

SAPPHIRE

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

AND

STAMP NEWS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.



VOL. XIX.

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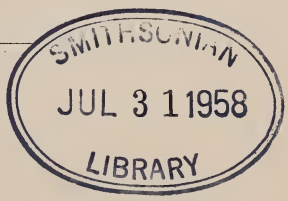

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JANUARY, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

THE year that has just closed, though by no means a sensational year, has been anything but uneventful. It has been fraught with not a little anxiety from the philatelic point of view, for it has been marked by an utterly unnecessary attack on the part of the authorities upon the privilege of illustrating stamps. That privilege has been enjoyed undisturbed by philatelic periodicals for over thirty years. It has never been abused, and its exercise is absolutely necessary to the very existence of the stamp dealing trade in this country. The action of the authorities resulted in the proprietor of the *Bazaar* being subjected to a nominal fine, but the matter is left in a very unsettled state, for there has been no opportunity of appeal to a higher court. It may, however, be noted that the magistrate who inflicted the fine did so with great reluctance, and as the result of a mandate from a judge who exhibited a lamentable inability to grasp even the most elementary facts of the case. It is believed that the matter will not be pressed any further. Anyway, if it should be pressed to extremities it will rouse the stamp trade to arms from one end of the country to the other, and then the authorities will learn that they have brought a veritable hornets' nest around their ears, for the dealers would immediately be backed up by influential collectors throughout the country, and even sundry struggling colonies would have something to say against a movement which would seriously jeopardise a very appreciable portion of their revenue. Indeed, it would be hard to tell where the matter would end, once the full power of the stamp collecting interests was thoroughly aroused.

Looking Backward, 1896.

Various additions have been made to our library shelves during the year. First and foremost, though last in order, we must place the excellent *Handbook of Barbados*, written by Mr. E. D. Bacon and Lieut. Napier. Then we must go back to the early part of the year to mention Mr. Tilleard's most important supplementary contribution to our knowledge of the stamps of India, which dealt so exhaustively with the De La Rue series. *Scott's Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* has been completed to the letter R by the publication of Part IX. Of other catalogues we have had the usual annual price lists of Scott and Senf, with special catalogues for English collectors by Mr. Ewen, for U.S. Plate number devotees by Mr. J. M. Bartels, and for Norwegians by Mr. Hubert Buckley. Mr. J. W. Scott, of New York, has issued a catalogue for beginners, which omits distinctions of paper, perforation, and watermark.

The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps has warily condemned some obviously speculative issues during the year, but it is in these

latter days evincing an unmistakable disposition to "sleep the sleep of the just."

The London Society has pursued the even tenour of its way. In the place of the late Lord Kingston it has had the good fortune to secure as President H.R.H. the Duke of York. With the exception of Mr. Tilleard's work on the De la Rue series of the stamps of India, the Society has added nothing to our shelves in the shape of philatelic literature. The second part of the African Colonies, Messrs. Wright and Creeke's *magnum opus* on English, and the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison's work on Afghanistan, are all still "in course of preparation." The Society has, however, marked the year by the increase of its entrance fee, which in April last was raised from one guinea to two guineas. The country societies—notably those of Manchester and Birmingham—have during the year shown marked activity. With excellent programmes, excellently carried out, they have shown that the meetings of a Philatelic Society may be made both attractive and profitable to its members.

One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the movement in favour of offering more encouragement to young collectors, which, taken together with the related movement in favour of New Issues, may be regarded more or less in the light of an insurance for the continuation of the pursuit of stamp collecting. The policy of regarding young collectors and New Issues with something akin to contempt has had the natural result of chilling our youthful followers. That fatal policy, for which few of us are altogether blameless, is to be changed; and 1896 will be marked as the year of awakening to the fact that the junior collector must be cultivated if stamp collecting is to be regarded as a permanent national pastime, in the pursuit of which large sums of money may be safely invested.

But the most important item in our summary of the events of 1896 is the decision to hold an International Philatelic Exhibition in London in 1897. Already the preliminaries are well advanced, and the promise is ripe for an exhibition which shall eclipse all past efforts.

Therefore we may congratulate ourselves that in this country, at all events, the year 1896 has not been an unfruitful philatelic year; that, on the contrary, we have done much to materially advance the best interests of the pleasurable pursuit of stamp collecting.

* * *

The Philatelic Record.

As explained in our last issue, the *Philatelic Record* will in future be published for the first of the month instead of at the end of the month on which it is dated. Hence this, the January issue, follows closely on the heels of the December number, which was published on the 15th of December. In future the *Record* will be placed on sale on the 25th of each month prior to the date of issue, and so conform to the custom of the ordinary publishing trade.

Our programme for the coming year, which we partially outlined in our last number, will include a series of articles on the Stamps of the United States, by Mr. Grant R. Francis; the Stamps of Greece, by Mr. Beckton, President of the Manchester Philatelic Society; the Stamps of Norway, by Messrs. Harrison and Buckley; Stray Notes on the Transvaal, by Mr. E. J. Nankivell; Interviews with leading Collectors, Dealers, and Auctioneers; and many other important articles which we may not yet announce. In addition to a full bill of fare in the matter of original and scientific articles, we shall continue to include a bird's-eye view of the most notable articles in our home and foreign contemporaries, so that every philatelist who subscribes to the *Philatelic Record* will be well posted all round as to what is being provided for his enlightenment. Every extract will be duly credited, so that any reader who wishes to refer to the article may know where to get it.

The increase in our subscription rate from three shillings to the old rate of

five shillings per annum has been so obviously necessary to the fulfilment of our somewhat ambitious programme that we have not received a single complaint, nor lost a single subscriber because of the increase. On the contrary, the following is a fair sample of the many kind and encouraging letters that we have received from renewal subscribers:—

"I enclose order, and Postal Orders and stamps (5*s.*) for continuance of the *Philatelic Record*, and am pleased to say that so far as I am competent to judge it is the best publication of its kind, and personally I do not at all object to the extra cost of it. So many similar papers indulge in such a deal of idle twaddle and petty wranglings. Collectors prefer reliable information and assistance from the pens of able writers, and your journal caters for these wants."

The rapid increase in the circulation of the *Philatelic Record* during the past year attests the fact that our "New Series" has "caught on," and that our liberal and varied fare is heartily appreciated. Our aim is to make the *Philatelic Record* helpful, enjoyable, and popular.

* * *

The Exhibition.

As will be noted from an announcement on another page, the Executive Committee has divided the space available for dealers' stalls at the forthcoming Exhibition into fourteen spaces of varying sizes; and in order that there may be no question of cliquism or favouritism, the available stalls will be let by tender, the acceptance of the tenders being left entirely to a sub-committee of collectors with no shadow of trade connection.

And here we may note that our excellent contemporary, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, finds fault with the action of the Executive, firstly, because it did not submit the final proof of the prospectus to the General Committee; secondly, because it has "utterly shelved" the question of the dealers' stalls; and, thirdly, because other philatelists have not been given an opportunity of offering prizes.

The reply to all this is very simple. The General Committee discussed and approved of the general lines of the Prospectus, and referred that and everything else to its Executive Committee, with the natural inference that if any important point or principle arose needing the help of the General Committee that committee would be called together. If the Executive Committee were to delay its work for the continual approval of the General Committee, the Exhibition would have to be postponed for a century or two. Then again the statement that the dealers' stalls question had been "utterly shelved" has not even a shadow of foundation. On the contrary, the question has been thoroughly discussed at the earliest moment, and delicately and wisely handled, as will be seen from the intimation which we are enabled to make in this number. Again, "other philatelists" have not been denied the opportunity of offering prizes. Those which have been included outside the ordinary programme have been purely spontaneous, unsolicited, and voluntary. Anyone who knew of the Exhibition might have offered extra prizes from the first, and there is nothing, so far as we know, even now, to prevent anyone who is troubled with pricks of conscience in that direction from relieving himself of any superfluous cash he may have for the purpose of still further swelling the already generous list of medals.

No member of the Executive is likely to object to fair criticism; but every member of that Committee, by virtue of the responsibilities and the task that he has undertaken, is at least entitled to immunity from plausible misrepresentation.

* * *

Transvaal: Status of First Printing.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

THE first printing of the stamps of the Transvaal was made in Germany, and as the whole of that first printing was sold direct to dealers and collectors, before the date was fixed for their legal sale as postage stamps, a very interesting question arises as to their philatelic status. It will, therefore, be interesting to review the facts that led to their production and sale.

On the 18th of June, 1869, the Volksraad passed an Act authorising the issue of postage stamps. Art. 75 of that Act authorised the Treasurer-General "to supply the Postmaster-General on demand with as many postage stamps as required by him," and Art. 78 directed the Postmaster-General "to see that in all Post-offices supplies of stamps can be obtained by the public against payment of the value printed thereon." Art. 80 settled the design—"the arms of the South African Republic, an inscription prescribed by the State President, and the indication of value," and other clauses of the Act set forth the values, colours, &c. That Act was proclaimed and promulgated on July 31st, 1869, its concluding Article directing that "this ordinance shall be law one month after publication." But Art. 74 of the Act directed that "the date of the issue shall be appointed by his Honour the State President."

Previous to the passing of the Act of June 18th, 1869, Mr. F. Jeppe gave an order for the making of dies, plates, &c., to Mr. Adolph Otto, Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin. He had, it is true, taken time by the forelock; but those preliminary arrangements of his were subsequently ratified in due form after the passing of the Act. Otto seems to have made the plates, and printed off a small supply of stamps, which latter he forwarded, *viâ* England, on June 25th, 1869. That supply was received in the Transvaal in the month of August, 1869, and constituted the so-called German impressions.

When this first supply arrived a notice was published fixing the date of issue for January 1st, 1870.

Meanwhile, orders arrived from collectors and dealers, and the stamps were sold to them in such quantities that when the day arrived for the sale of postage stamps to the public none remained to be sold, and the day for commencing the regular sale to the public had to be postponed till the arrival of the plates, which were on their way. The plates arrived on February 23rd, 1870, and the date of issue was further postponed till May 1st, 1870, when what may be termed the legal sale of stamps commenced.

Now the question arises, How are we to regard those German impressions, the first printings from the plate, which were sold, apparently by the Post-office, to dealers and collectors? Can we stretch a point, and regard them as the first issue of the South African Republic, or must we relegate them to the limbo of Proofs and Essays?

They seem to me to be something better than proofs or essays, for although they may not have been an authorised issue, at the time of their sale, they subsequently became available for postage, and no doubt did frank letters immediately after the formal fixing of the date of issue.

Strictly speaking, no doubt, they were not postage stamps at the time of their sale; but if we are to stand so precisely upon the punctualities and formalities as to rule them out of court, despite the fact that they subsequently became legal tender, I wonder where we shall have to stop in our revision of the list of authorised postage stamps. There are numerous instances of

stamps being put on sale before the date formally fixed for their sale, but we catalogue them in due course and without question. Those German printings got into circulation in advance of the date fixed for their sale. So do stamps nowadays. It is by no means an uncommon event to learn that a new issue of a country will be placed on sale, according to decree, on such a day, and to find that we are able to obtain a supply of those stamps in advance of the date fixed for their issue. Are those copies which we manage to get so very early to be classed as proofs? If not, then why so class the first German printings of the Transvaal? The Act was passed, and had duly become law authorising the issue of postage stamps. The stamps were sold, so far as we have any evidence, by the Post-office, and on Post-office account. That they were sold to dealers and collectors does not of itself invalidate the issue, for the business or profession of the purchaser cannot alter the status of a stamp. If those German impressions failed in the matter of colour, or paper, or design to accord with the legal description of the stamps to be issued, then they would certainly fall clearly into the category of proofs or essays. But they answered, in every detail, to what was intended to be the regular issue, and only an expert can to this day distinguish those German prints from subsequently issued stamps.

Therefore, I for one, as a specialist in Transvaals, am strongly in favour of regarding the German, or first printings, as the first issue of the South African Republic. From every philatelic point of view they are amongst the most interesting of all the stamps of the Transvaal, and some day they will be amongst its most valued. They were the first impressions from the plates, they formed the models for the local printers, and they clearly mark the distinction, so interesting to all philatelists, that separates the work of the engraver-printer from the crude efforts of the local workman. Used copies are to be found in most specialists' collections, and it is quite possible that they were amongst the first postage stamps that franked letters in the Transvaal, for we are told that dealers who bought them sent some back to pass through the post to establish the fact that they were really authentic stamps—a question which was hotly debated at the time of their appearance. I am well aware that the passing of a stamp through the post is not, of itself, sufficient to establish its validity; but when the stamp in question conforms in every particular to the regular issue, and is admitted to be legally available after a certain date, the mere fact that that stamp was sold sometime before the precise date fixed for its sale, is scarcely sufficient to relegate it to the list of proofs or essays. Anyway it does not hold good for more recent issues, and I see no reason why it should hold good in the case of the infinitely more interesting issues of the Transvaal.

DEATH OF MR. GILBERT LOCKYER.

It is with sincere regret, as we go to press, that we hear of the death of Mr. Gilbert Lockyer. For years Mr. Lockyer has been more or less of an invalid, but his death will be a shock to all philatelists. Our very last number contained an article from his gifted pen, and we had hoped he would have enriched our pages during the present year; but, alas! another cultured philatelist must be numbered amongst those whom we have lost.

Republic of Colombia: Second Issue, 20c.

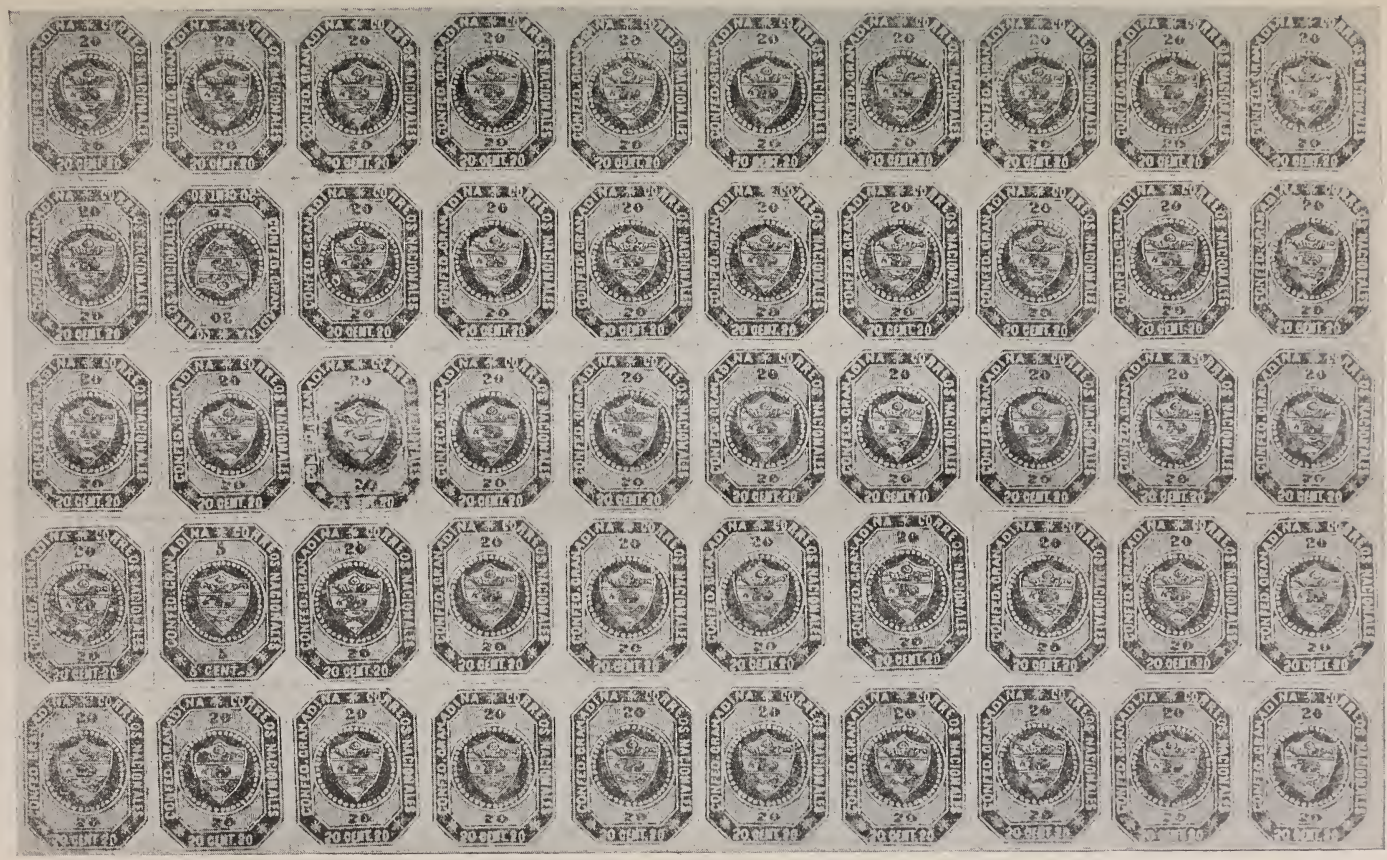
From the "London Philatelist."

