 1873. On the 7th October following, the Land-post stamps were sold to Julius Goldner, of Hamburg. It was eventually decided to deal with the stamps of 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 30 kreuzer still on hand, and 100,000 of each of the values were offered for sale, the rest being destroyed. No sale, however, was effected till May, 1878, when they were sold to Bredemeyer, of Hamburg.

The official documents do not say anything regarding the dies used for the manufacture of the stamps. M. Lindenberg finds that in 1865 an inventory was made, showing that the following dies, &c., were then in existence: 1 original plate for the numeral stamps, without the figure of value; 8 original dies for the numeral series, 2 for each value; 61 plates for the numeral stamps of 1 kreuzer; 28 plates for the numeral stamps of 6 kreuzer; 1 plate for the 3 kreuzer, with lined ground; 4 dies for the 1, 3, 6, and 9 kreuzer stamps, with lined ground; 6 dies for the 1, 3, 6, 9, 18, and 30 kreuzer, with white ground; as also the following *clichés:* for the numeral stamps, 54 of 1 kr., 115 of 3 kr., 102 of each of the 6 and 9 kr.; for the arms, with lined background, 110 of the 1 kr., 109 of the 3 kr., 112 of the 6 kr., and 109 of the 9 kr.; for the arms on white background, 111 of the 1 kr., 110 of each of the 3 and 6 kr., 111 of the 9 kr., and 111 of each of the 18 and 30 kr. There were also for the Land-post stamps, 123 of the 1 kr., 104 of the 3 kr., and 135 of the 12 kr. A further inventory is found of December, 1873, which mentions only 111 *clichés* of the 1, 3, and 7 kr., with the original dies, and 110 *clichés* of the 9 and 30 kr.; as also a similar number of the Land-post stamps of 1 and 3 kr. What became of the other dies is not known. It seems to have suggested at the time that the *clichés* comprised in the inventory of those found by the Administration of the Telegraphs, should be melted down, but there is nothing to show whether this was done. No dies, however, are now in the possession of the Baden authorities, nor are there any in the Imperial Post Museum of Berlin.

To this we are unable to add anything. Report says that the *clichés* were allowed to remain in the possession of Hasper, and on his death they fell into the succession, but though we have heard the report, we have been unable to trace any solid foundation on which it rested. It would not surprise us greatly were other reprints to turn up, not made by the Baden Post-office, like those of 1866, to which we are now about to call attention, though not with any hopes of solving the mystery that attended their appearance.

THE REPRINTS.

M. Lindenberg acknowledges that the origin of the reprints is shrouded in mystery. There is nothing to be found regarding them in the archives of the Postal Administration of the Grand Duchy, and the first mention of their existence is to be found in the catalogue of

O. Berger-Levrault, published in June, 1867. The entry there is as follows:

"REPRINTS OF 1866.

1st May, 1851. 1 kr., light-brown; 3 kr., yellow; 6 kr., green.

1853. *Same stamp.*

1 kr., white; 3 kr., dark-green; 6 kr., bright yellow.

1857. *Same stamp.*

3 kr., blue.

NOTE.—This reprinting was made on thicker paper, and also shows some differences in colour."

This is, as we have said, the earliest mention that is to be found, and though other catalogues give the date of the reprinting as 1867, yet we are disposed rather to adopt that of M. Berger-Levrault, who, most probably, was accurately informed as to the date, for he was well known as a collector, and resided at the time next door to Baden, and must have been well acquainted with Hasper, as they were both notable persons in the same trade. M. Lindenberg says that nothing, however, was known in Germany about these reprints until Senf bought the lot of old issues in 1873, when he discovered that the stamps of the numeral issues sold to him were reprints, and not originals. He informed the Administration of the Grand Ducal Railways, which, from the reply, seemed itself to have been entirely ignorant of the fact, and stated that the stamps had not been recently printed, and were the remnant of the old stock in hand when the Baden Post-office ceased to exist. The postal authorities had, moreover, sold small parcels of these stamps at face value up to the end of 1871. It was not stated when the said stamps were printed.

A characteristic part of the reply was the assertion that, even if the stamps were reprints, they were in any event official, and quite as valuable as the originals, an opinion of the Grand Ducal Telegraph Department that is certainly not shared by philatelists.

Various tests have been proposed by which the reprints may be distinguished from the originals. As regards some of the values, there are special points which may serve as a test, though even these are not always very reliable, and there are some points that are common to all the values. Many say that, as a general rule, which they deem to be a test, the colours of the reprints are too dark and too brilliant, and the paper is too thick. The latter is probably true, but the former, as to the colour, is fallacious, especially when the specimens have been exposed to atmospheric influences, and have lost their gum by the bath. The printing again is said to be too sharp, especially in that of the word "FREIMARKE," and the *foulage* very marked; but this is equally found in many specimens of the originals, though it must be admitted that, as a general rule, the printing is sharper in the reprints than in the originals. Others again say that the printing of the reprints is blurred, and this may possibly arise from the plates being more worn; but even among the originals many instances are found of blurred printing, besides which, the very fact of the impression being sharper

would tend to make the printing blurred. M. Lindenberg very justly observes that it is dangerous to put too much confidence in the differences of the printing. It is about the last test in which we should have any confidence. Any one conversant with stamps must have noticed that even at times there is a variation in the printing, we might almost say, in one day from another. One machine may exert more pressure than another; the ink may not be of exactly the same thickness, and more inclined to spread. The only real tests seem to be in the paper and the gum. This latter, when it is intact, is a reliable test. In the originals it is very brittle, and is not of the best and purest nature. Yellowish spots are commonly found in it, and frequently blackish-brown smudges. On the other hand, the gum of the reprints is white and less brittle, and where it is more or less broken the cracks are not so dispersed over the whole stamp. There is a greasy feeling also, somewhat similar to that experienced in handling nickel coin, and which may also be remarked in the feel of some of our own stamps; but it requires, as M. Lindenberg says, considerable practice in deducing anything from the feel of the stamp. In the absence of the gum, the remaining test, which we consider to be the principal one, must be sought in the paper, and as this varies in different values, it will be necessary to take each separately.

1. The 1 kreuzer, brown, 1851.—The paper is hard, rather thick, and the colour is too dark. It more nearly approaches that of the second printing (that of 1852), but it is darker even than that, and in place of the colour having a yellowish tinge, that of the reprint has more of a reddish tinge, a rust-brown, somewhat like oxydised iron.

2. The 3 kreuzer, 1851, is of an orange-yellow tone, resembling the original, but a shade too deep, inclined too much to red. Still it is often difficult to distinguish, which is all the worse, as the original orange-yellow is scarce in an unused state. The paper of the reprint is for the most part thicker than that of the originals; but this is a test that cannot be relied on, as the thickness varies in the originals. The 3 kreuzer on brimstone-coloured paper are always originals.

3. The 6 kreuzer, green, 1851.—There is no appreciable difference between the colour of the paper of the reprint and that of the first printing of the original in 1851, which is blue-green, not yellow-green, except that in the reprint the green has rather a greyish tinge. The distinction, however, is easier than in the case of the 3 kr., and as originals in the colour are very scarce unused, it is a hundred chances to one against a specimen in this colour being anything more than a reprint. The paper of the reprints is hard and thick, that of the originals is soft and thin.

4. The 9 kreuzer, rose-red, 1851.—The general opinion is that the 9 kreuzer was not reprinted, but M. Lindenberg admits that the grounds on which this opinion rests are unknown to him. M. Berger-Levrault does not include it in the list of the reprints as given in his Catalogue of 1867. M. Moens included it in his catalogue of 1877 (the 5th Edition), but without affixing a price, which was attached to the other

reprints.* In his next edition he puts a note of interrogation to it, and in the last he omits it entirely. We ourselves have always been under the impression that it never was reprinted, but can give no ground for this opinion beyond that it has been a tradition from the first moment that we became aware of the existence of the reprints. Originals are not scarce, and though there are variations in the colour, no test can be founded on the colour that is otherwise than fallacious, as it is tender, and subject to atmospheric influences. No difference is found in the gum in any specimens that we have examined, nor in the substance of the paper, sufficient to afford any presumptive evidence that there was a reprinting of this value, and what evidence there is to be found is certainly against there having been any reprinting.

5. The 1 kreuzer, white, 1853.—There is considerable difficulty in establishing the differences between the originals and the reprints, but the paper of the reprints is rather thicker. M. Lindenberg has found by examination that the originals, as well as the reprints, are at times not clearly printed.

6. The 3 kreuzer, green, 1853.—In this reprint the colour of the paper is darker, and has not the yellowish tinge of the original; the paper itself is hard, and somewhat thicker than that of 1853. M. Lindenberg finds that this reprint alone shows the impression, as a general rule, to be sharper than in the original.

7. The 6 kreuzer, yellow, 1853.—The reprints are on brimstone-yellow paper, similar to that of the second printing of the 3 kr., 1851. The originals, on the other hand, are on darker paper, of an orange-yellow tint. The paper, however, of the reprints is thin and soft, so resemblant to that of the originals that mistakes are frequently made, notwithstanding the difference in colour.

8. The 3 kreuzer, blue, 1857.—Both in substance and colour the paper of the reprint resembles very closely the original. There is a slight difference in the colour, which is a trifle darker, but scarcely sufficient to act as a test.

The above is a summary of the examination of the papers and their colours, as given by M. Lindenberg, and is exceedingly precious as being the result of a profound study. The tests, as we have said, which are most commonly applied are those resulting from the feel of the paper and the variation in the colour, though this latter is somewhat fallacious, except in the 1 kr. of 1851, the 6 kr., 1851, and the 3 kr., 1853. M. Berger-Levrault's note is to the effect that the paper was stouter in the reprint, and, as a general rule, this is true, and M. Lindenberg finds that it applies in all cases, except in that of the yellow paper. The gum test, where it can be applied, is, to our minds, one of the most important general tests that M. Lindenberg has suggested. It is, unfortunately, one of those to which recourse cannot

* M. Moens does not remember the source from which he got his stock of reprints, but thinks it most probable that they came to him direct from the Baden Post-office Administration prior to the sale to Senf, which makes it all the more difficult to explain the reply to M. Senf's remonstrance.

always be had, as our early collectors were too much in the habit of thinking that no importance could be attributed to the gum, which, when it was of a friable nature, was frequently washed off, as it interfered with the appearance of the stamp, while the albums of the day pointed to a permanently sticking down of the stamps in the compartments provided for them.

The mystery attaching to these reprints hangs in a great measure in discovering whether they were originally made with any special object, as we cannot imagine that they would have been printed by M. Hasper without an order, nor would an order have been given in 1866 merely to keep up a supply of obsolete stamps.

One of the principal collectors at that time was Mr. Philbrick, and his recollection is that these reprints were accompanied by a notice showing that they had been made prior to one of the conferences held in relation to the North German Postal Confederation, so as to group the colours systematically in the new series, and cause as little alteration as possible in their user by the public, who had got accustomed to particular colours denoting particular values. He also finds a note that they dated from 1866, which he believes was made when he first received them about that time.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

Italy.—The following circular was issued introductory of the new stamp of 20 centesimi:

"344. New Stamp of 20 Centesimi.
"No. 353470—1895.

"On the occasion of a fresh printing of the stamps of 20 centesimi, it has been decided to manufacture them in a lighter colour, and to introduce some modifications, as has been already done in the stamps of 25 and 40 cent.

"The public is informed, as the authorities have received instructions, that the new stamps may be used along with those of the former type.

"Rome, the 16th June, 1895,
"The Minister: M. Ferraris."

* * *

Mozambique Company.—The following is a translation of the order for the conversion of stamps of 80 reis into values of 25 reis, as chronicled in our former number:

"Quarta-Feira,
"15 *May*, 1895.

"Order of the Governor of the Territory.

"The order having been drawn up incorrectly, it is published again.

"No. 566.

"Considering the representations made to me by the Director of the Posts of this town, with reference to the want of stamps of 25 reis,

"I have found right to decide that the surcharge and surtax of 3,000 stamps of 80 reis should be proceeded with in the printing establishment of the Company, which are put in circulation from the present date.

"The said stamps to bear the surcharge 'PROVISORIO,' and the surtax '25' in carmine ink.

"Office of the Secretary of the Government of the Territory
"of Manica and Sofala,
"at Beira, 30th April, 1895,
"The Governor,
"F. MEYRELLES DO CANTO."

"No. 571.

"The postage stamps of 25 reis that had been ordered from Lisbon having arrived at Beira, I have found right to decide that the provisional postage stamps, to which allusion was made in the order, No. 566, of 30th April last, should be withdrawn from circulation.

"Office of the Secretary of the Government of the Territory
"of Manica and Sofala,
"at Beira, 6th May, 1895,
"The Governor,
"F. MEYRELLES DO CANTO."

* * *

FIJI ISLANDS.—The following Postal Notice has been issued:

"His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to authorise the issue of the following denominations of letter cards and post cards, viz.:

"Letter cards bearing postage stamps of the value of					1½d.
Post cards	,,	,,	,,	,,	1d.
Reply post cards	,,	,,	,,	,,	2d.
Post cards	,,	,,	,,	,,	1½d.
Reply post cards	,,	,,	,,	,,	3d.

"POSTAL REGULATIONS.

"His Excellency the Administrator has been pleased to make the following Regulations for the use of letter cards and post cards, viz.:—

"I. LETTER CARDS.

"Letter cards, that is, double cards which may be closed against inspection, may be transmitted within the Colony, and to New South Wales, Queensland, British New Guinea, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

"The front or stamped side of the card is reserved for the address, and directions with regard to the Postal Service (such as 'Registered,' 'Acknowledgment of Delivery,' &c.).

"If anything is enclosed in a letter card, it will be regarded as a letter, and if the stamps be not equal to the letter rate of postage, be treated as an insufficiently prepaid letter.

"II. POST CARDS.

"Post cards, impressed with a penny stamp, may be transmitted between places in the Colony, or to the Australasian Colonies, or British New Guinea.

"Reply post cards, that is double cards, each half of which has a penny stamp impressed thereon, one half being intended for the use of the sender, and the other half by the addressee in transmitting a reply, are available for transmission between all places in the Colony and the other places mentioned.

"Single post cards (bearing an impressed 1½d. stamp), or reply post cards (with a 1½d. stamp impressed on each half) may be transmitted to other parts of the world. "By command,

"*Colonial Secretary's Office*,
"SUVA, *25th May*, 1895.

JAMES STEWART,
Acting Colonial Secretary."

Notes and Queries.

BELGIUM—In our number for April last we printed a translation of the *Cahier des Charges*, issued for the sale of 2,400 stamps of 5 francs, which the Belgian government had lately withdrawn from circulation. We will now borrow from the *Timbre-Poste* the account of the proceedings at the sale on the 25th June last. "The tenders were not numerous. They varied from 200 francs up to 40,000 francs. This latter from M. Otto Steffens was not taken into consideration, as the tenderer was not present.

"Our tender of 36,001 fr. 15 c. being the highest after that of 40,000 fr., the lot ought to have been adjudged to us, but the Receiver refused to accept our cheque which we offered to him in payment, and the guarantee offered by a banker of the town, present at the meeting, was also refused; but the Receiver accepted the 36,000 fr. of our competitor, M. G. Schildnecht, which he paid over in cash.

"The *Cahier des Charges* not stipulating that the sum must be paid in cash, we protested, and sent our written protest to the Minister of Finance, who will decide. There was another serious tender, that of MM. Gelli and Tani for 22,400 fr. We are assured that M. G. Schildnecht is only a borrowed name."

This appeared in the *Timbre-Poste* for July. In the August number it is stated that the Minister of Finance has replied, through the Receiver, that the sale of the 2,400 postage stamps to M. Schildnecht is approved.

The purchaser has therefore bought the stamps of 5 francs at 15 francs each. What a hunt there will be now to ascertain whether there is not any old stock of other values that can be disposed of. "Very good business." And so we think—much better than using them for their legitimate purpose, or cancelling them with lines, as they did the remainders in Spain. But other countries, other manners of doing things. All the same, we do not like such transactions any more than we like Fiji, and some of the West Indian islands, disposing of old stock to the highest bidder. Unless we protest we shall be having some big country adopting the same way of picking collectors' pockets.

* * *

KASHMIR STAMPS.—In turning over some old philatelic papers, we came across the envelope on which were two of the first issue of the round stamps of Kashmir (nearly the first that arrived in Paris, and, we think, also in Europe). We had the envelope at the time from M. Maury. It bears the hand stamp of a firm in Calcutta, through whom it was forwarded, and the address of a firm in Paris in the Rue Rossini. The postmark is the French one, "POSS. ANGL. V. SUEZ" in the upper part of the circular band, and "A MARSEILLE" in the lower part, the date "17 AOUT 66" being in the centre. M. Maury had previously received three specimens that had been removed from letters that had arrived by the preceding mail, and which he described in the *Collectionneur de Timbre-Poste* of the 15th July, 1866, not published till some days later. The receipt of a specimen of the round stamp was also chronicled in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* for October, 1866; and

in the *Timbre-Poste* for November, 1866, the rectangular stamp is shown. Some catalogues give the date of issue of these stamps as early as September, 1865; on the other hand Major Evans, in whose knowledge of Indian stamps we have especial confidence, gives it as 1866. The stamps bear the date of 1923, but the "Samvât" of 1923, the "Vicramâdyta" era, does not expire with January, 1866, but extends for three months longer, and, looking at all the circumstances, we certainly prefer the date of 1866 to that of 1865. One thing must always be borne in mind, that officials very frequently assign a wrong date. We lately received confirmation of this from Victoria. Mr. D. H. Hill found various letters from the compiler of a catalogue, asking for information regarding dates, and he found that erroneous replies had been given in several instances.

* * *

PORTUGAL.—One really wonders what will next be used as designs on stamps when we look at those on what the Portuguese authorities pretend are postage stamps because they have been used postally. And we cannot deny that they are in the strict sense of the definition of a postage stamp; but a more barefaced imposition it is difficult to conceive. Such utter rubbish—gaudy, and only fit for juveniles to play with. Have they been made on the principle that "every little helps"? or has this been discovered as a "new way to pay old debts"? We have seen a good deal of philatelic trash in the course of thirty years, but none worse than this, which is clothed with official sanction.

We give representations of the types of these stamps, and of the post card, and we advise our readers to be content with these, and not to encourage the production of such things.











The series has also been overprinted for the Azores.









SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

The following is a list of the officers of the Society, and a copy of the Statutes:

President—(To be elected shortly).

Vice-Presidents—E. Stanley Gibbons, J. B. Moens.

(One to be elected.

Chairman of Committees—C. J. Phillips.

Treasurer—*F. R. Ginn.

Committee.

W. Brown.
G. C. Butler (of Butler Bros.)
Edwin Clark.
E. B. Evans.
R. B. Earée.
Harold Frederic.
*M. Giwelb.
*H. Hilckes.
*W. Hadlow.
Whitfield King.
*W. H. Peckitt.
Alfred Smith.
H. Stafford Smith.
*J. Scott Stokes.
W. T. Wilson.
W. A. S. Westoby.

(The full complement of 45 on the Committee will be gradually filled up.)

Secretary—Gordon Smith, 391, Strand, London, W.C.

* These form the Executive Committee.

STATUTES.

OBJECTS.

Law 1. This Society is formed—

(*a*) To discountenance and prevent the dealing in, and collecting of, postage stamps or other postal matter created wholly or partly for speculative purposes, or unnecessary for legitimate postal uses or requirements.

(*b*) To decide and declare what stamps or other postal matter shall be classed as speculative or unnecessary, as aforesaid.

(*c*) To secure the exclusion from all catalogues, albums, journals, price lists, or other philatelic publications, of all such stamps or other postal matter, as aforesaid.

(*d*) To take such measures as may lead to the prevention of the issue of all such stamps or other postal matter, as aforesaid.

(*e*) To publish, and cause to be published from time to time, all decisions, proceedings, or other information, in such manner as may secure the widest publicity amongst all persons or societies interested in stamp collecting throughout the world.

(*f*) To take any measures that may be deemed expedient, desirable, or necessary for the further and better carrying out of the before-mentioned objects, or for any other purpose in the interest of the members of this Society.

MEMBERSHIP.

Law 2. All persons (not under 21 years of age) who are stamp collectors, stamp dealers, or importers, proprietors and publishers of stamp catalogues, albums, or journals, and philatelic journalists or writers, are eligible for membership.

Law 3. Candidates for membership shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Society, and balloted for at a meeting of the Committee next after that at which the proposal has been received. One black ball in four to exclude. Where a candidate is unable to obtain a proposer and seconder, two satisfactory references will be accepted in lieu thereof.

Law 4. Where any charge affecting the conduct or character of a member has been brought before the Committee, the same shall be inquired into, and the member given opportunity to explain the charge or charges made against him. If, in the opinion of the Committee, the conduct or character of the member so charged is inconsistent with or injurious to the interest of the Society or its members, the Committee may, by a majority of three-fourths of those present, expel such member from the Society, but the member so expelled may appeal to a General Meeting of the Society, at which a majority of three-fourths of those present shall be necessary to quash the expulsion.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

Law 5. The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, Chairman of Committees, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Law 6. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee, consisting of the Officers and 45 other members. Whenever the membership of the Society exceeds 200, the Committee may be increased by one for every 25 members in excess of 200. Seven shall form a quorum.

Law 7. The Officers and Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, which shall be held on the first Friday in May. Vacancies occurring during the current year shall be filled up by the Committee.

Law 8. The Committee shall appoint from among themselves Sub-Committees for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Society. The Committee shall have power (i.) to make Bye-laws for the regulation of the Committee or of the Sub-Committees; (ii.) to appoint such Honorary Officers as may in the opinion of the Committee best serve the interests of the Society; and (iii.) generally manage the affairs of the Society, and pay all salaries and other monies that the Committee may think desirable for carrying out the objects of the Society.

Law 9. At the meeting of the Committee preceding the Annual General Meeting, two Auditors shall be appointed (one of whom shall not be a member of the Committee), who shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer, and present a report thereon at the Annual General Meeting.

Law 10. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, keep minutes, issue notices and circulars, attend all meetings, and carry out the directions of the Committee. In conjunction with the Treasurer, he shall collect the income of the Society and give receipts, and pay over to the Treasurer all amounts received.

Law 11. The Treasurer shall keep the funds of the Society, make all necessary payments, and keep accounts of receipts and expenditure.

SUBSCRIPTION.

Law 12. The annual subscription of members shall be Five Shillings, payable in advance on election, and thereafter on the first of May in each year. No member whose subscription is in arrear after the first of August (or in the case of a member residing abroad, the first of November) can vote at any meeting of the Society, and if in arrear on the first of November (or 12 months in the case of a member residing abroad) he shall be considered

to have resigned his membership, provided that due application shall have been made to him at his last known address or place of abode.

GENERAL.

Law 13. A General Meeting may be called at any time by the Committee, or upon a requisition signed by not less than 25 members, and notice thereof shall be sent out 14 days before such Meeting, stating the business for which such Meeting has been called.

Law 14. No alteration of, amendment of, or addition to these Statutes shall be made except at a General Meeting, and only then after one month's notice, or other publication of such proposed alteration, amendment, or addition.

We have received the following (Circular No. 2) for publication:

The Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of philatelists, and appeal to all collectors and dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

4. British Inland Mail, Madagascar. Through the courtesy of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the Society is enabled to publish the following letter:

"British Consulate,
"Tamatave, 18*th May*, 1895.

"Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, England.

"Gentlemen,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, with cheque enclosed.

"In reply, I beg to inform you that the "British Inland Mail" now running between Antananarivo and Vatomandry, a port on the south-east coast of this Island, is not an official postal service at all, but a private speculation undertaken by a syndicate of gentlemen residing at Antananarivo, who, in order to facilitate matters, have arranged this Mail Service, and issued the stamps to which your letter refers.

"I may also inform you that the Malagasy Government has no postal service at all, and since the departure of the French from the capital, there has not been any communication to and from the coast, save by special couriers or the private Mail in question.

"Under the circumstances, I have not ventured to make the purchase you required. I have, however, kept the cheque in case you should still want the stamps, but I must state that communication between this and Vatomandry, or any part of Madagascar, is only by sea, and many days, and even weeks sometimes, elapse before a safe opportunity offers. By the time your reply reaches me I am afraid that the French will be very near Antananarivo, and the "British Inland Mail" will be a thing of the past.

"I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
"Your most obedient Servant,
(*Signed*) "Anatole Sauzier."

5. Brunei. Through the courtesy of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, the Society is enabled to publish the following letter:

"Labuan, Singapore,
"30*th March*, 1895.

"Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, England.

"Dear Sirs,—Your draft on Singapore for $101,05 duly to hand, and the stamps shall be sent to you as soon as possible. I have just come back from Brunei, having gone to see the Sultan and Postmaster about your business principally. Let me explain that it was I who suggested to the Sultan that he should issue stamps, and I have arranged the whole thing. He and his Postmaster have no idea of the way to conduct any business. I assure you that the delay in sending the stamps to you is caused by the illness of the Postmaster's wife—at least, one of his wives. In the meantime the Post-office is shut. But I have your money, and I promise to send off the stamps,

if it can be done, by next mail. I think that in future, should you wish more stamps, you should write to my brother, Mr. R. C. R. [address], and send the money after you have got the stamps. He will send them to you almost immediately, or at any rate he will have them sent to you. But, of course, if you wish to have them direct—that is to say, indirect from Brunei—it is all the same to me, except that there is at least delay in your getting the stamps, and delay in me getting a sale, and on that depends whether or not I lose or gain by the whole venture.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully, J. C. R.

6. Clipperton Island. A set of stamps bearing this name has lately been distributed (anonymously) among the London dealers; the specimens are obliterated by a hand stamp, with the name of a firm in San Francisco. Clipperton Island is off the Western Coast, and is a part of the United States; so that even if these stamps are not absolutely illegal and bogus, they are, at any rate, either speculative or unnecessary, or both. Under these circumstances, collectors and dealers are warned to beware of them.

7. Egypt. Paragraphs in the press have recently appeared stating that a set of stamps will be brought out in the Autumn, in connection with some fêtes or celebration festivities which will be held in Egypt. Collectors and dealers are, therefore, put on their guard against an issue which would appear to be "unnecessary."

8. Bussahir. A set of stamps bearing this name has recently been issued. This country appears to be a native state in the Northern part of India, governed by a Rajah, of Rajpoot origin. It is a very mountainous region, having an area of about 3000 square miles, and peopled by a race not very highly civilized. Whether these stamps have been issued by the native government (which appears unlikely, considering the nature of the country), or not, collectors and dealers are advised not to purchase until further information has been obtained.

In respect to paragraph 3 of the previous Circular, issued by the Society, in which it was stated that the newly-issued surcharges for North Borneo and Labuan, of 4, 10, 20, and 30 cents on 1 dollar red, appear to be "unnecessary," it was not intended to condemn them. It is considered only right to publish the following letter, so that collectors and dealers may use their own discretion in this case.