In referring to the recent discovery of the error of 5 centavos—in the colour of the 20 c.—we described the sheet possessed by Mr. W. T. Curtis in America, but did not anticipate that we should so speedily have it "before the eyes." As, however, it is the unanticipated that always happens, the sheet in question having arrived in this country, we are enabled to reproduce it in its entirety for the benefit of our readers. The fortunate possessor is Mr. Robert Ehrenbach, who has a very fine collection of the early issues of the Republic, and is to be congratulated upon the holding of a "piece" that, if not even absolutely unique, is certainly of the greatest rarity, and of the first rank of philatelic interest. We here say advisedly if not absolutely unique, as, although an entire sheet, or, with the exception in Mr. Castle's former collection, even the two values *se tenant* is unknown to us, we have received a letter from a correspondent well versed in South Americans, and which purports to know of a sheet existing in a collection. This sheet, presuming it is another, also contains the error and the *tête bêche;* and we gather that, although a large quantity of the 20 c. blue has been in remainder, and is readily accessible in blocks, no other of these errors has been seen, and it would therefore be probable either that the error was discovered before the further supply was printed, or that it was in one pane of the sheet of stamps which was hence not put in issue. The Colombian authorities were to a certain extent aware of their failings even in those days, as evidenced by the fact that they defaced the erroneous 50 c. error on each sheet in order to prevent its sale. There are one or two minor points of interest that we are now able to mention from an inspection of the entire sheet.

It will be seen from the illustration that it is the second stamp on the *second* row, and not on the first, as stated in the *Metropolitan Philatelist.** The third stamp on the third row, which has had the value altered, has apparently also been slightly retouched at the left hand. The error of 5 c., as previously stated, is the second stamp on the fourth row; but the sheet consists of five rows of ten stamps, and not eleven, as given in the *M.P.* The transfers seem very irregularly effected, the thirty-seventh stamp being so out of register that the dividing line touches the base of the stamp above.

* Note.—The article from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* above referred to was quoted in the *Philatelic Record* for September last (vol. xviii. page 257). We heartily congratulate Mr. Ehrenbach upon having so promptly secured this interesting sheet of stamps, and Mr. Castle upon his enterprise in publishing so early such an excellent illustration, which, by his kind permission, we are enabled to reproduce in this number of the *Philatelic Record.*—Ed. *P.R.*

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA: SECOND ISSUE, COMPLETE SHEET OF THE 20 CENTS.



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Stamps of the United States.

HALF A CENTURY'S ISSUES,
WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE MINOR VARIETIES.

By GRANT R. FRANCIS.

1847 Issue.

IN venturing to offer to the readers of the *Philatelic Record* a series of short articles on the stamps of the United States, I am actuated by the belief that this is one of the, if not *the*, most interesting and least expensive countries that can offer itself to the budding specialist. The minor varieties have been so little sought after hitherto by English collectors that it is quite possible to pick up real rarities at the price of the veriest rubbish, *when one knows what to look for*, and there is little doubt that the attention now being paid by American collectors to stamps of their own country will very shortly lead to the chronicling and pricing of varieties now ignored by the publishers of the various standard catalogues. Hence, if my readers have not already taken up this most interesting country, I may be pardoned if I venture to strongly advocate the close study and acquirement of stamps of little apparent worth to-day, but which may ere long be looked upon as being as desirable and unattainable as our own minor varieties (hair lines, white dots, etc.).

I propose to take the reader through the entire issues of the U.S., from the first general issue of 1847 to the stamps of the present day, mentioning such varieties as some four years' study of this country has brought under my notice, or as are given in the various books of reference.

The first issue of stamps for general use throughout the States took place in 1847, and consisted of two values only, viz., 5 c. and 10 c. Both denominations bear a central portrait in an oval, in the case of the 5 c. of Franklin, and of the 10 c. of Washington. Over the portrait in a curve are the words "Post Office," whilst the initials "U.S." occupy the top corners; underneath is the value in words and figures. The 5 c. is printed in a variety of shades varying from a pale red-brown to quite a deep chocolate, on two distinct shades of paper. It is my belief that, although there appears no means of proving such to be the case, the two papers constitute separate and distinct issues, and that the original issue was of a very dark shade of brown, and printed on the grey paper, whilst the subsequent issue appeared in lighter shades on blue or rather grey-blue paper. I am led to this belief from a careful study of a number of specimens, which shows that the lines and features of the darker shades are much clearer and better defined than is the case with the lighter shade, and the general appearance of the latter is suggestive of the plate or die having become a little worn.

The 10 c. is in a uniform shade of black, but the same two varieties of paper appear, and the little difference discernible in the sharpness of printing invariably shows the coarser printing to be on the blue-grey paper. This issue remained in use until the year 1851, when a very handsomely-engraved series of stamps succeeded it.

1851 Issue.

The stamps of 1851 were all issued imperforate, and in the wording and general features were somewhat similar in design. Each possessed a central oval containing a Presidential portrait, with the inscription "U.S. Postage" over the top thereof, and the value, in words, beneath. The 10 c. was the

only one to show the value in (Roman) figures in the top corners. The denominations were six in number, and the colours and portraits on each were as follows :—

1 c., blue. Franklin (a profile portrait differing from that of the 5 c. of 1847).
3 c., red. Washington (also in profile, and differing from the portrait on the 10 c. of 1847).
5 c., brown. Jefferson.
10 c., green. } In these two denominations the handsome portrait of
12 c., black. } Washington on the 10 c. of 1847 was reproduced.
24 c., grey. Washington.

Of the above values, only the 1 c. shows any variety. It consists of the presence or absence of little balls at the termination of the scrolls that appear in the ornamentation beneath the label bearing the words "ONE CENT." It would appear that two or more plates were used in the production of the stamps of this denomination, and that from one of them the balls originally terminating the scrolls were removed: the unfinished appearance of the scroll-work in the common type without the balls is quite consistent with this explanation. Two plates must of necessity have been in use for the variety to be found in the subsequent issue. It has been said that a third variety of the 1 c., imperf., exists, and indeed Scott both describes, catalogues, and prices at fifteen dollars that known in the perforated issue as the "broken circle," and the common type of that issue; but inasmuch as this variety, produced by the erasing of the central portion of the line above the upper and below the lower inscription labels, was produced only for greater facility in *perforating* the stamps, I am unable to believe that it exists in the *imperforate* issue; and until I see a vertical unsevered pair, I shall hold that all apparent copies of the 1 c., imperf., with broken circle, are merely perforated copies cut down.

Scott likewise catalogues the 30 c. and 90 c., imperf., although he has ceased to price them; but there is little or no doubt that the issue stopped short at the 24 c., and that any copies of the 30 c. or 90 c. that exist imperf. are proofs of the subsequent 1855 issue.

1855 Issue.

This, the first perforated issue, is rich in minor varieties, several of them, still ignored in most catalogues, being easily found at prices far below their real value.

The denominations and designs are the same, in general, with the previous imperforate issue up to the 24 c.; but two new values, the 30 c. and 90 c. above alluded to, are added.

When it was decided to perforate the sheets of stamps, following the example set by Great Britain in the previous year, a number of sheets of each value were treated without alteration; but it was discovered that there was insufficient room between the design of each stamp to permit of the perforations being made without touching the engraving. It was therefore decided to remove a portion of the outer ornamentation on those values that required it (viz., from 1 c. to 10 c. inclusive); and as this was done very shortly after the introduction of the perforating machines, the stamps from the unaltered plates are becoming very scarce; and when English collectors wake up to their rarity, they will no doubt command high prices.

To commence my description of the issue at the 1 c., we find that the commonest type is the 1 c. "broken circle," to which I referred in my description of the imperforate issue. This "broken circle" is a break in the circular line that appears above the top and below the bottom label containing the inscription and value, the central portion of these lines having been erased as above

mentioned to allow of the operation of perforating. The second and much scarcer variety is that with the circle entire, and is identical with the imperforate issue of 1851; and in this variety will be noticed the cause of the erasement of a portion of the circle, the "teeth" of the perforation invariably cutting into the line either at the top or the bottom of the stamp. The perforating, too, appears to have been more or less clumsily done, as the writer possesses a copy perforated on three sides only, and clearly imperforate on the fourth, a considerable portion of the design of the adjoining right-hand stamp being visible, and the division having evidently been effected with a scissors.

Scott catalogues the variety with "balls to lower scrolls" (mentioned in my imperf. description) at only $5. I consider this stamp, in fine condition, of the *greatest* rarity, and would much rather pay the catalogue price for this than for the imperforate stamp with the same variety ($25).

The next value, 3 c., was altered by the erasement of the horizontal lines of the square which surrounded the design as approved for the imperforate issue, and the original variety with the four outside lines should be, from its scarcity, worth a great deal more than it is priced in the English catalogues. (See figs. 3 and 4.)



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

In the 5 c. denomination there are three distinct shades of the rarer variety with full ornaments, viz., brick-red, deep red-brown, and the ordinary brown shade. Of these the brick-red is by far the rarer, and the red-brown shade is also exceedingly difficult to find in fine condition. They are neither of them to be found in the stamps from the altered plate, which are all of a uniform shade of brown; these latter, however, show two varieties, the original top and bottom projections having, in the first instance, been slightly reduced only, but afterwards they were again cut down level with or slightly below the corner portions of the design: these are respectively known as "projections shortened" and "projections erased," and are both about equally procurable.

The 10 c. is the only stamp of the series that was altered by cutting down the *side* ornaments, in place of those at the top and bottom as in the lower denominations, and the alteration is so slight as to require close examination to discover it. The examples from the unaltered plate are, however, very scarce.

The 12 c. possesses no varieties, and is identical with the imperforate issue, as is also the 24 c., although this latter varies from a pale silver-grey to a blackish grey in shade. It is a remarkable thing that every catalogue I have seen describes this 24 c., both perforate and imperforate, as "*lilac.*" I can only say that out of some hundreds of this value, chiefly, of course, perforated, that I have handled, I have never seen *one* that was anything approaching lilac in hue.

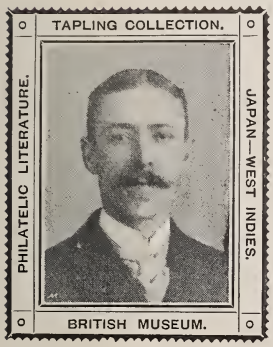
The two fresh denominations, the 30 c. and 90 c., are of the greatest rarity in fine condition. The former is of a deep orange shade, has a portrait of Franklin, and differs from the other stamps of the issue in having the value in words at the sides and in figures underneath. The 90 c. is deep blue in colour, and has yet another portrait of Washington.

(*To be continued.*)

Our Interviews.

By THE EDITOR.

Mr. E. D. BACON.



Of Mr. Bacon, from the purely biographical point of view, we need say very little to the readers of the *Philatelic Record*. Past volumes bear witness to his philatelic learning and his industry. Many important contributions from his pen have appeared in our pages; notably, a long and interesting series of articles on the stamps of Japan, a country which he specialised with conspicuous success for several years. He was born on August 29th, 1860. He joined the Philatelic Society of London in May, 1880, was elected to a seat on the Committee in October, 1882, was made Hon. Treasurer in February, 1885, and Hon. Secretary in November of the same year. The pressure of business matters compelled him to resign his Secretaryship in December, 1888, and in the March following he was presented by his fellow members with a handsome silver salver, in recognition of his services. That testimonial meeting was one of the first we attended, and the scene is still fresh in our memory. The gathering was at the old place of meeting at the Salisbury Hotel. Most of those who were present then still meet together in the new rooms at Effingham House. But one face is missing; one voice is silent for ever. The Chairman of that meeting was the late Mr. T. K. Tapling. He it was who made the presentation. His was the ever-kindly voice that spoke the sentiments of the donors, and his the hand that passed the selected token of philatelic friendship to his friend.

In varying our sober pages with a few interviews with representatives of the various activities of our pursuit, we could not well make a better beginning than with our friend Mr. Bacon. Few have more closely studied the deeper problems of the early issues of postage stamps than he; and probably none would lay claim to so wide a range of philatelic knowledge as he possesses. Philately has been to him something more than a passing hobby, something more even than a pursuit. It has been, in reality, a deep and lifelong study.

Sitting in his pleasant library overlooking the Surrey Hills, and surrounded with his philatelic treasures, we turned over the leaves of the past.

"Yes," said he; "I began like most people as a general collector. I began as a little chap of seven, and kept it up till I was twenty-two."

"And then?" "Then I parted with my general collection and devoted all my spare time to the collection of post cards. That I continued for several years, eventually parting with the lot to the late Mr. Tapling, and it now forms part of the Tapling Collection at the British Museum. It was one of the finest collections of post cards ever put together. I then took up the stamps, envelopes, and post cards of Japan."

"That was the collection that you exhibited at Baker Street in 1890?" "Yes."

"And how long was that grand collection in the making?" "Many years; about ten in all. It was pronounced the finest lot of Japan ever got together. It included entire sheets of all the stamps that exist, varying in type. Every

stamp was taken unused, where it was possible to get it, and numerous shades of each."

"Did you take used?" "No, only where I could not get unused, and I turned out the used when I got them unused. All the known syllabic characters found on the stamps were complete, and nearly every one of them unused. The varieties of types of the envelopes and post cards were also collected, and I had no less than about 900 varieties of the cards of the third issue."

"Do you intend to exhibit that collection next year?" "No, I parted with it shortly after the death of my friend Mr. T. K. Tapling, as for a short time I thought of abandoning philately altogether."

"And the price?" "Well, that I do not wish to publish."

"I suppose it ran into four figures?" "Yes, about that; but at present prices it would fetch considerably more than I got for it."

"You are still collecting?" "Oh! yes. I am now specialising the stamps of St. Lucia, and one or two others of the West Indies. I have also a small collection of the stamps of Turkey."

"Your time for collecting purposes must be very limited?" "It is. If I had more leisure I should collect more countries than I do now; but my time is so fully occupied with philatelic work of a non-collecting character that I dare not undertake any more."

"The arrangement and care of the Tapling Collection must still take a large slice out of every week?" "It does. I spend three days a week at the British Museum arranging and classifying that collection. I have been on that work four and a half years."

"And how long before you will finish?" "It is difficult to say; but I should think that the adhesive stamps of the collection will be all arranged in about another two years. The envelopes and post cards are at present arranged, issue by issue, in plain envelopes, upon which descriptions of the contents are written, and those envelopes are arranged in air-tight boxes."

"Do you intend that to be the permanent form of arrangement?" "That depends upon the Museum authorities; and as it is so much in the future I am unable to say what is likely to be done."

"Are the Museum authorities adding to the collection at all?" "No; unfortunately they have no money which they can devote to that purpose."

"But I believe you have made some additions?" "Yes. Collectors and also dealers have been very good in presenting various stamps that were wanting to fill up gaps, and some of the gifts we have had have been of very considerable value."

"You have some assistance, I presume, in your work at the Museum?" "For the first three years I did the whole of the work myself; but for the last year and a half I have had a young lady assistant who does part of the work. She hinges the stamps, fixes them on to the little card mounts that are used, and after I have arranged them on the sheets she fastens them down."

"What are the little cards you refer to?" "Every stamp in the collection is mounted upon a thin white card, a little larger than the stamp itself. The card has a plain red border ruled round it, and inside that border the stamp is mounted, and then the cards are mounted upon the leaves, which are of a greenish tint."

"Is not that a very slow process?" "Undoubtedly; but it adds very much to the presentation of the stamps."

"But what about the friction?" "The sheets have tissue paper gummed on their reverse sides, and that protects the stamps from injury by friction."