"The British North Borneo Co.,
"15, Leadenhall Street,
"London, E.C., 19*th June*, 1895.

"Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

"Dear Sirs,—In reply to your letter of the 15th inst. we beg to say that in consequence of the alteration in the primary rates of postage from North Borneo, approved by the Bureau of the International Postage Union, as following on the decline in the value of the dollar, it was deemed advisable, for the economic purposes of the Borneo Post-office, and for the convenience of the public, to have stamps of the denominations mentioned by you, and a surcharged issue was adopted to save the delay and expense of preparing new dies.

"We are not philatelists, and the objection raised against the stamps, which arises apparently from a collector's point of view, is not one that we feel called upon to consider.

"Yours faithfully,
(*Signed*) "Benj. T. Kindersley,
"*Secretary.*"

GORDON SMITH,
Secretary S. S. S. S.

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Secretary to the Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

25th July, 1895.

Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. SEPTEMBER, 1895. No. 201.

IF any one thing more than another were wanting to prove that the "silly season" has set in, it would be found in the letter and enclosure addressed to the newspapers by the great accuser of the Post-office—Mr. Henniker Heaton—headed "A Postal Magna Charta," though what Magna Charta has to do with it, wiser heads than ours are at a loss to know, and even Jupiter Tonans himself is puzzled. To us it appears more in the nature of a schedule of *gravamina* and *reformanda*, such as is presented at meetings of Convocation, but it is enough to enable its author to indulge most fully in blowing his own trumpet, an occupation which is ordinarily special to those who find that others do not blow it sufficiently loud. Taken as a whole, the author puts forth his *gravamina* somewhat after the manner of the promoter of a railway in 1847, who took a map and drew the proposed line on it, totally regardless of cost and difficulties, which were all subservient to his own glory. It is very well to say that Great Britain is to carry letters for everybody all over the world at ruinously low rates, but if the Treasury cannot get profit out of the Post-office, it will have the amount some other way, and to carry out half of Mr. Henniker Heaton's programme would land us in the addition of several pence to the income tax.

A Postal Magna Charta.

In some few of the *gravamina* we thoroughly agree with the author. He finds fault with *The Postal Guide*, which requires re-editing. So it does, for it is at times at variance with itself. It has been constantly tinkered and patched, and presents ample field for a reformer who would put it into intelligible English, though, judging from the *gravamina*, we should say that the author of these might not prove to be the most capable editor. At present it is like a Bill which has passed through Committee with a mass of amendments that do not dovetail into each other.

One very feasible proposal is made, which is that express covers should be provided, so that a letter, enclosed in one of these and dropped into a pillar-box, would be forwarded by express immediately on the letter arriving at the delivering office. The *gravamen* is not expressed quite so clearly, but we gather that this is what is intended, and there seem no valid reasons against having such covers, though the Post-office might discover them.

In all there are forty-six *gravamina*, so that we cannot even give any general glance of the whole, but will select one or two.

The tenth is as follows: "That an Imperial and, if possible, also an International postage stamp be brought into use, and that, until this is done, a room should be set apart in each of the more important Post-offices in the kingdom for the sale of foreign and colonial stamps (as is done in some of the Colonies), in order to enable commercial men to send stamps for replies, &c." We suppose that a table of the various rates of exchange of the day would form a necessary element in these shops; but what a glorious institution they would prove to stamp collectors, who would be able to purchase stamps of current issues of all the countries of the world, at face value, at the exchange of the day, by only going to one of these shops! English and French Colonials, and Portuguese if they liked, Mexicans, Peruvians, Persians, the various productions of Siam, Tonga, the Philippines, &c., all brought to one's own door. The idea is one of the grandest that ever man's brain concocted.

As an example of an arithmetical puzzle we take the following. The author of the *gravamina* finds fault with the anomalies in the poundage on postal orders, and winds up by saying that the Postmaster-General should establish a uniform scale of charges, based on the amount to be transmitted, and the principal reason for this is grounded on the fact that, if anyone wishes to send 9s. 6d., the poundage is twopence, whereas on 10s. it is only one penny; so also on 19s. 6d. the poundage is 2½d., while on £1 it is three halfpence, and thus a grievance is created. Perhaps the author himself will take the question into his consideration, for if he solves it, he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has succeeded in solving a problem which Mr. Fawcett and all his successors have failed to accomplish. To us it does not appear to be easy to spread three halfpence equally over sums from one shilling to one pound, rising by sixpences, when you have only three halfpennies to deal with.

Of the reforms to be introduced by a stroke of the pen, we may instance the following. All cities should have pneumatic tubes. Dairy produce (butter, milk, &c.), poultry, vegetables, and fruit should be "transmissible by parcel post at special low rates, as a practical contribution towards the relief of the agricultural population." Surely the latter part must have been taken from some stray claptrap note of a stump orator in one of the agricultural counties during the recent elections. If not, it is worth his noting.

Mr. Henniker Heaton is fond of quoting the Colonies, though the Australasian ones are scarcely examples of cheap postage. We should like to know in what Colony, or in what part of the globe, a letter weighing an ounce is conveyed 1100 miles for one penny, or one weighing four ounces for twopence, or a pound and a-half of newspaper for a halfpenny.

But we must turn to something more philatelic, or we shall be called the victims of the "silly season."

Unnecessary Stamps.

THERE is a class of stamps which, perhaps, may not strictly fall within the four corners of the programme of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, which appears to us should be watched, and means, if possible, taken to check their increase; we refer to the use of bisected, or split, stamps, whether surcharged or not, and to the creation of surcharges for which the authority seems to be insufficient.

The use of split stamps, as far as can be ascertained, was until lately confined to the internal economy of the Post-office. Thus we find split stamps used in some of the Colonies in North America, and last year Mr. Philbrick, in our pages, called attention to the split one shilling stamps of New Zealand. The split stamps of Mexico are well known, and there it was carried out to the extent of dividing them into four, as a quarter of the eight reales is found doing duty for two reales, but in all these cases the stamps were affixed by the officials in the Post-office, the sender having paid the postage in cash, and the stamps were so affixed to avoid the necessity of keeping a postage cash account as well as a postage stamp account. The stamps were never issued split to the public, and there was therefore no necessity to surcharge them. Only some few isolated cases are found where the public were allowed to use split stamps; that is, to split the stamps for themselves.

During the last few years, however, there have been many cases of split stamps, on each portion of which a value has been surcharged, and they have been issued to the public. To the best of our recollection, the practice took its rise in one of the West India Islands, and from what we have recently seen, as applied to other countries, it is one which ought to be watched, in order to ascertain how far this has been done by a proper authority. The same observation applies also to surcharged stamps, for in the absence of its being shown that the surcharge was applied under proper authority, abuses are likely to creep in.

The stamps we allude to were of two kinds; one lot consisted of split surcharged stamps, and the other of ordinary surcharged stamps. In both cases the quantity was but small, for only a few were made and issued to the public, and were manufactured at two different places; in one case by the Consul, and in the other by the Postmaster, the former apparently to make up the odd halfpenny on the postage of letters, the latter to prepay printed matter. The very fact of the quantity being so small was evidence that the necessity was not very pressing. The proceedings were perfectly open and above-board, and perfectly honest, but if the practice is indulged in, it will prove very inconvenient to collectors, and in the hands of a Postmaster not scrupulously honest might lead to that kind of speculation which, by report, attaches to some of the parties connected with the surcharges on certain of the French Colonial stamps. Postage stamps should be made for postage purposes, and guarded as far as possible from being twisted into objects of speculation, otherwise the very officials themselves, or their subordinates, may be tempted to forget their duties.

There is also a subsidiary question connected with these stamps, which is one affecting their legitimacy as postage stamps. This we will not stop to argue, as it would lead us into a long discussion.

A remonstrance at headquarters has been sufficient to mitigate the surcharge plague in Ceylon, and we cannot but think that if some similar intimation were generally given, it would be very useful in curbing the impatience of Colonial officials to resort to the rubber stamp or printing-press at any moment they choose.

There is one other class of stamps, the fabrication of which we think should be discountenanced by collectors, as they are not only unnecessary, but are avowedly made for collectors, and not

for postal purposes, to which, however, they *might* be applied, though in practice they are not. The Inland Revenue Commissioners, under the provisions of the Act of 18 and 19 Vict. cap. 78, are authorised to stamp paper brought in by the public with any stamps provided for denoting the several rates of postage. Up to 1870 the dies in use for this purpose were those of 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s., for though the embossing die of 10d. was in existence, it was not brought into use for stamping any but the adhesive stamps of that value till some years later. The Inland Revenue Department introduced into the form of the Warrant certain values which could not be made up except by the combination of two of these stamps, and for some years compound envelopes, as they are termed, were to be seen with two values struck side by side. The embossing dies have since been reinforced with the ½d., 1½d., and 2½d., and the 10d. has been brought into use. Now compound envelopes are struck of three, four, and even six of these stamps side by side; a favourite value of those under one shilling being 9½d., which requires at least three stamps, and is not available for postage purposes, except as on a registered foreign letter of three rates. Another favourite value is 11½d., made not by a combination of 10d. and 1½d., but by others of a more elaborate character. These envelopes, struck to order, are only made for those who like to fill up their collections with unmeaning stamps. The business of the Inland Revenue Department is certainly to make as much as it can out of stamps, and we suppose that the only remedy for this absurdity lies with collectors. We have not seen this carried beyond two shillings, but there is, we believe, nothing to prevent anyone from having covers, each stamped with twenty stamps of one shilling. Such covers would, however, be somewhat heavy stock, but there seems no reason why the Inland Revenue Department should not gratify the whims of even such collectors.

It may be said, that though these stamps are unnecessary, yet they are perfectly harmless, for every collector knows what sort of things he is purchasing. That, however, is rather begging the question. At present English collectors are setting an example of banding together to put down unnecessary and speculative issues of all kinds; and unless we reform things at home, we give occasion to others to throw stones at us. A preacher who does not practice can scarcely expect to make many converts.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* BUHL & Co., LIMITED, *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Bavaria.—The *D. Br. Zeitung* chronicles the following post cards as having appeared with the date of "'95," and watermarked vertically, in addition to those chronicled by us in May last.

Post Cards. 3 pf., brown; date '95.
5 pf., green ,,

Belgium.—We read in the *Coll. de Timbres-Poste*, that last November, during the elections, the Belgian Post-office tried the experiment of issuing stamps of 1 and 2 centimes ready obliterated, under the conditions set forth in the Decree, which will be found under the head of "Official Documents." As the stamps were cancelled in sheets by a roller stamp, it no doubt was a great saving of trouble to those who would otherwise have had to cancel them singly.

Brazil.—The *A. J. of P.* mentions that the envelope of 300 reis, slate, has appeared in a new size, 160 × 90 mm.

An envelope of 500 reis, in dark blue, and of white wove paper, has also been issued, size 130 × 90 mm.

The issue of a reply card of 40 + 40 reis, corresponding to the single card of 40 reis, is also announced. The colour of the card is orange-buff, with the interior white.

An unpaid letter stamp of a new value, 2000 reis, has also been issued. The design in its general features resembles that of the former issue, but the inscription is altered from "BRAZIL" to "E. U. DO BRAZIL," and the groundwork is composed of small ornaments. If this is the precursor of a new series, they seem to have commenced with the highest value first.

Envelopes. 300 reis, slate, on white wove; size 160 × 90 mm.
500 reis, blue ,, ,, 130 × 90 mm.
P. Card. 40 + 40 reis, green and blue, on orange-buff.
Post-due. 2000 reis, brown on white; perf. 12½.

British East Africa.—The *Ill. Br. Journal* states that the registration envelope of two annas, and the adhesives of ½ anna, 1 anna, and 8 annas have been received, overprinted in black, with "BRITISH EAST AFRICA" in three lines.

½ anna, brown, overprinted in black.
1 ,, green ,, ,,
8 annas, blue ,, ,,
Reg. Env. 2 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Canada.—The annexed engraving illustrates the stamp on the envelope chronicled in our last.

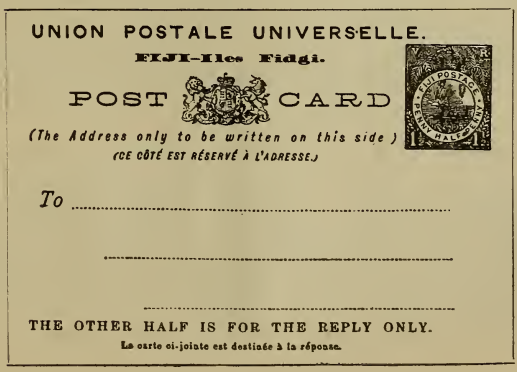


Fiji.—We illustrate the letter card described in our last, as also the two post cards, which will absolve us from giving any detailed description of them. We would only remark on the peculiar orthography of the French equivalent to Fiji, which is rendered as "ILES FIDGI." It is a new De La Rue version.

Post Cards. 1d., black on white.
1+1d., violet on white.
1½d., dark green on white.
1½+1½d., carmine on white.







French Colonies.—It will save us much repetition if we notice, under this head, that announcements are coming to hand, singly, from various colonies, that the 20 c., brick on green, is now printed on paper faced on both sides, and that the 75 c., black on yellow, is on similar double faced paper. As we have said before, we think this double-faced paper is only paper coloured throughout, like the red, blue, and yellow paper, made use of for the stamps of Great Britain.

Great Britain.—A great deal of unnecessary fuss appears to be made about a very small matter. The envelope dies that were formerly dated, have now the date holes plugged with florets. and it appears that some of these only possess five pearls in place of nine. The floret has usually consisted of nine pearls, arranged as follows: four large ones, with a smaller one in the centre, placed in the form of a cross, and then four minute ones are introduced into the vacant spaces, close to the edge of the white circle. The floret plugs are no part of the die, they are as moveable as the date plugs, but in some sets the engraver of Messrs. De La Rue appears to have omitted the minute pearls. This appears to be a remarkable fact, as many of the values of the current series of adhesives are quite overloaded with these dots of pearls, which are inserted wherever there is a blank the size of a pin's head. In the specimens we received when the date plugs were superseded by the floret plugs, two of the stamps had five pearled florets, and the rest had the additional small pearls, but the proportion may be changed any day. The whole is a temporary measure, which will only last as long as the present dies are in use, though in some it is likely to last for a long time; for example, four dies were originally constructed for the four pence, two of which lasted for thirty-four years, and the other two have only been in use for six years, and might possibly last till the middle of the next century if they are only used for legitimate postal purposes.

Gwalior.—We read in the *Philatelic World* (Calcutta) that a series of service stamps for this native State has just been issued, the overprint being, as usual, on the current Indian stamps, but it is entirely in Devanagri characters, in two lines, without any English. Our contemporary does not give the colour of the overprint, but it is doubtless in black.

Service. ½, 1, 2, 4, and 8 anna, overprinted in black.

Guatemala.—Messrs. A. Smith & Son have shown us the 2 centavos, brown, surcharged with "1894," and the new value of 1 centavo, in black, similarly to other values chronicled by us last year; but the remarkable feature is, that the new value is "1 CENTAV.", the "o" being omitted.

1 c. on 2 c., brown, surcharged in black (error).

Holland.—The post card of 2½ cents, and its corresponding reply card, are reported as being printed in mauve, on card of a deeper rose than before.

Post Cards. 2½ cents, mauve, on deep rose.
2½+2½ ,, ,, ,, ,,

Mexico.—The *Timbre-Poste* chronicles the officially sealed stamp of "CERRADO Y SELLADO" as being in yellow-brown. It has been re-engraved, the new type differing from the late one in the laurel branch and in the lettering.

Officially Sealed. No value; yellow-brown; perf. 11.

New Zealand.—One would imagine that the Postal Administration has either purchased a job lot of cards, or is desirous of pleasing all tastes, for the letter cards are printed on all sorts of coloured card. The colour of the stamp is also said to vary, but whether this is owing to the colour employed, or to the impressions being on various colours, is not clear. The colours of the card are reported as being, pale yellow-green, sea-green, grey-blue, greenish-blue, straw, buff, rose, and grey.

Nowanugger.—The *P. J. of G. B.* has received the 2 and 3 a., of the current type, in various shades, on a very soft paper.

2 a., green; new printing.
3 a., orange-yellow; new printing.

Orange Free State.—The existence of the 2 pence overprinted in black with "2" is denied by our correspondent, and has also been officially denied. We therefore conclude that the specimen we saw was a "humbug."

Paraguay.—The stock of stamps of 5 centavos, violet, with the portrait of Uriarte, appears to be exhausted, as M. Maury informs us that he has received a provisional stamp of 5 centavos, made by surcharging the 7 c., brown, of 1887, with "PROVISORIO" in an arc, and with a large numeral "5" over the original value. He has also received a copy of the Decree authorising this surcharge to be made.

5 c. on 7 c., brown (1887); surcharge in black.

Perak.—Like Selangor and Sungei Ujong, this State has been furnished with a stamp of 2 cents, in orange.

2 cents, orange.

Peru.—The 5 centavos of the llama type has been issued, printed in carmine and perforated 14.

The 5 centavos, both in ultramarine and blue, and the 10 centavos, green, overprinted with the head of General Morales Bermudez, are reported as having been further overprinted for official use with "GOBIERNO," within a single-lined frame.

The *I. B. J.* states that it has seen the reply card of 4+4 centavos, surcharged in blue with numeral "3."

5 centavos, carmine.
Official. 5 „ ultramarine; surcharged in black.
5 „ blue „ „
10 „ green „ „
Post Card. 3+3 centavos on 4+4 c., black on buff; surch. in blue.

Porto Rico.—The issue of the 4 c. de peso, in dark blue, in place of ultramarine is reported.

4 c. de peso, dark blue.

Portugal.—M. Maury states that the post cards of 10 reis (1893), which were printed formerly in light lilac, now come to hand printed in black on the brightest of greens.

Post Card. 10 reis, black on green.

Queensland.—We have seen the halfpenny, dark green, of the altered type, printed on *burelé* paper. Messrs. A Smith & Son informs us that they were only on sale during the first week in August. It was also printed on "beer duty" paper.

The 2 pence was issued on June 19th, of the new design in which the background is removed.

½d., dark green on *burelé* paper; perf. 13.
½d., ,, „ ,, "beer duty" paper; perf. 13.
2d., blue, *altered type*, on "Q and Cr." paper; perf. 13.

Siam.—The 24 atts, purple and blue, has been surcharged with "10 ATTS," in the usual manner.

The Postal Administration employs an officially sealed stamp, printed in red, and imperforate.

10 atts on 24 atts, purple and blue; surcharged in black.
Officially Sealed. No value; red.

Soudan (French).—The *Collect. de Timbres-Poste* states that last year, during a dearth of stamps in this Colony, prepaid letters bore a stamp inscribed "TAXE PERÇUE—MANQUE DE TIMBRES DANS LA COLONIE," accompanied by the ordinary dated stamp, and the amount of postage in pen and ink. Letters bearing the postage of 15 c. and of 25 c. had been so received.

We record the above as an example which ought to be followed, and that surcharging should not be resorted to at every temporary want of stamps of particular values.

South African Republic.—The 2½, mauve (1893), has been surcharged, in green, with "*1d.*" and the original value barred.

We have also the one shilling, green, of the "pole" type, surcharged, in red, with "HALVE PENNY" in two lines, and with the original value barred with a double line. We have not heard whether there are any errors, but it is most probable that some will be found.

½d. on 1s., green; surcharge in red.
1d. on 2½d., mauve ,, ,, green.

Spain.—The *I. B. J.* reports that the new post card of 5 centimos is now printed on yellow card.

Post Card. 5 centimos, green on yellow.

THE STAMPS OF ST. VINCENT.

"St. Vincent" is the title of the fourth of *The Stanley Gibbons' Philatelic Handbooks*, and is the work of Lieutenant F. H. Napier and Mr. E. D. Bacon. Coming from these authors, it deserves more than an ordinary desultory notice, but as we are writing far away from books at the present moment, we are unable to examine various points that we should like to have had the opportunity of doing. Looking at the work generally, we consider that its great value consists in satisfactorily clearing up the question of the perforation of the stamps between the date of their issue in 1861 down to 1883, when the Crown Agents transferred the printing from Perkins, Bacon & Co. to De La Rue & Co. A table is given of all the despatches of stamps made by Perkins, Bacon & Co., and it has been ascertained that all these stamps when despatched were perforated and gummed, and that the perforation was *entirely* done, with one trifling exception in the case of the 6d. yellow-green, of 1862, by two guillotine machines; that is, by machines perforating a single straight row. The first of these machines, either alone or in combination with the second, was employed to perforate all the stamps between 1861 and 1878. The other was exclusively employed for all the stamps between the latter date and the time when the work was transferred to De La Rue & Co. It may be mentioned that up to 1871 the stamps were printed on plain hand-made wove paper, from 1871 to the time of the transfer, on hand-made paper, watermarked with "Star," and after the transfer, on machine-made wove paper, watermarked "Crown CA."

The first machine used by Perkins, Bacon & Co. gave a perforation of about $14\frac{1}{2}$, but varying so that in some cases it gauges only 14, while in others it gauges 15.

The second machine appears to have been more of a wobbler, giving a still more uncertain gauge, varying from 11 to 13, its normal perforation being about $11\frac{2}{3}$, which is obtained by counting the holes in a strip of 124 mm., which contains seventy-two holes.

If there was nothing else in this treatise, beyond the sole fact of its having in a great degree dispelled the fog that obscured the question of the perforation of these stamps, its merit would be sufficient to class it as a blessing to stamp collectors. Specialists have been spending their days and damaging their eyes in labouring to discover and collect utterly useless varieties in perforation, which prove to be simply owing to the vagaries of a machine. It is true that the proofs are not so entirely satisfactory as one could desire. We gather from the tables which show the dates of the despatches made by Perkins, Bacon & Co., and the dates of issue, that the wobbler was first used in 1863, and continued in use, with very few interruptions, till December, 1881, which was the date of the last despatch. This period of eighteen years is a long one for one set of punches to have been in use, and we are not told whether any and what alterations were made during that time. However we will

assume that the same set, with occasional repairs making no change in the spacing, lasted all the time, and that the matrix plate was never renewed.

When Archer had so far advanced in his experiments as to try a vertical piercing, made by an assemblage of small chisels, or blades, worked by a fly-press, it was not a very long step to take when he hit upon applying the principle of a boiler-plate punching machine. We are not mechanicians ourselves, and are obliged to depend upon information from those who are, but we have been told that the reason why a flat-headed punch passes as readily, and to all appearance as easily, through a boiler plate as it would through a pat of butter, is that the punch, though flat, is sharp at the edge and fits accurately into the hole in the matrix plate, which also has its edge sharp. We have further been told by those who were employed in the practical work of perforating stamps at Somerset House, that the same thing is necessary in the perforating punches, and that to produce a clean-cut perforation it is necessary that the edges, both of the punches and the matrix plate into which the punches work, should be sharp, and that when these became worn it was necessary to grind the ends of the punches and the face of the matrix plate to produce again sharp edges. When these edges were not sharp, a ragged perforation was produced, though in certain cases this might be attributed to the state of the atmosphere, as on a damp day the spoilage, from this cause, was very much larger than when the weather was dry.

The perforations of the St. Vincent stamps, made by what the authors tell us was the first machine which professed to perforate about 14½, for the most part show a small hole with a large burr. We cannot but think that this burr shows that the punch did not accurately fit the hole in the matrix plate, and we are the more convinced that such was the case, as the perforation is found varying from 14 to 15. If the punch accurately fitted the matrix plate, a small deviation of the punch would certainly break it off, as we see has occurred in perforating some of the old one penny stamps. The wobbler was probably in the same condition, or even worse, and we are led to conclude that the machines employed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. were not so accurately constructed as those at Somerset House.

As we have said, all the perforation of the stamps printed on unwatermarked paper, or on "Star" paper, down to 1881 was done by one or other of these two machines, or by a combination of the two. The authors state that in "one catalogue of these stamps five simple and seven compound perforations are given to the stamps of 1861; to those of 1866, seven simple and five compound; to those of 1869, four simple and five compound, and so on through later issues. On the other hand another catalogue, also of a recent date, is content to make the general statement, that the issues up to 1880 are perforated 11½ to 15, simple and compound. This is at first sight an innocent statement, but in reality it opens up an appalling perspective of interminable lists. We think we shall have justly earned the gratitude of the many

philatelists who (as far as is compatible with strict accuracy) desire, above all things, simplicity of arrangement, in having banished from the lists all mention of these fanciful perforations, whether simple or compound. The fact is that, in the St. Vincent stamps, printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., with the exception of one (that is, the yellow-green six pence, of 1862), there are only two simple perforations and one compound, and although this last makes its appearance very frequently, it is always exactly the same in every issue in which it occurs. No doubt the confusion which has arisen has been caused by the too zealous and indiscriminate use of a perforation gauge limited to two centimetres, and applied to single specimens of stamps, which has led true compounds to be confounded with those apparent deviations from the normal gauge, arising from irregularities in the spacing of the holes, irregularities existing in both of the two machines used for these stamps by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., but in a very much greater degree in one of them than in the other."

We must make one more extract, as it so thoroughly coincides with our own views, and shows how too much wire-drawing is liable to lead to absurdity. "The whole point of our argument lies in this, that to separate perforations it is only necessary to differentiate between those produced by distinct machines, and that there is no object in collecting the same stamp over and over again, merely because the perforation varies within a space of two centimetres, *if* it can be shown that the stamps were all perforated by one and the same machine. Hitherto it has been the great aim of collectors and writers to try and gather together every variety of perforation that can be found on a stamp of any one particular issue, this quite regardless of the cause from which these varieties arise."

We rejoice to see two philatelists of such high reputation, shaking off the shackles of those superlative specialists who will make varieties of perforation in stamps, notwithstanding they may have been perforated by the same machine, and we recommend the paragraph to the consideration of some of the specialists in other colonial stamps. A philatelist who pins his faith too entirely on his perforation guage is likely to become a Pharisee, and, in insisting on the smaller matters, to forget those which are weightier.

We further agree with the authors that the limited space of two centimetres is not, in all cases, to be depended on, though in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it is sufficiently accurate for ordinary use, provided that the space is accurately defined. Dr. Legrand chose two centimetres merely because he could find that length on almost every stamp, horizontally or vertically. Ordinarily it was vertically, and hence came the original system of only measuring the vertical side. But though the ordinary perforation guage is the one furnished with dots corresponding with the engrailed edge of the stamps, yet it is not the one which Dr. Legrand himself usually employed. This was a small piece of card, on which was marked, most accurately, a blackened space of two centimetres, and with the aid of this he counted the

perforations. But it is not everyone that has got the eyes or the accuracy of Dr. Legrand, and we made choice of the form shown in his treatise on *Dentelés et non dentelés*, and in 1870 we asked him to allow us to have it engraved, to which he readily assented. It was put by us into the hands of a first-rate engraver in Brussels, who engraved it on copper most accurately. When, however, the impressions came to be printed on card, they were all wrong. He engraved a fresh plate, allowing for the shrinkage of the card. Again it failed to be perfectly accurate, and then he was obliged to resort to dry printing. The difference between 15½ and 16, in a space of a little over ¾ of an inch, requires the measure to be very accurate, let alone the holes, for which the machine must also be very accurate to pierce at quite regular distances. In this latter point the machines employed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. were evidently defective. That firm may have considered that it was not an element of any importance in the stamp.

We would remark that the authors do not adopt the French mode of denoting compound perforations by taking the vertical side first and then the horizontal, but the "young England" mode of taking the top or bottom first and then one of the sides. We regret that a universal rule is not adopted, especially as some collectors go to the extent of measuring the perforations on all sides of a specimen. The vertical side appears to us a better starting point than either the top or the bottom.

One more remark on the perforation question, and we will conclude. The authors say, "For some reason Messrs. De La Rue & Co. do not appear to have made much use of the comb machines for the stamps of St. Vincent; it may be because their machines were in constant requirement for British stamps."

The plates of the values of the St. Vincent stamps differed somewhat in size. Putting aside that of 5 shillings, the plates of the ½d., 1d., and 6d., consisted of sixty stamps, in six horizontal rows of ten, those of 4d., and 1s., of thirty stamps, in three horizontal rows of ten. The Crown CA paper used by De La Rue & Co. would therefore admit of three impressions of the first, and six of the second. Stamps printed from the plates of 1 penny and of 6 pence, that is from the plates of sixty, are alone found perforated by what the authors term the comb machine, that is the ordinary machine perforating an end and the two sides at each descent of the plunger, and this in only three printings from the one penny plate, and one from the six penny plate. In all the others, and in both plates of thirty stamps, the perforation is made with a single line or guillotine machine. We should scarcely be disposed to attribute the non-use of the comb machines to their being occupied with those British stamps which were printed in horizontal rows of twelve, but rather to the fact that there was never any necessity for furnishing these machines with racks to regulate the perforation, the use of which alone permitted the line-engraved stamps to be decently perforated at Somerset House. The comb machines

of De La Rue & Co. were essentially those adapted for surface-printed stamps, which show no irregularities arising from shrinking like those printed from line-engraved plates. The latter mode of printing stamps is not a speciality of De La Rue & Co., and we have seen that they even prefer to print by lithography when they have any large quantity to print from small engraved plates.

We have done; except to recommend this little treatise to the notice of philatelists, especially to those who take an interest in the line-engraved stamps of our Colonies that were furnished by Perkins, Bacon & Co. They will recognise many features common to them and those of St. Vincent, and they will save themselves a world of trouble and worry in the not very amusing work of puzzling over perforations, if they carefully study what the authors have to say on the subject, as shown in the St. Vincent stamps. There are two plate-engravings in the work, one showing the types, and the other the perforations in blocks of four. These are well-executed, not in the half-tone, which is not fit for illustrating stamps, but in clear autotype, which brings all the varieties before the eye as clearly as in the actual specimens of the stamp.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Although a book may only consist of a little over 600 pages, and not be larger than about $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ inches, and not much more than $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick, yet it may be *Multum in parvo*, and contain what requires a good deal of time to digest; and this is the case with *Stanley Gibbons' Descriptive Catalogue and Price List of Postage Stamps, Post Cards, and Envelopes*,* which has just come to hand. It is, as will be seen, a pocket volume, and besides all the text, is illustrated by over 6,000 cuts on a reduced scale, introduced into the text, thus constituting a complete *Vade Mecum* for the collector. As to the pricing of the stamps we have nothing to remark upon; that is not our business. But we have invariably found that in price lists which are really made up from the dealer's stamps actually in stock, the prices are regulated according to the stock he has, without reference to any special market value, or the stocks of other dealers.

At the present moment we are like a good many other workers, taking holiday, and have not got a book of reference of any kind at hand, so that we are unable to enter upon any examination of the real contents of the work; but the classification appears to us to be all that can be desired, and Stanley Gibbons have been fortunate in securing the aid of Major Evans in the compilation, as he has had singular experience in this kind of work, which makes great demands on the patience and accuracy of the compiler.

What principle has been adopted in the admission of locals we do not exactly see. Our own idea about them is that the validity of a local stamp depends on the action of the supreme authority. When

* Stanley Gibbons, Limited, *Descriptive Catalogue and Price List of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps, Post Cards, Envelopes, and Newsbands*, with upwards of 6000 illustrations. Tenth Edition, 1895–1896. Can be had from our publishers. Pp. 616, 12mo, cloth; price 3s. 6d. post free.

the supreme authority grants a concession for their use, there is no doubt in our minds that they are, to all intents and purposes, postage stamps; but on the other hand, when Tom, Dick, or Harry set up a post office, even if it is tacitly allowed by the supreme authority, the stamps issued by these gentlemen are in the nature of rubbish. We see Tientsins and Wuhus admitted in this catalogue, while those in use in Berlin are not there; and how about Panopoulos, which were made while you waited? This catalogue is not, however, singular in this respect, and is only one sinner amongst many others; but we should like to see some fixed principle adopted as to the admission of certain *locals*, as they are termed.

We notice that lists of compound perforations have been given. We will take another opportunity of examining this portion of the work; but on cursorily looking through it, it appears to us that there is rather a mixing-up of the original mode of counting these perforations and the *Young England* way. Thus, in France, the perforation is given as $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, that is vertical × horizontal; but in turning, for example, to St. Vincent, we see the perforation is given as 11 to $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ to 15, that is horizontal × vertical. Independently of the former being the original mode, founded on what appears to us to be valid reasons, it presents greater facility for those specialists *enragés* who like to measure the perforations on all four sides, as by taking the first vertical side they can travel better round the stamp, finishing up at the bottom. Still, we do not know if *Young England* begins at the bottom or the top; perhaps they go round it backwards.

It is always easy to find fault, and sometimes it is easier to do this than to praise. In the present case, however, so far as we can see, we have but very few grounds for finding fault, but we have a large field for praise in everything that is essential. The catalogue is a marvel of perspicuity and clearness, and the printer must also be complimented on his portion of the work. No English-speaking collector can afford to be without it, for it is the most complete catalogue of its kind that has yet been produced in England. The amount of information contained in so small a compass can only be credited by close examination. It is perfectly useless to recommend it to our readers, for we are convinced that not one of them will fail to judge for himself.

We have said that this is a pocket catalogue. We, like many philatelists, like to have our books neat, and detest dog's-ears. Although the price of the work is so modest, yet our copy would last much longer with intact corners if it were provided with a case, which could be got up at a very moderate cost, for the benefit of those who like to pay for it.

We have received a copy of the fourth edition of the *Catalogue of the Stamps of Great Britain*, by Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen,* who, as most of our readers know, confines himself to dealing exclusively in the stamps of Great Britain. He therefore has a great advantage over those who deal in general stamps, for he has more time to devote to this one subject, and while other dealers have a hundred of such stamps passing through their hands, he has a thousand. He is not content with giving them a passing nod, but each one is examined to see if it

* *Priced Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps, Postmarks, and Obliterations of the United Kingdom.* Price 1s. 6d. Compiled and published by H. L'Estrange Ewen, Swanage, Dorset; pp. 104. Can be had from our publishers.

presents any variations from the normal conditions. Mr. Ewen does not travel into all the excesses of the specialist dealer, and contrives to convey a large amount of solid information in a small compass, and which appears to us to be very correctly given.

In the present edition, the author has gone more deeply than in previous ones into the cancellation of the stamps, not only in the Post-offices within the kingdom, but where they were used in the Colonies, or abroad, and he has given a more complete list, accompanied by illustrations, than has yet been attempted. For our own part, we do not see any material difference between a penny stamp obliterated in one Colony at a certain time, and that obliterated at the same time in another. It is just the same as two cancellations on the same day of two one-penny stamps—one in E.C., and one in S.W. There is, however, something to be learnt from observing the different cancellating marks. Some notion may be formed of the time when it was affixed, though to use them as landmarks is hazardous. In France, and in most German States, a special obliterating stamp was given out to each Post-office, and when a change was made the old stamp was returned to the head office on the new one being received. The period when these changes were made serves, therefore, as an indication when a stamp was used. In England, however, this is not to be depended upon, as old obliterating stamps were evidently not always returned when new ones were furnished. Then, also, from time to time, there have been many experiments. Perhaps Mr. Henniker Heaton may not know that the system of cancellation lauded by him has been tried, and failed to give satisfactory results. We confess that we do not see that collecting cancellation marks is stamp collecting; it is a separate branch altogether.

In those portions of the work which concern the postage stamps proper, we notice that Mr. Ewen has recorded the various errors that have from time to time been found in the manufacture of the stamps, whether these arise by an oversight of the engraver or the printer. Among the former is the famous error in the lettering of one of the stamps of plate 2 of the twopence halfpenny. How little did the engraver of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. think that he was by his blunder making a stamp of £10 of one of 2½d.! We also notice that the engravers of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. early began to make mistakes in the lettering, as these are found in the One Penny Black, as well as the One Penny Red, with letters in the lower angles only, in both of which the error has been partially corrected by punching the right letter over the wrong one, but such mistakes do not appear to have been found after 1854-5. We are at a loss, however, to see on what principle specimens with an imperfect eye, or from a worn plate, are recorded as varieties in the One Penny Black, while they are not recorded in the One Penny Red, in which we have seen much worse impressions than in the former, and in which Her Majesty appeared as blind as a beetle. All the same, in both cases when we collected we always preferred fine impressions to weak ones, and rather abhorred those that were in a sickly and consumptive state. In the line-engraved twopence, Mr. Ewen assumes that no stamps were printed on Large Crown paper before plate 5. This plate was registered 8, 6, 55, on Small Crown, and was ordered for use on the following day. It is, however, probable that the printing from plate 4 then ceased, but it is not certain, for all that is known is that plate 4 was not defaced until May, 1856.

Mr. Ewen is perfectly right as to the fact that the current one penny stamps were not on sale till some days after the official issue took place

on the 28th June, 1881, for in the announcement of the new stamps in the *Postal Official Circular* of that date, it was stated that stocks in hand were to be disposed of, but would not be renewed, the object of the Government being that the offices should get rid of all the One Penny Inland Revenue stamps before commencing to sell the new stamps. July 12th, which Mr. Ewen gives as the date of issue, might be that at one Post-office, and not at another, and we do not see how it is possible to give any particular date other than the official one.

We had intended to have said a few words about the stamps marked "Specimen," but our space will not permit of our doing so, or of referring to one or two other questions. We will just add a word regarding the English stamps with French postmarks, mentioned at page 93. We think Mr. Ewen is mistaken in saying that the postmarks had been affixed because they "had been overlooked," and for that reason the stamps were cancelled with French postmarks on arriving in France. Certain vessels, like the steamers plying between Folkestone and Boulogne, which did not carry mails, were allowed to have a letter-box on board, into which anyone could put a letter. On its arrival at the French port, the *box* was taken to the Post-office and there unlocked, and the stamps were cancelled.

We believe that the majority of our readers take special interest in the collection of English stamps, and we can only add that they will find Mr. Ewen's Catalogue well deserves their attention and careful perusal.

A daintily got-up philatelic magazine reaches us from Boston, called *The Boston Stamp Book*.* The fourth number is dated 20th August, and contains the best account we have yet seen of the sale of the late Gilbert Harrison's envelopes of the United States, which were sold by auction by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, in New York, on the 27th and 28th May last. The magazine appears to be carefully edited, and is beautifully printed on cream laid paper.

* *The Boston Stamp Book*, published monthly by H. L. Cassino & Co., Boston. Subscription, 50 cents for a year.

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. Wilson.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—G. Johnson, B.A.

208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

Quarterly accounts. The March packet, after circulating to 56 members, was returned on July 9th to the Hon. Sec. Accounts due *to* members were all paid on July 9th, 10th, 11th. The last account due *from* any member was received on July 25th. We are pleased to again inform members that the Society has not yet incurred a bad debt, that it owes nothing, and that nothing is owing to it.

August packet is one of the best ever sent out, and consists of £344 4*s.* 4½*d.* contributed by the members themselves, in addition to a packet of about £60 net cash sent over by the Canadian Society. As on previous occasions, the two will be circulated together.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Business Meeting, on October 3rd, to receive reports and accounts, to elect officers, etc. All subscriptions expire on October 1st.

Correspondence.

We have received the following letter from Mr. Seebeck, which we insert with pleasure.

To the Editor of the "Philatelic Record."

Dear Sir,—I am not callous to the attacks made upon me as a manufacturer of what my over-zealous critics have chosen to call "Seebeckized" stamp issues. As a mere manufacturer I could afford to disregard these attacks; I would simply adapt my methods in the future, as I have adapted them in the past, to the needs and demands of my market. But I am not merely a manufacturer; I am, and have been for years, a loyal and ardent philatelist. Long before the grey hairs began to crop out on the top of my devoted cranium I became, and have ever since remained, an enthusiastic devotee of the science of philately. And it is as one of your fraternity, and because I want to retain the respect of my fellow-philatelists, that I feel most keenly the injustice which has been done me. I do not think that the false imputations are inspired by malice. They are rather the result of misdirected and exaggerated zeal in a crusade—the main end and purpose of which is laudable—a crusade against official abuse of postal administrative powers. With this crusade, as far as it attacks vicious administrative systems, I heartily sympathize, but I protest against the personal animus injected into it, and which singles out a mere individual engraver as its victim and scapegoat. I protest especially against the unfair, not to say libellous, abuse of my name as a trade mark of everything that is unholy, and as if I were personally and peculiarly responsible for the acts of every government that chooses to employ me. Is it not plain that such a rule of responsibility is false, unfair, and overstrained?

For years I have dealt with these various governments whose conduct seems recently to have aroused hostile criticism. During all these years my dealings have been known and sustained by the philatelic world; no one seems to have thought that my acceptance of payment in kind for my services as an engraver was anything but prudent and fair. Suddenly the current of opinion seems to have changed. Well and good! No one disputes that a man, or even a whole set of men, can honestly undergo a change of opinion. Gladstone in England, Bismarck in Germany, Gambetta in France, and our Webster and Clay, "and honest old Abe Lincoln," are brilliant examples of courage and honesty in confessing that wider experience had convinced them of former error, and induced them to modify their previous opinions. And as I honour them, so I respect those members of our fraternity who now claim that their previous sanction of my business methods was a mistake. But why am not I entitled to the same consideration which I am willing to extend to them? Why should they not recognize that, if I was, or am, mistaken in believing my methods to be right, I am, at least, honestly mistaken?

I have said that, as a business man, I necessarily adapt my methods to the changing demands of my market. In this case I shall, as a philatelist, do so most cheerfully. I shall bow to the consensus of opinion in my fraternity. Not that I am even now convinced that as a manufacturer I am responsible for governmental abuses, nor because any combination of dealers will, in my opinion, ever be strong enough to force the hand of administrative officers. Indeed, I may go further and say that personally I believe the charges of maladministration to be grossly exaggerated, but in principle I agree with the spirit of the crusade against the indiscriminate issue of speculative stamps; and, wholly irrespective of the merits involved, I rejoice in the manly stand which our fraternity is taking for what it honestly deems to be fair and square. I trust that the time will come when governments will realize that they owe something to the philatelic world. I believe that the present crusade will help to bring nearer that philatelic

millennium, although, as a practical man, I feel that the millennium is still a good way off. But each of us can help, and I, among others, am willing to become an ally in the movement by discontinuing the contracts which my fellow-philatelists find so obnoxious, provided that I can do so with honour and without prejudice to vested rights.

It must, however, be evident to every reasonable person, that my withdrawal from, or attempt to cancel, my present contracts with the various South and Central American Republics would, for the purposes of our crusade, be futile, unless some adequate protection is guaranteed against the making of similar contracts with my competitors. But if my fellow-philatelists, in furtherance of their high ends, can secure from each one of the countries concerned a guarantee that no contract similar in spirit to those found objectionable will hereafter be made with any other bank note company or other person, I am prepared to cancel every objectionable contract which I now hold, provided, of course, that the respective governments will join in such cancellation, and release me from obligations assumed. I do not know how I can more effectually evidence my sympathy with the demand for fair play.

And, in the meantime, I wish God speed to the crusade of honesty and integrity in philatelic affairs! Only let the crusade be one of principle and not one of personal animosity.

Yours respectfully,

N. F. SEEBECK.

[So far as the *Philatelic Record* is concerned, although we have denounced the system of contracts made by Mr. Seebeck on behalf of the Hamilton Bank Note Company with various States of Central and South America, yet we have never for a moment indulged in any personalities against Mr. Seebeck, and if we have written anything that he may conceive was personal, we can assure him that he has construed it wrongly. We believe, so far as our recollection serves us, that he was not the first who entered into a contract of a similar nature, and when these contracts were first mentioned the name of the agent for another firm was freely handed about, but Mr. Seebeck was the successful competitor.

What Mr. Seebeck says is probably quite true, that if he did not do it, somebody else would; any change would therefore, most likely, result in the collector finding that he had only leapt from the frying-pan into the fire. We have been told, on what appears to us to be good authority, that only a certain number of impressions are taken, and that the plates are then defaced. If that is so, would it not be better for Mr. Seebeck to take collectors more into his confidence? At the present moment they have no certainty that the printing will not go on as long as the plates last, and they naturally keep aloof from purchasing. When they see series with stamps of the values of 5 and 10 dollars, in them, scarcely one of which comes to hand legitimately issued for postal purposes, and which they may at the expiration of the year acquire for a mere song, it is no wonder that they keep aloof and cry out against the system, and fall foul of Mr. Seebeck as being the only ostensible party with a body that they can kick, all the other parties being, as it were, mere corporate bodies, whom they cannot kick. No doubt Mr. Seebeck has had much laid to his charge that he is perfectly innocent of, the real culprits being the States themselves.—ED.]

We are compelled to hold over "Official Documents" and other papers to our next.

Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. OCTOBER, 1895. No. 202.

THE Forty-first Report of the Postmaster-General shows the history of the Post-office during the last year of the reign of Mr. Arnold Morley, and though on the lines of its predecessors, it is written in a more business-like manner than most of them. The traditional snake found loose among the bags is not there, and the only attempt at romance is that which records the effects of the snow-drifts, frosts, floods, and storms which interrupted the service in various parts, and how bravely the Post-office fought against the difficulties. There are some interesting statistics as to the work done by Post-offices other than those of the United Kingdom. As to these latter, the increase in the number of post cards is the most remarkable feature. There has been an increase of nearly 26 per cent, though the Report only covers seven months of the period during which private cards have been available, and the full effect will only be seen next year. The number of letters practically remains the same, so that the saving of £20,000 which has been effected in the manufacture of stamps and postal stationery may, in a great measure, be attributed to the public using their own cards, and to the economy in storage, etc., introduced by the present Controller. The passage in the Report relative to the post cards is worth transcribing: "The enormous extent to which the public have made use of this facility proves how greatly it was needed, and fully justifies the Department in the efforts which it made to overcome the obstacles which had stood in its way." We suppose that these great obstacles must refer to the extension of the privilege to countries within the Postal Union. So far as the inland service was concerned, we saw, long ago, all that the Post-office had to allege against it,

The Postmaster-General's Report for 1894-95.

and the obstacles were only those arising from the *vis inertiæ* of the Post-office itself.

One announcement will be read with satisfaction, and, of course, the great H. H. luminary will claim to have had his finger in the matter. The Post-office Guide, which up to this time has been a very blind guide, has been thoroughly revised, and though "it has been found impossible to divest it entirely of legal and technical phraseology," yet we are led to suppose that it has been brought down to the level of the intelligence of ordinary mortals, and that a special "Office for Information" will not be required.

The Deluge.

THE deluge of speculative and unnecessary stamps which we have been anticipating has fairly set in, and, we may be sure, will not stop as long as a penny is to be gained. Our columns this month tell an unpleasant story, and the only bright spot is that it is confidently stated that, notwithstanding the prayers and preaching of St. Antonio, as shown on his stamps, the issue has fallen so flat that the receipts have not covered the cost of the manufacture. A few more such fiascoes and collectors are saved. In the meantime we cannot do better than reiterate M. Maury's advice to collectors, "Open your umbrellas and shut your purses."

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* BUHL & CO., LIMITED, *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Azores.—The *Coll. de Timbres-Poste* chronicles the receipt of a reply card of 20 reis for Angra, as also a letter card of 50 reis. It is probable that these have also been furnished to Horta and Ponta Delgada, as also to Funchal.

Post Card. 20+20 reis, violet on buff.
Letter Card. 50 ,, blue on azure, white inside.

Bhopal.—However *necessary* it may be to this State to manufacture all sorts of stupid varieties, and to show how badly its printers can manufacture stamps, yet the new issues in the *Monthly Journal*

appear to contain a good deal that is *unnecessary*. We will transcribe the list from that journal: "Of the square type we have the ¼ a., uniformly lettered 'EEGAM' for 'BEGAM'; a ½ a., black, with a stop after 'NAWAB,' and inscribed 'BECAM'; and a ½ a., red, with double outer line to the octagon, except at the top and bottom, but no errors in spelling. Each of these is in eight varieties of type, four horizontal pairs, surrounded by a single-lined frame." The ¼ a., green, of the rectangular type is in six varieties, and the ¼ a., red, with horizontal lines in the spandrels, in eight varieties. They are all imperforate.

¼ a., square, black on white laid.
½ a. ,, ,, ,,
½ a. ,, red ,,
¼ a., rectangular, green, on white laid.
¼ a. ,, red ,,

Brazil.—The annexed engraving shows the type of the postage due stamp of 2000 reis mentioned in our last.



British Central Africa.—The stamps for this Protectorate, to which we have already alluded, are still in a mist of incertitude; but the Crown Agents for the Colonies, as appears from the report of the exhibition of stamps at Ipswich, organized by Mr. Whitfield King, sent what is described as "a complete set of the stamps just issued for the British Central Africa Protectorate, or British Nyassaland." As the stamps are certainly not the production of the firm that manufactures stamps for the Crown Agents, they are probably part of the assets handed over to the new administration of the strip of land by the side of the Lake Nyassa.

British East Africa.—In our last we mentioned that certain values of the stamps of the Company had been received stamped in black with "BRITISH EAST AFRICA," in three lines. Others have since been received similarly stamped. It appears therefore that the stamps, as well as the territory, have been transferred to the British Government, which has established a Protectorate over it. *The Stamp News* lately chronicled the larger values of 1, 2, 4, and 5 rupees as having been overprinted in a similar way.



Dominican Republic.—The stamps have undergone some modifications in the design. The numerals are now inserted in the upper angles as well as the lower.—*I. B. J.*

1 centavo, green, perforated 12½, *modified design.*
2 centavos, red ,, ,,
5 ,, blue ,, ,,
10 ,, orange ,, ,,

Gibraltar.—The *I. B. J.* has received the 1 peseta with the value in blue.

1 peseta, bistre; value in blue.

Grenada.—The Grenada provisionals ought to be at an end, for the *I. B. J.* states that the following stamps of the current type have been received printed in two colours on ♕ C A paper, perf. 14.

2½d.,	purple,	name and value	in blue.
3d.	,,	,,	yellow.
6d.	,,	,,	green.
8d.	,,	,,	black.
1s.	,,	,,	orange.

Guatemala.—The envelope of 5 centavos, light blue, size 152 × 88 mm., has received surcharges of two separate values, one of 2 centavos, and the other of 6 centavos. The surcharge of 2 centavos is "DOS CENTAVOS," with "1895" above it, and the numeral "2" underneath, while in that of 6 c., "SEIS" is substituted for "DOS," and the numeral underneath is changed. Besides this, over the value in words in the frame is printed "CORREOS NACIONALES" in a curve. The surcharge of 2 c. is in black, that of 6 c. in carmine.

Envelopes. 2 c. on 5 c., blue surcharge in black.
6 c. on 5 c. ,, carmine.

India.—We learn from *The Indian Postage Stamp News* that, in consequence of the great increase of business in the insurance and parcel departments of the Post-office, and the requirements of the telegraph department, the Government has sanctioned the issue of stamps of 2, 3, and 5 rupees, which was to take place on 1st September last. The stamps are printed in two colours, and are of large size, with the head of the Queen as in the stamp on the wrappers. As we shall give an engraving of the type later, we will not attempt further description of the shape of the part printed in the colour other than that of the frame. The spandrels are filled in with "India postage," in small letters, repeated as in cheques. The part between the stamps on the sheet is lined, as in the English stamps of 4d., 4½d., and 9d. The impression is on paper watermarked "Star."

2	rupees,	yellow-brown,	centre, carmine.
3	,,	green	,, brown.
5	,,	violet	,, blue.

Italy.—To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the entry of the Italian troops into Rome on 20th September, 1870, a post card has been issued, which, though of the unnecessary kind, has been clothed with official sanction, in the shape of a special stamp on the back of it. The card is 140 × 90 mm. Within a frame is a design occupying the upper half of the face, consisting of a figure emblematic of Italy, with the iron crown and a star above, seated on a throne with three steps, on the upper one of which is "A Roma ci siamo e ci resterimo," and on the second is "Roma intangibile." To the left of the figure is a mural inscription,

"CARTOLINA POSTALE COMMEMORATIVA DEL XXV° ANNIVERSARIO DELLA LIBERAZIONE DI ROMA," and on the other side the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, with the dates MDCCCLXX. and MDCCCLXXXXV.; above this, amidst ornaments of candelabra, ribbons, &c., are four tablets, the first inscribed "MDCCCLIX. Lombardia, Emilia, Romagna, Toscana"; the second, "MDCCCLX. Marche, Umbria"; the third, "MDCCCLX–LXI. Regno delle due Sicilie"; and the fourth, "MDCCCLXVI. Veneto." The name of the designer—A. Sezanne—is in the right, at the bottom of the design, and that of the lithographer—S. Calzone—on the left. Under the design, to the right, is another one, 25 mm. square, showing two small circular frames, one with the profile of the late King, and the other with those of the present King and Queen. Above these, on a straight tablet, is "POSTE ITALIANE," and on a similar tablet, at the bottom, "XX SETTEMBRE." There are four dotted lines for the address, the first preceded by "A" in script. On the reverse side, in the right upper corner, is an oval stamp, showing the head of the King within an oval band, inscribed "POSTE ITALIANE" in the upper part, and "CENT. DIECI" in the lower, the words being separated by "10" on a shield. The card is of light buff, with the stamp in rose. The design on the face is in dull brown, *café-au-lait*.

Post Card. 10 c., brown and rose on buff.

It is reported that a million were printed. The copies shown us by Messrs. A. Smith and Son were used and posted on 3rd and 4th October.

Mexico.—We lately mentioned that all the values up to 1 peso had been overprinted with "OFICIAL." Messrs. A. Smith & Son have received the 5 pesos similarly overprinted, so that it is probable that the 10 pesos is also in the same condition.