"Did the late Mr. Tapling ever estimate the value of his collection?" "No; I think not. Its value, of course, has increased enormously since his death."

"What would you estimate the present value at?" "It is very difficult

to say. At best I can only give a rough-and-ready estimate; but I should say it would be well within the mark to place it at between £75,000 and £100,000."

"And what do you reckon to be the best countries in the collection?" "Great Britain and Colonies are, perhaps, the strongest."

"They were presumably Mr. Tapling's favourites?" "Yes, and a few other countries, such as Buenos Ayres, Transvaal, and Afghanistan."

Turning round to the beautiful ebonised bookcase with its glass doors and elegant fittings, that extended over one side of the room, devoted to philatelic literature, we covetously admired Mr. Bacon's special possessions. There were complete and handsomely bound sets of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, *Philatelic Record*, *Philatelist*, *Timbre-Poste*, *American Journal of Philately*—including the rare first series—early catalogues galore, and important Government publications; in fact, nothing seemed to be missing.

"There you are mistaken," said Mr. Bacon.

"But you must be pretty complete?" "No, far from it. I have been collecting philatelic literature for many years now, and I find the old philatelic works want a great deal more hunting for than the stamps of most countries. I still want very many of the early publications, and I don't know any library that is really complete in this country. Unfortunately we have had no one here who started collecting at the time when Mr. J. K. Tiffany began in the States; consequently, there is no doubt that his collection must be the finest in the world. You see my collection does not run into more than about 700 volumes. A complete philatelic library would include a great many more."

"Seven hundred philatelic volumes!" we muttered, as our covetous eyes settled on one desirable set after another that would be so fruitful of material for 'copy' in our own special 'den.' But we were eyeing those volumes from two different standpoints: Mr. Bacon from that of the collector, who would put scarcity first; and we, with baser imaginings, looked at them from the editorially-useful point of view. Then, turning back to the collector, we asked:

"What do you consider the rarest of philatelic works?" "I think the earliest catalogues: first editions of Mount Brown, some of the early French and German catalogues, and so on."

Then, harking back to our own point of view—"As a philatelic writer, what work do you find the most useful of the old publications?" "Undoubtedly the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, which, with its twelve volumes, ranges from 1863–1874, and the *Timbre-Poste*, which commenced in the same year as the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, and is still running its useful course."

"Do you know of many collectors of philatelic literature besides yourself?" "When I first began I knew hardly anyone; but I am glad to say that in recent years several philatelists have taken up the collection of books, both here and on the Continent. It is chiefly by exchanging amongst ourselves that we are able to add the early works to our shelves."

"You don't get much from the auctions?" "No; it is very seldom that any of the older works turn up in the sale room, and when they do, the competition for them is brisk."

"Then you think that the need of a philatelic library to a collector is becoming more recognised than it was a few years since?" "I do; indeed, a philatelic library is almost a necessity in these days of specialism. For a philatelic writer it is an unmistakable necessity."

"You have added a few volumes yourself to our shelves?" "Yes; I have been from the first a member of the Publication Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, for bringing out the publications of the Society, and I have for many years contributed to the various journals published in this country. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have just published a *Handbook on Barbados*, which I wrote in conjunction with Lieut. Napier, and our first joint work was a *Handbook on St. Vincent*, which appeared last year."

"I understood you to say just now that a library of philatelic works was indispensable to a writer." "Yes; it is undoubtedly so for anyone who writes works or even articles for specialist collectors, as there is much valuable information to be gleaned from the early published journals and catalogues. Even for what may be called the ordinary magazine articles, it is a pity that writers do not sometimes take the trouble to look up if certain points have been previously dealt with, for it is not at all an uncommon thing now to see questions propounded that were satisfactorily explained in some one or other of the journals years ago."

"But with such a number of works to refer to, a great deal of time must be required to look through the old magazines." "That is so; the great want, that must have been felt by all writers, and which is becoming more pronounced every year, is the want of a really good index of Philatelic literature."

"I see by the November number of the *London Philatelist* that there is a prospect of such a work appearing some day." "Yes; I am glad to say that Mr. F. A. Bellamy, the Honorary Secretary of the Oxford Philatelic Society, has taken the matter up, and what is more is working hard with the intention of carrying out the idea properly. I need scarcely say that Mr. Bellamy deserves the good wishes and assistance of every philatelist in his arduous undertaking, and I hope he will receive the ungrudging support of everyone who can in any way help him. I may say I have told him that he may count upon my giving him all the aid in my power for furthering such a desirable project. Such an undertaking has been successfully carried out for German philatelic literature by Herr Victor Suppantschitsch, and we Britishers ought certainly not to be behindhand."

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

THE Committee desires to announce that it is intended to allot fourteen stalls of various sizes in the West Gallery of the Exhibition, for the use of members of the stamp trade.

The stalls will be let by tender, and full particulars, with plan, conditions of letting, and form of tender, can be obtained on application by letter to the Secretary, Mr. J. A. Tilleard, 4, Lombard Court, E.C.

No tender will be received after 27th February, 1897.

The tenders will be submitted unopened to a Sub-Committee, consisting of the following well-known collectors, viz.: Messrs. W. B. Avery, Douglas Garth, E. D. Bacon, W. Dorning Beckton, and T. Maycock, who alone will have any voice in the acceptance of tenders and the allocation of stalls.

Diadem Series of N. S. W. 1856 to 1864.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

A Paper read before the Sydney Philatelic Club.

THE official records with regard to this series now accessible are incomplete, but are sufficient, in conjunction with what we are able to learn from observation and study of the stamps themselves, to furnish a fairly satisfactory history.

In the beginning of 1854, the locally-engraved steel plates of the 1d., 2d., and 3d. laureated were showing signs of wear, the 2d. being especially troublesome. It had been once re-engraved, and even temporarily superseded by the "star" copper plate; but the large demand for that particular value tried its powers to the utmost. Consequently, early in March, 1854, a communication was forwarded by the Inspector of Stamps to the Colonial Secretary, recommending that new steel plates for the 1d., 2d., and 3d. values should be obtained from England, the source of the 5d., 6d., 8d., and 1s. values then recently issued. This communication was forwarded to the Postmaster-General on the 14th March, and by letter dated the 17th of that month, Major Christie expressed his entire concurrence with the recommendations contained therein.

On the 5th of April following, an estimate was submitted for procuring a new steel plate for the 2d., and an estimate and designs for the 1d. and 3d. plates were submitted on the 7th of the same month; but it was distinctly to be understood that the 2d. plate was to be obtained first.

It was not stated by whom the designs were prepared, but it may fairly be assumed that Mr. S. Levinge, who had designed the square series, and subsequently also the 5s. stamp, was the artist.

On the 19th May, 1854, duplicates of the estimates and designs for all three values were forwarded for transmission to the Colonial Agent. These were sent to England with a request that the preparation might be expedited, as the plates were urgently required.

Some idea of the time required to prepare steel plates may be gained from the fact that it was not until the 7th of December, 1855, or more than a year and a half after despatch of the urgent requisition, that the 2d. plate arrived by the ship *William Prowse*. Shortly afterwards, the 1d. and 3d. plates, together with paper, dry colours, etc., were received by the *Prince of Wales*.

Printing commenced at once, and on the 12th of January, 1856, the 1d. and 2d. values were gazetted to come into use immediately. The 3d. value, however, was not gazetted until the 10th of October, 1856. Doubtless the supply printed from the laureated plate was sufficient to last out all demands for the 3d. value up to that date.

The firm from which the plates were obtained were Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co., of London, and the engraver was doubtless William Humphrys, who was in their employ at the time. The method of producing steel plates is described at length in Major Evans' *Stamps and Stamp Collecting*.

From a perusal of this descriptive article, it is easily understood that unless especial care were taken to place the roller-die in position before applying pressure, some slight irregularity in the relative positions of the impressions might result. Such irregularity evidently occurred in the case of the 2d. plate, which, being required in a hurry, was not so carefully prepared as the 1d. and 3d. plates. A glance at a block of the 2d. stamps as printed will show that, though some of the impressions are placed at a reasonable distance from their fellows, others are almost touching, and frequently the narrow dividing space is so smeared with colour as to produce the appearance of an unbroken impression. The 1d. and 3d. plates were much more carefully prepared, and the impressions are regularly placed with clear spaces between the rows.

No printings for use were made in England prior to despatch of the plates; but

Oceania states that a number of proofs in various colours were printed on thick yellowish card paper by the engravers, and that proofs in black on plate paper are known. Unlike the proofs of the square series, which at one time were comparatively common in Sydney, the proofs of the Diadem series appear to be unknown here.

Each plate contained one pane of 120 impressions in ten rows of twelve, and there are no marginal inscriptions or instructions.

It is unnecessary for me to refer to the design, as it is well known. The paper was a medium white wove, varying slightly in thickness, bearing as watermark a double-lined figure corresponding with the value. The bits producing these figures being constructed separately by hand, are of slightly varying shapes and sizes. The gum was at first clear flaky white, somewhat lavishly applied, but it rapidly degenerated into a thick dark brown.

All values were at first issued imperforate. The colours were originally intended to be vermilion for the 1d., deep blue for the 2d., and deep green for the 3d.; but owing to want of sufficient care in mixing the proportionate parts of the colours, many shades were produced, the 1d. varying in the most marked degree from carmine to red, and from vermilion to brownish orange or brick-red. The 2d., in its imperforate state, varies very little except in shade; but at least one printing was made in a remarkable shade of ultramarine, the result of too much Chinese white being introduced into the composition. The 3d. is found in light and dark green, and a full shade of yellow-green.

There are several errors of watermark, but, with one exception, all are of extreme rarity, showing that at most but one or two sheets were irregularly used. In March, 1857, the supply of 2d. paper probably ran out, for we find that value printed on the paper belonging to the 5d. stamp, watermarked with a double-lined "5." As I have found dated copies used in March and April, 1857, and again in December, 1857, to March, 1858, it would seem that the "5" paper was resorted to on two different occasions. The 5d. plate contained only 100 impressions, and there were also only 100 watermarks to the sheet of paper. Consequently very often the 2d. stamp shows only a small portion of the watermark; and should that portion be the curly tail, the earnest student is haunted with doubts as to whether it is not part of a 3!

We have it on the authority of the foremost English philatelists that the imperforate 2d. is also known with the watermarks "1" and "8." The former, of which two copies are known, realized £80, and the latter, which is believed to be unique, was sold at a "price commensurate with its rarity"—a somewhat vague amount, but it may safely be calculated at something over the century.

The 3d. imperforate is found on the "2" paper, and is of a less degree of rarity, £25 being assigned as its catalogue value. Mr. Vindin, I believe, had the good fortune to discover this variety in the celebrated Maitland "find."

On the 1st February, 1860, perforation was introduced, and the Diadem series was operated upon. The gauge of the first machine used was $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12, and copies may be found to give a fairly satisfactory gauge all round at either figure, and also in the compound $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. Later on a machine gauging $12\frac{3}{4}$ to 13 was used, and specimens of the 2d. bearing this gauge are rare, while the 1d. and 3d., which were longer in use, bear it more frequently.

It was in this year, 1860, that an interesting event occurred: the following letter, giving valuable particulars, is reproduced in full:—

"STAMP OFFICE, 14*th January*, 1860.

"SIR,—I have the honour, in obedience to your letter of the 12th inst., to acknowledge the receipt of a new two-penny postage stamp plate, of which I would beg to enclose a proof (on plain paper) for your inspection. This plate is a decided improvement upon the old one, and being more regularly engraved, has arrived most opportunely for carrying out the process of perforation, which has been authorized by the honourable the Treasurer to come into operation on the 1st proximo.

"With regard to the disposal of the old plate, I would suggest that it be allowed to remain in my custody, to be used only in case of an emergency.

"I have, etc.,

"THOMAS RICHARDS,

"*Inspector of Stamps.*"

Dr. Houison, who in 1891 wrote a valuable article on the two plates of the 2d. Diadem, describes the difference between the two plates as follows:—"The first

plate is three-sixteenths of an inch in thickness. It does not show so many signs of wear as the second plate, and there are no traces of retouching about any part of it. The second plate is seven-sixteenths of an inch in thickness. On closely examining it, we find distinct traces of re-engraving in places, which must have been done shortly before the plate was put out of use. This I say on account of the freshness and sharpness of the retouches. These retouches extend over a block of four stamps." Dr. Houison then proceeds to place the positions of these stamps on the plate. On the sheet as printed they would be numbers 44, 45, 56, and 57.

So long ago as 1885, in arranging the collection of Lieut. Beddome, I noted a pair of these retouched stamps. The pair subsequently got into the hands of Mr. Castle, who described them in an article on the stamps of New South Wales with double-lined numeral watermarks. (*Philatelic Record*, vol. xii. p. 91, 1890.)

In the most marked retouch (No. 45) the lower part of the face and neck is freshly drawn, and is rendered more angular and stiffer, the base of the bust being traversed by a straight line, leaving but a very narrow point projecting in front. The engine-turning of the lower half of the stamp has also been roughly and more coarsely redrawn, some of the strokes impinging on the "TWO PENCE," and there is an apparent thickening or redrawing of the lines under these words that cuts off a small portion of the letters.

I have a pair, Nos. 44 and 45, a single copy of 45 on the original cover, dated "18 Jan., 1861," and a copy of 44, also on original, dated "17 April, 1861." No. 57 has the base of the neck deepened, but the neck is not shaded.

In reply to the very natural question as to why the plate should require retouching after less than twelve months' use, Dr. Houison gives the explanation that in heating the plate for printing, a necessary part of the process of plate printing, the metal became scorched and blistered. A clumsy attempt was then made to repair the damage by hand, with the result above noted. It may be remarked that Plate II. has the stamps placed regularly and more widely apart than Plate I.

Now, from the letter of January, 1860, previously quoted, it might be reasonably assumed that impressions from Plate I. were never perforated, and impressions from Plate II. were never issued otherwise than perforated. Both of these assumptions, however, would be entirely wrong. It will be noted that Plate I. was to be held in reserve in case of emergency. Such an emergency arose when Plate II. was blistered, and during the progress of the retouching supplies were undoubtedly printed from Plate I. and perforated. As to Plate II. never having been issued imperforate, a strip of three in my possession showing the widely-spaced impressions, and used in conjunction with a perforated registered stamp as late as October, 1860, is sufficient proof to the contrary. This strip, it may be remarked, was used in Queensland, and belongs to the provisional issues of that colony, as the stamps were purchased from New South Wales at cost of production only, the revenue derived from their sale being appropriated exclusively by Queensland. Mr. Himmelhoch has an imperforate copy of the retouched stamp, No. 57, which further supports my statement that Plate II. was issued imperforate.

As regards the 1d. perforated, the two gauges of $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, and $12\frac{3}{4} \times 13$, are found in conjunction with the watermark of double-line "1." No error of watermark is known, but a variety exists on the paper with single-lined "1," prepared for the subsequent 1d. stamp of De La Rue's type. This variety is printed in a light chalky red, and the irregular position of the watermark, which rarely falls in the centre of the stamp, shows that the paper was not made to fit the Diadem plate. I have been unable to secure a dated copy, but incline to the belief that it was a provisional printing issued after the appearance of the De La Rue 1d., the plate of which might have been temporarily out of repair. There is no other way to account for the use of this paper, which certainly did not reach Sydney before the electro-plate for which it was intended.

Dr. Houison says that the 1d. Diadem plate shows slight signs of retouching. I am, however, convinced that the apparent deepening of the line above "ONE PENNY" is only due to the wearing of the engine-turned borders throwing the line, which was originally deeply cut, into greater prominence.

The 3d. was perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ and $12\frac{3}{4} \times 13$ on the "3" paper, and also at an early date appeared on the paper proper to the 6d., with watermark of large double-lined "6." From the same causes as operated in the case of the 2d. watermark "5," this watermark is generally out of centre.

While the 2d. plates retired before De La Rue's electro-plate in March, 1862, and the 1d. plate in April, 1864, the 3d. still goes on, and, after nearly forty years' continuous service, during which it has appeared on three other papers, and patiently

borne half a dozen perforations, it is capable of producing fairly clear impressions; a record which is only beaten by its elder brother, the 5d.

As the scope of this paper was only intended to cover the period ending in 1864, I will not say any more about the later varieties of the 3d.

It may not, however, be out of place to mention the reprints of the 1d. and 2d., which do not appear to have been hitherto fully described and assigned to their proper places.

I am not certain at what date these reprints were made, but am inclined to assign 1871 as the approximate date.

The 1d. was reprinted on paper watermarked N.S.W. and Crown, Type I. The colour is orange-vermilion, and the impressions are rather washy in appearance, as if insufficient ink had been applied to the plate.

The 2d. was on paper watermarked with the single-lined "2" of 1863–71. The colour was a full bright blue, and the reprints were made from Plate II.

Both stamps are imperforate, and in the majority of instances are found with the horizontal overprint "Specimen" in capitals, in black.

Synopsis.

12th January, 1856. Engraved on steel, by Humphrys (?) for Perkins, Bacon and Co., London. Printed in the colony in one pane, containing 120 stamps in ten horizontal rows of twelve stamps. Watermarked with double-line figures of value.

(*a*) *Imperforate.*

1d., vermilion, carmine-red, orange-brown.
brick-red; wmk. 1.
2d. (Plate I.), blue, deep blue, ultramarine; wmk. 2.
10th October, 1856. 3d., deep green, yellow-green; wmk. 3.

Errors of Watermarks.

March, 1857. 2d., blue; wmk. 5.
(?) 2d. „ „ 1.
(?) 2d. „ „ 8.
(?) 3d., yellow-green; wmk. 2.

1st February, 1860.

(*b*) Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, 12.

1d., carmine-red, orange-brown, brick-red; wmk. 1.
2d. (Plate II.), blue, ultramarine; wmk. 2.
3d., green, deep green, yellow-green; wmk. 3.

1860–62. 2d. (Plate II.), retouched, blue; wmk. 2; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, 12.
2d. „ „ „ „ imperf.
2d. (Plate I.) „ „ perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, 12.
2d. (? Plate) „ „ perf. $12\frac{3}{4}$, 13.
1863–64. 3d., green, yellow-green; wmk. 3; perf. $12\frac{3}{4}$, 13.

Error of Watermark.

3d., yellow-green; wmk. 6; perf. $12\frac{3}{4}$, 13.
1864. 1d., pale vermilion; wmk. 1 (single-lined); perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, 12, and $12\frac{3}{4}$, 13.

Reprints, 1871 (?). Imperf.

1d., vermilion; wmk. N.S.W. and Crown; Type I.
2d. (Plate II.), blue; wmk. 2 (single-lined.)

From the Australian Philatelist.

Review.

Barbados Handbook.

The Stamps of Barbados, with a History and Description of the Star-watermarked Papers of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. By E. D. Bacon and F. H. Napier. Three sheets of autotype illustrations of stamps, three fac-simile reproductions of the Star watermarks, an Appendix containing copies of original correspondence, etc., and a Reference List with the Publishers' prices. London: Stanley Gibbons, Limited. 117 pp. Price, in paper covers, 7/6; cloth, 10/6.

THIS is the most important of all the Handbooks to special countries yet published in the Stanley Gibbons Series of Philatelic Handbooks. It is the fifth of the series; the bulkiest volume of the lot. It contains more special information than any one of its predecessors, and it is the joint work of two of our ablest philatelists. In plan it follows that adopted in the previous volumes. After a few pages of introductory remarks there is an excellent Reference List, then explanatory notes on each Issue, and an Appendix giving some official correspondence, copies of Acts relating to the stamps under notice, and interesting tables of the quantities of stamps printed.

The Reference List is divided into four sections. Section I. comprises stamps printed from engraved plates upon unwatermarked paper, by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., from 1851 to September, 1870; Section II. deals with stamps printed from engraved plates upon watermarked paper, by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., from 1870 to 1874; Section III. with stamps printed from Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.'s engraved plates, by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., from 1875 to 1881; and Section IV. completes the list with stamps printed from typographed plates, by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., from 1882 to the present time. Such an excellent subdivision into series of the interesting stamps of Barbados may well be termed "Specialism made easy."

The "notes" deal seriatim with each section, and at every step smooth the path of the future specialist in Barbados. These "notes" include the grand feature of the book, to wit, an authentic history of the various kinds of Star-watermarked paper used in the printing of the Perkins, Bacon & Co. stamps. The authors divide the Star watermarks into three classes; viz., Large Star, Small Star, and Broad-pointed Star. The differences are thus set out :—

LARGE STARS.

These vary from 15 to 16 mm., measuring across the star from point to point; generally they measure rather more than 15½ mm. As a rule the two rays in the vertical line are narrower at the base than the others, so that these two are more pointed, and the star has a drawn-out appearance. This, however, is not always the case, some of the stars having all the rays alike.

SMALL STARS.

The small stars vary more, both in size and shape, than the large ones. They measure from 12 to 13½ mm., a difference of size that is much more striking to the eye than any similar difference in the large stars. As regards shape, they, like the large stars, sometimes have the vertical rays narrower at the base than those at the sides; but in the small star paper this is the exception, not the rule. Not infrequently the small stars are found with one or more of the rays twisted out of place; and altogether more striking differences are to be found in this than in the large star paper.

But the most marked distinction between the large and small stars is in the spacing of the stars in the sheet, as will be seen from the following table :—

SPACING OF THE STARS.

	Large Star.	Small Star.
Width of sheet	11 in.	... 10⅝ in.
Height of sheet	22¾ in.	... 20¾ in.
Width of inner frame of watermark	9⅝ in.	... 9⅝ in.
Height of inner frame ,,	21⅛ in.	... 18⅞ in.
Lateral spacing of stars from centre to centre	20½ mm.	... 20½ mm.
Vertical ,, ,, ,,	27⅝ mm.	... 24 mm.
Size of stars from point to point	15 to 16 mm.	... 12 to 13½ mm.

The Broad-pointed Star.

The "broad-pointed star" paper was made in imitation of the "large star," and it follows that the dimensions of the watermarks are the same in both cases. The great difference lies in the colour and texture of the paper and the shape of the stars. The broad-pointed star paper is much softer and whiter than the large star paper; but like this last it varies very much in substance from very thin to very thick. The broad-pointed stars are distributed on the sheet in exactly the same manner as the large stars; the lateral spacing is 20½ mm., and the vertical 27⅓ mm. The shape of the stars is much more uniform in this paper than in either of the other two, there being practically no varieties on the sheet. The size of the broad-pointed star, measured across the centre, is from 15½ mm. to 16 mm., the same as the large star; but its area is greater, owing to the rays being shorter and broader; and for the same reason all its angles, both salient and re-entering, are greater than those of the large stars. The re-entering angles of the broad-pointed stars are right angles. It only remains to say that, no matter how thick the paper may be, the watermark of the broad-pointed star paper is always very conspicuous, which is just the reverse in the cases of the other two papers, where the watermark is almost invisible in the thicker varieties.

Splendid illustrations are given of all three star papers. Those of the small and broad-pointed stars are taken from complete sheets of the papers in the possession of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. The illustration of the large star paper, which is taken from a sheet of stamps, is not quite so clear.

The authors tell us that they hoped to have included in this Handbook a complete history of all the perforating machines used by Perkins, Bacon & Co. But they have not been able to do so. The subject presents many complications, but they are continuing their investigations, and hope to redeem their promise in a future work.

Promised Work on Perforations.

The question of perforations has evidently opened out considerably in the course of their investigations, for instead of its forming a chapter in a book they now intend to make a separate work on perforations. In that work they intend to give, in addition to an account of all Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s perforating machines, a similar description of all the machines used by De La Rue & Co. for the Colonial stamps they have printed from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s plates. This will be welcome news to all specialists in British Colonial stamps.

No Wrinkles to be Had.

In previous Handbooks special attention has been called to the least well-known or rarest varieties. But *nous avons changé tout cela!* Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the following intimation, and don't attempt to read between the lines, or you may arrive at some peculiar conclusions.

In the interest of collectors (ahem!) we have purposely refrained from doing so in this work, as anyone making a careful study of our notes with his own collection before him will soon discover for himself which are the scarcer stamps, and what the true relative values of all. Moreover, he will probably be able to buy them at more reasonable prices than he otherwise would if we were to make these little secrets common knowledge.

With the following quotation concerning the current design, we conclude our notice of a work of which it is not too much to say that it has added materially to the sum of philatelic knowledge, and may well be ranked amongst the very best works that have been produced from the specialist point of view.

The Current Design.

The new design caused a great deal of comment in philatelic journals when the stamps first appeared, and it was said to represent the Arms of the Island, which it was further stated were granted by Charles II. in 1685. We have taken some little trouble to find out whether this was so or not, and from inquiries that we have made at the Colonial Office in London, we learn that no grant of Arms has ever been made to the Island. From the same source we have found that the design on the seal has not always been the same. What it was in the first instance it is impossible to say, but in the time of William IV. it bore a representation of that monarch in the chariot. This figure was changed to one representing the Queen when the new seal was sent out to the Colony on the accession of Her Majesty, and it therefore seems probable that the figure is altered upon the death of each Sovereign.

Novelties and Discoveries.

Antioquia.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles and illustrates a new registration stamp.



Adhesive.

Registration Stamp.

2½ c., rose.

British Central Africa.—So much attention has been directed to the long rectangular fiscals which are chronicled as having been used postally, that we give an illustration this month of the stamp itself, from the *American Journal of Philately.*



At the moment of going to press, we have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. copies of the following correspondence :—

"BRUSSELS, *December 19th*, 1896.

"SIRS,—I have the honour to enclose for your perusal a letter from the Postmaster of Port Herald, B.C.A., with reference to the Revenue stamps of that Protectorate. You will note that the said Revenue stamps were never used postally, and that the cancellation of same with the postal postmark was, as I expected, a mistake on the part of the Postmaster, who, as Collector of Revenue of the same district, was supplied with two sets of obliterators, one for Postal and one for Revenue purposes, and in error used the postal obliterator for the Revenue purposes.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"J. E. MCMASTER,
"*Postmaster-General, B.C.A.*

"Messrs. Whitfield King & Co."

"SURBITON, *18th December*, 1896.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 14th inst., I have the honour to inform you that those long Revenue stamps you mention were never used postally, and the reason the date stamp appears on them was that, having a large number of tax papers to issue in one day, it saved time, as it did away the necessity of writing in the date in ink on the tax papers.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"H. GALT,
"*Postmaster, Port Herald.*

"The Postmaster-General, B.C. Africa."

Cape of Good Hope.—Our publishers send us the ½d. in the new colour, viz., green, the old colour of the 1s.

Adhesive.

½d., green.

Colombian Republic.—The *American Journal of Philately* says the ½ c. of the city of Bogota has been re-engraved, the principal difference being in the letters of the inscription, which are larger than in the preceding one. Perf. 12.

Adhesive.

½ cent., black.

Congo.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two new values in the same handsome style of engraving as the rest of the current series. We give an illustration of each stamp.





Adhesives.

15 c., yellow, centre black.
40 c., green, centre black.

Denmark.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following new perforations:—

Adhesives.

5 öre,	green;		*perf.* 12½.
10 ,,	carmine		,,
12 ,,	pink and	grey	,,
16 ,,	brown	,,	,,
20 ,,	blue		,,

Great Britain.—The errors in the ½d. and 1d. Army Official Stamps chronicled by us in November (vol. xviii. p. 305), are found on the lower pane or half of the sheet of 240 stamps, in the seventh stamp from the left in the third row, in each value.

What is termed another error, namely, the "L" of "OFFICIAL" with the horizontal stem broken off almost close to the vertical stem, occurs in the top pane in the ½d. and 1d. values, and is the eighth stamp from the left in the fourth row.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says the following has been issued with the new formula on the back:—

Registered Envelope.

2d., ultramarine, size H2.

Greece.—Mr. J. N. Marsden writes to us from Lisbon as follows:—

I notice in the November number of the *Philatelic Record* (p. 309) an extract from the *Gazette Timbrologique* treating of the Grecian Belgian prints, perf. 13½, and a statement that the 50 lepta and 1 drachma of this issue were never issued perf. 13½.

I enclose for your inspection a specimen of the 50 lepta which purports to be a 13½ Belgian print, and which I think you will agree is so. The 1 drachma also exists in the same perf., and I am still in hopes of procuring a specimen—at least I am promised one. My information is that only two sheets of the 1 drachma were perforated 13½, one of which was given to a member of the Grecian Royal family, who is a strong stamp collector, and the other kept by an official in the Post-office.

Dr. Jnr. S. C. Socolis writes us from Athens with some more definite information. He says that in the year 1889 the Minister of Finance bought a machine, gauging 13½, for perforating current stamps, and when it arrived in Athens some sheets of all the Belgian issue, including the 50 lepta and 1 drachma, and 1 lepton and 20 lepta of the Athens issue, which were then in use, were all perforated 13½, and subsequently the 2 lepta and 40 lepta. The 1 lepton Athens was supplied to the Post-office at Patras, and the 20 lepta Athens was sent to Syra. It is not known how the others were distributed. Dr. Socolis regards the 13½ as the only official perforation. The 11½ perforation was done with a machine, got for the Athens Post-office from Leipzig, and therefore applies to all stamps circulated from that office, which included all the Belgian and Athens issues. The 1 l., 2 l., 5 l., 10 l., and 40 l., of the late issue with large head of Hermes, were also perforated 11½ with the Athens machine. Therefore we may now chronicle the following:—

Adhesives.

Belgian Print, perforated 13½.

1 l., pale brown.
2 l., ochre.
5 l., green.
10 l., orange.
20 l., carmine.
25 l., pale blue.
40 l., violet.
50 l., bronze-green.
1 dr., grey.

Athens Print, perf. 13½.

1 l., brown.
2 l., ochre.
20 l., red.
40 l., violet.

Belgian Print, perf. 11½.

1 l., brown.
2 l., ochre.
5 l., green.
10 l., orange.
20 l., carmine.
25 l., blue.
40 l., violet.
50 l., bronze-green.
1 dr., grey.

Athens Print, perf. 11½.

1 l., brown.
5 l., green.
10 l., orange.
20 l., red.
25 l., blue.
40 l., violet.

Large Head of Hermes, perf. 11½.

1 l., grey-brown on cream.
2 l., dark bistre on yellowish
5 l., green on cream.
10 l., ? yellow on cream.
40 l., ? violet on cream.

Hayti.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 2 c. and 5 c. of the current design in new colours.

Adhesives.

2 c,, puce brown.
5 c., slate green.

Italy.—We illustrate a new issue, which we should have chronicled some time since. They are printed on thin wove paper, perf. 14 × 14½.



Adhesives.
1 c., grey-brown.
2 c., brownish orange.

Johore.—We illustrate the new stamps of Johore chronicled by us in October last (vol. xviii. p. 279).



Mexico.—Mr. Chapman informs the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* that the new watermark does not give satisfaction, and that probably paper will be supplied from England.

Mr. Chapman also sends the *American Journal of Philately* the 2 c. Postal Union card of the preceding issue, which has been surcharged at the sides "Para los Estados Unidos y Canada," in yellow-green. He states that this card should never have read "Union Postal Universal," as only the 3 c. rate is in force. The present surcharge is only for using up the present stock, and when the next supply of cards is printed they will probably read "Servicio Exterior."

Postcard.
2 c., rose and blue-green; yellow-green surcharge; *buff*.

Portuguese Colonies.—It is stated that Angra, Funchal, Horta, and P. Delgada will probably be supplied with stamps of the same type as the new Portuguese. The other colonies may in time follow suit also.

Queensland.—We illustrate the new type of the 1d. chronicled in October last (vol. xviii. p. 279).



Zanzibar.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has received some more Indian stamps surcharged, which show a fresh setting. The *P.J.G.B.* finds a number of settings-up of the surcharged, especially on the low value stamps, each supply having apparently a fresh setting-up. The *P.J.G.B.* sets out the varieties as follows:—

(1) With many small "z" and inverted "q" for "b." The error "Zanzidar" occurs in this setting-up. Most if not all the values appear with this.

(2) A setting-up of ½, 1, 1½, 2, and 2½, and 6 a. with error "Zanibar" about June last.

(3) With few inverted "q" for "b" but with error no dot to "i," and on most sheets "Zanz ibar."

(4) Without any inverted "q" and without any errors.

It is very probable that other settings also exist.

The setting on the B.E.A. stamps is similar to 3, with some inverted "q" and without dot to "i" of "Zanzibar."

Of the 2½ on 2 a. our contemporary says 1920 were printed, 384 of which had the large "2."

Of the 4½, 5, 7½ a. 1800 each were printed.