In consequence of the postage for the interior having been reduced, an alteration has taken place in the envelopes of the companies which convey letters. The Hidalgo Express has issued an envelope of 10 c., of orange-red, laid paper, with design in black, and stamp of 5 c., blue. The Express Nacional Mexicano has issued (1) an envelope of 10 c., size 153 × 86 mm., with stamp of the current type of 5 c., blue; and in the vignette the former value, "15 cts.", is obliterated in red, and "10 cts." stamped below it in red. No change is made in "Para sobres $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. = 15 gramos," in blue. (2) A similar envelope, but with stamp of 10 c., rose-lilac, with the value 15 c. in the design unaltered, and "Para sobres," &c., effaced in red, and "PARA SOBRES 1 OZ. = 30 GRAMOS" in capitals, stamped in red underneath. (3) The envelope of 25 cts., of the same size as the two preceding ones, with stamp of 20 c., in brown, with the former indication of the weight which it would frank obliterated in red, and "PARA SOBRES 2 OZ. = 60 GRAMOS" in capitals printed below it. (4) A similar envelope, but size 240 × 106 mm.

Wells, Fargo & Co. have also issued four envelopes. (1) The vignette of 10 c., with stamp of 5 c., for the United States, has been utilised by drawing a pen through the former indication, and printing "Para cartas ½ oz. en la República Mexicana exclusivamente" in red lower-case underneath. (2) The envelope with vignette of 15 c., and with stamp of 10 c. of the former issue, has been made applicable to 1 oz. by being underprinted in red; and that of 25 c., size 227 × 100, has had the value in the vignette altered to 15 c. by obliterating the former one, and stamping "Precio 15 cvos." on the side. Lastly, the envelope with vignette of 25 c., of the smaller size 153 × 87, and stamp of 20 c., has been adapted to 2 oz. by altering the price in the vignette to 30 c., in a similar manner to that in the large size.

EXPRESS HIDALGO.

10 c., brown; stamp of 5 c., blue on orange-red, laid; 153 × 90 mm.

EXPRESS NATIONAL MEXICANO.

10 c., green; stamp 5 c., blue on white wove ("Para sobres"), &c., in blue; 153 × 90 mm.
15 c., green; stamp 10 c., lilac on white wove ("Para sobres"), &c., in red; 153 × 90 mm.
25 c., green; stamp 20 c., lilac-brown on white wove ("Para sobres"), &c., in red; 153 × 90 mm.
25 c., green; stamp 20 c., lilac-brown on white wove ("Para sobres"), &c., in red: 240 × 106 mm.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.

10 c., green; stamp 5 c., blue on white wove, blue inside ("Para cartas"), &c., in red; 153 × 90 mm.
15 c., green; stamp of 10 c., lilac on white wove, blue inside ("Para cartas"), &c., in red; 153 × 90 mm.
15 c., green; stamp of 10 c., lilac on white wove ("Para cartas"), &c., in red; 227 × 100 mm.
30 c., green; stamp of 20 c., brown on white wove, blue inside ("Para cartas"), &c., in red; 153 × 90 mm.

Montenegro.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. an acknowledgment of receipt stamp (*Accuser réception*). The stamp is 20 × 22½ mm., and shows a portrait, in profile, to the right, on a solid circular ground, which, in the absence of any special information, we conclude to be that of Prince Nikita "up to date." Above this is an inscription on an arched tablet, and the value in words is underneath in two straight lines, all in Russian characters. This is all printed in light blue, on plain white wove paper. In the left upper angle is "A," and in the right "R," while in the lower angles are "10," all of which are on solid grounds of red; the numerals on a circular ground, the tablets for the letters having no describable forms. The perforation is 11½. *Receipt acknowledgment.* 10 novcics, blue and red.

North Borneo.—We have seen the whole of the values in the line-engraved series of 1894, with the exception of the 1 cent, overprinted in black with "POSTAGE DUE." The overprint is said

to be made in North Borneo, as we are informed that the stamps so overprinted are not to be obtained at the London offices. It is a pity to spoil the stamps. The collector in vain, however, looks for the old days, when honesty was part of the Post Office law, and it only sold stamps that were to be used by the public.

Postage Due.
2 c., black and carmine, overprint in black.
3 c., olive-green and lilac ,, ,,
5 c., black and vermilion ,, ,,
6 c. ,, olive-brown ,, ,,
8 c. ,, dull lilac ,, ,,
12 c. ,, blue ,, ,,
18 c. ,, dark green ,, ,,
24 c., blue and dull lake ,, ,,

Paraguay.—The annexed engraving illustrates the surcharged stamp described in our last.



Perak.—We are by no means sure that our contemporary, from whom we took the announcement of the issue of a 2 cents, orange, for Perak, is not in error. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write us that they have no knowledge of it, and send us specimens of the new issue. The design is the head of a tiger three-quarters to the left, and is about one of the most unfortunate pieces of drawing that we have ever seen, and we refer our readers to our engraving under "Selangor." The head, half-tiger, half-seal, is on an uncoloured ground of a horse-shoe shape. On the left side is "POSTAGE &," and on the right "REVENUE." At the top is a crescent and star, and there is also a star on each side, and ten dots, the *spécialité* of Messrs. De La Rue and Co. In the upper angles are shields, with the value 1 c., 3 c., &c., in colour, on a ground of dotted lines; and at the bottom is "Perak," in white Roman capitals on a solid tablet, which, with the shields carrying the value, is in another colour from the rest of the stamp. The impression is on paper watermarked ♕ C.A., and the perforation is 14.

1 c., purple and green.
2 c. ,, brown.
3 c. ,, carmine.
5 c., purple and olive-yellow.
8 c. ,, blue.
10 c. ,, orange.
50 c., purple and black.

Peru.—The *I. B. J.* states that in addition to the values overprinted with the head of Bermudez, as chronicled in our last, it has received the following:

Official.
1 centavo, green, head in black, overprinted in red.
1 ,, yellow ,, ,, ,,
2 centavos, carmine ,, ,, ,,
2 ,, violet ,, ,, ,,
2 ,, red ,, ,, ,,
20 ,, blue llama ,, ,, ,,
50 ,, green ,, ,, ,,

We would refer our readers to some particulars regarding the issue of the commemorative stamps referred to in our number for August last, which they will find among "Official Documents."

Portugal.—Although in our last number we chronicled the issue of the post card of 10 reis with stamp of the current type in black, on green, yet we omitted to mention the reply card of 20 reis and the letter card of 50 reis with similar stamps.

Post Card. 20+20 reis, lilac, on buff.
Letter Card. 50 ,, blue on azure, inside white.

Russian Locals.—We have some lee-way to make up in the chronicle of these locals. The following are from the *Timbre-poste:*

Ardatoff.—There is another change in the colour to chronicle, as also in the numerals in the angles, of which latter there are six varieties in each value. These varieties are placed in groups in two horizontal rows. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perf. 11½.

5 kop., bistre.
Postage Due. 3 kop., blue.



Ekaterinburg.—This is a new post which has made its *début* by the issue of two stamps of the design shown in the engraving annexed. The arms of the district are on an oval enclosed in a horse-shoe shaped band, inscribed with the name of the post. The numerals of value are in discs in the four angles of the rectangle, and in letters between the two lower ones. The stamps are lithographed, and perforated 11½.

2 kopecks, dark blue.
5 ,, red-brown.

The 5 kopecks is also found not perforated vertically.

Orsa.—The *T.-P.* of June announced that the stamp of 2 kop. was changed. Its size was made 16 × 23½ mm.; the crown was smaller and touched the frame, the number of bars was of the unlucky number of 13; the figures in the angles were smaller. It was printed on white paper in colour on the ground of green lines, and perforated 12.



2 kop., red and green.

The July number of the same journal announced two stamps of 2 and 4 kop. issued in 1894, as was proved by the obliterating mark of that date on that of 2 kopecks. The design resembled that of 1891. There is a difference in the inscriptions on the two stamps. That on the 2 kopecks signifies "Of Ossa" at the top of the oval band, and in the lower part, "Rural postage stamp."

On the 4 kop. the inscription reads in one sentence round the band, "Ossa rural post," and in the lower part of the band is the value, "4 kop." In both, the numerals of value are in the four angles of the rectangle. They are printed in colours, and perforated 11½.

2 kop., brown-red, green-lined background.
4 kop., green, yellow-lined background.

In endeavouring to obtain these stamps, a stamp of 2 kopecks of another design was found; the Arms in the centre, and the upper and lower inscriptions being in red, and the rest in blue. The inscriptions are similar to those on the 4 kopecks just described, and are as well as the Arms printed on an uncoloured ground. The numeral of value is in a rectangle on each side of the stamp. The spandrels are filled with ornamentation. The impression is on thin white paper, and the perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$.

2 kopecks, blue and red.

Pskoff.—The post card of $1\frac{1}{2}$ kopecks, issued in 1892, in the upper right angle of which was a rectangle, enclosing an inscription to the effect that the card would circulate throughout the empire, has been refused by the Imperial Post, so that its circulation is confined to the district. This modification in its use is shown by an inscription in Russian stamped on it in black on red, and the rectangle in the right is covered with a patch of black.

Post Card. $1\frac{1}{2}$ kop., blue on blue; surch. in black.

Rjeff.—The stamp of 1891 has been re-drawn, the lion has been turned into the resemblance of a dog; the stool is smaller; the numeral in the centre is made longer, and the inscriptions round it are smaller. The lower tablet is larger, and the two small circles on each end of it are farther away from the exterior rectangular frame. The impression is on plain white wove paper, and the perforation $11\frac{1}{2}$.



2 kopecks, vermilion and bistre.

The envelope of December, 1891, with the round stamp, has been found in the size 149 × 120 mm., on white wove paper. The specimen seen was obliterated 8th October, 1894.

Envelope. 3 kop., gold on white wove; size 149 × 120 mm.

Stazobyelsk.—New stamps were issued in June last, but they scarcely differ from those of 1891; simply a little flower of three leaves has been inserted in the lower angles. The stamps are lithographed on coloured paper, and are perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, though, by one of those *extra*ordinary accidents that cannot be accounted for, some of the sheets have not been perforated, and are found among the perforated ones.



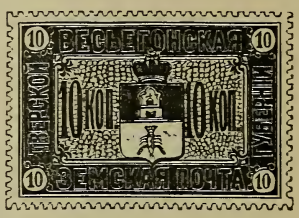
3 kop., red on salmon; perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ and imperf.

Postage Due. 3 kop., green on greenish ,, ,, ,,

Tscherdina.—It is said that in consequence of a change in the rate of postage, made in September, 1894, a stamp of 1 kopeck became necessary, but as it was not ready, that of 2 kopecks was provisionally made use of by dividing it into two parts, and half stamps of 2 kopecks are therefore found in grey, yellow, and lilac.

One of these split stamps was received on a letter with one of 2 kopecks, making 3 kopecks. As the *T.-P.* justly observes, what was the necessity of making up 3 kopecks in that way when a stamp of that value was already in existence!

Wessiegonsk.—The design of the issue made on 25th June last is entirely new. In the centre of a transverse oblong rectangle are the Arms, with "10 KOP." on each side. In the angles of the rectangular frame are the numerals of value. In the upper part of the frame is the name, and in the lower "RURAL POST," in Russian. In the left is the value in words, and in the right "GOVERNMENT," also in Russian. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 10.



3 kopecks, brown and gold.
10 ,, black, red, and gold.

Selangor.—A full set of the new tiger type has been supplied to Selangor. As we have already described this type under "Perak," we will not repeat it, but in Selangor there are two





higher values of 1 and 5 dollars, composed of a group of elephants. We need not describe this latter, as an engraving is annexed. The impression of the tiger-head type is on paper watermarked ♕ CA, and that of the elephant type on that watermarked ♕ CC. The perforation is 14.

3 cents, purple and carmine.
5 cents ,, olive-yellow.
10 cents ,, orange.
1 dollar, green and yellow-green.
5 dollars ,, blue.

We very much question if the above is the complete set. Probably other values of the tiger-head type will be issued when the stocks of the old values are exhausted.

South African Republic.—We annex engravings of the stamps described in our last, and of that described in our August number.

We have received the stamp whose advent is noticed in "Official Documents." It is of the Jubilee oblong size, with the arms in

the centre, and on the left a railway train emerging from a tunnel, while on the right is a six or eight-horsed conveyance, the driver







armed with a whip, the handle of which should be about 20 feet long, if it is in proportion with the other objects. The name of the republic is on a curved tablet, above which, on a straight one, is "EERSTE PENNY POSTVERVOER." At the bottom, in a straight tablet, is "EEN PENNY," and "1" in each angle on a disc of solid colour. Size, 22 × 34 mm. Impression on plain white wove paper. Perforated 11½, by a single-line machine. The sheet bears the imprint, "THE PRESS P. & P. WORKS, PRETORIA."

One million and a half were printed, which were intended to last from September 6th to the 30th, during which period the sale of the ordinary stamps was to be suspended, but the whole lot was sold out in three hours, and by the 9th the price had risen to 1 shilling each. 1 penny, carmine-red.

Surinam.—The issue of the following postage due stamps of the Elzevir type is announced. They are in Varieties I., II., and III. *Postage Due.* 20 cents, black and lilac.
50 ,, ,,

Tonga.—In our August number we chronicled some surcharges in carmine on the 2d. in blue. The 1d., 1½d., and 2½d. surcharges have been, *of course*, also printed in black. We learn from the *Australian Philatelist* that there is no wonder that King George II. ordered the stock of the new type to be destroyed, and that it is only a pity that the order was not immediately carried out. The caricature of the king is within a circular band, inscribed "BULEAGA O TOGA—POSTAGE." Above is "TONGA," and below is the value in figures, flanked by tropical foliage. It is not said whether any of the stamps that have escaped destruction have been used, but we suppose not, and that the series must therefore be considered as a total failure; and a new series is to take its place, with a fancy portrait of His Majesty. However, we give the values and colours. The impression was on plain paper, and the perforation 12.

1d., 1½d., 2½d., surcharged on 2d., blue, in *black*.

New Series. 1d., pale green. | 5d., pale blue.
2½d., rose. | 7½d., yellow.

Travancore.—The 2 chuckrams is now printed in pale rose on paper watermarked as before.

2 chuckrams, pale rose; perf. 12.

United States.—Besides the 2 cents, the following have appeared on the new watermarked paper:

1 cent, blue.
4 cents, dull brown.
5 ,, red-brown.
8 ,, violet.
10 ,, green.

Victoria.—Report says that a stamp of 2 shillings has been issued of the type of the 8 pence. The impression is on white paper watermarked V and ♕. The perforation is 12½. A postage due stamp of similar value has also been issued.

2 shillings, yellow-green.
Postage Due. 2 ,, red and green.

The stamp in the wrapper of 1 penny has ceased to be in brown and is now printed in blue.

Wrapper. 1d., blue on white.

MR. DAVID H. HILL.

Among the stamps of Australasia none have been more popular with English collectors than those of Victoria. They present an extensive field for study, whilst the interesting nature of the stamps themselves amply repays for any amount of time and patience that may be required for solving the difficulties and disentangling the intricate questions that surround them. In the earlier days of philately we find M. Herpin treating of them. The papers of Dr. Legrand show how patiently he studied them, but he was compelled to derive much of their early history from tradition, and from fallacious landmarks dependent on the obliterating marks on the stamps. Mr. Pemberton more than once attempted the task, while others studied special points in their history; but the latest work was that of the London Philatelic Society, which summed up all that was known, and added the results of the labours of some of its members. One good effect of the publication of the work of the Society was to show how imperfect was the knowledge of European philatelists regarding these stamps, and, doubtless, acted as an inducement to their Australian brethren to do something towards clearing up the obscurities.

It may be safely said that no philatelist has thrown so much light on the history of the stamps of Victoria as Mr. David H. Hill, the Life Honorary President of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, and not only this, but he has shown himself to be a thorough philatelist by the manner in which he has handled his subject. He started from the very beginning, and as he advanced he cleared away carefully every difficulty that lay in his path, not sparing any trouble to do this thoroughly. He has already travelled through nine types, and many philatelists are looking with anxious eyes for what he has to say on those immediately following, which have always presented enormous difficulties to collectors in their attempts to classify them.

We are glad to find that as a frontispiece to the magazine which under its new name of *The Australian Philatelist* has completed its first year, Mr. Hagen gives a portrait of Mr. Hill, to which is added a biographical sketch. We shall take the liberty of extracting this for the benefit of such of our readers as may not happen to see it, as they

will be interested to know something regarding the philatelist to whom they are under so many obligations.

"David Haworth Hill, known to and affectionately greeted by his numerous philatelic acquaintances as the 'Veteran Collector,' was born at Manchester, England, on the 7th December, 1851, and is now, therefore, in the forty-fourth year of his age. His parents emigrated to Victoria in 1858, and resided for fourteen years in Geelong, where Mr. Hill received his education, principally at the Geelong Grammar School. In 1868 he entered a wool-shipping firm as junior clerk, and in 1872 received an appointment to the Civil Service as clerk in the Treasury Department, Melbourne, where he has remained ever since.

"Mr. Hill became inspired with the divine *afflatus* of philately on Australian stamps, and the story may be told in his own words:

"'My first interest in stamp collecting dates back during my school-days, some thirty years ago, when it was not the science it is now. During the latter years of my residence in Geelong, I purchased old Australian stamps, largely, at a few pence per dozen. This was twenty-four or twenty-five years ago. Those I sent to various dealers, receiving in exchange unused foreign stamps. As my collection increased, I found that the ordinary album was altogether inadequate for watermarks and shades of colour, so I had books made with tissue paper leaves, ruling them myself, and lightly fastening the stamps in. This was before the days of blank albums and gummed hinges. Besides exchanging I purchased from various dealers, and at various times bought several good collections from Victorian collectors, many of the stamps being transferred to my own books. After some years I found that my correspondence was becoming too heavy, and the issues increasing so much, that I could not keep pace, so in 1883 I decided to dispose of my foreign collection. At this time my collection numbered over 8000, all unused, and contained many specimens which are now difficult to obtain.

"'In 1887 I sold my collection of nearly 2000 unused Australian stamps. This contained twenty Sydney Views, Tasmania 1d. and 4d., first issue, about twenty-four of the latter: Western Australia first issues, and 2d., violet (error), early South Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand, and nearly all varieties in Victoria, many being strongly represented.

"'Since that time I have collected only Victoria used, of which I have several thousand, among the best are:

"'2d., fine background, 20 specimens.
2d., fine border only, 95 specimens.
2d., coarse borders, 140 specimens, including two without value.
3d., blue, rouletted, 7 specimens.
3d., blue, perforated, 14 specimens.
2d. (1852), errors of transfer, 6 pairs, some being the only ones known.
1s., blue, rouletted, 9 specimens, including pair on original cover.
6d., orange, rouletted, 34 specimens, including several on original cover.
6d. ,, serrated, 8 specimens.
6d. ,, serpentine, 6 specimens.
6d. ,, compound, 2 specimens.
2s., green, rouletted, 2 specimens.
1s., registered, 47 specimens, including one rouletted.
3d., brown-lake, 6 specimens.
6d., orange, 3 specimens.
1d., green, laureated; wmk. "4," 2 specimens.
1d. ,, ,, wmk. "Sixpence," 9 specimens, including strip of 4.
10d., slate-grey; wmk. "8," 8 specimens.
5s., blue on yellow, 3 specimens.'

"In addition to Victorian stamps, Mr. Hill collects unused post cards of all countries. He is always pleased to show his collections to any philatelist who visits Melbourne, and has made many friends through the philatelic medium. He has a philatelic library of over 250 volumes, including many scarce publications, and first contributed to the philatelic press under the *nom de plume* (our worthy contemporary means *nom de guerre*) of 'Avancez,' in January, 1888, his article being entitled, 'Philatelic Literature.' Since that date his carefully compiled and exhaustive papers on the 'Stamps of Victoria,' published in the *Federal Australian Philatelist*, *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, and this journal, have established his claim to the title of philatelist.

"In July, 1892, he was elected the first President of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, and after holding that office for two years, was made Honorary Life President. He is a member of the London Philatelic Society."

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

BELGIUM.—The following is extracted from the *Coll. de Timbres-Poste*, but no date is given. We conclude, however, that it appeared about the month of November last, before the elections.

"ART. 1. Postage stamps of 1 and 2 centimes are put on sale in certain Post-offices, which are obliterated in advance for the pre-payment of printed matter and newspapers.

"ART. 2. These stamps cannot be sold in quantities of less than 1000 stamps.

"ART. 3. They are obliterated by a rolling stamp bearing the name of the office and the indication of the year of the obliteration. Until further orders they are valid during that year, and the first month of the succeeding one.

"ART. 4. Articles prepaid by stamps obliterated in advance must be delivered at the window of the receiving-office in quantities of 1000, at least. These stamps are not valid when affixed to articles put into the boxes."

* * *

ECUADOR.—We have more commemorative rubbish from this State. The decision of the Ministry to issue special stamps is heralded by the following, dated Guayaquil, 30th August, 1895:

"Considering that the triumph of the Liberal party, which has avenged the honour of the nation, thanks to the splendid victories of the patriot army under the command of the supreme chief of the Republic, General Don Uoy Alfaro, is worthy of an especial commemoration—that one of the most proper means of making known this commemoration throughout the civilized world is the issue of a special postage stamp.

"It is decreed, etc.

"The stamps to be of seven values, 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 50 c., and 1 sucre, and were to be sold to the public during two days, the Minister of the Interior being charged with carrying the decision into effect. *A portion* of the profits was to be given to assist the poor families of those who perished in the Civil War in the defence of the Liberal arms."

A charitable object is thus held out to collectors.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—We extract the following from the *Australian Philatelist*:

"POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
"GENERAL POST-OFFICE,
"SYDNEY, 25*th May*, 1895.

"It is hereby notified that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, in accordance with the provisions of the Postage Act, 31 Victoria, No. 4, been pleased to approve of the withdrawal from use of the 5d. impressed stamp for envelopes.

"JOSEPH COOK."

* * *

"POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
"GENERAL POST-OFFICE,
"SYDNEY, 27*th May*, 1895.

"It is hereby notified that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, under the provisions of the 7th Section of the Postage Acts Amendment Act, 56 Victoria, No. 31, been pleased to approve of an arrangement being made for the transmission, under the same conditions as Official Post Cards, of Private Cards, bearing adhesive stamps of proper value, measuring not less than 4×3 in., and not more than $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ in., and not of thicker material than that used for Official Post Cards, within New South Wales, and between this and other Australasian Colonies.

"JOSEPH COOK."

* * *

PARAGUAY.—The following is extracted from the *Phil. J. of America*, of May last:

"REGULATION.

"Considering that the one cent. postage stamp has been exhausted, and the 2 cent. and 5 cent. of the same issue nearly exhausted, the Department of Posts and Telegraph resolves:—

"ART. 1.—From the 25th of November of the current year, 1894, will be placed in circulation the one cent. stamp, grey colour, of the new issue, bearing the following inscriptions: in the upper part, same colour ink, on white background, 'PARAGUAY'; in the lower part, '1 CENTAVOS'; and on the sides, 'UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL,' in white; in the centre, the bust of President Ciriso Antonio Rivarola.

"ART. 2.—From the same date, the following new values will be put in circulation:

4 centavos, carmine, bust of Juan B. Gill.
14 centavos, coffee, bust of Bernardino Caballero.
30 centavos, light green, bust of Juan G. Gonsalez.

"All these stamps bear the same inscriptions as those on the 1 cent. value.

40 centavos, dark blue.
60 „ yellow.
80 „ light blue.
1 peso, olive.

"The above four types bear in the upper part the National Coat of Arms, the value in large figures below, and 'CENTAVOS' still lower, 'PARAGUAY' at the top, and on the sides 'UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL.'

"ART. 3.—As the stamps now in use become exhausted, the same will be replaced by those of the new issue.

'2 centavos, green, bust of Salvador Sovellanos.
5 „ violet, bust of Higinio Uriarte.
10 „ blue, bust of Candido Bareira, perforated in the centre.
20 „ carmine, bust of Patricio Escobar.

"All the above stamps have the same inscriptions as the 1 centavo.

"ART. 4.—Send to the office of the Union Postal Universal 730 copies of each of the above values, according to the Decree of 30th May, 1894. "ANGEL D. PENA,

"*Director-General.*"

"The Post-office Department hereby gives public notice that the following stamps have been put in circulation for the postage on the official foreign correspondence :

1 centavo, green.	10 centavos, violet.
2 „ pink on red.	15 „ orange.
5 „ blue.	20 „ rose.
7 „ coffee.	50 „ grey.

"All the above stamps are perforated, and lithographed on white paper; on the upper part the Coat of Arms, on the lower part the value in large numerals, and the inscriptions are 'Union Postal Universal.'—'Paraguay.' "ANGEL D. PENA,

"*Director-General.*"

It will be seen by the above that the busts of the same worthies are on the new issue as were on that of 1892.

* * *

PERU.—The following, which we transcribe from the *Coll. de Timbres-poste*, will speak for itself :

Copy of letter from the Postmaster-General to the President.

"POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

"LIMA, PERU, 25*th May*, 1895.

"The postal administration which I direct has contracted debts with the Navigation Companies, which carry our correspondence with the United States, England, France, and Belgium, more especially with the 'British Steamship Company.' Our financial position scarcely permits us to discharge these arrears, and to pay the costs of the mail when it goes out. As this situation may last for some time, and it is nevertheless indispensable that the foreign postal service should be assured, I have the honour to propose to you as a temporary measure, until the internal peace is assured, to create an extraordinary resource which will permit us to meet our needs without a new interior tax. This idea of not imposing fresh taxes on our subjects leads me to propose to you to make an issue of postage stamps, the number of which and the duration of the issue should be limited.

"This kind of issue is of great importance to collectors of stamps of all countries who purchase these vignettes, and our administration is convinced that from 7 to 10,000 soles (say £1500 to £2000) would be received in a very little time. I therefore ask the permission of your Excellency to authorise me, in view of the coming inauguration of the new Government, to create an issue of stamps destined to circulate during one day, and of which the number shall be limited. I annex the design to the report.

"Respectfully awaiting your orders on this matter,

"I am, your very devoted CAMILLO N. CARRILLO."

The Postmaster-General had not to wait long for his reply from President Espinola, for the reply authorising the issue is dated the same day.

On 9th July last the Postmaster-General issued a notice that the stamps would be put in circulation on 10th September, and that the sale would take place from 7 a.m. to midnight.

The stamps were to be of the following values and colours: 1 c., violet; 2 c., green; 5 c., yellow; 10 c., blue; 25 c., orange; 50 c., indigo; and 100 c., red. Facilities were afforded to wholesale purchasers of stamps to 5 dollars and upwards.

* * *

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.— "GENERAL POST-OFFICE,
"*26th August*, 1895.

"CIRCULAR TO THE POST OFFICIALS.

"*Issue of the Special One Penny Postage Stamp.*

"Notice is hereby given that the Government has resolved to issue a Special One Penny postage stamp to celebrate the reduction of the Inland Postal Tariff. These stamps shall only be sold during the time from 6th September to 30th September, 1895. Before and after that time the official sale of these stamps is prohibited.