Adhesives.
½, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, 6 a. error "Zanibar" on Indian.
2½ in red on 2 a. error "Zan zibar" on Indian.
2½ a. black and blue, on B.E.A.
4½, 5, 7½ a., error no dot to i, on B.E.A.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).

The January packet contains—
SIX VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).

The January packet contains—
EIGHT VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED

These packets are on sale until January 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet, 12s., post free. No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Philately in the Mags.

Earl Kingston's English Stamps.

The philatelic event of the day is the sale of Earl Kingston's splendid collection of English Stamps. It has been purchased jointly by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and Mr. W. H. Peckitt. The price paid was £1800, which is said to be the largest sum paid for a collection of the stamps of one country. The collection was arranged in three massive and sumptuously bound volumes. Among the gems in the collection, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons enumerate the following:—

1d., *black*.—Two die proofs on India paper, one engraved by Heath being die 1, the second one die 2 with Humphrys' retouch. These beautiful stamps have the Maltese cross in the upper corner, and the lowers corners are vacant. They are almost, if not quite, unique, and would be desirable in any collection.

1d., *black*, *V.R.*, is represented by two unused specimens, and by one cancelled with the figures "52" between bars. This is apparently a regular postmark used at the time, and is not the ordinary trial cancellation of concentric circles that is often met with.

The next stamp of note is a *1d.*, *deep blue*, which is probably a proof of 1840, but it is used and postmarked, and still on a part of the original paper.

The ordinary 1d., black, are very strong, there being a large portion of a sheet consisting of six rows right across the plate, viz., seventy-two stamps in all unsevered, and with original gum. There are also several blocks of four and six, and pairs.

The 1d., red, Archer's roulette, are represented by a strip of three slightly creased, and by a horizontal pair in mint condition, and by two single specimens.

The rare 1d., small crown, die 1, perf. 14; small crown, die 2, perf. 14; and large crown, perf. 16, are represented in all shades, from the deepest plum-colour to pale carmine, and often in pairs and blocks.

In the 1d., large crown, perf. 14, the most noticeable block is a square one of four, in the *orange*-colour on white paper. Here also we find one of the 1d., red, overprinted "O.U.S." This is unused, and is the only unused specimen we have met with. Used ones are common.

Of the unperforated 1d. of this issue there are a pair and a single of plate 116, being from the celebrated sheet sent unperforated to Cardiff in error.

The 1d. plate numbers are strongly represented. As a rule there are about six single shades of each, and pairs and blocks of four where such could be obtained.

2d., *blue*.—The copies of the first issue, without lines, are very fine, the best thing being a magnificent block of six with original gum. There are also a fine horizontal pair, and seven single specimens mostly in shades.

In the next issue we find a very fine horizontal pair of the 2d. with waxed corners, without letters in the lower angles, and printed on the Dickinson paper with silk thread. This 2d. on the Dickinson paper is extremely rare, whereas the 1d. is comparatively common.

Of the rare perforated 2d. we have the following:—

Die 1, small crown, perf. 16. A pair and five singles.

Die 1, small crown, perf. 14. Two singles.

Die 1, large crown, perf. 16. This is one of the rarest, if not the rarest, of all English stamps, and is represented by two fine copies.

Die 1, large crown, perf. 14, thick lines, comprise a block of nine, two pairs, and two singles. Thin lines, which are much rarer, are shown only in a pair and two singles.

Of plate 7, of the 2d. with plate numbers, there is a fine square block of four.

One Shilling.—The octagonal stamps are, right through, very fine. Here we find in the 1s. green an unsevered and almost entire sheet of eighteen stamps, but two stamps being missing from the left-hand corner; these, for convenience of sale, have been broken up into a block of eight, two pairs, and the rest singles. In addition to this sheet there are five fine single copies in shades of this beautiful stamp.

The 1s., no letters, comprise amongst others a block of four and also a pair in the dark green shade.

The 1s. with small letters in angles include the rare error, lettered "DK.KD," with the lower K enclosed in a circle. This stamp unused is of great rarity, and we only know of one other specimen.

The plate numbers of the 1s. are exceedingly strong, in some cases entire panes being shown, and of almost all plates there are pairs and blocks as well as numberless varieties of shades.

Ten Pence.—The 10d. octagonal are also a good set, including as they do a block of 6, a pair, and 7 singles. One of these latter is a very deep *black-brown*, a colour that we have never seen before either used or unused. There is also a single specimen of plate 2 of the 10d., wmk. spray; this is, however, used. Very few copies are known of this plate.

Six Pence.—Here again the octagonals are strong, comprising a block of six, a strip of three, and nine single specimens; several of them are in the rare shade. In the later 6d.'s, the most noticeable stamp is a used specimen of plate number 13 in pale brown.

Four Pence.—Here there is a very pretty page of five specimens of the 4d., small garter. Included in these is one of a very dark colour that is seldom found unused.

The middle garter is represented by two fine copies on white paper.

Nine Pence.—Here we find a used specimen of the 9d. with hair lines. Unfortunately this is one of the few specimens in the book that is damaged, the perforations being cut at the top. The other 9d., both small letters and large letters and both wmks., are extremely strong.

The higher value stamps are also beautifully represented by picked specimens.

The 2s., blue, comprise a block of four and eight single specimens. The 2s., brown, a pair imperf., and three singles perforated; 5s., rose, plate 1, five singles; plate 2, five singles; and three copies of plate 4, wmk. anchor, one on very deep blue paper, and in most excellent condition.

The 10s. include three wmk. Maltese cross, and three wmk. anchor, some being on blue and some on white paper.

The £1 being much rarer, are only shown in two specimens of the cross, and one of the anchor.

Principal and Minor Varieties.

Some good folks seem so determined to run minor varieties *ad lib.*, that the question of drawing the line between what may be termed principal or leading varieties and minor varieties is gradually getting into the stage at which it will no longer be possible to avoid a settlement, and yet maintain philatelic peace. The question will eventually be, What shall be regarded as a principal variety and what as a minor variety? Meanwhile we quote the following pertinent contribution to the discussion, from the gifted pen of Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*:—

The question of what are principal varieties and what are minor would need no small amount of discussion, and the discussion might not impossibly leave the question in no better position than it was before. Even under the editorship of so able a philatelist as Dr. Legrand, the lists of various countries, published from time to time in the *Bulletin* of the French Society, exhibited some small inconsistencies! and, alas! but a small portion of the enormous field to be dealt with has yet been covered. Still, we have there the principle upon which, at some future time, a catalogue will have to be arranged. There are great difficulties in the way, no doubt, and absolute consistency in the method of arrangement of the minor varieties will probably be found impossible. For instance, in some cases a change of perforation seems almost to mark a distinct issue, while in another varieties of perforation appear to occur in so promiscuous a fashion as to be almost accidentals; in one case a watermark indicates an entirely fresh series, while in another papers with different watermarks seem to have been used quite indiscriminately; shades again vary in importance from those changes which run backwards and forwards, and one into another, and are simply due to carelessness in mixing the colours, to those which mark an intentional change, and are due perhaps to the introduction of some fresh safeguard against forgery or fraud. The skeleton list, as we may call it, could perhaps be constructed without any very great difficulty; but the further arrangement should also be of a nature to assist the collector in his advance towards completeness, and should not leave him to suppose that all the minor varieties are equally unimportant.

Egyptian Retouch.

Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co. have discovered a retouch in the current series of Egyptian Stamps which they describe in their *Monthly Circular* as follows:—

On comparing a copy of the 5 paras, brown, Egypt, 1879, with the 1 millième, brown, stamp of the current issue, it will be seen that the central design has been retouched. This is especially noticeable in the eye of the sphinx, and the right shoulder is nearer the line of the oval. We are unable to say when this retouching took place, or, what is more important, whether any stamp is found in the two types. All we have seen with the retouched die are the "millièmes" stamps and the 10 piastres, violet, 1889.

Bavaria, 3 Kreuzer, 1867.

The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* publishes a very interesting addition to the known varieties in the stamps of Bavaria. To the 1 kr., green, 7 kr., blue, and 12 kr., violet, we have now to add the 3 kr., rose, 1867 issue, with silk thread. The centre tongue of the figure 3, in the left-hand top corner, is prolonged upwards, thus giving it a very curious appearance.

Bavaria, 10 Kreuzer, 1873.

In addition to the foregoing we may mention that the *Postwertzeichenkunde* a short time ago announced another variety, and this time in the 10 kreuzer, buff, 1873 issue, with crossed lines. In this variety a horizontal white line crosses the 0 of 10, in the right-hand top corner, and runs also over the outside line of the stamp.

A Bavarian Provisional.

From the *Briefmarken Zeitung (Leipzig)* we take the following notice concerning the provisional Bavarian unpaid letter stamp 2 pf. on 3 pf.:—

In consequence of the Post-office at Aichach wanting unpaid letter stamps of 2 pf., and such stamps not being in stock at Munich, 3000 3 pf. stamps were surcharged 2 pf. in red. Three only of these stamps seem to have been used, and the remainder returned to Munich, as the ordinary 2 pf. stamps were delivered a few days later. The obliteration

reads, "Aichach. II. 4 Sep. vor 10-11. 95." in five lines.

No doubt this stamp will in future be one of those that are unattainable; a Bavarian collection will, therefore, never be complete.

Italy, 1890. 50 and 100 Lire.

The *Revue Philatelique Belge* notifies its readers that the high value stamps of Italy will no longer be used. It gives at the same time a short history of these two stamps, from which we quote :—

These two high values were decreed on the 2nd of July, 1890, under No. 6054, for the use of settlement in the internal matters of the post. It has been found, however, that the officials could do without them, and the following decree has been published :—

The figures *(mark the word)* instituted by Art. 136 of the Postal regulations have been suppressed, and they will not be used any more after the 1st of August, 1896.

HUMBERT.

TARMINE COSTA.
ROME, *July 12th*, 1896.

Hamburg, 1864-65. 1½ and 2½ Sch.

From the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* we take the following welcome news :—

The original stone, as well as the matrix, used for the two lithographed stamps of Hamburg, 1864 and 1865 issue, 1½ and 2½ sch., imperf. and perf., has been up to the present time in the possession of C. Adler, Hamburg, lithographic printer. By the help of one member of the Berlin Philatelic Club the stone, as well as the matrix, has been bought for the Postal Museum of Berlin.

Further reprints of these four stamps will therefore be impossible.

We are delighted to hear this news.

Bermudas Postmarked to Order.

A Bermuda correspondent supplies the following information to the *American Collector* :—

A short time ago a quantity of stamps, in all respects an exact facsimile of the Bermuda present issue, was received from Germany at one of the Post-offices here. They were duly cancelled with the Bermuda cancelling stamp and mailed back again to the sender. What consideration was given to the canceller of these stamps I am unable to say. I am in correspondence with one of the leading philatelic firms in London, who have large business relations with the principal Continental dealers, and hope to be able to get some specimens of the frauds in question. Should I succeed in so doing I will send you specimens of them, and, at the same time, forward some to the Colonial Agent here in order that the office from which they emanate may be found out. I believe a question is shortly to be raised in the House of Assembly here. If so I will send you a copy of the article as reported in the local newspapers.

The Home Authorities are taking active measures to put an end to this kind of abuse, and some fine day some "obliging official" will find himself in Queer Street over this business. Correspondents abroad may rest assured that all the influence of the London Society will be brought to bear on any case of which authentic details can be supplied.

Schools of Philately.

The following from a correspondent in the *Bazaar* will probably raise a laugh; but after the laugh is over, a little reflection will probably compel the admission that it is not such a bad idea after all.

Commencing stamp collecting late in life, I have been forcibly struck by two things, the difficulty and slowness of learning and the ease with which the art—or is it science?—might be taught. I believe that a man with a knowledge of stamps, with evenings to spare, and a desire to turn them to account, might make a fair thing out of classes and private lessons for collectors. I do not suppose that one man would teach the whole art—or should I say science?—from the ABC to the higher mathematics, but that one would take the "Preparatory" or "Beginners'," let us say, whilst others would take the "Intermediate" or "Medium," and the "Final" or "Specialist." Such teachers would be a boon to beginners, if not for the more advanced collectors, and they would save their pupils more in money than the fees they charged, to say nothing of the invaluable time that is now lost. Take the matter of forgeries alone. Probably every collector, except the expert, who has long since bought his experience in the orthodox manner and at the orthodox price, has in his collection some fudges; but if he had been "coached" in his early days, most of these frauds would have been known to him from the outset, and the extent to which it would be possible for him to be "had" would be reduced to a minimum—and that would have the additional advantage of putting at least one nail into the coffin of the, at present, large and lucrative trades of forgery-making and forgery-selling.

Wanted: A Subject Index.

The question of the production of a Subject Index to Philatelic Literature has all of a sudden come very much to the fore. The *Philatelic Californian* in its October number suggests a catalogue to "all the contents of all the English, German, French, &c., as well as the American papers."

It should be a subject index rather than one of each of the several papers. These would lose their individuality, and their contents show up in the several groups according to value and importance.

A grouping of the subjects might be suggested in this wise :—

A.—Government edicts or publications concerning the issue of stamps, etc., the countries to be quoted in alphabetical order.

B.—Monographs on stamps of one country or group of countries; as, for instance, the stamps of the Leeward Islands.

C.—Monographs on one or more issues of stamps of one country, *e.g.*, "The Sydney Views."

D.—The description of single stamps.

In the November number of the *London Philatelist*, Mr. F. A. Bellamy, Hon. Secretary of the Oxford Philatelic Society, announces that for the last two and a half years he has been working on such an index, and has made fair progress with the work. He has completed all the works in his possession, and now solicits the co-operation of other philatelists in the loan of books, &c. In advocating the needs of a subject index, Mr. Bellamy says :—

It may not be known, except to careful writers upon philately, and those interested in the subject upon which I now write, that there does not at present exist any subject index of printed articles, notes, etc., upon stamps, which can in the remotest sense be regarded as complete. One of the natural results of this is that many writers of books and articles on stamps exhibit by their statements a serious disregard, or ignorance, of what has already been written upon the subject of their article—not wilfully, perhaps, but through want of time, it may be, to search through dozens of books; and discoveries get noted in current stamp papers which were recorded years ago, and in a more accurate form. At least modern writers often do not do justice to those before them.

No one will question the need of such an index as that now suggested. What hard worked philatelic editor has not felt the need of it? What specialist has not wasted days and days wading through volume after volume in search of some stray note of information that such a "subject index" would lay bare to him in the twinkling of an eye? Who has not sworn, hard and fast, at the wretchedly amateurish way in which most of our philatelic journals are indexed? But how is this much-to-be-desired "subject index" to be brought within the range of practical politics? It will not, it cannot be made to pay. Who will publish it, *con amore?* We venture to think that it should be taken in hand and fathered by the Philatelic Society of London.

Current South Australians.

In September last (vol. xviii. p. 255), we gave a list of current South Australians with an enumeration of their various perfs. as supplied by Mr. Blockey to our excellent contemporary, the *London Philatelist*. To the November number of our contemporary Mr. Blockey sends some further notes on varieties recently discovered by him as follows :—

2d., pale orange, surch. OS, block type, wmk. S A, wide, perf. 10½ × 12½, postmarked July 27th, 1874.

2d., orange-red, surch. OS, block type, wmk. SA close, perf. 10 × 11½. Do., perf. 11½ × 12½. Both postmarked April, 1877.

Also the ordinary 2d. (without OS), orange-red, perf. 10 × 11½.

All these, Mr. Blockey thinks, must be scarce varieties, as he only obtained one copy of each from a lot of 5000.

St. Helena: New Rates of Postage.

The *Monthly Journal* quotes from the *St. Helena Guardian* for Oct. 1st, the following notification of new rates of postage :—

"GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

"RATES OF POSTAGE.

"In Terms of Ordinance No. 1 of 1896, the Governor in Council has this day fixed the following Rates of Postage from this Colony :—

Letters to all parts of the World, per half ounce	2½d.
Post Cards	1d.
Reply Post Cards	2d.
For Newspapers, Books, Printed papers, Commercial papers, Patterns and Samples, per 2 ounces ... ... with the Postal Union proviso of a Minimum payment of 2½d. for a packet of Commercial papers, and of 1d. for a packet of Patterns or Samples.	½d.
Registration Fee	2d.
For an acknowledgment of the receipt of a Registered Article	2½d.