"During this time the ordinary One Penny stamp may not be sold to the public, and the Postmasters have therefore to obtain a sufficient supply of Jubilee stamps for their offices. The Jubilee stamps in their offices on the 1st October must be forwarded by first post to the Assistant Postmaster-General, who shall exchange them for the ordinary issue. Although no Jubilee stamps may be sold after the 30th September, 1895, the public are allowed to use these stamps for postage purposes after this date.

"ISAAC VAN ALPHEN,
"*Postmaster-General.*"

* * *

UNITED STATES.—The following extract from the "Official Post-office Guide" is extracted from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.*

"DESCRIPTION OF STAMPS, ISSUE OF 1894–5.

"POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.,
"*July* 1, 1895.

"To correct a statement made in the annual report of this office for 1894, and on page 941 of the Postal Guide for January, 1895, it is stated that there is no longer issued a three-cent newspaper and periodical stamp. The series now consists of twelve denominations, with figures and colours as follows:

Denomination.	Colour.	Figure.	Denomination.	Colour.	Figure.
1 cent ...	black ...	America.	$2·00 ...	orange ...	Victory.
2 „ ...	„ ...	„	5·00 ...	blue ...	Clio.
5 „ ...	„ ...	„	10·00 ...	green ...	Vesta.
10 „ ...	„ ...	„	20·00 ...	slate ...	Peace.
25 „ ...	pink ...	Astraea.	50·00 ...	carmine ...	Commerce.
50 „ ...	„ ...	„	100·00 ...	purple ...	Indian.

"Those from 1 cent to 10 cent, inclusive, are of the same design. The numerals in the upper corners are of the same size in the 1 cent, 2 cent, and 5 cent denominations; the 1 cent and 5 cent are shaded dark on the lower half, while the 2 cent and 10 cent are white-faced.

The 10 cent numerals are condensed to fill the same space as given to the smaller denominations, and the style of the numerals is slightly different from those on the lower denominations. The foregoing present the statue of America, by Crawford, which surmounts the dome of the Capitol building. It is the same subject and size as that on the lower denominations of the supplanted series, but with a full-face front view, while the old series gave a three-quarter presentation, with profile to the right. The words, 'U.S. POSTAGE,' at the top are in white block letters upon an arched line, and 'NEWSPAPER' on the left, and 'PERIODICALS' on the right, are in straight vertical lines; the denominations at the bottom are in white Roman letters, and there is foliate ornamentation in the lower corners of these stamps. The upper border line of the 25 cent and 50 cent stamps is broken by two indentations, separating that border into three equal parts, and the side inscriptions follow a curved line upon a scroll. The dimensions of the stamps below the two dollar denomination are 27–32 by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch.

"The remaining—dollars—stamps are of the same size as the retired series, that is to say, 15-16 by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch. This new series was first issued February 1, 1895.

"Postmasters are warned never to sell *these stamps*, nor the *postage-due stamps*, to anyone. They are for use as instructed by the regulations and circulars 3232, 3288, and 3288a.

"ORDINARY POSTAGE STAMPS.

"The ordinary postage stamps of all denominations are now being printed and issued in the modified design of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, as follows:

Denomination.	Face.	Colour.	Date of Issue.
1 cent	Franklin	blue	Oct. 10, 1894.
2 ,,	Washington	carmine	Oct. 5, 1894.
3 ,,	Jackson	purple	Sept. 24, 1894.
4 ,,	Lincoln	velvet brown	Sept. 11, 1894.
5 ,,	Grant	light brown	Sept. 28, 1894.
6 ,,	Garfield	light maroon	July 18, 1894.
8 ,,	Sherman	lilac	March 25, 1895.
10 ,,	Webster	malori green	Sept. 17, 1894.
10 ,,	S. D. Messenger Boy	blue	Oct. 10, 1894.
15 ,,	Clay	deep blue	Oct. 15, 1894.
50 ,,	Jefferson	orange	Nov. 1, 1894.
$1·00 ,,	Perry	black	Nov. 15, 1894.
2·00 ,,	Madison	sapphire blue	Dec. 10, 1894.
5·00 ,,	Marshall	grey green	Dec. 10, 1894.

"POSTAGE-DUE STAMPS.

"The new postage-due stamps are of the brown colour of the old series, but of a reduced size—that is to say, 23–32 by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. They were first issued on the following dates:

1 cent ... August 14, 1894.	10 cent ... September 24, 1894.
2 ,, ... July 20, 1894.	30 ,, ... April 27, 1895.
3 ,, ... April 27, 1895.	50 ,, ... April 27, 1895.
5 ,, ... April 27, 1895.	

"The following ordinary stamps are now being issued upon water-marked paper with the letters 'U. S. P. S.'

1 cent, since April 29, 1895.	5 cent, since June 11, 1895.
2 ,, ,, May 2, 1895.	10 ,, ,, June 7, 1875.
4 ,, ,, June 5, 1895.	

"KERR CRAIGE,

"*Third Assistant Postmaster-General.*"

Notes and Miscellanea.

Belgium.—*The American Journal of Philately* publishes a statement from which it appears that the total issue of the stamps of 5 francs since 1878 amounts to 160 sheets of 300 stamps, or 48,000 stamps. They were not all printed at the same time, as some were printed in aniline colour, and are much brighter in tone than the others.

The amount sold in each year is stated to be as follows :—

1878 . .	2,391	1884 . .	3,172
1879 . .	3,286	1885 . .	4,733
1880 . .	3,080	1886 . .	4,947
1881 . .	4,171	1887 . .	3,389
1882 . .	7,937		
1883 . .	8,494	Total .	45,600

which, with the 2,400 sold this year by tender, makes up the amount.

* * *

Cooking Stamps.—The cooking of stamps by the Post-office Department of a State is such a new feature in stamp history, that we are bound to notice it. What is to be thought of reprinting a lot of obsolete stamps, and cancelling them with the Post-office stamps, so as to induce people to purchase them with the idea that they had been used for legitimate postal purposes? And yet, if we are to believe our eyes, such frauds are being actually perpetrated in one of our own Colonies. We shall be told, we suppose, that it has been done with purely benevolent intentions; but we think that it would be better if such benevolence were kept till it was asked for.

* * *

Portugal.—M. Maury states that the remainder of the S. Antonio stamps have not been destroyed, as the Government stated would be the case; but that they are now being offered at a discount, like the San Marino stamps, of much the same value and importance.

* * *

San Marino.—The begging stamps issued last year did not prove to be a perfect success, notwithstanding all the baits held out, and collectors failed to rise to the fly. The following circular has been sent out by the Secretary to some of the principal dealers, in the hope of inducing them to lend their aid in "catching a few flats."

"Republic of S. Marin.

"Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that you can obtain our commemoration stamps at a discount of 30, 40, or 50 per cent., according to the extent of your order, which must amount to at least 500 francs.

"In the hope that you will send me your order, which shall receive every attention from me, I am, Sir, yours truly,

"V. Serafini, *Secretary*."

* * *

St. Louis' Stamps.—*The American Journal of Philately* mentions that an extraordinary "find" of these stamps has been lately made in cleaning out certain rooms at the Louisville Court House. The full extent is not known, but it consisted of over 100 stamps, among which were at least fifteen of the 20 cents, of which two fell to the share of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company. Photographs have been given of many of the stamps, and amongst the rest, of the two copies of the 20 c., which, with one of 5 c., form a vertical strip on the side of a letter. The upshot of the new find is that the relative positions of the different values and dies on the plate are now proved, and show

that while the dies of the 10 cents have always received their proper nomenclature, beginning in the natural way with die A at the top, the attribution of the different dies of the 5 c. and 20 c. has been erroneous, and will have to be changed hereafter. Die C, in old parlance, will become Die A, and *vice versâ*; and the two 20 cents stamps will have to be called Dies A and B, the A taking the place of our old friend, Die C. In the same way the re-engraved plate will show Dies A and B of the 5 c. re-engraved, and the C normal.

We hope that this finally disposes of the question regarding the *status* of the 20 cents.

* * *

Varieties in Impression.—A paper was recently read by Mr. John H. Luff, before the National Philatelical Society of New York, on "The higher values of the 1872 Issues of the United States," and which has been published in *The American Journal of Philately*. The paper is interesting, and contains an explanation of what is at times done in the way of repairing the steel plates used in the printing. We give this part in the writer's words:

"For a number of years I have been studying stamps, and trying to learn all I could about them. It has seemed to me both expedient and interesting to know how they are made, and I have obtained all possible information in this direction. Among other things I have learnt that plates often wear out very rapidly, usually from the grinding effect of the inks used. Mineral inks are especially destructive. For the 2 cents of 1890, no less than 262 plates were made during the four years it was in use, for one of which years the two cents Columbian was largely printed, and required 135 plates. Steel plates are very expensive, and if they were to be thrown away whenever they become too much worn for further printing, the loss to those using them would be serious. To avoid this, they are 're-entered,' as it is termed. The process of re-entering consists of softening the plate and making fresh and deeper impressions of the design. When portions of the plate are not much worn, it may not be deemed necessary to re-enter, and there is nothing in the process to compel the whole plate to be so treated. The imprints, plate numbers, and guide lines for setting the impressions are seldom re-entered. The new impressions should occupy exactly the positions of the old. Occasionally they get slightly out of place, and a double impression results, but these are of the greatest rarity. It has been said that the well-known variety of the 5 cents New York, with double printing of the value, the 10 cents 1847, with the words '*Post-office*' double, and the variety of the 5 cents Canada, 1859, are examples of this. I am, however, inclined to consider them the result of defective transfers in the original making of the plate."

If this be a true account, and there is no reason to doubt it, as Mr. Luff has evidently studied the subject, and has prosecuted considerable enquiries into the manufacture, it would seem that in some cases little or no dependence is to be placed on trifling variations in the impressions, as it is next to impossible, on re-entering a plate, to place a fresh impression so exactly over the first one as that the lines in the engraving should exactly correspond without producing any thickening in some parts, as compared with the original impression, without going the extreme length of a double impression being made. Any such manipulation of the plates would not have been allowed in England. We have, it is true, some cases of imperfect printing, giving the appearance of a double impression, but these have arisen from the paper slipping a little while under the press.

Mr. Luff has made a most exhaustive study of the numbers of the plates, but this has not any particular interest, as the numbers are only in the margin, and are unconnected with the stamps.

* * *

THE "EXACT."—We have received from Herr Krotzsch, of Leipsic, a copy of a perforation gauge called "Exact." We do not question the title, and our only object in mentioning it is to recommend it to those who like to be very particular in their measurements. It commences with 7, 8, and 9, 9½, and 10, and then rises by quarter millimetres up to 15, finishing up with 15½, 16, and 16½. There is a scale of 80 mm. on the side, divided into quarters of a millimetre. We have seen a six feet Equatorial with a gold band, on which the smallest divisions were marked, fitted with four microscopes to enable the operator to read the scale at different points, so as to note exactly the right ascension of a star when it passed the meridian. Could not something of this kind be invented for measuring perforations? A quarter millimetre scale is rather trying to the eyes, unaided by a microscope.

* * *

THE IPSWICH STAMP EXHIBITION.—Mr. Whitfield King, so well known amongst collectors for his enterprise, not only as a dealer, but as one of the largest importers of stamps from every quarter of the globe, took advantage of the meeting of the British Association at Ipswich, when so many wise men were gathered together, to make arrangements for an exhibition of postage stamps, in which not only stamps belonging to his firm were exhibited, but also divers treasures from the stores of such collectors as Messrs. Avery, Blest, Castle, Ehrenbach, Evans, Wickham-Jones, A. de Worms, and others, which of itself was sufficient evidence of the importance of the exhibition. We are glad that it proved to be in every way a success. Such exhibitions are gratifying, not only to the spectators but to the collectors, and especially also when those who inspect the exhibits know anything about stamps, and do not confound a Mauritius "Post-office" with a Mauritius "Post-paid." A collector does not care about always hiding his light under a bushel, or keeping his jewels locked up in an iron chest, but he likes to exhibit them to those who can appreciate them, and who can form some idea of the trouble he has had, and the patience he has shown, in collecting them. Five and twenty years ago the collector never had an opportunity of doing more than feasting his own eyes, and never had a chance of gratifying anyone else, except those inane people who merely said, "Dear me, how pretty!"

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

CIRCULAR No. 3.

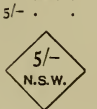
THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the Stamps and other Postal matter mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all Collectors and Dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

9. NEW SOUTH WALES.—The Post-office Department of New South Wales is now offering for sale Adhesive Stamps, Post Cards, and Stamped Envelopes bearing the letters O.S. This is the worst case we have yet had to consider. The following are the official notices: (*a*)

NEW SOUTH WALES.

List of O.S. Postage Stamps, Post Cards, and Stamped Envelopes, showing date of issue of each variety.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

No.	Value.	Colour.	Watermark.	O.S. in	Date of Issue.
1	1d.	Red	Crown, N.S.W.	Black	1 January, 1880
2	2d.	Blue	Do.	do.	do.
3	3d.	Green	Do.	Red	do.
4	4d.	Brown	Do.	Black	do.
5	6d.	Lilac	Do.	do.	do.
6	8d.	Orange	Do.	Red	do.
7	1s.	Black	Do.	do.	do.
8	5s.	Violet	5/-	Black	15 February, 1880
9	8d.	Orange	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	22 February, 1880
10	3d.	Green	Do.	do.	22 March, 1880
11	5d.	Dark Green	Do.	Red	7 May, 1880
12	9d.	Brown	Do.	Black	31 May, 1880
13	10d.	Lilac	10	do.	do.
14	5d.	Dark Green	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	31 March, 1885
15	5s.	Lilac and Green	N.S.W.	do.	26 May, 1886
16	20s.	Lilac and Red	Do.	do.	7 January, 1887
17	1d.	Purple	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	7 May, 1888
18	2d.	Blue	Do.	do.	7 Sept., 1888
19	4d.	Brown	Do.	do.	15 October, 1888
20	6d.	Rosine	Do.	do.	21 December, 1888
21	8d.	Plum	Do.	do.	15 March, 1889
22	1s.	Purple-Brown	Do.	do.	do
23	20s.	Blue	5/-	do.	22 November, 1889
24	10s.	Lilac and Carmine.	N.S.W.	do.	30 April, 1889
25	5s.	Lilac	5/-	Red	do.
26	5s.	Lilac		Black	15 February, 1890
27	20s.	Blue		do.	15 March, 1890
28	2½d.	Blue	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	10 January, 1891
29	½d.	Black on Grey	Do.	do.	21 January, 1891
30	7½d.	Do. Brown	Do.	do.	do.
31	12½d.	Do. Red	Do.	do.	do.
32	½d.	Grey	Do.	do.	9 May, 1892

POST CARDS.

No.	Value.	Colour.	Description.	Date of Issue.
33	1d.	Pink	Small size, without waratah	1 January, 1880
34	1d.	Do	Large size, with waratah	31 March, 1887
35	1d.	Purple	With arched inscription	31 January, 1889
36	1d.	Do.	With straight inscription	31 January, 1890

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

No.	Value.	Colour.	Description.	Date of Issue.
37	1d.	Red . . .	O.S. overprinted in black .	31 August, 1880
38	2d.	Blue . . .	Do do. .	7 May, 1882
39	1d.	Red . . .	O.S. inserted in four angles .	7 May, 1885
40	1d.	Purple . . .	O.S. overprinted in black .	30 Sept., 1888
41	2d.	Blue . . .	Do. do. .	do.
42	1d.	Purple . . .	O.S. inserted in upper angles .	28 Sept., 1888
43	6d.	Lilac . . .	Do. do. .	24 October, 1888
44	6d.	Rosine . . .	Do. do. .	23 May, 1889
45	2d.	Blue . . .	Do. do. .	31 May, 1889
46	4d.	Brown . . .	Do. do. .	8 August, 1892
47	5d.	Green . . .	Do. do. .	26 Sept., 1892

The issue of O.S. Stamps ceased from 1st January, 1895.

(*b*) COPY.

POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
(1182) GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
15*th August*, 1895.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the sale to Stamp Collectors, and others, of complete sets of obliterated O.S. Stamps, at the price of £2 per set.

(Signed) JOSEPH COOK.

Such Stamps, &c., are no longer available for postage; but these impressions, or some portion of them (either the Stamps, or the overprint, or both), have been made *since* the Stamps they represent became obsolete, and not only do they not bear any indication of their real nature, but they are being offered for sale obliterated with a hand-stamp, consisting of the letters N.S.W. in three concentric ellipses, thereby inducing Collectors to suppose that they have actually been employed for postage.

10. TRANSVAAL.—A Commemorative Stamp of the value of 1d., rose (oblong), has recently been issued, which appears to be quite unnecessary for legitimate postal requirements.

11. PERU.—A set of Commemorative Stamps, consisting of 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., and 50 c., issued on the 10th of September last, to celebrate the election of a new President.

12. AMOY.—More Chinese Locals.

Commemorative Stamps have also been announced to be about to appear for the following places, and Collectors and Dealers are therefore warned beforehand concerning them:

13. GREECE.—(Olympian Games).

14. HUNGARY.—(Millennium Stamps.)

15. LIEGE.

16. SWEDEN.

GORDON SMITH, *Secretary, S. S. S. S.*
HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Secretary to the Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C., 10*th October*, 1895.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

OFFICERS FOR SESSION 1895–96.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.
Vice-Presidents:
W. B. SIMPSON. | EUGENE EGLY.
Hon. Treasurer—FRANCIS J. KIDSON.
Hon. Librarian—J. W. DUFFIELD.
Hon. Secretaries:
T. K. SKIPWITH. | JOHN H. THACKRAH.

AT the last Annual Meeting of the Society the above-mentioned were elected as office-bearers for the coming session of 1895–96.

The Annual Report showed that the Society had enjoyed a busy and satisfactory year's progress during 1894–95. No less than eighteen meetings had been held, five being specially arranged ones not included in the printed programme. The papers read included discourses by Mr. Washington Teasdale, F.R.M.S., on his own personal experiences of the postal administration of India in 1856-1868; by Mr. W. Barwell Turner, F.R.M.S., on "Philatelic Heraldry"; by Mr. J. F. C. Sieber, on "The Production of Stamps"; and descriptions of the Stamps of Victoria, United States (envelopes), Spain (Alfonsist), Switzerland (Cantonal), and Great Britain (4d.), by Messrs. Skipwith, Kidson, Roebuck, Egly, and Thackrah, respectively. There was an average attendance of about ten at the meetings, and numerous stamps and collections were exhibited at all of them. Towards the close of the session a very successful and enjoyable social evening was spent by the members. The membership had increased slightly, and now stood at twenty-seven. The fourth rule has been altered, so as to permit of the election of corresponding members, for which only philatelists are eligible who are neither resident nor engaged in regular business in the city, the subscription to be 2s. 6d., including all the benefits of the Exchange Club. The library of the Society has been augmented by a number of useful works, and has been well used by members. The Exchange Club has been carried on, first by Mr. A. N. Skipwith, and afterwards by his brother, Mr. W. K. Skipwith. Some changes in the Exchange Rules have been made, the principal one being to make all transactions at nett prices. The report referred next to the very successful and interesting Exhibition of Fiscal Stamps, held under the Society's auspices, and to the financial deficit it entailed upon the funds, and concluded with a reference to the heavy loss the Society has sustained by the removal of Mr. J. F. C. Sieber, lately one of the Hon. Secretaries, to Glasgow.

The reports (and the balance-sheet, read by Mr. Egly) were unanimously adopted, and votes of thanks to the President and officers, as well as to the Leeds Free Library for the free tenancy of the meeting-room, were passed. The question of the best night for meetings was then debated, and eventually it was decided to hold future meetings on the first Monday at 7.30 p.m., and on the third Saturday at 6.30 p.m., in each month. The proceedings closed with the exhibition of numerous stamps—novelties and collections.

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretaries:

T. K. SKIPWITH,
13, Victoria Road, Hyde Park, Leeds.
JOHN H. THACKRAH,
54, St. Michael's Road, Headingly, Leeds.

[Proceedings of other Societies unavoidably stand over.]

Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. NOVEMBER, 1895. No. 203.

THE subject of mounting collections of stamps has come once more to the fore, and is a subject well worthy of the attention of collectors. In early times the matter was simple enough. Messrs. Moens and Lallier were so good as to provide albums in which full directions were given where to place each stamp, in little compartments specially provided for them. If the stamp had been used, recourse was had to the gum pot, and the stamp was firmly stuck in its appointed place; if, on the other hand, it was an unused one, a lick and a dab sufficed, and it is to this last scientific mode that we at the present time owe the misfortune that so many old stamps are deprived of their original gum. They have been through the bath and washed clean. If we mistake not, it was Messrs. Herpin and Regnard that first broke through the old method, and began to find that there was something in a stamp worthy of remark besides the picture on the face, and they accordingly mounted their stamps on small pieces of thin cardboard and hinged them. We can speak confidently as to the beautiful collection of M. Regnard, for we saw it; as regards that of M. Herpin we think that all his stamps were not hinged. This is more than thirty years ago, and yet no great progress has been made in improvement. Albums have been improved, though in the published ones more regard has been shown to the book itself than to the proper conservation of the contents. Stamps have been in many cases printed in fugitive inks, which will not stand like those that have been printed in colours that resist any amount of friction. Let any reader look at the fly leaf in a collection of English line-engraved stamps printed in red, and he will see the amount of colour that has been

A Word on Mounting Stamps.

transferred. But this is not the point we want to arrive at. The ordinary mode now is to hinge the stamp on a mount, and to fix the mount on to the page of the album. Wrong in principle, for this exposes the stamp to still more friction. But it has its advantages, as it admits of any special details being noted on the mount under the stamp. Where the great difficulty we have always experienced really lies, is when we want to change the place of a particular stamp so mounted, and leave no mark behind. The best way that we have found is to paste a piece of French pelure paper, the size of the mount, at the top and bottom of the back, and then to fix the mount on the page with a spot of adhesive preparation that leaves no stain behind it. In this way we could take out any stamp that there was any special reason for examining more closely than can be done in the pages of a book, by a simple sacrifice of the bit of paper at the back of the mount. In fixing the hinges the hinge should not be fixed below the perforation, as in that case when the stamp is turned up the perforation will be doubled up and creased. It should extend to the end of the perforation, and to be perfect should be perforated also, and doubled along the middle of the perforation. The great objections to this mode are that a dozen different gauges are required, and that the hinge is very much weakened. Perhaps it is therefore best not to use gummed mounts, but to fix the stamp on to ungummed paper.

Complaints are made that in turning over the pages of an album, the stamps are apt to fall and get creased, more especially when they are in blocks or on envelopes. When collectors show their collections they do not ordinarily hand them over, even to a brother collector, like a picture-book, and tell him to look for himself, but are generally their own showmen. We ourselves never showed our best stamps first, but took our book Hebrew fashion—as most of the best things were in the first pages—and reserved the fiery dragons, &c., for the last, as no one would care about squibs and crackers after; these should all be let off before the great pieces, or no notice would be taken of them. But when stamps show separate varieties, such as those of Nevis, Corrientes, &c., which the collector is obliged to take in sheets, no mere hingeing suffices to keep the stamps from flapping. In such cases recourse may be had to a narrow band of paper let through to the back between the lining and the back of the page of the album, as we always lined the back with glazed white paper, which

answered better than loose fly-leaves; or rather we should say, we pasted the fly-leaf round the edge and attached it to the back of the sheet. In mounting envelopes this system would not exactly do. We will endeavour to explain why.

Envelopes take up a large space if mounted separately, and most of them are perfectly useless unless they are entire. A philatelist wants to handle an envelope—it must not therefore be a fixture. No page in an ordinary album—we mean those even which have movable sheets—will bear the weight of a dozen envelopes without wriggling in all directions. We tried scores of ways of mounting envelopes, and at last came to the conclusion that the most satisfactory one was to have a good fly-leaf of stout white paper at the back of the page, and a frame of about $\frac{1}{16}$th inch thick round the face to protect the stamps from undue pressure, or else those that were embossed would soon be as flat as a pancake. Suppose now the part inside this frame measures 10 inches long by 8 inches wide, and envelopes of $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches have to be shown. The 8 inches will admit of three envelopes, so arranged as to show the stamps of the two under ones. We cut the front sheet into a series of horizontal bars about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, and about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches apart, of course removing the portion between the bars, which may, if thought well, be strengthened by a thin ribbon pasted on the back of them. The fly-leaf is then pasted down along the edges. The three envelopes are hung on to the first bar, tucked in under the second, on which another set of three is hung, and so on. There will be room for twelve envelopes, four rows of three, and any envelope can be taken out if it is necessary to examine it. This is the general principle, but it naturally requires to be varied when we have to deal with envelopes of different sizes, like those of the United States. The envelopes are, in fact, within a sort of *passe-partout*, and are considerably protected by the framing; but the page is thick, about $\frac{3}{32}$ inch—not too thick, however, to sustain the weight of twelve envelopes. We wish collectors would try this system, and probably they could improve upon it. So very few, we lament to say, devote much attention to envelopes, and yet they have formed part and parcel of the new postal system of stamps from the very first, and in more than one country have preceded the introduction of adhesives.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

THE EDITOR OF THE "PHILATELIC RECORD" *will be glad to receive for notice under this heading early intelligence of any New Issues or Varieties, accompanied, if possible, by specimens, which will be carefully returned. All communications, whether on the above, or on other matters of philatelic interest, should be addressed to him, to the "care of* BUHL & CO., LIMITED, *11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C."*

Abyssinia.—The *Coll. de Timbres-Poste* reports that a card, an envelope, and two unpaid letter stamps, are in preparation, which are to make their *début* in Abyssinia, and not in Paris. We are further informed that the obliterations of the stamps are to be made heavier and in the form of a cross, and the dated stamps will bear Arabic numerals, and not Amharic, which few people can read. We are not astonished at this, for the Amharic numerals are the letters of the Greek alphabet so distorted as to be past recognition.

Argentine Republic.—Messrs. A. Smith & Son inform us, that according to their last advices from Buenos Ayres, a change will, on or about the 1st January, be made in the colours of all these stamps; the designs will, it is said, remain the same, except those of the 16, 24, and 50 cents, which will be altered.

Belgium.—M. Vandenpeereboom has surpassed himself, and has stirred up the Belgian lions into a very snarly state. These guard a circular disc, within a rectangular transverse oblong, within which is a numeral of large dimensions, with "c" below it for the values in centimes. Above the disc, on an uncoloured tablet, are the words "A PAYER," and underneath, on a similar tablet, is the Flemish equivalent "TE BETALEN." This is the design of the new postage due stamps, which made their appearance on the 1st November. The object of the issue is said to be the extension of the system to all the unpaid letters passing throughout the country, which hitherto has been confined to those passing within the same postal division.

The values and colours are as follows:

Postage Due.

5 centimes, green.	20 centimes, grey-green.
10 ,, light brown.	50 ,, bistre.

1 franc, rose.

The impression is on plain white paper, and the stamps are perforated 15.

It is said that the Belgians are to submit to another turn of the screw at the hands of the Minister, who is bent on preventing them from receiving too many letters on a Sunday. The perforation of the Sunday coupon is to be abolished, in the hopes that writers of letters will forget to obliterate the prohibition.

British East Africa.—We now give a complete list, so far as we have been able to learn, of the stamps that have been overprinted with "BRITISH EAST AFRICA," as mentioned in our last. The overprint is in black, and is done with a hand stamp.

½ anna, light brown.
1 ,, green.
2½ ,, black on yellow.
3 ,, brown on red.
4 ,, light brown.
4½ ,, violet.
5 anna, black.
8 ,, blue.
1 rupee, rose.
2 ,, brown-red.
3 ,, violet.
4 ,, blue.
5 rupee, olive green.

The envelope of 2½ annas, green, the registration envelopes, and the post cards, have been also overprinted in black.

Brazil.—The single post card of 80 reis, companion of the reply card of the same value already chronicled, has made its appearance.

Post Card. 80 reis, violet and dark blue on azure.

Bulgaria.—The lion in the centre of the 2 stotinki is effaced by a surcharge in red of "01," due to the usual cause, the exhaustion of the stock of stamps of 1 stotinka.

The unpaid letter stamp of 50 stot., perforated and unperforated, has been transferred into 30 stot. by surcharging it with "30," in large figures, in red, and barring the original value.

01 on 2 stot., grey-green, surcharged in red.
Postage Due. 30 on 50 stot., blue, surcharged in red; perf. and imperf.

We are told that 1½ millions of the 2 stot. were surcharged with the new value, 20,000 of 50 stot. perforated, and 10,000 imperforate.

Canada.—Whether by accident or intention does not appear to be quite clear, but copies of the present 8 cents are found in much darker colour than we have hitherto seen. Messrs. A. Smith & Son have shown us copies that are slate-black of the darkest kind.

8 cents, slate-black.

A letter card of 1 cent has been issued for letters for private boxes, and another of 2 cents for city letters. The design is like that of the 3 cent letter card, and the stamps are of somewhat similar design; the lower tablet, on which is the value, projects, however, beyond the line of the sides.

Letter Cards. 1 cent, black on pale grey-blue.
2 cents, green ,, ,,

Ceylon.—The *Ceylon Observer*, of 12th September last, states that on the previous day a new five cent postage envelope was issued, $5\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The envelopes, which are of white laid paper, were purchased from an English stationer, and stamped at the Government Printing Office, Ceylon, this imprint being embossed on the back. The stamp shows the head of the Queen in a circle, with "CEYLON POSTAGE" at the top, and "5 CENTS" at the bottom, as in the post cards, but of larger dimensions. It is said

that, *inadvertently*, some were stamped in the left upper angles, but these have, as far as possible, been recalled.

Envelope. 5 cents, indigo blue.

Corea.—We see that a new series is announced as coming from, or, at any rate as purporting to come from, this country, the name of which has, from recent events, been brought rather prominently before the public. For our own part we rather prefer the old issue in "mon"; the present one is in "poon," there being four values of 5, 10, 25, and 50 poon. We forbear to say more at present, as the stamps look to us of very doubtful use and origin.

Egypt.—We are to be treated with more "unnecessaries." From what we learn this issue is to consist of three values—3 mil., ½ piastre, and 1 piastre—all of the same design, in which figures the Nile, a native woman, pyramids, and palm trees, the work of a French artist; but the die has been engraved by De La Rue & Co. They are for the Cairo fêtes, and 100,000 of each value will be printed; but we do not know if this is the limit.

Fernando Po.—Stamps of 10 c., in maroon, and of 50 c., in blue, with the head of Alfonso XIII., of the new type, will be put in circulation at the same time as those of Spain.

Finland.—A correspondent informs the *Timbre-Poste* that all the postage stamps in penni and Finnish marks will, for the future, be perforated 14, instead of 12½. The 25 penni, blue, has already appeared with the new perforation, and the other values will make their appearance according as the stocks, with the old perforation, are exhausted.

There is also a modification in the post card of 10 penni, and the corresponding reply card. The 2nd, 6th, and 7th lines have the type thinner, while that of the 4th line is thicker, and the letters are more spaced. The Arms in the left upper angle are larger; the Crown is higher. There are no exterior pearls.

Post Cards. 25 penni, blue; perforated 14.
10 ,, rose on cream.
10+10 ,, ,,

France.—The *Timbre-Poste* announces the postage due stamp of 15 c. as having made its appearance at the beginning of September, in green.

Postage Due. 15 c., green.

Great Britain.—The *Monthly Journal* notices the fact, to which attention has been drawn by Mr. Morley, that the embossing die of the 1½d. was modified in 1890 by removing the outer line. We think that this was ground off, as the die then in use had received a slight injury in the right upper portion of it. The dies since constructed, and that in use with S. H. on the base of the bust, have been made without the line.

The *Monthly Journal* also states that the five dot florets were only in use from March, 1894, till August, 1895. These, however, were not used for particular values, as we have the same values with five and with nine dots. We are unable to agree with our contemporary that nine dots were always issued to McCorquodale & Co. for the registration envelopes. The editor of the *Philatelic Record* (vol. v., p. 214) noticed the difference in January, 1884, when size H, with R in oval, appeared; and the same is found in size G, current about the same time, but the stamping was so badly done that certainty seems to be out of the question.

Greece.—There are more than rumours of an issue to add *éclat* to the Olympian Games, and some of our contemporaries describe the designs of this unnecessary issue. We will wait until we see the designs before attempting to describe them.

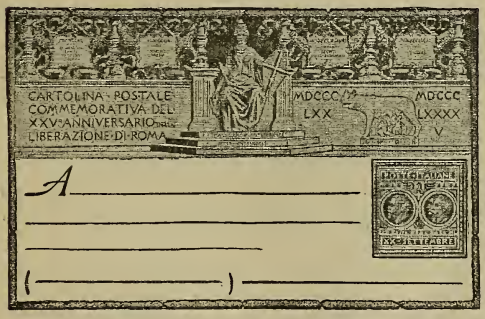
Grenada.—We quoted the list of the new issues last month from the *I. B. J.*, but the 1s. is not purple and orange, it is *green* and orange, nor is it to be supposed that the list already given comprises all the values. We only gave 5 values, probably there are several more.

1 shilling, green, name and value in orange.



Guatemala.—The annexed engraving illustrates the surcharge on the envelope of 5 centavos recently chronicled.

Italy.—We give an engraving of the face of the commemorative post card, though it is an "unnecessary," and also of the stamp on the reverse side. These were described in our last number.





Eritrea.—The *Austria Philatelist* states that a new value has been added to the existing series.

45 centesimi, réseda-green and black.

Levant Company.—A post card of 4 kopecks, with its corresponding reply, as also a letter card of 10 kopecks, have been issued.

In the left upper angle is the Russian Eagle, and in the right a stamp of the type of the current adhesives.

Post Cards. 4 kopecks, green on buff.
4+4 ,, ,,
Letter Card. 10 ,, carmine and green on buff.

Luxemburg.—The post cards of 5c. and 10c., with their corresponding reply cards, have made their appearance with stamps of the new type. In other respects there is no change.



Post Cards. 5 centimes, green on buff.
5+5 ,, ,, ,,
10 ,, rose ,,
10+10 ,, ,, ,,

Mexico.—We are indebted to Mr. Chapman for the following: "The 4 centavos which is employed for city postage has appeared with the colour modified. It is now orange-vermilion."

4 centavos, orange-vermilion.

The envelopes of the Express Nacional with stamp of 5c., and the price "15 cts." in the vignette barred, and "10 cts." stamped below in red, have no longer "Para Sobres, ½oz. = 15 gramos" in blue, but in green like the vignette, and in small Egyptian capitals.

The Express Hidalgo is bountiful. We have the following, size 153 × 90 mm.:

Stamp of 5 c., blue, device of 10 c., brown on straw, grey and blue laid.
,, 5 c., ,, ,, ,, black on green laid.
,, 10 c., lilac ,, 15 c., brown on pink and yellow laid.
,, 10 c. ,, ,, ,, black on yellow laid.

In those with stamp of 5 cts. the paper is laid from right to left, in those of 10 cts. from left to right. The grey paper is a "granite" paper.

We have also particulars of a new issue of letter cards of 4 and 5 centavos, and post cards of 3 centavos, which we will describe in our next.

Norway.—The post card of 10 öre has made its appearance with the stamp showing the recent changes.

Post Card. 10 öre, carmine on white.

Orange Free State.—We have seen the ½d., orange-brown, with the coat-of-arms stamped low down, and "½d." in black, above it. This was on a post card addressed in the country itself.

Post Card. Adhesive of ½d., orange-brown, overprinted in black.

Perak.—Last month we only gave the list of the new stamps in cents. There are also values in dollars of the elephant type. This type is in great contrast with that of the tiger. The one shows the animals in a perfect state of repose; in the other the animal appears in anything but a purring mood. The dollar values are 1, 2, 5, 25, and 100 dollars on paper watermarked ♕ CC, but we are not able to give the colours except those of the 1 and 5 dollars, which are similar to those of Selangor.

Queensland.—In our September number we mentioned that the halfpenny had been issued on *burelé* paper and on "beer duty" paper. The dates of these respective issues are said to have been the 2nd and 9th August. On the 15th August the stamp appeared on plain paper with what is described as a secret mark of "Q and ♕" stamped upon it. The mark is not readily seen, as it is not like a watermark, visible by holding it to the light, but the light must be allowed to fall on the face, when it may be detected.

½ penny, green, on stamped paper; perf. 12.

The one shilling has also been printed on the "Beer Duty" paper, but as the halfpenny has gone back to the proper water-marked paper, the *necessity* of making any further varieties has now passed away.

1 shilling, violet, on "Beer Duty" paper; perf. 12.

Selangor.—Last month we only gave three values in cents, and stated that probably others existed. The values and colours are, it appears, the same as for Perak.

1 c., purple and green.	5 c., purple and olive-yellow.
2 c. ,, brown.	8 c. ,, blue.
3 c. ,, carmine.	10 c. ,, orange.

50 c., purple and black.

There are also other dollar values of 2, 25, and 100.

South African Republic.—We give an engraving of the unnecessary stamp described in our last.

We believe that we have omitted to chronicle the issue of the fourpence of the current type.

4 pence, olive-brown.



South Australia.—According to a report furnished to the *Australian Philatelist*, the new perforating machine does its work well. The 2d. has been already operated on, and the other values will follow as supplies are required.

2d., red-brown; perforated 13.

Spain.—From the *Ilustracion Filatélica* we have the particulars of the issue which is to bear the profile to the right of Alfonso XIII. "up to date." The values and colours are to be as follows:

1 c., green.	30 c., grey.
2 c., blue-green.	40 c., chocolate.
5 c., light blue.	50 c., rose.
10 c., red.	75 c., yellow.
15 c., violet.	1 pta., light violet.
20 c., emerald.	4 ptas., carmine.
25 c., blue.	10 ptas., flesh.

These are to serve for postal, telegraphic, and official purposes. There will be also post cards of 5 c., 10 c., and 15 c., as, at present, with corresponding reply cards.

Straits Settlements.—Philatelic errors are more commonly those of commission than those of omission. Of these latter Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us particulars of one recently committed by a firm of the highest repute, showing once more the truth of the proverb, "*Il n' y a pas de cheval si bon qu' il ne bronche pas.*" In 1894 the 32 cents was printed in rose, and surcharged "THREE CENTS," both done by De La Rue & Co. The sheet consisted of four panes of 60 stamps each, arranged two and two. In one of the sheets three only of the panes have been surcharged, leaving the left upper one unsurcharged, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have obtained the two upper panes. They attribute the error to the machine having missed this quarter sheet; but we think that this is rather putting the boot on the wrong leg, and that it was not the fault of the machine, but of the operator. The surcharging plate was adapted for printing the new value on only one pane at a time, and the error probably arose from a sheet not having been put through the press a fourth time. We quite agree with Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. in their saying that it is curious that the omission should not have been discovered before, considering the various hands the sheets had passed through, for this one was purchased quite recently at the Singapore Post Office. At all events, the British Workman has added a 32 cents, *rose*, 60 of which only are known to exist.

The same firm mention that a pane of 60 of the 1 cent on 6 cents, lilac, has been first surcharged upside down, and then the right way. This is evidently an attempt on the part of the native printer to remedy an error of commission, and in so doing he has discovered the way of making glad the hearts of sundry amateurs.

32 cents, *rose;* (error).

Timor.—Our contemporaries are mentioning the surcharge of the stamps of 1887 with "AVOS," but we think this is rather old history. We had the entire series in April, and then chronicled them.

Tonga.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the surcharges in *black*, mentioned in our last number as having been made on the 2d., blue, have not been issued, but that with commendable anxiety to meet the wishes of collectors, the surcharges of "Halfpenny," "One Penny," and "7½d.," had been applied to a stamp of 2½d., in vermilion-red, of a design similar to that of the condemned series, the design of which we give an engraving, but with the head altered. The condemned series is to be issued until exhausted, and then an issue in the amended type will be made. They are both, we believe, fanciful portraits of George II., the first making his majesty look like a fool, and the second giving him the appearance of a brigand.

"Halfpenny" on 2½, vermilion-red; surcharged in black.
"One Penny" ,, ,, ,, ,,
"7½d." ,, ,, ,, ,,

Of course, there are varieties in this rubbish in the lettering of the surcharge.

United States.—The 3 cents, violet; the 6 cents, claret; the 15 cents, dark blue; the 50 cents, orange; the 1 dollar, black; the 2 dollars, blue; and the 5 dollars, green, are reported as having appeared on the watermarked paper, so that the issue is now complete on the new paper.

The special delivery stamp of 10 cents is also on watermarked paper, as also the postage due stamps of 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., and 10 c.

	3 cents,	violet,	on watermarked	paper.
	6 ,,	claret	,,	,,
	15 ,,	dark blue	,,	,,
	50 ,,	orange	,,	,,
	1 dollar,	black	,,	,,
	2 dollars,	blue	,,	,,
	5 ,,	green	,,	,,
S. D. Stamp.	10 cents,	blue	,,	,,
Postage Due.	1 cent,	claret	,,	,,
	2 cents	,,	,,	,,
	5 ,,	,,	,,	,,
	10 ,,	,,	,,	,,

The new series of newspaper and periodical stamps has made its appearance, and consists of twelve values: 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., 10 c., 20 c., 50 c., 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 dollars. The 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., and 10 c., resemble the 2 c. of the 1875 issue, and are emblematic of Columbia, the tutelar goddess of America; the 25 and 50, resembling the 12 cents of 1875, are emblematic of the goddess of Justice; the 2 dollars, resembling the 3 dollars of 1875, is emblematic of Victory; the 5 dols., resembling the former 6 dols., is Clio; the 10 dols., Vesta, like the 12 dols. of 1875; the 20 dols., Peace, like the 24 dols. of 1875; the 50 dols., Commerce, like the 36 dols. of 1875; and the 100 dols., Minnehaha, as in the 80 dols. of 1875. The series appears to us superior to that of 1875. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation 12.

1	cent,	black.	
2	,,	,,	
5	,,	,,	
10	,,	,,	
20	,,	carmine.	
50	,,	,,	
2	dollars,	orange.	
5	,,	blue.	
10	,,	green.	
20	,,	slate.	
50	,,	carmine.	
100	,,	violet.	

Victoria.—"A bolt from the blue." A specimen of the 6d., blue, laureated head, has been discovered among a lot of 1860–70 stamps with watermark of double-lined 2, similar to that on the Tasmanian stamps. It is needless to say that its very improper appearance has given rise to various conjectures, and its existence is more puzzling than the presence of a fly in amber. The stamp has been shown to Mr. D. H. Hill, and the facts are all admitted by him. No paper was borrowed from Tasmania in 1863, except some books of that watermarked with double-lined "1" and "4", and Mr. Hill says that the printing on this paper continued on and off till 1868. The stamp in question is dated 10th August, 1870. Mr. Hill thinks that a sheet of paper watermarked "2"

might have been mixed up with those watermarked "4". We partake in the opinion of the Editor of the *Australian Philatelist*, that Perkins, Bacon and Co., who supplied the books of paper, were not likely to have made such an error. The Editor suggests what seems to be a more probable mode of accounting for the presence of the sheet watermarked "2" in the Post Office, and this is that when the Tasmanian Administration offered to lend paper to Victoria, it sent over samples of what it could lend, viz., that watermarked with double-lined 1, 2, and 4. We know that the offer was accepted for the 1 and 4; did the sample of "2" remain in the Post Office at Victoria, and was it used up with the other paper? This is the question which puzzles philatelists.

6d., blue (laureated), watermarked double-lined "2".

THE PUBLIC AND THEIR SCHOOLMASTER.

By "Aliquis."

I was asked, some short time since, who really was the individual—singular, plural, corporate, or incorporate—that was the head schoolmaster of the public in matters relating to postage stamps. I was obliged to confess my ignorance. It is clear, however, that there are others besides the compilers of the code that goes under the name of the *Postal Guide*, because wherever there are notices such as on the wrappers and registration envelopes, the language shows another style. But I will begin at the beginning.

In the notice to the public when postage stamps were first issued in 1840, no special instructions were given as to how the stamps were to be used beyond what was visible on the face of them, save that the one penny franked one rate, and the twopence two rates. It was only when the stamps were purchased in the sheet that the public were told what to do with them. On the margin of each sheet of one penny stamps the following information was engraved: "Price 1d. per label; 1s. per row of 12; £1 per sheet. Place the label above the address and towards the RIGHT HAND SIDE of the letter. In wetting the back, be careful not to remove the cement." As postage stamp dampers were not invented at that time, this latter instruction was doubtless an euphonious mode of expressing, "be careful not to lick off the stuff at the back," just as if it were some lollipop mixture; at all events, the taste of it gave rise to the notion that the stuff was some horrible composition, until the late Charles Dickens divulged the "great British Gum Secret." On the sheets of the two pence there were similar instructions, *mutatis mutandis*.

On the Mulready covers there were full notices of the prices of the covers and envelopes and the weights they could carry free of postage, and these I am told were settled by Rowland Hill. It is, therefore, not improbable that he had something to do with the instructions round the

sheets of one penny and twopenny stamps. He knew, no doubt, what was required at that period, and was able to form a very fair opinion of the general state of stupidity of the British public. When a new value was issued in 1855, the cement instructions, and those as to where the stamp was to be placed, were dispensed with, but the multiplication table was retained. Some advance had therefore been made, but the instructions were still retained on the line-engraved stamps, and continued as long as they lasted, most probably because they had become perfectly harmless, and nobody paid any attention to them. In 1880, after a lapse of forty years, this branch of the education of the public may be considered as having been completed, and a clean sweep was made of all instructions on the adhesives.

No instructions were ever issued on the embossed envelopes of one penny and twopence. There was no cement, and the stamp was already in the right place. The only notice was, that on the penny ones there was a wrapper band, on which the price of 24 was stated, and on those of twopence the price of 12; the purchasers, therefore, were better off than those of the penny and twopenny adhesives, who were obliged to purchase a sheet in order to know the price per 12.

If now we look at the wrappers issued in 1870. For the first five years they bore no instructions, when, probably owing to the ignorance of some dolt among the public, or some official reverting to ancient ways, a notice was printed on them that they could only be used for newspapers and printed matter sent by Book Post. After a month's trial this does not appear to have hit the nail on the head, and a more elaborate one was substituted with a penalty clause. I do not suppose the public gave themselves the trouble to read it except for curiosity sake as a specimen of official composition. The only further alteration has been that the instructions have been somewhat modified so as to make them more in harmony with the ordinary rules of grammar.

I will not refer to the post cards on which in face of the extended use of private cards the instructions are now a superfluity, nor to the letter cards, for in consequence of the little use of these, it is probably necessary to tell the recipient how to get at the inside of them, but will pass on to the registration envelopes, the notices on which do not appear to come from the author of the *Postal Guide*, who tells you to give the letter to an *agent* of the Post Office while the envelope tells you to give it to an *officer*, a distinction as it appears without a difference. When these envelopes first appeared in 1878 they bore a single line of instructions. "This letter must be given to an officer of the Post-office to be registered." John Bull seems to have been in too great a hurry and not waited for his receipt, for a few months after, "and a receipt obtained for it" were added. But why in the name of all that is wonderful they should have printed imitation strings upon them I am at loss to conceive. The real strings were supposed to represent some sort of security, but the imitation ones are arrant humbugs and do not even seem to attract attention, being overshadowed by other printing.

But this is not all; when the second line was added to the instructions a frame was introduced into the right upper corner, with the imperative order that the stamp to pay the postage *must* be placed at that particular spot. Notwithstanding Education Codes and Acts, and schools, the British public must then have been growing more stupid day by day, but the absurdity is that they were not compelled to make use of registration envelopes and when they made use of others they were left with a free hand. But this continues to the present day, and, though a system of insurance, the rates which, for any insurance above £5 must be denoted by postage stamps, yet there are no instructions as to where these stamps are to be put. There ought certainly to be another compartment for these.

When we get to 1881 another alteration was made in the instructions, and the following words were added: "If otherwise posted, an extra charge will be made on delivery." This appeared on the envelopes of one size only, and was withdrawn after a few months. It doubtless proved too puzzling for the public, and in this obscure form the penalty on this breach of the commandments naturally alarmed them. Then a large R was introduced into the left upper angle, most probably for the benefit of the optics of the Post Office Officials, because it is of importance that there should be something very salient to catch the eye in the rapid manipulation of the letters, though registered letters are not mixed up with the other letters, except in the hands of the distributors. Then when a system of insurance was introduced, the table of rates was placarded on the backs of the envelopes in stock, *à la Willing*, and printed on all the new issues, and as each change was made, placard after placard was stuck on them, which, taken at the best was only an advertisement like that of any quackery. More than this, the advertisement was misleading. It began by stating that "Compensation will be given, etc., according to the following scale:" and after the scale there was added, "that it was subject to the conditions in the published regulations," etc. Now what does the *Postal Guide*, in which these regulations are to be found, say on this point? "The Postmaster General will (not in consequence of any legal liability, but voluntarily and as an act of grace), subject to the rules hereinafter mentioned, give compensation, etc.," and then come some pages of rules which must be strictly followed by those who expect to reap the benefit of the insurance. In the *Postal Guide* the compliance with the regulations is put in the fore ground, in the notice on the envelopes it is relegated to the background. It is not a *suppressio veri*, but it is uncommonly like putting truth in the well.

Within the last two years, the instructions and the address have been removed to the back of the envelope, and to guard against the public writing the address on what had hitherto been the face, another "must" has been added to the instructions, "The address must be written on this side," and to make assurance doubly sure, the insurance notice and table has been so stretched out as to cover the reverse side as much as possible. This *may* be necessary, as a short time since I received a

registration envelope from the Gold Coast, upon which the insurance advertisement was not printed, and notwithstanding all orders to the contrary, the address was written on the accustomed side, and the instructions figured on the other alone in their glory.

But is it not time after an education of nearly eighteen years in the use of these envelopes, that these puerile instructions should be done away with? They are not to be found in foreign countries, being limited to the United Kingdom and some dependencies of the British Crown, and possibly to some that have imitated a bad example, but who must be mystified by the imitation strings. Why should the public of Great Britain be ear-marked as being still so intolerably stupid. It was all very well at first to attempt to make people believe the envelopes were tied round with string as formerly, by printing sham strings on them, and tell them exactly what to do with the letter, and where they must place the stamp, though even this was imperfect, as it did not provide for more than one stamp. Besides which, the envelopes themselves are an anachronism. Such improvements have been made in the manufacturing of tough paper that what is called the "indestructible" envelope is far superior to the old clumsy linen-lined one. The envelopes have never been what can really be called a success, for what success they have had is principally owing to the Post-office refusing to entertain any claim for compensation for loss of money, which has a very elastic definition, unless it is enclosed in one of its registration envelopes, which can be opened with even greater facility than most of the ordinary ones. The number of registered letters, according to the last report of the Postmaster-General, is under twelve millions, and not one half of them are enclosed in the official registered-letter envelopes. Only 100,000 pay any extra insurance fee, so that the recent addition of "FEE PAID" is not of much use; while, amid all the instructions on the envelope and the regulations in the *Postal Guide*, neither the one or the other states by whom the blank between the words is to be filled up, whether by the sender or the officer of the Post-office; in practice, therefore, it is not filled in, and might for all useful purposes just as well be knocked out.

The stamp at the end of the gummed flap is of no advantage whatever, any more than the pink device that was formerly stamped on the closing flap of the ordinary envelopes. To sum up, these envelopes are clumsy and antiquated. They are not made use of by bankers, except when they cannot help themselves, and they never trust to the gummed flap, but seal it also. The public do not like them, and use them as little as possible. Why not make an end of them, and introduce something better.

I may be twitted with the retort, What do you, meddling critic, venture to suppose can be more perfect than what has been year by year improved by the Post-office? My proposal would be simply this—to substitute envelopes of "indestructible" paper for the linen-lined ones, and stamp the face with the Registration stamp; print "Registered Letter" on the face of the envelope, and suppress all

the instructions and the advertisement of the insurance, or else put them on the back, which might be filled up with an appropriate pattern, if there is any apprehension that the public would write the address on the wrong side. A notice that the stamps for postage and any extra insurance should be denoted by adhesives, would perhaps be useful, as a somewhat similar one is found on the letter cards. For ordinary use, envelopes might be issued with embossed stamps of one penny.

The actual ones, however, have been so tinkered as to be past further mending. They were first folded one way, then another way, then they were turned upside down, and lastly the backs have been made the fronts. Everything has been tried, but all to no avail; they are utterly worn out, and I hope that twenty years will be the utmost limit of their existence. The public are tired of them, and I think that collectors are of the same mind, notwithstanding the fine field they present for those who delight in collecting varieties. The faults in stamping, in construction, but more especially in the printing, are legion, and show how very badly some things can be done.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Catalogue and Price List of the Revenue Stamps of the British Colonies, by Walter Morley.

The above has reached us, and although it is not entirely within the province of the *Record* to meddle with fiscal stamps, yet not a few of these have equally figured as used for postal purposes. We do not, however, shelter ourselves under this plea, or make it an excuse for offering a few words on this catalogue; we look at it on somewhat higher grounds. Mr. Morley is an indefatigable collector of and dealer in more than fiscal stamps. His chief speciality, it is true, is more particularly in English postage stamps, but he is the principal dealer in England in fiscal stamps of all countries.

We do not pretend to assert that the present work is perfect, and Mr. Morley, with becoming modesty, does not state that it is, but says that he has carefully verified the different varieties which he has recorded, and in this lies the great merit of what he has done, for it shows how patient and indefatigable he has been in his studies. To those who take an interest in the fiscal stamps of our colonies the catalogue is invaluable, and is a fit supplement to his former work, in which he dealt with the fiscal stamps of Great Britain.