"By command,
"ROBT. R. BRUCE,
"For Colonial Secretary.

"The Castle, St. Helena, 29th Sept., 1896."

A cutting sent us by another correspondent runs as follows :—

"St. Helena joined the Postal Union on October 1st, 1896. The stamps on sale at the Post-office are :—

10d. . . .	brown.
5d. . . .	violet.
2½d. . . .	dark blue.
2d. . . .	yellow.
1d. . . .	red.

Single and Reply Post Cards."

Philatelic Gossip.

Forthcoming Catalogues.

Scott's Catalogue in America and *Gibbons' Catalogue* in this country share the honours in periodically disturbing the philatelic equilibrium. As the time approaches for the publication of a new edition speculation becomes rife, consequent on an anticipated advance in prices. In America the disturbance is much greater than with us. *Scott's Catalogue* is published annually, and advanced sheets are sold at premium prices to dealers and speculators, who immediately make a note of those stamps that are advanced in price, and then scour round in search of desirable stock. Editors of philatelic journals also invest in advanced sheets, and fill their columns from month to month with much appreciated "copy" in the shape of lists of stamps that are to be advanced in price in the forthcoming catalogue. And so the game goes on from year to year. Of course the whole proceeding furnishes a booming advertisement for *Scott's Catalogue*, so much so that one begins to wonder whether the process will some day take root in this country. As it is, on the eve of a new *Gibbons* dealers begin to keep in their stocks of countries that are expected to advance in price, and there is a decidedly growing tendency to wait for the new *Gibbons*.

Advancing Prices.

All this "animated expectancy" raises the question as to the fluctuation of prices. The advances which have been going on so markedly of late years, say some timorous souls, cannot go on for ever; there must be a limit to philatelic purchasing power. There may be; but, if there is, it does not seem to have been reached yet. It must not be forgotten, as we have pointed out before, that no dealer can afford to raise prices beyond the purchasing power of the market upon which he depends for a living, for the moment he does so his stock will be converted into unproductive capital. Then again, it must not be forgotten that the available stock of obsolete stamps must, in the natural course of events, show an appreciable decrease from year to year, especially in unused copies. Therefore, every time a dealer replenishes his stock he has to face a decreased supply, which, in the end, means an inevitable increase in the selling price. So long as the natural elements of supply and demand are allowed free play we need have no fear of any undue inflation of prices. It is the "cornerer" who has to be reckoned with most seriously in the philatelic market place. In the guise most often of a collector-speculator, he it is who disturbs the ordinary prices, and for a time succeeds in unduly inflating those prices. But even he is not so dangerous to philately as he is represented to be. Time has its revenges for him, and with a fearless philatelic press he runs a very great risk of serious loss in the end. A case in point is supplied by the cornerer of two dollar Columbians, who is now unloading at a serious loss under face value. If the dear old croakers who see so many rocks ahead will only put on their considering caps occasionally, they will gradually get accustomed to recognise the fact that there is a compensating protection against most, if not all, the dangers which their morbid fancy calls into being.

Unevenness in Cataloguing.

Turning to another point in connection with the production of leading catalogues, one cannot help noticing the unevenness that is apparent in the best catalogues, excepting perhaps the monumental work of M. Moens. One country is elaborated in every detail of perforation, watermark, and paper, whilst another country, simply because it has not won its way into the list of fashionables, is lacking in all those interesting details. Compare for instance the wealth of detail in the cataloguing of the early issues of the Australian colonies and the listing of Chili. In the case of the Australians every retouch is duly noted; but who has ever dreamt of looking into the retouches of the plates of Chili? This matter is one, we venture to think, that deserves attention at the hands of our cataloguers.

Postal Incompetence.

Consequent on the recent official confession of the lamentable incompetence of our postal officials in the matter of the distribution of newspapers, a correspondent in the *Times* draws attention to the following paragraph from Mr. William Harbutt Dawson's well-informed and interesting book entitled *Germany and the Germans*, published by Messrs.

Chapman and Hall in 1894, which may be interesting to our readers :—

The most real token of recognition received by the Press from the State in Germany consists of an arrangement by which the State, through the Postal Department, acts as news-agent on a large scale. Orders for any publication registered on the Official List are received at every post-office, and the numbers are delivered by the postman as early as, and often earlier than, they can be procured from other sources. The Department in this way distributes at least 500 million newspapers in the course of the year, made up of some seven million single subscriptions, and thereby earns a very considerable income.

Postal Refinements.

Another correspondent of the *Times* supplies some amusing evidence of the refinements to which our red-tape officials subject the public in their systematic endeavours to paralyse the usefulness of the great public department committed to their keeping. He says :—

The other day I had occasion to send a manuscript through the post to a certain editor. It cost me one halfpenny, and so far was all right. For its return in case of rejection—a proceeding to which editors are occasionally prone, without any sufficient reason, of course, so far as my own case is concerned—I enclosed a penny stamp. This morning my friend the editor sent me back my original envelope. It was stamped on the back with an elaborate seal and a profusion of red wax, and these words were on the front :—"Contains a postage-stamp. Letter rate. Ns. 1d."

The Columbian "Corner."

The *New York Herald* recently published an interview with Mr. Albrecht Leowit, who is selling $2 Columbians for $1.85. Mr. Leowit says in effect that a business man at Harlem, who was a collector, tried to corner the stamps, and turned his whole estate into cash for that purpose, buying about $125,000 worth. Then hard times came, and he was unable to realize on his stamps. Then he died, and his widow, finding herself in almost absolute want, is trying to sell her $125,000 worth of Columbians.

The South American Boom.

According to latest accounts the South American boom has caught on amongst collectors in New York. Brazil is said to be the favourite. Apart from the Republican issues it certainly is a cheap and desirable country, and if it gets into the fashion list the early issues will run up to long prices for certain. But Brazil is somewhat handicapped by recent floods. With us the South American favourites are Buenos Ayres, Republic of Colombia, Tolima and Uruguay.

High Prices yet to come!

A correspondent in a prophetic frame of mind answering, in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, the question why, in comparison with the much higher price of other rarities, rare stamps do not bring higher prices, says :—

The answer is simple. Philately's growth in the favour of the extreme rich has only commenced, and this class of devotees are still largely engaged in gathering a collection which shall make a showing in quantity. Much attention has not yet been given, comparatively, by them to the first-water gems of philately. When the time does come that the wealthy collectors come into competition for the rarities, there will be an advance in the prices of some of them that will undoubtedly cast all present figures, fabulous as they may appear to be to some, into the shade. And this time is not now far distant.

May a kind providence in that "not now far distant" day, find the readers of the *Record* endowed with a liberal supply of "first-water gems."

Sensational Philatelic Trial.

BEFORE JUDGE PHILBRICK.

A very sensational philatelic case was recently tried before His Honour Judge Philbrick. The culprit was the editor of the *Philatelic Record*. He was brought into court "all of a shake" as if afflicted with the ague, and was charged with having reprinted in the pages of the *Philatelic Record* a lot of erroneous statements taken from the *Eastern Philatelist*, an ancient journal published in the United States. When asked whether he pleaded guilty or not guilty, the prisoner, clanking his chains, muttered something about dropping the offending matter into his pages all of a rush as the printers were getting up steam.

The only witness called was the editor of the *Monthly Circular*. He scowled fiercely at the object in the dock, and said :—

We are at a loss to conceive whether the author of "The First Postage Stamps," which appeared in *The Eastern Philatelist* (U.S.A). and is transcribed into the pages of *The Philatelic Record and Stamp News*, intended his paper to be a burlesque or to be taken seriously. If the latter, we would advise him to study some serious work, like Baron A. de Rothschild's *History of the Post-office and*

the Postage Stamp, before he draws on "his imagination for his facts." But the whole savours so much of burlesque that we suppose it has been written for the amusement of the readers of that journal—certainly not for their instruction.

The Judge nodded approvingly, and, addressing the prisoner, said :—

I notice you quote, without any word of qualification of its many blunders, an article on page 275, stated to be "from *The Eastern Philatelist* (U.S.A.)" The source is enough to make one doubtful—the contents of the article are sufficiently astounding. The Sardinia envelopes, which really are covers, were in use, it is well understood, for official communications, not for general public service.

Edmund Prideaux was not the first Master of the Posts in England, nor did he originate the service.

Rowland Hill was never a member of Parliament; he could not, therefore, "introduce" any bill—and the whole statement is a curiously erroneous jumble.

The authorities did not offer £500 for the best design. Heath never competed, nor secured the award. No such sum was ever awarded, and the writer must be not only ignorant, but careless in neglecting to consult the elementary sources of information open to all the world.

I hope this is not a fair specimen of American research; but it is entirely characteristic in its boldness of assertion and absolute ignorance and errors.

I venture to think, too, more careful editing would have prevented its being issued with the weight of the *Record's* columns tacitly approving this shallow pretender to instruct us.

The prisoner was then sentenced to three months' hard labour, and to be fed during his incarceration on original gum.

The culprit was led away, again muttering; this time something about the Judge himself not being infallible, as witness some equally curious statements in a certain book on English ——

"Silence, sir!" thundered the Judge.

Stamps of Europe.

A series of valuable articles from the pen of Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, on the Postage Stamps of Europe, designed as an elementary guide to their collection and study, is running through the Wednesday edition of the *Bazaar*. The first article appeared on Wednesday, 4th November last. In his introduction Mr. Westoby explains that the articles are intended "to put beginners in a straight road, and, as far as possible, so to direct them on their way that they may avoid spending time and money on what is unprofitable, for nothing is so unprofitable as to build on bad foundations, and nothing so disheartening as to be continually pulling down and rebuilding."

Errors of Colour.

"Errors," that is to say, genuine "errors," are always interesting. Some good folks are so deeply interested in the collection of "errors," that they eschew everything else and cling only to the frailties of the postage stamp. To such folks, and to a good many others of the ordinary common garden variety of collector, an article in the *Bazaar* Philatelist's Supplement of Dec. 7, on Errors of Colour in postage stamps, will be deeply interesting. Such a recently-published list should, however, have included the little sensation of the previous month, the Tobago one shilling in the colour of the sixpence value.

Imperial Penny Postage.

A Reuter's telegram, dated Colombo, December 29, states that Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., who is on his way back from Australia, brings certain concessions overcoming the obstacles which have hitherto prevented the establishment of penny postage between Great Britain and the colonies, and is confident that this system will shortly be adopted.

Xmas Presents.

A novel feature in the stamp trade advertisements this year has been the heading of "Xmas Presents." It is a good idea all round, and we are surprised it has not been worked more vigorously. Nothing could afford a collector—old or young—greater cheer at Xmas than a few old rarities in the postage stamp line. For instance, we could do very well with such a Xmas present as, say, a "Transvral" error unused, and by way of adding special pleasure it might be the inverted surcharge.

Forgeries and Reprints.

The Exposure of Forgeries.

We are continually hearing of forgeries and exposing them; but it is impossible to avoid the conviction that the exposure that is meted out in philatelic journals is not sufficient. In these latter days we have dropped into very tame and over-cautious methods in dealing with forgers. We tremble at the bogey of an action for libel, and we dare not expose the name of even the most daring impostor. This should not be. In the old days Pemberton, with a daring and a fearlessness all his own, black-listed every forger he met with, and in the process did not spare even adjectives of the expletive class. We believe there is, or was, a Philatelic Protection Society. If it still exists it is as silent as the grave. If it would only swear a bit we should know that it is alive; but a two-guinea subscription has evidently made it too eminently respectable to do any swearing. Is it possible to put a little life into the dry bones, and get them to rattle a bit? It might frighten the forgers.

Tasmania, 2½d. on 9d.

Our excellent contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist*, does good service in its October issue in exposing an impudent forgery of the provisional 2½d. on 9d. It says:—

We are indebted to a valued correspondent for inspection of a dangerous forgery of the provisional 2½d. on 9d., with double surcharge. The original of this scarce error, of which only one sheet was ever printed officially, was in light blue, and of the first type of surcharge, with the "d" close to the figure 2. It bore a second surcharge *inverted*, falling so irregularly on the sheet that in many instances the stamp bears a portion of two inverted surcharges, and rarely does it fall on the stamp so as to show the whole overprint. The forgery under discussion consists of a genuine copy of the *second* type of surcharge, with "d" some distance above the figure 2, having an additional surcharge printed in inverted position above the original surcharge. This second surcharge differs from the original in several important particulars. (1) The stroke at the top of the italic "d" is curved instead of straight, as in the original; (2) the ½ of the fraction is perfect—that is, with the sloping stroke at the top intact (in the original this stroke is worn away); and (3) the printing is very faint as compared with the heavy black impression of the original.

The forgery under discussion is used, and on an entire envelope, addressed to "A. C.——, c/o G.P.O., Freemantle, W.A." The letter was posted at Bridgewater, Tasmania, on the 2nd May, 1896, and franked the letter through to Freemantle, the stamp having been passed as genuine by the Post-office.

We recognise the handwriting of the address as that of a New Norfolk (Tas.) collector, and conclude that he posted the letter at Bridgewater, a small township in the vicinity of New Norfolk, as the stamp would be less likely to attract notice there than at the New Norfolk office, where the sender would be well known, and his stamps subjected to some scrutiny. Whether he is the actual forger or the innocent victim of some more skilful manipulator we cannot say; but we strongly suspect that the originator of this particular forgery is also concerned in the manufacture of certain errors of the surcharged Halfpenny on One Penny, with the letters "al" placed sideways. The postal authorities of Tasmania should be on the look-out against this sort of fraud, as apart from the injury it does the revenue in unpopularising Tasmanian stamps amongst collectors, and thus restricting their purchase, the addition of such a forged overprint practically cancels the stamp, and the letter is franked with an obliterated copy. We shall keep a sharp look-out on the doings of this New Norfolk collector, and will not hesitate to fully expose him if further proofs can be obtained.

He offers this stamp at the moderate (!) price of £1 5s., and as every sale he effects places him within the reach of the criminal law for obtaining money under false pretences, we trust that he will soon be brought to see the "error" of his ways by means of a prosecution instituted by one of his victims.

Hawaii, "Provisional Government, 1893," 12 c.

The *American Journal of Philately* has seen a good forgery of the Hawaiian Islands, 12 cent, mauve, surcharge "Provisional Government 1893" in black. The fount used for the forged surcharge seems to be identical with that used for genuine, but the height of the forged surcharge is ½ mm. more than that of the genuine, being 8 mm. instead of 7½ mm. Also, if on the forged surcharge a horizontal line be drawn touching the bottom of the letters P and L of *Provisional*, several of the letters, especially the V, I, and S, would not touch this line, while in the genuine surcharge all the letters would touch.

Hanover Reprints.

These appear lately obliterated, and are well done—at least, that small portion of the die the forger puts on the stamp.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

* Unused. † On original.

BUHL & CO.,

2nd and 3rd December, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
British Columbia, 5 c., rose, imperf.	17	0	0
Colombia, 1862, 1 peso, violet on blue.. ..	3	5	0
Confederate States, Athens 5 c., plum	7	0	0
Labuan, 1 dol. on 16 c., blue	11	10	0
Naples, ½ t., blue cross ..	4	8	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet ..	19	5	0
Philippines, 2 r., blue, 1863, sur. "Habilitado"* .	4	10	0
Tuscany, error, 80 c., orange	4	15	0

CHEVELEY & CO.,

20th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 3d., carmine, plate 3, with secret dot, pair, o.g.*	14	10	0
Great Britain, 8d., brown, imperf.*	5	15	0
Ditto, 1s., green, plate 2, die 2*	25	0	0
Nevis, 6d., olive-grey, litho.	10	15	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	4	0	0

PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

17th and 18th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Canada, 6d., purple-black, perf.	5	7	6
Great Britain, £5, orange.	2	10	0
Lagos, 10s., puce	7	5	0
Mauritius, *Post Paid*, 2d., blue†	10	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1d., red-brown, strip of 3 ..	5	10	0
Ditto, 3d., blue, strip of 3	4	5	0
St. Christopher, 6d., olive-brown, block of 4* ..	8	5	0
Ditto, 1s., lilac, sheet of 20*	19	10	0
St. Vincent, 1s., deep rose-red, perf. about 12 ..	7	10	0
St. Vincent, 5s., rose-red, star*	14	5	0
Tobago, 6d., ochre, C A*	9	0	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue*	4	7	6
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 15*	4	15	0
Western Australia, 6d., black-bronze	4	12	6

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER,

26th and 27th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
British Honduras, 6d., rose, C C, perf. 14	4	10	0
Ditto, 50 c., small, on 1s., grey*	3	7	6
Canada, 7½d., green ..	3	3	0
Fernando Po, 50 c. de peseta on 5 c. de peso, lilac-blue, pair† ..	4	0	0
Great Britain, £5, orange	2	4	0
Ditto, I.R. Official, 10s., blue	2	12	6

Notices.