The first number of *The English Specialists' Journal, the Official Organ of the English Specialists' Association*, edited and published by H. L'Estrange Ewen, has come to hand. We have perused it with pleasure, and congratulate Mr. Ewen on its appearance, which promises

well for the future. As we make it a rule not to criticise other journals —though this does not prevent us from making remarks on any papers that appear in them—we can only advise those of our readers who desire to dive into the mysteries of "specialising" to subscribe to the journal, and judge for themselves. Mr. Ewen is well known as one who devotes himself exclusively to English stamps, and as he is a patient and painstaking investigator, he permits very few things to escape his notice which another might fail to observe, or, if he did, might not consider of importance. Not many years since we were ridiculed and declared to be already far advanced in senile babyhood, because we contended that the fact of a stamp bearing a different plate number on its face from another was a legitimate variety. We have not changed our opinions, but we think that many stamps are now considered as varieties by specialists which are scarcely worthy of the name. Each collector must be left to do what seems to be good in his own eyes. There is, however, one consolation in English stamps, any errors that exist were not done intentionally, as many are at the present time; there has been no tickling of the palates of collectors. With one unfortunate slip of issuing an envelope to add money to the Rowland Hill benevolent fund, the postage stamps sold by the Post-office have been made solely for postage purposes, to meet the wants of the public, and not the idiosyncracies of collectors.

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. Wilson, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

R. Hollick, Esq. | W. Pimm, Esq.

Committee:

Mr. V. Lundeblad. | Mr. C. A. Stephenson.
Mr. W. S. Vaughton. | Mr. W. F. Wadams.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—G. Johnson, B.A.

Annual General Business Meeting, October 3.

The election of the following members was confirmed—T. J. Rowland (Shanghai), Samuel Epstein (Johannesburg), H. E. Schmidt de Wilde (Paris), W. J. Martin (Falmouth), E. W. Hensinger (San Antonio).

The following were then unanimously elected members—William Brown (Salisbury), M. Z. Kustner (London), Dr. H. le Cronier (Jersey), Dr. Anachoreta (Lisbon), E. H. Greatorex (Birmingham), W. E. Jeff (Coleshill), T. D. Hume (Newcastle-on-Tyne), H. Loveridge (Wolverhampton), Miss E. Lewis (Ramsgate), A. Constantine (Birmingham), J. Winch (Colchester).

Votes of thanks were accorded—Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. (*Catalogue*, 10th Edition), H. L. Ewen (*Catalogue*, 4th Edition), W. H. Peckitt (*Catalogue*) Manchester Philatelic Society (Invitation to their opening meeting), Met. Phil. Club of San Antonio (Invitation to their exhibition).

The officers were elected for the ensuing year as at the head of this report. The accounts, showing a balance of £3 4s. 8½d. in favour of the Society, were audited, found correct, and passed.

Additions and alterations were made to the rules, which will in future be published in the Annual Report, ready for distribution about October 10th.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the officers for their services during the past year.

The following programme was passed:

Oct. 17.	Presidential Address . . .	
Nov. 7.	Display—Western Australia . .	
,, 21.	Paper—U.S.A., 1847-69 . . .	Mr. C. A. Stephenson.
Dec. 5.	Display—Italy and Italian States .	
,, 19.	Paper—St. Vincent . . .	Mr. W. Pimm.
Jan. 2.	Display—West Africa . . .	
,, 16.	Paper—Great Britain . . .	Dr. G. H. Hart.
Feb. 6.	Debate—Reprints, for and against .	
,, 20.	Display of Novelties and New Issues .	
March 5.	Display—Tasmania	
,, 19.	Paper—Argentine	Mr. G. Johnson.
April 2.	Paper—Hamburg	Mr. F. J. Lord.
,, 16.	Paper	Mr. R. Hollick.
May 7.	Paper—Greece	Mr. P. T. Deakin.
,, 21.	Philatelic Display	Mr. W. B. Avery.

Oct. 17th. Presidential Address. Messrs. F. G. Bepler (London), E. C. Cooke (Acock's Green), W. R. Joynt (Dublin), were unanimously elected members.

Mr. W. T. Wilson then gave a most interesting and instructive paper on "Fashionable Stamps." After enumerating the various stamps at present in fashion, commencing with the West Indies, he proceeded to give the results of this fashion, specially noting the undue appreciation of the later issues, the rise in prices being caused more by speculators than by collectors. The special instances were all supported by actual numbers printed, left on hand, etc. The whole paper was a valuable lesson to all who were present.

Nov. 7th. Display. Western Australia. The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. P. Kiderlen (Wurtemburg), H. E. M. Rolsted (Norway), A. Levy (Plymouth), R. Sneath (Sheffield), C. G. Taylor (Yarmouth), T. P. Dorman (Northampton), Pio Fabri (Rome), F. Hagen (Sydney), W. W. Worthington (New York), A. S. Weiler (Zanesville U.S.A.), Max de Thoostembergh (Brussels). Two applications were refused.

Subscriptions were voted to a number of philatelic works and periodicals for the Library.

Then followed the display, which was quite up to usual form. The chief interest was centred in the exceedingly fine selection shewn by the President, which, with the exception of one stamp, included two complete panes of 60 of the first issue 4d. The differences in the position and type of corresponding stamps on the two panes, indicating alterations in the transfers, were carefully noted. Excepting the errors of colour, and the inverted centre, all varieties, including the roulettes, were shewn in good numbers by the President and other members.

The November packet was again a record, the value being £616 7*s.* 4½*d.*, although the prices were, in almost every case, in favour of purchasers.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

SESSION 1895–96.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

Vice-Presidents:

J. H. ABBOTT. | W. DORNING BECKTON.

Hon. Treasurer—G. B. DUERST.

Hon. Librarian—F. BARRATT.

Hon. Secretary—W. W. MUNN.

Asst. Hon. Secretary—C. H. COOTE.

Committee:

G. F. H. GIBSON. | W. GRUNEWALD. | E. PETRI.

The Meetings are held weekly at the "Blackfriars" Hotel, Manchester.

THE inaugural meeting of the fifth session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel, on Friday, September 27th, the President in the chair. There was a large gathering of members and visitors. In a short address, the President said the Society was again indebted to the kindness of Mr. T. Ridpath for the preparation of the photographic slides to be shown at the third lantern exhibition. In referring to the Syllabus, the Chairman drew attention to the fact that the Society's meeting would be held every Friday during the session, the alternate nights being devoted to the exhibition of stamps and discussions. It was also announced that the rules of the new Stamp Exchange for members were printed, and the first packet would start on October 1st.

The lantern exhibition was followed with close interest by all present, the only regret expressed being that it was impossible to carry away all the information given. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ridpath for his valuable services.

The second ordinary meeting of the session was held on October 11th, at the Blackfriars Hotel, the senior Vice-President in the chair. Messrs. A. S. Sullivan, W. Speidel, and J. J. Darlow, were elected members of the Society. Mr. W. D. Beckton read a paper on the Stamps of Queensland, introducing his subject with a brief but interesting geographical, historical, industrial, and political sketch of the country. All the various issues up to 1891, with their varieties of perforation, watermarks, &c., were fully described and illustrated seriatim. In connection with the lithographed issue of 1866, value 4d. and 5 shillings, Mr. Beckton said that after careful consideration he was quite convinced that for the 4d. stamp a lithographed transfer had been taken from the 3d. engraved plate, the word "three" having been erased, and "four" inserted by hand after the transfer was made. This would account for the word "four" varying so much in size, shape, and position. At least eight stamps with strongly-marked differences were exhibited by the essayist. In further confirmation several of the stamps shew decided traces of parts of the word "three." The enlargement of these stamps with the lantern, at the opening meeting, showed these remains very clearly. The 5 shilling value had been evidently prepared in the same manner from the one shilling engraved plate, the "one" being altered to "five," and the letter "s" inserted after shilling. The same marked differences exist in the value, particularly in the added letter "s."

SYLLABUS.

1895.		
Sept.	27.	Opening Meeting, 7 p.m.—Lantern Exhibition.
Oct.	4.	Discussion on Lantern Exhibition.
,,	11.	"Queensland" . . . . W. D. Beckton.
,,	18.	Discussion—"Measurement of Perforations."
,,	25.	"Alsace and Lorraine" . . . G. B. Duerst.
Nov.	1.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Sweden" .
,,	8.	Paper . . . . . W. Grunewald.
,,	15.	Discussion—"Best Stamp Mounts and methods of mounting a Collection" .
,,	22.	Paper . . . . . President.
,,	29.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Canada" .
Dec.	6.	"Spain, 1850-56" . . . . D. Ostara.
,,	13.	Exhibition and Discussion.—"West Coast Africa."
,,	20.	Annual Dinner, 7 p.m.
1896.		
Jan.	3.	Paper . . . . . P. L. Pemberton.
,,	10.	Discussion—"Specialism *v.* General Collecting."
,,	17.	"Aerial Post" . . . . G. B. Duerst.
,,	24.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Cape of Good Hope."
,,	31.	"Modena" . . . . . E. Petri.
Feb.	7.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Bavaria."
,,	14.	"Greece," Part I. . . . . W. D. Beckton.
,,	21.	Discussion—"Philatelic Literature."
,,	28.	"Greece," Part II. . . . . W. D. Beckton.
Mar.	6.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Italian States."
,,	13.	"Egypt" . . . . . J. H. Abbott.
,,	20.	Exhibition—"Errors and Curiosities" .
,,	27.	Paper . . . . . W. W. Munn.
April	1.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Nova Scotia and Newfoundland."
,,	10.	Lantern Exhibition . . . J. H. Abbott.
,,	17.	Exhibition and Discussion—"Denmark and Iceland."
,,	24.	"Cyprus" . . . . . J. C. North.

William W. Munn, *Hon. Sec.*

Ashfield, Peel Causeway, near Altrincham.

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

The forty-eighth meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12th, at Dr. Murray's house; the President being in the chair; seven others were present. The minutes were read and signed; Mr. E. Smith, Balliol College, was elected a member.

The Rev. H. Cummings read a short paper upon some stamps used during the Commune in France, in 1793.

Mr. J. R. F. Turner read the first part of a paper upon the stamps of the Leeward Islands, and other West Indian Islands. His remarks were confined to the stamps of Antigua, and Bahamas, and Barbados; the other islands will be referred to at subsequent meetings. These two papers will be published shortly.

Dr. Murray exhibited four stamps of Madagascar—1d., 4d., and 8d., of the diamond-shaped design in the centre, and 4d., probably the second issue, of a new design. They were given to him by a friend in Oxford, who had received them direct from Antananarivo; the Madagascar stamps carried the letters free to Natal, where the postage stamps of that colony were added to free the letters to Oxford. The Madagascar stamps were hand-stamped in mauve ink, "British Mail," and the date.

F. A. Bellamy, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*

4, St. John's Road.

Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record.

Vol. XVII. DECEMBER, 1895. No. 204.

IN taking a retrospect of the year 1895, if there is one circumstance that predominates over another, it is the awakening amongst the dealers that their craft was in danger from the continued appearance of unnecessary and speculative stamps, which were not issued to supply the legitimate requirements of the postal service, but solely and avowedly with the object of inducing collectors to purchase them, and put money in the pockets of those answerable for their production. A strong society was formed, consisting of the principal dealers, to denounce these stamps and induce collectors to abstain from purchasing them, and it has already borne some fruits, and, we hope, will produce still more. The press might denounce these stamps as much as it would, but it was powerless, so long as the dealers and collectors failed to support it. Now the tables are turned, and, with united efforts, there is a chance that the invasion of these hordes will be effectually stopped, the more so as movements, with similar objects, find favour in Germany and the United States, as also elsewhere. And while collectors are earnestly appealed to, to aid in the conflict against these unnecessary and speculative stamps, let them not forget also to guard against a passion for unnecessary varieties. The temptation is too great for petty States to withstand. If, for example, we look through the catalogues of the surcharges made on the French Colonial stamps, half the varieties which we find can scarcely be imagined to be due to simple carelessness, but to intention; and the same may be said of other States, such as Ceylon, &c. Happily, in the case of Ceylon, better counsels now prevail, and surcharging has virtually ceased; but, for a time, it was disgraceful, and disfigured a collection of these very interesting stamps.

A Retrospect.

We regret to see that King Carlos of Portugal is not satisfied with his portrait, and has imitated the examples of King

George II. of Tonga. This makes a change of all the Portuguese stamps. The last new issue has been only just furnished to its dependencies, and we fear another influx of "PROVISORIO" stamps. Portugal was formerly an interesting country for collectors. It gave some trouble to get together a good collection of the early stamps, with their varieties—legitimate ones, for they were varieties of type—and to keep clear of reprints. Many of the stamps were also tender to handle, the paper being thin and the embossing heavy, but the last few years has added a mass of most uninteresting and worthless specimens to the collector's album, and we do not envy him the possession of these.

The outlook for 1896 is, we think, encouraging, much more so than when we entered upon the present year. If there are not fewer rocks ahead, yet collectors are more careful in avoiding them, and, above all, they have the dealers in their favour, for they have linked themselves on the side of the collectors, in a bond of mutual protection against what is now declared to be a common enemy.

Novelties, Discoveries, and Resuscitations.

Antioquia.—Rumours are afloat that an entirely new issue is in contemplation for this department of Colombia. The *Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*, in repeating this, recalls to our mind the fact that the present series has been actually in use for *two* years, which it considers worthy of record as an extraordinary fact in the stamp history of the departments of Colombia, or rather of such of them as issue postage stamps. But Antioquia is not quite unique in this respect, as Bolivar and Cundinamarca have made no new issues for a longer period than that.

Austria.—It is rumoured that the colours of the 1 and 2 gulden will be changed on the 1st January, for what reason does not appear, and that they will be yellow-green for the 1 gulden, and lilac for that of 2 gulden.

Belgium.—The two first engravings below show the design of the new postage due stamps in centimes and that of the higher value.







Bulgaria.—The third engraving above represents the surcharge of 1 stot. on the 2 stot. chronicled in our last.

Bussahir.—From our contemporaries we learn the following:

½ anna, rose, overprinted in blue.
8 ,, red-brown, overprinted in violet; perf. 7.

Cape of Good Hope.—The *I. B. J.* chronicles a letter card of one penny, with stamp similar to that on the wrapper. Size 140 × 88 mm. *Letter Card.* 1 penny, carmine on grey.

Great Britain.—Rumour, with one of its hundred tongues, says that the official stamps I.R. are to be done away with as being "unnecessary." Could not "Govt. Parcels" accompany them into retirement. It would remove one cause of anxiety, as the overprinting plate seems to contain a letter that has lost half of its head, and collectors are asked long prices for specimens of this idiotic letter.

Our friend "Aliquis" must have been inspired when he wrote in our last number the indictment against the registration envelopes, as one of his counts was that the insurance notice at the back was not stated fairly. It has been already changed on F and G, and we suppose that this will be extended to the other sizes as stocks become exhausted. What was at the bottom of the notice is now transferred to the top. This is one more variety to be added to the list, already rather long; but the envelope is accustomed to changes, and it is never known for long together what is next going to happen. We would now suggest that the registration stamp should be affixed differently, and not represent the head of Her Majesty in a recumbent position.

Reg. Envelope. 2 pence, navy blue; Size G, *altered insurance notice.*

Mauritius.—The *P. J. of G. B.* chronicles a stamp of a new type which may be the precursor of a new series. The Arms of the island are in the centre, the name above, and the value below. Impression on paper watermarked ♔ CA. Perforation 14.

3 cents, lilac.

Mexico.—We have seen two new letter cards of 4 c. and 5 c., the first for the urban service, and the latter for that of



the interior. They are both of the same design, showing the condor between the words "TARJETA CARTA," under which, on a straight tablet, is "SERVICIO POSTAL MEXICANO" running

through a block on the right, on which the stamp is struck. Up the left side is "Servicio Urbano" or "Servicio Interior," as the case may be, and the date 1895. It is said that only 5000 was printed.

We have also a post card of 3 centavos for the interior service, in which the inscription "Servicio Postal Mexicano" is on a scroll, and the condor is of a new type, with large branches curving upwards nearly to the wings. The card is dated 1895.

There is also another post card for the urban service, which we need not describe, as we give an engraving of it, except to say that



the stamp is that of 2 centavos. What with the changes of types in the stamps, and the change of the postal rates, we are scarcely able to keep up with the various issues. Perhaps it is not intended that we should.

Letter Cards. 4 c., blue on white; stamp in vermilion-red.
5 c. ,, ,, red.
Post Cards. 2 c., rose on yellow; stamp in rose.
3 c. ,, ,, brown.



Montenegro.—The annexed engraving illustrates the "Acknowledgment of Receipt" stamp described in our October number, showing the more recent portrait of the Prince.

Nandgaon.—The ½ anna, green, and the 1 anna, in *blue*, are reported by the *Timbre-Poste* as coming to hand with the overprint M B D in lilac-blue.

Service. ½ anna, yellow-green; overprint in lilac-blue.
1 ,, ,, ,, ,,

New South Wales.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the letter card is now printed on drab, with the inside pink. In other respects there is no change. The perforation goes round the corners. *Letter Card.* 1½d., red on drab, inside pink.

Pahang.—The 3 cents, purple and red, of the new tiger-head type has been seen, so that in all probability there are other values—perhaps the whole series, like that for Perak and Selangor. 3 cents, purple and red; watermark ♕ CA.

Perak.—The *A. J. of P.* is informed that just previously to the issue of the stamps of the new type a 2 cents stamp of the old *was* issued, as we chronicled in our number for September, but in the following month expressed a doubt about it on the *dictum* of Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. The correspondent of the *A. J. of P.* says that the whole were "gobbled up" by the officials, none being left for the public, and they were held at an enormous price. The Government, hearing of this, ordered a large supply to be printed and put on sale.

Peru.—The annexed engravings illustrate the two types of the stamps issued according to the documents referred to at page





232 for the purpose of obtaining help from collectors towards paying the debts of the Post-office. The value of 25 c. there given was an error, and should have been 20 centavos. The values 1 c. violet, 2 c. green, 5 c. yellow, and 10 c. sky-blue are of the smaller type, while those of 20 c. orange-vermilion, 50 c. dark blue, and 1 sol. carmine, are of the larger one.

Portugal.—The S.S.S. Society has denounced the stamps of Tonga as speculative, and it will have to do as much with Portugal, where we must suppose the king is not satisfied with his former likeness. The former series has scarcely reached some of the Colonies, and now we must expect all sorts of overprints of "Provisorio," &c., which the Don Luis stamps were subjected to.



The present issue is all of one type, with a tablet at the foot, on which the numerals of value are printed in black. The stamps are printed on plain white wove paper, and are perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

$2\frac{1}{2}$	reis, grey.	75	reis, rose.
5	,, orange.	80	,, lilac.
10	,, green.	100	,, dark blue on blue.
15	,, brown.	150	,, pale brown on yellowish.
20	,, mauve.	200	,, mauve on pink.
25	,, green.	300	,, blue on salmon.

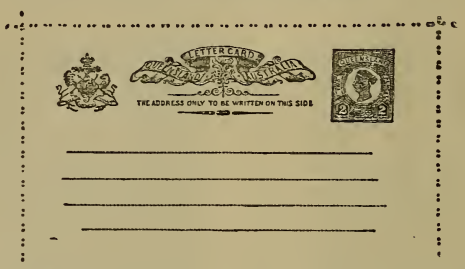
50 reis, blue.

Queensland.—We have received the 5 pence of a similar type to the 2½d., but with the ground clear from any lines. It is printed on "Crown Q" paper, and perforated 13.

The 1 shilling, violet, was for a short time printed on the "Beer Duty" paper, as we mentioned in our last. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the receipt of it on plain unwatermarked paper.

5d., chocolate-brown, watermark "Crown Q."
1s., violet, on plain wove paper.

There seems to be some experimenting going on in the letter cards. They have been printed on greenish-blue and on grey, both with the inside white. A new perforation has also been tried,



consisting of two holes and then a hop. The punches are in pairs, with the interval of a punch between each pair.

Letter Cards. 2d., blue on greenish-blue.
2d., blue on grey.
2d., blue on greenish-blue, variety of perforation.

Russian Locals.—We extract the following from the *Timbre-Poste:*



Belebei. — Since July last a stamp of a new design is employed for registered letters. The impression is in blue; the background of the circle is also that part between the stamp, and the external line is in rose lines, crossed vertically and horizontally. The impression is on white paper, and the perforation is 11½.

5 kopecks, dark blue and rose.

Bielozersk.—The 2 kopecks of the issue 1893, after having been printed in blue, rose, and grey-green, is now printed in brown.

2 kopecks, brown; perforated 13½.

Bogorodsk.—It is not a thing to be much astonished at, but the 10 kopecks of 1884 has been seen in blue.

10 kopecks (1884), blue.

The Director of this Post seems to know what he is about, and on the 1st June last issued a series of the type of 1894, the date being somewhat imperfectly erased, as the remains are to be seen.

2 kopecks, dark blue.
3 ,, ,,
4 kopecks, blue-green.
20 ,, ultramarine.

Postage Due. 3 kopecks, rose.
4 ,, bistre.

Again, on the 1st October, there were issued—

2 kopecks, violet-blue.
4 ,, bright blue.
8 ,, blue-green.

Postage Due.

2 kopecks, red. | 8 kopecks, bright red.
4 ,, brown. | 20 ,, orange-red.

The whole of the above are perforated 11½.

It appears that the entire series exists imperforate, but the Director of the Post holds all the stock, and has the market in his own hands; however it is probable that the imperial post will shortly resume the service of this post, and put an end to the speculations of this zealous official.

Bougoulma.—The stamp of 2 kopecks in current use is now printed in rose on blue paper, and is not perforated.

2 kopecks, rose on blue.

Charkoff.—The unpaid letter stamp, type of 1893, reappears, with some modifications, in splendid attire. Printed in gold, it has only the external frame, the lines of the oval, and the numerals in the angles in blue.

Postage Due. 5 kopecks, gold and blue.

Cherson.—The type of 1891 has been printed in green, on white paper, with only one line for the lower inscription of the value, 5 kopecks, in words between stars. The perforation is 11½.

5 kopecks, dark blue-green.

Elizavetgrad.—Since June last the colour of the 2 kopecks is bright red in place of red-brown.

2 kopecks, bright red.

Gadiatsch.—The stamp with Arms and numerals in the angles comes to hand with the frame in carmine and the Arms in violet.

3 kopecks, carmine and violet.

Jeletz.—The stamp of 1893, since the 13th July last, is printed in brown-violet. The perforation is 13½.

5 kopecks, brown-violet.



Kazan.—A stamp has been issued for this city. The design shows the Arms of the city on a shield surmounted by a crown, and the value in figures on each side. The value, in words, is under the shield, and on a label at the foot of the stamp. An arched inscription in the upper part, and a straight below the shield, signify "District post of Kazan." The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation 11½.

3 kopecks, bright blue.

Kiriloff.—The stamp of 2 kopecks appeared, some time since, in green, with the design somewhat modified. The letters of the inscription were smaller and thicker, the shield with the Arms approached nearer to the oval, and the value, in words, was in smaller type. The same stamp now comes to hand in bright red.

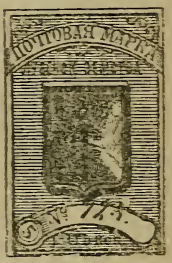
2 kopecks, bright red; perforated 11½.

Kolumna.—The unpaid letter stamps are octagonal, except the 5 kopecks, the stock of which is not exhausted. The numerals of value are now outside of the angles. The impression is on white paper, and the perforation is 11½.



Postage Due.
1 kopeck, orange.
2 kopecks, green.
3 ,, rose.

The 2 kopecks is found *tête-bêche.*



Loubny. — A stamp comes to hand which must belong to a new issue, the type as shown above, differing from that of 1893. There is no longer the numeral of value to the right of the lower tablet, and the inscription at the foot is altered. There are also differences in the designs in the angles, and the Arms are smaller on the right side. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 11½.

5 kopecks, green, black, and gold.

Malmyche.—The colour of the impression of the current stamp of 2 kopecks has been changed.

2 kopecks, magenta; imperforate.

Ossa.—The stamp of 1894, which we described in our number for October, has lived its life, and was replaced in August by another, printed on white paper in blue, with the oval, the crown, and the lined ground of the Arms in red. The perforation is 11½.

2 kopecks, blue and red.

Previous to the issue of July, 1894, there was an earlier retouching of the design of the 4 and 8 kopecks, the circles in the angles being smaller, and there being only 5 kcs. in place of 6.

4 kopecks, brown.
8 ,, pale blue.

Oustsysolsk.—In the last printing of the stamp of 1893, the design has been slightly modified. The letter "N" in the inscription has an accent, and the ground of the oval is dotted blue, even in the paws of the bear.

2 kopecks, red, blue, and brown.

Podolsk.—The stamp chronicled as being that of 1883, perforated 11½, has been found imperforated, on a packet of printed matter, dated 29th April, 1882.

5 kopecks, yellow-green ; imperforate.

Pskoff.—In the early part of this year, there was a dearth of stamps of 3 kopecks, and recourse was had to those of 10 kopecks,





which were surcharged, and the numeral of the original value obliterated. The stamps are in sheets of twenty-five—five rows of five—and, in two sheets that have come to hand, the surcharges vary. In the first sheet there are three varieties, one with the "3" with (1) an open head, (2) with a more closed head, (3) in italic. All the stamps have the original numeral obliterated with a large round spot.

The second sheet has only the first two varieties of the "3," but the original value is obliterated in divers ways. Thus the first three rows have, besides the large round spot, three thick vertical lines, or six thinner ones, over, or on, the side of the round spot, and the two lower rows have the original value obliterated only with the three or six vertical lines.

3 on 10 kopecks, black, brown, blue, and violet ; surcharge in black.

In July, the 1 and 3 kopecks made their appearance printed in colours different from those of 1893. The 1 kopeck is of the design shown in the engraving. The numeral is green, as also in the ground which, by exception, is lined horizontally. The tablets are yellow, the Arms brown, and the frame black, as are also the inscriptions. The perforation is 11½



1 kopeck, black, brown, green, and yellow.
3 kopecks, black, brown, carmine, and blue.



Solikamsk.—A stamp of a new design appeared in July last. The Arms are within an oval band, with the inscription of the name of the postal district, the value in words at the foot on a scroll, and the numerals of value in the upper angles. The impression is on white paper, and the perforation is 11½.

2 kopecks, dark blue.

Tichvin.—The design has the date altered to 1895. The perforation is 10.

5 kopecks, black, rose, red, and gold.

Totma.—The stamp of 1894, while preserving its general design, has been redrawn in a smaller size. There is no alteration in the inscriptions. The new stamp was issued on 2nd September last, and is perforated 11½.



3 kopecks, black-yellow, orange, gold, and blue.

Tscherdina.—The current stamp of 3 kopecks is no longer blue, but is green. The impression is on thin paper, and the perforation 11½.

3 kopecks, green.

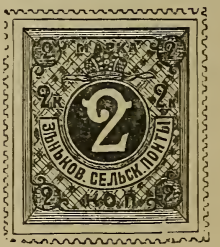
Walky.—The stamp of 5 kopecks (1893) is now printed on very thin paper, and perforated 11½.

5 kopecks, carmine-red.

Zadonsk.—The 1 kopeck has taken the colour of the 5 kopecks. Perforated 11½. 1 kopeck, mauve.

Zienkow.—The 3 kopecs of 1890 depicted vol. xii. p. 179, has two comparisons of similar design of the values of 1 and 2 kopecks. Their use is for money letters, for which the rate is





1 kopeck per rouble, in addition to the postage of 3 kopecks. Ordinary letters can also be prepaid by a combination of the stamps, which are lithographed on white paper, and perforated 11½.

1 kopeck, bright red.
2 kopecks, bright blue.

The latter also exists *tête-bêche.*

The stamp of 3 kopecks, 1892, depicted vol. xv. p. 11, and there described as rouletted on colour, has been found imperforate in a pair of specimens. 3 kopecks (1892), red; imperforate.

Salvador.—The Government considers that they have need of the following, which Mr. Seebeck has supplied them with:

Postage Due Stamps.—The design shows a large numeral in the centre on an engine-turned ground within a shield, CORREOS DE EL diagonally in the upper left angle, "Salvador" at the top, and FRANQUEO DEFICIENTE at the foot. The impression is on plain white paper, and the perforation is 12.

Postage Due. 1 c., 2 c., 3 c., 5 c., 10 c., 15 c., 25 c., 50 c., slate.

Postal Packet Stamps.—Square stamp, diamond-way, with a figure of Mercury. The angles at the top and two sides with ornaments, the lower one with numeral and "CENTAVOS" in a curve underneath. Inscribed "CORREOS DE | EL SALVADOR" in the upper sides of the frame, "FARDOS | POSTALES" in the lower ones. Perforation 12.

Parcel Stamps.

5 c., brown.	15 c., red.
10 c., dark blue.	20 c., orange-yellow.

50 c., green.

Officially Sealed Stamp.—Large oblong, with Arms in the centre; perforated 12. No value. Deep brown.

Post Card.—This is of 1 c., with its corresponding reply, for urban use; is similar in design to that for the interior, but there is no frame. There is "SERVICIO URBANO" at the foot in a tablet, and the imprint of the company is underneath to the right.

Post Card.

1 c., dark blue on grey.	1 c. + 1 c., dark blue on grey.

Official Post Card.—This is a plain card without a stamp, but with the Arms in the right upper angle. The inscription is "SERVICIO DE CORREOS | DE EL | SALVADOR | TARJETA POSTAL | DE OFICIO" in five lines. There are three lines for the address, the first preceded by "Don" in script. There is a corresponding reply card.

Official Post Card. Dark blue on grey.
Official Reply Card. Dark blue on grey.

Letter Cards.—Lastly we have letter cards, both single and double. "REPUBLICA DE | EL SALVADOR is on a scroll, intercepted by the Arms, and under this is "BILHETE POSTAL. SERVICIO INTERIOR." The instructions are at the foot in small capitals. The lines of perforation do not cross at the angles.

Letter Cards.

1 c., dark green on green.	2 + 2 c., carmine on pink.
1 + 1 c. ,, ,,	3 c., dark blue on blue.
2 c., carmine on pink.	3 + 3 ,, ,,



Tolima.—The *Coll. de Timbres-Poste* states that two small values of 1 c. and 2 c. have been issued of the type of 1888.

1 centavo, blue on rose.
2 centavos, green on pale green.

Tonga.—The annexed engraving represents the stamp with the portrait of George II., which that monarch did not like.

Uruguay.—The *Timbre-Poste* has received the following overprinted diagonally with "OFICIAL" in black. The stamps were used on 15th October last.

Official.

1 c., blue.	2 c., brown.

5 c., brick.

The 1 c. and 5 c. of new designs made their appearance on 5th October. The design of the 1 c. shows a landscape and a guacho on foot with a pair of spurs as long as those of a game-cock. He wears a broad-brimmed hat, and a sort of shawl with the corner thrown over his shoulder. The design of the 5 c. shows a railway train about to start, the signalman holding a little flag in his hand.





The stamps, we suppose, are the work of Waterlow and Sons, Limited. They are printed on plain white paper, and perforated 15 and also $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

1 centavo, light brown. | 2 centavos, carmine-red.

Victoria.—At a recent meeting of the Victoria Philatelic Society, Mr. Derrick showed two specimens of that rare stamp, the 2d. emblem without watermark, perforated.

It appears that the issue of the two shillings, on white paper, in August last, printed in pale green, produced several mistakes between it and the 9 pence, to the colour of which it bore some resemblance. The issue was therefore withdrawn, and in October a new issue was made, in which the colour is dark green. In the interval between the withdrawal of the issue in pale green and that in dark green (about two months), no stamps of 2s. were sold by the Post-office. The colour of the 9 pence has since October been changed to rose.

The 8d., on pink paper, which has been in use since 1885, was withdrawn in August last.

The wrappers of $\frac{1}{2}$d., orange, and 1d., blue, are now issued gummed.

2 shillings, dark green on white.
9 pence, rose (new colour).

We have received a most remarkable looking post card, not a private one, but one issued by the Government, and printed entirely at the Government printing-office. The Government has entered into a contract with Messrs. Cameron Brothers, of Melbourne, to advertise "Baccy and Beer," in which this firm, we suppose, deal. The card measures 145×91 mm., and is ornamented on the left by a double advertisement, absorbing a space of 82×50 mm., the upper one being for "Havelock Tobacco," and the lower for "Foster's Lager-Beer." The inscriptions are, of course, cramped between the stamp and the advertisement. The whole is printed in indigo-blue on buff. The anti-"bacca-and-beer" people are highly disgusted, and we publish among the "Notes and Queries" an extract from the *Melbourne Argus* with reference to this dissatisfaction with the Postal Authorities. Somebody's Soap or Somebody's Pills would have been harmless, we suppose; but we are surprised at any government mixing itself up with shop-keeping of any kind, however harmless.

Post Card. 1 penny, indigo on buff.

VICTORIA REPRINTS.

Not long ago the philatelic world was agitated by the appearance of sundry sheets of the laureated head, 2d., 6d., and 8d. of the New South Wales, but very fortunately the fraud was discovered before any great harm was done, though in the first instance the hook was baited with some dexterity; still, anyone who has been at all in the background during the last thirty years, must have seen through that very thin veil which has been so often placed before the collector's eyes, but has been sufficient to blind him. Among collectors, however, we do not think, as matters stand at present, that Mr. Van Dyck bears a quite unimpeachable character, to put it in the mildest form, but what shall we say of the Postal Administration itself, of New South Wales? We mentioned in our last a wholesale reprinting of obsolete stamps, which must have been made for no earthly purpose than to get money out of collectors' pockets, and that also not "quite in an unimpeachable" manner. Mr. Van Dyck is not blessed by collectors, and we doubt if the Postal Administration of New South Wales is in much better condition. We do not see that there is a pin to choose between the two.

And now we find Victoria at the same game, though only on a small scale. We will extract a letter addressed by the Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Victoria to the editor of *The Australian Philatelist*, to which we have been requested to give all the publicity possible. The letter is as follows:

"Sir,—The Philatelic Society of Victoria considers it desirable to draw the attention of philatelists to the circumstance, that certain obsolete Victorian stamps have been reprinted in all respects similar to the original issues.

"Towards the end of 1894 a few sheets of the 1s. 6d., blue, 1888 issue, were reprinted, and in June last a further supply was printed, as well as other kinds enumerated below. This having come to the knowledge of the Society, the Committee took the matter up, and a number of the members formed a deputation to wait upon the Hon. the Postmaster-General, and place before him their objections to this innovation. At the interview which took place on 28th June, the following reasons were urged against the introduction of such a practice by the Post-office:

"1. That these stamps, though actually reprints of obsolete stamps, are to all intents and purposes similar to the original printings, being in the same colour, on paper with the same watermark, and perforated with the same machines; so that it is impossible to distinguish between them and the originals.

"2. That a large and ever-increasing number of the professional and business people of this colony are stamp collectors, and spend considerable sums of money in the purchase of stamps as soon as they appear, all of which is clear gain to the Department, because its machinery is not called upon to do anything in return, and that, therefore, the revenue gained by the re-issue will be altogether disproportionate to the loss sustained by the Department in the diminution of the amount invested in new issues, and also by its loss of prestige.

"3. That there has been a uniform practice on the part of the Postal Departments of the world not to re-issue or reprint stamps that have become

obsolete, without some alteration in colour, or some special mark to enable collectors to distinguish them from the originals, and to now introduce such an innovation, it is considered, would be a dangerous one, and tend to lower the interest which has always been taken in the stamps of Victoria.

"4. That it is a manifest injustice to those dealers and collectors, the wide world over, who invest thousands of pounds in stamps, on the faith of old issues not being reprinted or re-issued without some distinguishing mark, not only to add to existing collections, but in anticipation of profits accruing when the issues become obsolete.

"5. That the reprinting of these stamps exposes the Department to the charge of grave scandal, in the inducement it offers to officials to assist in the reproduction of the stamps, for a share in the large profits made by their sale to dealers and collectors.

"After hearing the views of several members of the Society on the subject, the Hon. the Postmaster-General gave a promise that no further supplies of obsolete stamps should be printed without having some mark to distinguish them from the originals. The stamps which have been reprinted are:

"1s. 6d., blue, 1888.
1s. (postage), blue on blue, surcharged 'Stamp Duty,' 1885.
4d. ,, carmine ,, ,, ,,
½d., grey, 1886.
1d., carmine, envelope, 1892.

"Of the above, only the 1s. 6d., blue, and the 1d., envelope, are known to have been issued by the Post-office, and, as far as can be ascertained, what were issued were obtained by one person only, as the stamps were not available to the public. These, it is believed, were disposed of as 'finds' or remainders. The Society has asked that the remaining stamps may be destroyed, but, up to the present, it is thought that no action has been taken by the Post-office in that direction. While on this subject it may be as well to mention that not very long ago an imperforate sheet of the current 2d. stamps was obtained in some way from the Post-office, some of the stamps being offered for sale at large prices, but collectors here do not think that the sheet was purchased in the ordinary way.

"The Philatelic Society of Victoria, in bringing the foregoing under the notice of the philatelic public, trusts that kindred societies and associations will take up the matter, and enter their protest against what might become a practice dangerous to the interest of philately, and by all means in their power discountenance, and, if possible, prevent any repetition, by Postal administrations, of acts which, if continued, can only have one result; namely, the extinction of all interest in stamp collecting.

"Yours faithfully,
"W. BRETTSCHNEIDER, *Secretary*.

"MELBOURNE, 21*st September*, 1895.

It is something to know that the Victoria Philatelic Society has taken up the matter in the manner it has done, and before irreparable mischief has been done. We have quite enough rubbish floating about, without having to add any more. Collectors are clogged with it. Every month we chronicle stamps manufactured expressly for them, and they have demoralised the Post-offices of many countries, and made them forget that the business of the Post-office is not to deal in stamps, but to be the letter-carriers of the public. They have the monopoly of this, let them keep to their own trade.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

We have received a copy of Mr. W. Hadlow's *Price List*, for 1896, a neat little book, devoted to the English plate numbers and the stamps of the British Colonies, which contains such only as Mr. Hadlow has in stock. It is, therefore, not a catalogue of the stamps of the various countries, and the collector has not to look far to see if his wants can be supplied from that source.

Mr. L'Estrange Ewen has issued another edition of his catalogue and price list of English stamps. We have already, some months since, made some remarks upon the former edition, so that we need not repeat them; but the present one is considerably enlarged, especially that part which relates to obliterating marks on stamps used abroad. In the part which is the catalogue of postage stamps proper, the work is complete up to the present state of knowledge, and we should say rather more than complete, for we see included amongst postage stamps the essay of the one penny which Sir R. Hill had printed on Dickinson paper, for which experiment Dickinson made half-a-dozen sheets of paper in 1841. We have always imagined that a stamp made simply for the Treasury, as an experiment, was not entitled to be called a postage stamp. We merely mention this to close the door against admitting other experiments as postage stamps.

Mr. Ewen's catalogue should be in the hands of all those who make a speciality of English stamps, for they will find a great deal of information collected together from an indefatigable study of the specimens.

As we were on the point of going to press, we received a copy of *Hilckes' Auction Summary of Foreign Stamps during the Season* 1894–95. Like Mr. Hilckes' other publications, it is of the neatest description, and the arrangement is original, and to our mind is perfect. You have no need to turn over the pages to find the price of the stamp you desire. A little ledger-like index shows you the place at once and what the stamp has fetched at previous auctions during the last season. In fact you can do this while the auctioneer's hammer is suspended, before the fatal rap comes. Contemplating buyers and sellers will find the little book as useful as it is handy.

The Victoria and the Rowland Hill Postage Stamp Albums, compiled and edited by T. H. Hinton. Illustrated. London, 1896. E. Nister, 28, Paternoster Row.

"Made in Germany" is the too common mark on so many of the articles sold in our shops, that it is refreshing to find articles of real English make, of quality better and price cheaper than the Continental shoddy which floods the market.

The German publishers have for a long period been in possession of the market for cheap stamp albums, whose sole recommendation was their low price, and till the appearance of the Rowland Hill Album and its smaller companion, they seem to have been left without competitors in the field. This has, we think, been unfortunate; the buyers get an inferior article, and are led to draw unfavourable conclusions, by no means conducive to the development of the philatelic instinct.

The neglect also of our English publishers to provide for a constantly increasing class, from whom a certain, if small, profit could be derived, tends to promote foreign trade at the expense of home production, and this in a matter where the English producer can easily hold his superiority over the rest of the world. It is the old story and the old

lesson, which our nation seems never to learn; the small profit and quick return is left to the foreigners, and they get a connection and form ties where they really ought not to make their living—if our native productions were adapted to the market and properly pushed—or divert the business from the home taxpayer.

We have been led to make these remarks by the appearance this Christmas of the two albums above-mentioned, which are marvels of cheapness, considering their contents. Each is illustrated, the latter with typical stamps on every page, which, in both, are printed in compartments to mount the specimens. A good index assists the arrangement, which is quite sufficient for a beginner, and even the more advanced collector will find them useful for duplicates. The paper is good and well adapted for the purpose, and the get-up attractive in appearance, the design of a multitude of various coloured stamps on the cover of one being especially noteworthy.

Either would make an acceptable present to the young collector, and start him rejoicing on his philatelic career. We are glad to have this new departure, for when the contents of any collection are reviewed, the enormous share which the British Empire and its Colonies and Dependencies occupies, at once strikes the beholder, and he wonders why so many albums of foreign origin are in use for a subject so largely British. We can confidently recommend these as the cheapest and best articles at the price in the market, and trust they will inaugurate an era when the various English albums, made out of the country, will no longer be the mainstay of the small collector.

The enterprise of the publishers is the true sort of protection to native industry, it meets the foreigner on his own battle-ground, and vanquishes him with his own weapons.

Notes and Queries.

Victoria.—The following is taken from the *Melbourne Argus* of the 4th November last:

"Much public dissatisfaction has been expressed with the way in which the new issue of post cards has been disfigured by advertisements. The matter has been brought under the notice of the postal authorities, and it will doubtless be deemed advisable to insist upon less unsightly advertisements being used, if indeed the contract with Messrs. Cameron Bros. be not cancelled. In the meantime we have been requested to point out that post cards which have the advertisements gummed over with pieces of paper are liable to be charged for as ordinary letters. Under the circumstances this would be a very improper course for the postal authorities to take, and would not be tolerated for a day. The purchaser of a post card who may object to being a party to advertising beer and tobacco has the right, if he chooses, to cut off or cover the advertisements. The department will perhaps see the wisdom of respecting scruples in this regard. The clerk of the Presbytery of Melbourne South (the Rev. James Ballantyne), in sending out the post card notices for the usual meeting to-day, covered the advertisements with brown paper. No doubt he would be delighted to have his delinquency made a test case of, with a view to asserting the right of a purchaser to either take that course, or cut off the objectionable matter."

Salvador Stamps.—Mr. Seebeck sends the following to the editor of *The American Journal of Philately*:—

"*October*, 1895.

"Dear Sir,—I send you herewith inclosed some specimens of new issue of stamps, &c., that I have recently shipped to Salvador, and which will be put into use on the 1st October, 1895. Referring to these new issues, and to

the outcry that has recently been made against the so-called 'Seebeck issues,' I beg to inform you, and, through your valuable paper, all collectors, that these issues are not in any sense what might be termed Speculative, and that none of these issues were recommended in any manner by me, but that I received the order direct from the Government of Salvador to engrave these stamps, &c., under the terms of my contract with said Government (which compels me to furnish all the stamps, envelopes, post cards, &c., that they may use or require during the term of said contract). No doubt you, an experienced dealer, will know at once that the sale of these special letter-sheets, parcel stamps, &c., is so limited that it would not pay me to put out thousands of dollars for the engraving of these issues, well knowing that I would not sell enough of them in ten years to be reimbursed for my original outlay; but I am compelled to fill the order of the Government, by the terms of my contract, and cannot possibly refuse (without breaking such contract) to engrave the stamps ordered. Immediately upon receiving the order, I made enquiries as to the necessities of the Post-office Department requiring these different issues, and found that the Assistant Postmaster-General is an European by birth (a Belgian), who desires to have all Revenue, &c., balanced by the issue of stamps, and who is also advocating the issuing of stamps for every other possible Government purpose, not alone for postage, but also for the Internal Revenue System. In fact it is his idea to model the Post-office Department after the Belgian and other European Post-offices, and for this reason he has recommended it to the Postmaster-General of Salvador, who in turn has ordered from me the various stamps, &c., above referred to. Considering the number of new plates to be made, and the small quantity of these species that will ever be sold to collectors, all these extra issues will cost me considerably more money than I will ever receive back for remainders—and if any of these issues are objectionable, the blame should be placed where it belongs; if any Government can be blamed for choosing to administer its Post-office Deparment in a way patterned either after European countries, or after its own peculiar system.

"Hoping you will give the above explanation space in your valuable paper, I beg to remain, Yours respectfully, N. F. Seebeck."

"It wasn't me, it was t' other chap." It would, perhaps, not be fair to make any observations upon the foregoing letter, which we fully believe to be perfectly true, and that Mr. Seebeck has been called upon to make a lot of stationery that will be exceedingly dead stock. We confess we are not sorry, for it is the bad principle that we so strongly oppose, and if collectors can be induced to taboo all such issues, they are likely to succeed in preventing any more of such contracts from being made. Mr. Seebeck wants collectors to pay for the plates, &c., and a little profit out of them for his trouble. He looks to them, not to the Government, for this, and, of course, it suits the Government to order all sorts of things, knowing that it has not a farthing to pay for it all.

Revised Telegraph Form A 1.—In May last we requested the General Post-office to inform us whether the rules on the back of the unstamped form A were right, or those on the back of the stamped form A 1. On the 14th June we received a communication from the Secretary to the effect that the wording on the back of A was the correct one, and that steps had been taken to correct the error in A 1. The fact was that the wording had been, long previously, altered on A, but it had been omitted to extend it to A 1.

In A 1 the price of a return-pass that was not used was payable to "any person" producing it, while in A it was payable to the sender of the original telegram. This incongruity has now been remedied, and that of A has been adopted in A 1, which is clearly the right version, for if the pass issued at the sender's expense is not made use of, the sum which he paid for it ought clearly to be refunded to him, and him only.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

CIRCULAR No. 4.

THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of philatelists, and appeal to all collectors and dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

17. ECUADOR.—We have received a communication from a very trustworthy authority in New York, that a set of commemorative stamps will shortly be issued for this country, of the values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos, and 1 sucre, respectively. Our correspondent further states :

"I have seen a letter from the holder of a concession to a large exporting firm here, wherein he asks them to submit the designs, and states that he will be prepared to supply the stamps in any quantity, either cancelled or uncancelled; but that they must state the quantity they will engage to take before the issue is made. This would seem to be the worst kind of a job on the part of the Ecuadorian Government. In the first place, they have farmed out the control of the issue for so many dollars cash in hand to the holder of the concession, and in the next place, the concessionaire evidently is prepared to milk the philatelic market to its extreme capacity."

18. FORMOSAN REPUBLIC.—A set of these stamps was brought out by Liu-Yung-Fu, the chief of this newly-formed Republic. The following information respecting them has been furnished by an Englishman out there :

"There have been *two* issues; the first was impressed from a very poor die (I fancy, locally made), on a rough kind of tissue paper. These were not perforated, but had to be cut off the sheet as required. *This issue is entirely exhausted*, as only 2000 were made. Although on the spot, and very favourably situated for getting official stamps, I know that no genuine ones of this issue are available, as I have tried to get them. It is stated that the die, being so imperfect, was remelted (*sic*) and attempts made to make another. This was also a failure, and so a die was ordered from Canton, where this work is well done, and the *second* issue made. These have the same device as the first, only much clearer, and only three kinds of *either* variety were issued; viz. (face value), 3, 5, and 10 cents, in red, violet, and blue, respectively (the first issue were in red, violet, and green, respectively). There have been no surcharged stamps. The second issue is on perforated paper, specially got for the purpose. The greatest care will have to be exercised in accepting stamps after the republic ceases, as the die is in the possession of the Chinese associated with Liu, and as they are quite aware of the financial opening these stamps afford, *may* go on manufacturing them. Liu has already opened negotiations with the Japanese, so the whole thing will last ten days or a fortnight. [The letter is dated the 10th October.] These stamps have been compulsorily used for *native* letters going hence to the mainland of China, and all letters sent through native Post-office had to be viséd at the Custom House to see they had the stamps affixed, so thus far they are genuine. *The Customs has been under the supervision of a foreigner, who, it is said, is or was a member of a foreign syndicate to sell these stamps.* There have been only 5000 of the second issue impressed *up to date*, but whether more may be made in the interests of speculation before the end actually arrives, I cannot say."

19. TONGA.—Correspondents in Australia having drawn our attention to the issue of stamps now being sold, which consists of stamps

prepared some time since (but not issued, as it is said the reigning monarch was not pleased with his portrait), and which stamps have now been issued with a variety of surcharges, in a variety of colours, and in a variety of types, we endorse the opinion expressed by our Australian friends, that these stamps are unnecessary and speculative.

20. KOREA.—Pending further investigations, caution should be exercised with regard to a new issue of stamps of this country.

Referring to Circular No. 3:

16. SWEDEN.—We have received from a trustworthy correspondent in Sweden (who has obtained his information direct from the authorities) a letter, in which he states that the Swedish Post-office does *not* intend to make a commemorative issue of any kind. We have much pleasure in making this announcement.

GORDON SMITH,
Secretary S. S. S. S.

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,
Secretary to the Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C., *December*, 1895.

Proceedings of Philatelic Societies.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON, Esq.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—G. JOHNSON, B.A.

NOV. 21ST.—J. A. Galbraith (Trinidad), E. Sigerist-Moser (Schaffhausen), A. C. Jones (Bermuda) were unanimously elected members.

Votes of thanks were accorded Messrs. E. F. Wurtell and Croome for twenty-five philatelic journals and *The Stamps of Egypt* respectively.

Mr. C. A. Stephenson then gave a very interesting and carefully-prepared paper on "The Stamps of the United States from 1847 to 1869," illustrated by his own collection and a number of other good collections belonging to the members present, also some sent by corresponding members. In the intervals between the various issues, and at the end of the paper, there was a very lively discussion on the minor varieties of die, ornament, and *grillé*.

Dec. 5th.—R. S. Bhatavadeker (Bombay) and J. G. Wilson (Barbados) were unanimously elected members.

Subscriptions were voted to London Philatelic Society's *South Africa* and other publications.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. H. L. Ewen for a bound copy of his *Priced Catalogue of the Stamps of Great Britain*.

Then followed the display of the stamps of Italy and the Italian States, together with the forgeries and reprints of the same.

The exhibit was very fine, and included most of the rarities, unused and used, on originals.

December Packet.—This requires special notice, as it is probably the finest packet ever circulated in an English exchange. The sheets sent in were worth over £1200, and about half of this value consisted of fine unused colonials, especially British North America and West Indies, and nearly all priced considerably below catalogue. The St. Vincents included 5s., star, 4d., yellow, no watermark, 4d., red-brown, CA, all unused; Nevis, St. Kitts, Virgin Islands, Dominica, and Nova Scotia were almost complete in shades. Considering that all the sheets were sent in at reasonable prices, it was thought advisable, with the owners' consent, to keep over two duplicate sheets, worth over £300, till next packet, leaving the value £894 5s. 5½d.; but from promises already to hand it is very likely that the January packet will be very considerably larger than this.

PERSONAL.

With the present number, the connection of the present Editor with *The Philatelic Record* comes to a close. Since November, 1885, with an interruption of eighteen months, he has endeavoured, to the best of his ability, to conduct it on the lines which were laid down by those who preceded him; and although the proprietors of it have always been dealers, yet he has been allowed to have an entirely free hand as to the matter he inserted, and has used this liberty to the fullest extent in maintaining its perfect independence. He understands that it has now entered into matrimonial engagements with *The Stamp News*, and so, to a certain extent, has sunk its individual character. He hopes that the married state will prove a felicitous one to both, and he bespeaks the support of philatelists for his successor, who has undertaken the pilotage of the combined journals.

In bidding farewell to the subscribers to *The Philatelic Record*, the Editor confesses that he is scarcely in touch with some of the collectors of the present generation, who consider that varieties can be formed out of every speck that may occur in the printing of a stamp, or in every error made by a workman; nor has he been able to see how one stamp differs from another in glory because it happens to have been obliterated with green or blue ink instead of black. On such like matters he feels he belongs to another generation, which endeavours to keep within the limits of philately as he understands it. Varieties that depend on the perforation, the paper, the original plate, the colour of the impression, the gum that was made use of, he can perfectly understand, as these may mark something in the history of a stamp; but mere accidental varieties in a single stamp he fails to see with the eyes of the present caterers for specialists. Absolute perfection can never be attained even in mechanical work, much less in hand-work.

As regards the present movement to endeavour to put every block possible in the way of creating speculative and unnecessary stamps, the Editor would impress upon philatelists to do all in their power to assist it. A collection of stamps is not to be measured solely by the number of its specimens, but collectors seem to be afraid that if they neglect to insert "unnecessary" stamps they will break the line of continuity. This continuity will not, however, be broken by the omission of stamps merely made to put money into the pockets of insolvent post-offices, of grasping officials, or needy adventurers, to one or other of which sources so much of the recent rubbish may be attributed. A collector who spends his money in purchasing such stamps will find that he has not only made a sorry investment, but one that will fail to give him the satisfaction he would feel if he had preferred to spend a like amount in the purchase of a really good stamp. It is said that good stamps are becoming so scarce that they are not to be had, but most of such things come by waiting for opportunities. It is the hunting that is one of the great charms of collecting, and the longer the run is, so much is the satisfaction enhanced of arriving first at the finish.

Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.