Editorial Communications.—Articles of special interest will be paid for. MS. dealing with particular points in an exhaustive manner will be most welcome. We shall be glad to hear from Specialists who are open to write up their special countries.

All communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, Mr. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon. Letters enclosing valuables should be registered.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post-free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 5s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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Whole Page	3 0 0	2 16 0	2 12 6	2 4 0
Half Page..... ..	1 14 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 4 0
Quarter Page	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0

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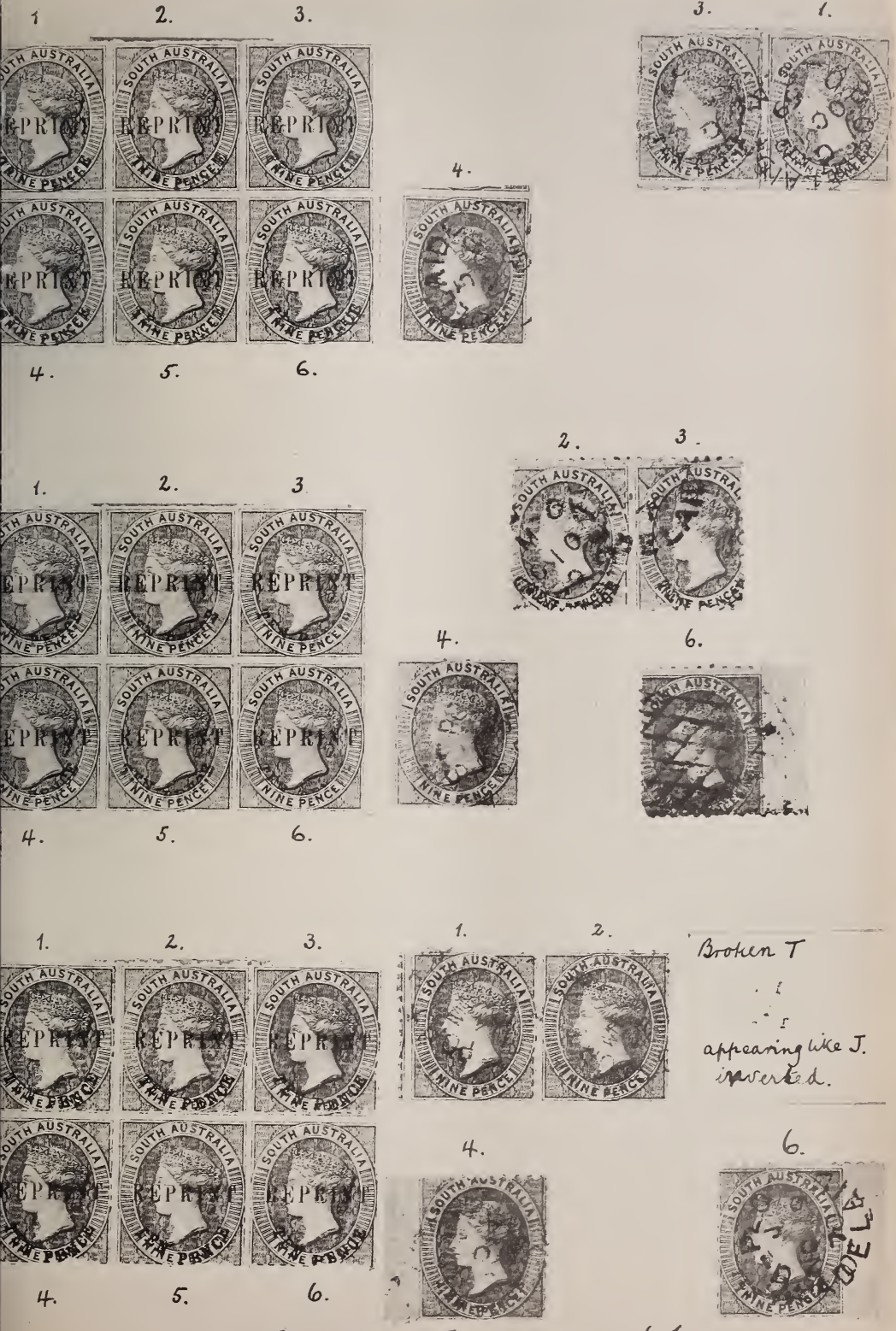
Enquiries connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.

Advertisements must be received not later than the 15th of the month for publication in the next issue.



Types of Surcharge on S. Australian 10d Stamps.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

FEBRUARY, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

THE *London Gazette* of the 15th of January, 1897, contained a notification that sundry absurdities will be removed from the Postal Code on the 1st of February next. If by accident we drop a parcel marked "Registered," containing coin, watches, or jewelry, into a letter-box, we are in future to be fined only twice, instead of four times, the registration fee; if we forget to put a stamp on a private post card, we shall in future be charged only double, instead of four times, the deficiency; newspaper packets found to contain enclosures admissible by book post will no longer in all cases be charged double the book rate, but will be sent forward and charged as parcels, *plus* a fee of one penny, if this involves a lower charge than the unpaid book rate; the present prohibition of any words on the address side of a post card, except the address and a request for return in case of non-delivery, is to be removed.

Postal Changes.

The *Times* newspaper terms these postal changes "a valuable New Year's gift" from the Postmaster-General to the public. Therefore, for these and other mercies let us be as profoundly grateful as we can under the peculiar circumstances of the case.

* * *

Proposed Samoan Swindle.

IF those who are so anxious to encourage the collection of rubbish will turn to an article which we quote on another page from our San Francisco contemporary, *Filatelic Facts and Fancies*, they will find there a little food for reflection. Sundry individuals in Samoa appear to think that the Post-office in that far away region might be run on more profitable lines as a swindling concern. These gentry in stating their case say:—

> Since the establishment of the council it has been the opinion of most of its members (and this opinion has been largely shared by the general public) that the postal system of Samoa was one of the assets of the Apia municipality, and that it was a source from which a considerable revenue might be derived without increasing the expenditure of the administration. It was thought that the same officers whom we now employ at excellent salaries might do this work, and that all the revenue which would be derived from it would be clear gain to the municipal organization. It was thought that the sale of cancelled stamps would be an asset of very considerable value, for it was noted that cancelled stamps of Samoa have been placed on sale in London, Sydney, and San Francisco, and in doubtless many other places unknown to the members of the council. It is thought that a steady and valuable income can be derived from such a source as this, for the actual cost of the issue of the stamps must be but little.

They therefore propose to have a portion of the stamps cancelled and held ready for sale to collectors and others at a uniform price of one-half their face

value. And perhaps it might be as well to inform these would-be postal swindlers that collectors on their part will take care to make it widely known that, after the initiation of this reform, Samoan issues will be relegated, by collectors, to the dustbin. So long as Samoan stamps are issued and used in the ordinary way they will be collected by stamp collectors; but the moment they are classed with the "made for collectors" and "cancelled to order" rubbish they will largely cease to be collected, and the revenue, instead of being increased, will be reduced to a vanishing point.

* * *

Olympians and the S.S.S.S.

THE Olympians are knocking loudly at the door of the S.S.S.S. for admission to the list of recognised regular postal issues. Their life has been extended by several months, and they are now doing regular postal duty. But we fear they must wait. The Congress of the Postal Union is not far off, and there are not a few of us who are looking forward to that gathering with strong hopes that it will settle once and for ever the status of commemorative postal issues. And if that settlement takes the form, as we believe it will, of refusing to recognise such issues as being available for postal service under the Postal Union, then the Olympians, and all their kith and kin, no matter how lovely they may be, will be relegated to a secondary and well-defined list of local issues. They will then fail to be sufficiently productive to satisfy the real object of their issue, and will be numbered amongst the things that have been, but may be no more. Journals devoted to the encouragement of the collection of commemorative and other rubbish will then have to seek other outlets for their genius.

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British East Africa Issues.

The new issue chronicler in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* has worked himself into a passion. If he is subject to such serious attacks, it is to be hoped that some effective sedative will be kept on the premises for his use. After chronicling some British East Africa surcharges, which he imagines to be unnecessary, he breaks out into the following delirium:—

> If this is so—and previous doings in these parts do not furnish any adequate grounds for doubting such an infamous procedure—we shall consider ourselves justified in positively refusing to list any further productions of the illustrious fabricator of unnecessary surcharges who is in charge of the postal affairs of B. E. A. and Zanzibar.

But what are the facts? They are the very opposite of what is insinuated by Mekeel's chronicler. If these stamps were, as suggested, mere fabrications for sale to collectors, the market would be flooded with them, whereas they are almost unobtainable: only stray copies find their way even to the London market, despite the most strenuous exertions to get stock, for they sell like hot cakes. One and all the dealers complain that they can get no stock. Quite recently Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the largest new issue dealers in this country, write to us, "We have utterly failed to get either Zanzibar, British East Africa, or German East Africa in quantity: at all these places stamps are not sold in quantity, nor are any sold to stamp dealers, or anyone known to be acting as agent for such. This ought to be a sufficient answer to those who, having absolutely no knowledge of the circumstances, declare the issue of the surcharged Indians to be speculative."

Could anything be more conclusive as a proof that the stamps are the result of genuine postal requirements, and that they are retained exclusively for genuine use?

The cases are rare indeed in which a postmaster acts with such rigour for the honest conduct of his department as Mr. Remington has at Zanzibar, and self-respecting collectors will, as a consequence, resent such uncalled-for abuse as the attack to which we have referred.

South Australia: Types of 10d.

By M. Z. KUTTNER.

IN the Philatelist's Supplement to the *Bazaar*, dated December 7th, 1896, appears an interesting paper on this subject by the Rev. H. Cummings.

But among much valuable information, it seems to me that a certain amount of inaccuracy and error has crept in, the setting right of which, to the best of my ability, is the endeavour of this article. The stamps themselves consist, as readers of the *Record* know, of printings of the 9d. in orange-red and orange-yellow (the latter colour ranging from very dark to very pale shades), having the original value overprinted with a curved surcharge of TENPENCE in small capitals in either blue or black ink of varying depths of intensity.

Of this there were in all five distinct issues between July 20th, 1866, and 1870, a detailed list of which, including minor varieties, as set forth in Napier and Smith's *Handbook*, and with the dates there given, follows :—

Issue.	Date as Given in Handbook.	Colour of Stamp.	Colour of Surcharge.	Watermark.	Perforation.
1.	20.7.1866	Orange-red (slight shades)	Blue	Star, Type 1	Rouletted 8 and 9.
2.	1867 (middle of year)	Orange-yellow (shades)	Blue	Star, Type 1	Rouletted 8 and 9.
3.	Nov., 1868	Orange-yellow (shades)	Blue	I. Star, Type 1	(*a*) Perf. 11½ × Roulette (also found printed on both sides). (*b*) Perf. 11½. (*c*) Perf. 11½ × 12½ (also 12½ one side, 11½ others).
				II. Crown & S A (wide)	Perf. 11½.
4.	1869 (latter end)	Orange-yellow (shades)	Black	Star, Type I.	(*a*) Rouletted 8 and 9. (*b*) Perf. 11½. (*c*) Perf. 11½ × 12½. (Also found with inverted surcharge.)
5.	June, 1870	Orange-yellow (shades)	Black	Star, Type I.	Perf. 11½ × 10, 10 × 12½, 10, 11½, 12½ (compound).

I will now proceed to deal with these issues in detail, premising that I have have had neither time, opportunity, nor inclination to go through any of the large stocks of this stamp in the hands of certain dealers. Without doubt a careful examination of them would result in the alteration of many of the dates at present assigned to the various issues, as well as in the discovery of unchronicled varieties of perforation. Nevertheless, since the stamps of this value in my own possession amount to some 150 of all issues (including a few blocks of reprints, of which more later on), I may fairly claim that I am not speaking merely from book-knowledge.

Issue 1.

As regards this issue, I have practically nothing to add to what has been said by Mr. Cummings and the authors of the *Handbook*. The variations in shade of both stamp and surcharge are but slight in comparison with later issues. The reprints, however, which are watermarked Crown and S A (wide), are in a brownish tint quite different from anything observable in the originals. Mr. Cummings antedates the earliest postmarked specimen known to July 20th, 1866, the day of the Government notice announcing the stamp as ready for issue, and gives the latest date recorded as August 29th, 1867.

In my own collection the dates range from July 28th, 1866, to August 23rd, 1867, so that the currency of this particular variety seems fairly closely defined. Its limited period of use is somewhat remarkable, in view of the numbers of both unused and used specimens in existence, which, to my thinking, render it one of the commonest of all the varieties of this stamp.

Issue 2.

Here, too, I have little to add. Mr. Cummings gives the earliest and latest known dates of use as August 29th, 1867, and March 3rd, 1869, respectively; but I have in my collection specimens bearing the dated postmarks of Adelaide, July 27th, 1867, July 29th, 1867, and August 11th, 1870, which somewhat extend the length of its career. I notice that Mr. Cummings refers to this stamp as existing with what he terms "the early" and "the very early" postmark—a number enclosed in a diamond surrounded by an oval of horizontal lines. This is not at all surprising, since the postmark in question continued in use in certain places until a date long after the 10d. value ceased to be printed. Thus, I have a specimen of the 2d. perf. 10, watermark Crown and S A (wide), on the entire, the number in the diamond being 71, and the date of posting Goolwa, April 11th, 1872, as well as one with watermark SA (close) in the blood-red shade, which we know appeared about eight years later. In this instance the number in the diamond is 156.

I may mention that I have the 10d. of this issue, not only with the postmark just referred to (25 in diamond), but also with one very similar to the at least equally early one, consisting of 13 horizontal lines forming a circle, having a central space in which is a circle, except that the outer ends of the lines appear also to be bounded by a circle or oval. This latter cancellation is also apparently impressed on one of my stamps of Issue 1.

The reprints of this issue (on Crown and wide S A paper) are in a pale lemon-colour, widely differing from even the paler shades of orange-yellow observable in the originals.

Issue 3.

This, as will be seen by glancing at the table given on the preceding page, is by far the most complicated of all, nor does Mr. Cummings make matters clearer in his article, since after sundry speculations as to the reason for the employment of the Crown and S A paper, he suddenly refers to a *rouletted* specimen in his collection—clearly belonging to Issue 2.

Undoubtedly the date of issue given in the *Handbook* (November, 1868) is too late, since Mr. Cummings has a specimen of the perf. $11\frac{1}{2}\times$ roulette variety, dated March 31, 1868. My own specimens were all used much later, the dates, singularly enough, ranging from March 30th, 1869, to March 30th, 1870, besides which I have a couple of specimens cancelled with the "diamond and lines" postmark before referred to. It is, perhaps, noteworthy that some printings of this variety are found in richer and warmer shades of colour than any other of the printings in orange-yellow.

The variety printed on both sides is an example of a curiosity frequently found among the Colonial-printed stamps of South Australia, which does not reflect any particular credit upon the printers of the stamps.

Passing on to the varieties (with star watermark) perforated all round, my specimens of those perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ range from August 17th, 1868, to May 19th, 1870, as against Mr. Cummings' date of September 14th, 1868; of $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ from October 13th, 1868, to February 13th, 1869 (Mr. Cummings' August 17th, 1868); and I have one specimen perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ one side, $11\frac{1}{2}$ others, dated January 6th, 1869, thus helping to define the limits of currency of this issue as laid down by Mr. Cummings, viz., from March, 1868, to May, 1870.

Likewise among my specimens perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ are two with the early type of postmark "lines and circles" previously mentioned, but showing no trace of any outer surrounding circle.

Lastly, my solitary specimen bearing the Crown and S A watermark is dated Adelaide, November 1 (?), 1868. I have seen no reprints of this issue. As to the reason for this one stamp appearing on differently watermarked paper, I have my own theory on the subject; but it is only a theory, and I put it forward in all diffidence.

The paper with star watermark was, as we know, prepared for much larger stamps, and, consequently, the watermark would hardly ever fall accurately within any single specimen—or, as Messrs. Napier and Smith say in more technical language when referring to the temporary issue of the small 2d. stamp on this paper, "the disposition of the watermarks was such that they are hardly ever found in register with the stamps."

What more natural than that when, as must undoubtedly have been the case, the specially prepared Crown and S A (wide) paper arrived, together with the small 2d. stamps, in 1868, experiments should have been made with a view to its adoption for the 10d. also, the stamps being of the same size? Similar experiments would not take place with the 9d. stamp, since, though that value was not actually withdrawn from circulation, no fresh printings, according to the *Handbook*, were made after 1867, until the reissue of the stamp, perforated, and in another colour, in 1872.

Perhaps the proposed change was approved of, perhaps not; in any case, before it could be carried out the supply of "Crown and S A" paper ran short, and the 2d. itself had to be printed on the old "star" paper, on which it continued until about the end of 1869. By that time the demand for the 10d. value was decreasing, while the use of the 2d. one was as steadily spreading. The authorities then, taught by their late experience, would be only too willing to let matters remain as before, and to print the last few lots of the 10d. on the paper used for it all along, rather than risk a recurrence of the recent dearth.

As to the trial 10d. stamps, they probably got perforated, passed into stock and used in a similar manner to the 10d., plate 2, and other varieties of our own country's issues.

Such is my theory; it is, as I stated at the outset, only a theory, and I leave its probability to be discussed by greater experts than myself.

Issue 4.

As regards the ordinary rouletted variety, the dates on my specimens range from August 1st (?), 1869, to February 2nd, 1870, thus agreeing both with Messrs. Napier and Smith and Mr. Cummings. Like Mr. Cummings, I also have a specimen with the "bars and diamond" postmark, the number in the diamond in this instance being 4; but my specimens with the grid postmark all belong to the perforated varieties of this and the next issue. I wonder, by the way, what reason or authority Mr. Cummings has for calling the latter "the first obliterating-mark." Messrs. Napier and Smith ascribe simultaneous use to that, the "bars and diamond," and the "bars and circle" postmarks; and among my specimens of the London-printed imperf. 2d. value (admittedly the first stamp issued in South Australia) I find only six (including a strip of four) as

against seventeen bearing the "bars and diamonds," and twenty-five the "bars and circle," while I have not a single specimen of either the 1d. or 6d. London print with that obliteration. In fact, the specimens in my possession seem to prove that this postmark did not come into anything like general use before 1863–1870.

The above may seem a trivial matter, but considering the importance attaching to postmarks as a help to the proper arrangement of the various issues of South Australian stamps, it is as well to have even such trifles correct.

It is quite possible, as Mr. Cummings suggests, that only one sheet of the variety with inverted surcharge was printed, though, considering the wretchedly pale, washed-out, and generally indeterminate appearance of the rouletted stamps, I should not have been surprised if the entire issue had been thus surcharged.

The perforated variety, though nothing wonderful, is usually a decided improvement on the rouletted one as regards colour.

My dated specimens of the variety perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ range from April 25th to May 23rd, 1870, while those perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ go from June 20th to October 10th, 1870, thus corroborating the date given by Mr. Cummings. The reprints of this issue in my possession are watermarked Crown and SA, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, and the shade is not very unlike that of some of the original stamps.

Issue 5.

My dated specimens of this issue are of no use in supporting Mr. Cummings' statement that the machine perforating 10 must have been sent out in 1869, he possessing a stamp dated January, 1870, whereas I have nothing earlier than September 12th, 1870. My latest dated specimen is one bearing the "REGISTERED-ADELAIDE" postmark of October 22nd, 1880; besides which I have stamps cancelled with the three varieties of obliteration: "bars and circle," "bars and diamond"—the number in the diamond being 215—and "grid."

Concerning the employment of this issue for Departmental purposes, I know merely that it was surcharged P.S., is the only variety of the 10d. thus used, and is hardly ever found postmarked. I myself do not remember to have seen it in this latter state, and must congratulate Mr. Cummings on the possession of an undoubtedly great rarity.

Turning now to the question of the varieties of setting of the surcharge, it probably came as an immense surprise to most specialists in South Australian stamps that, whereas both *Oceania* and Messrs. Napier and Smith give *six* varieties of setting, Mr. Cummings claims to have discovered *nine*. Personally, I myself consider this discovery, in spite of its acceptance by the Oxford Philatelic Society, nothing but a mare's-nest, and I hope to be able to prove that, whether the actual number of settings be more or less than the accepted one, *nine* is entirely impossible.

First, let us consider the way in which these surcharges were made and the differences between them, as given by Messrs. Napier and Smith and Mr. Cummings respectively. The former say (*Handbook*, p. 92):—"The surcharge . . . . is type set, there being six different settings of types appearing in the sheet in groups of six, arranged in two horizontal rows of three. As there were 240 stamps on each sheet, there must have been forty blocks of these six types prepared, which were bound together to print the surcharges. The reduplication was probably done by the stereotype process, and the whole *cliché* must have been preserved up to the final extinction of the 10d. value, and even beyond that time, for not only do we find the same six varieties of setting in the same positions on the sheet in all subsequent issues of the 10d., but also on the reprints made in 1885 and later."

Pausing to note that no question has ever been raised either as to the reduplication of the surcharges having been effected in any other manner

than by stereotyping (which indeed is proved by the appearance of the stamps themselves), or as to the identity of the types of surcharge found on the reprints with the corresponding ones on the originals, let us proceed to consider the differences between the various settings.

These Messrs. Smith and Napier distinguish as follows:—

Types I. and II.—The most regular of the lot, but Type I. differs from Type II. by having the N of PENCE on a lower level than the E of that word. Also, neither has any of the peculiarities detailed below.

Type III. has the N of TEN vertical and parallel to the P of PENCE. No other type has this peculiarity.

Type IV. has the T of TEN more nearly horizontal than in any other type.

Type V. has the word TEN printed in a straight line instead of in a curve as in all the other types.

Type VI. is the only one that has the (first) E in PENCE higher than the P.

Mr. Cummings, on the other hand, after expressing his inability to identify Type III. from the above description, arranges his types as follows:—

Type I.—The N in PENCE is lower than the E.
„ II.—T stands away from EN in TEN.
„ III.—PEN are in distinct steps.
„ IV.—T in TEN nearly horizontal.
„ V.—TEN in a straight line.
„ VI.—E in PENCE higher than P.
„ VII.—NPE in steps.
„ VIII.—Like Type II., but curve of PENCE more regular.
„ IX.—Like Type VIII., but letters EN parallel.

Of these we may take it that the first six types are really the same as those given by Messrs. Napier and Smith.

Types VII. and VIII. Mr. Cummings determines by an unused pair "in which the right-hand stamp might have passed for Type II., but the left cannot by any possibility be Type I."

The close similarity between Mr. Cummings' Types II., VIII., and IX. is apparent from his own description, and need not be enlarged upon.

Now it so happens that I have some slight special knowledge of the manner in which various results are effected in composing and printing. Thus, to set up a line of type in a curve, a compositor would employ bent rules (thin strips of metal such as are used to divide off pages into two or more parts), or even strips of paper or cardboard, to keep the types in their places. But in any event the positions of the pieces of type would be awkward, and they would be readily liable to disarrangement.

It is true that a piece of stereotype can be bent into a curve; but the way in which this is done would not be practical in the present instance, and indeed the stamps themselves prove that such was not the method employed.

The process of preparing a stereotype is briefly as follows: A composition is made by placing layer upon layer of tissue paper, with whitening sandwiched in between the layers. This, when of the required thickness, is technically termed a "flong," and is laid upon the face of the forme of type, and struck with a hard brush, so as to force it into every crevice of the type.

After this has been thoroughly done, the type and mould—as the "flong" now becomes—are placed upon a hot plate, and kept in position by a platen screwed down upon the back of the mould. In this way the latter is thoroughly dried and hardened, after which it is placed in the "casting-box" and the molten metal poured into it. With proper care, as many as twenty or more casts can be taken from one mould.

It can easily be conceived that, in reduplication by this process, supposing that more than one mould were made, nothing would be more likely than that

one or two letters, already in an awkward position, should become a little shifted by the striking, thus producing the slight differences which Mr. Cummings magnifies into varieties of setting.

Of course, with properly-fastened "formes" of type, even this movement should not take place; but then we have ample evidence to prove that undue care has never been a fault in the production of the Colonial-printed stamps of South Australia from the earliest times to the present, while, after all, the shifting is really very slight indeed.

But, in any case, it is absolutely inconceivable that a practical compositor should set up a line of type *nine* times in order ultimately to obtain a *cliché* of 20 rows of 12. Three, four, six, or twelve settings would be possible, but, in the circumstance, six would be the handiest and give least trouble in reduplication, since, in case of need, fresh casts of a useful size could be taken from each pair or block of *clichés*, which in turn could be doubled or quadrupled, and so on.

Nine, of which 240 is no exact multiple, would mean simply a lot of perfectly unnecessary labour and waste.

Thus much for the technical reasons against Mr. Cummings' assertions: now for the vindication of the accepted theory by means of the stamps themselves.

At the time Messrs. Napier and Smith made up their sets of the types, only one strip and very few pairs of the 10d. value were known. Since then pairs, though still scarce, have become more plentiful, and I myself have three, which, as will be seen from the illustration, overlap each other.

Furthermore, I have various single stamps, the margins of which sufficiently indicate their position. Thus the three single specimens on the left must come from the left sides of sheets on account of their margins, while the two on the right are equally certain to be from the right sides of sheets.

But even more conclusive are the made-up blocks of the reprints reproduced, each of which consists of two strips of three stamps undoubtedly originally together, as is apparent from the way in which they fit. Some time since I had the opportunity of looking over a number of strips of three of most of the reprinted stamps, and of obtaining those that I wanted of the 10d. value. The first row of the second block is undoubtedly from the top of a sheet, since the stamps show as watermark the lower halves of the letters A L I A above the Crown and S A (wide) common to all the reprints. These block and pairs, I think, conclusively disprove the theory of *nine* settings.

Lastly, with reference to the so-called error of an inverted J or L instead of T in TEN. This is merely a broken letter, as was proved to me some three years since by a friend occupying a responsible position in a world-famous publishing house.

At that time I fancied I had found the error in question, but having been told by Mr. Gordon Smith that it was simply a broken letter, I referred the matter to my friend. His decision was expressed in a practical and unanswerable manner. Going to the composing-room, he took a T of a somewhat similar fount, broke off one of the arms before my eyes, gave me the piece of type, and asked me if I had any further doubts.

I kept the type, some impressions from which are reproduced with the stamps to which I have just referred.

In conclusion, I should like to express my indebtedness to Mr. W. H. Gill, of Messrs. Cassell and Company, for his kind assistance in reference to the technical details of electrotyping and printing; likewise to add that nearly three years' exhaustive study of Messrs. Napier and Smith's *Handbook* convinces me that he must indeed get up early who would catch these gentlemen napping on statements of fact deducible from a study of the stamps themselves.

Of course theoretical points may be combated, and unchronicled varieties and earlier dates discovered. Such developments are only to be expected.



White & Limmer, Photo Etchers, Ipswich.

Our Interviews.

By THE EDITOR.

Messrs. WHITFIELD KING & Co.

IN accordance with our programme we now give an interview with a well-known stamp dealer. Selecting as the victim Mr. C. Whitfield King, of the well-known firm of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., we betook ourselves, by appointment, to Ipswich. On arriving at Morpeth House, the residence of Mr. Whitfield King, we were shown into the celebrated stamp-room, the walls of which are most artistically papered with stamps—not all unused imperf. 4d. and 8d. Ceylons. Whilst we were quizzing those walls the head of the firm put in an appearance, rubbing his eyes, and confessing that he had been having a nap, for it was Saturday afternoon. After spending a little time in getting on good terms with each other, we were taken across the road to the fine business premises. After being duly scaled, in order to ascertain our fighting weight, we inspected the various rooms and some of their contents. The order, "A place for everything, and everything in its place," printed on a large placard, dominated the arrangements. Not a scrap of waste paper was to be seen on the floor, not a book, nor a scissors, nor even a pot of original gum, was out of its place. And then, oh! the peeps we had at sheet after sheet of stamps that we fondly imagined were long ago exhausted. It was ruinous; for, of course, we began at once to waste our substance on sheets of Gambia in shades, on Gold Coast and Transvaal, till we suddenly and remorsefully recollected that we were getting perilously near bankruptcy. Leaving that safe, and its many secrets, which nothing would induce us to disclose, we inspected the upper region, with its ninety large drawers tightly packed with postcards of every nationality, its enormous chests of stamps by the million, its drawers of neatly-sorted stamps for making up packets, and its hundreds of packets of all sizes to suit all tastes and all pockets. We dived into everything, and we could not help noting that damaged stamps were conspicuous by their absence. Evidently they are not considered a good investment by the firm of Whitfield King & Co.

Then we recrossed the road to the residence once more, and were conducted to the billiard-room, and armed with a cue; but whilst we were admiring that cosy room, with its costly table, its racks of beautiful cues, its lofty coloured glass roof, its dainty alcoves, and its many etceteras, our victim was walking around that table scoring away as if the championship of England depended on every stroke. Our own score meanwhile remained very much in an "as you was" condition. Of course, we were ignominiously defeated. We also inspected the orchid-houses. No one, be he collector, dealer, or rooker, ever visits Morpeth House without going through the orchid-houses, and wishing himself their contented possessor. But there were not many orchids in bloom when we passed through. They were mostly sulking, or deeply ruminating on a forthcoming display. There was not even a pitcher on the pitcher plant, and the Cortecoatzoatecoxochitl had only a few leaves and its name to recommend it to our notice. It was warm, very warm, in those regions, so much so that we could not help feeling that it was much pleasanter to collect stamps than orchids. Adjourning to the serener atmosphere of the drawing-room, our victim comfortably seated himself in a roomy arm-chair,

and, having persuaded the little kings and queens to retire to the playroom, we settled down to business.

But first let us add a biographical word or two about the said victim. He left school in 1869, being then fourteen years of age, and went into a shipping office in Ipswich, where a good many foreign letters were received. He made the acquaintance of boys in other shipping offices, and soon began swapping stamps. A small collection resulted, and then he began to deal in a small way, advertising in the Sale and Exchange column of boys' papers then published, but long since defunct. He well remembers in 1869 or '70 asking a Danish shipbroker in Ipswich for some stamps. That good man took the boy into his office, and showed him a cupboard full of waste paper and old letters, and he said, "Now, boy, if you sort all those letters, fold them up neatly, and docket them for me, you may have all the old stamps off the envelopes."

The lad set to work, and, giving up his evenings after office hours, he finished the job inside a week, and was well pleased with the result. The stamps were nearly all old German States, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish (mostly first issues), and pairs and strips of 1850 Schleswig-Holstein.

Of course, they were sold for a few pence each. About 1875 or 1876 he threw up his situation, and devoted himself entirely to stamps, as he found it impossible to keep both going. He was, in fact, working from 6 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. for some little time before throwing over the shipping business. The secret of his success is that he attends closely to his business himself. He is at his desk as long as his clerks, and knows every detail. He has several typists on his staff, but he would probably back himself, as an expert operator, against any of them.

"Well, Mr. King, how is the new collector progressing?" "Beyond my expectations," was the prompt reply.

"Has he grown in stature since you started the idea of collecting since 1890?" "Not in stature, but in number. Old collectors are rapidly taking up the new issues to date. People are beginning to see they stand a better chance of making a good investment by buying new issues at botttom prices when they first come out."

"Do you mean that many old collectors have thrown up collecting old issues in favour of collecting from 1890?" "Oh, no; I mean those who some time since expressed a determination to stop at 1890 have altered their mind since, and have made their collections up to date, and have had to pay for their vacillations in many cases through prices having gone up since 1890. Take, for example, *all* the Bechuanalands, Zululand on English, and the Cyprus quite recently gone out. Any of these could have been bought in 1890–1 at double face or less. Zululand 5s. is now 75s., Bechuanaland four to five times the 1890 price, and Cyprus 12 pias is 40s., against 2s. 6d. only last year. I have had, within the last few months, quite a number of orders from old collectors to send all the new issues from 1890 to date, and, of course, had to charge much higher prices for those which have gone out of use. I have backed my own idea pretty extensively by laying in good stocks of issues from 1890."

"Then it is your experience that it is easier for collectors to begin at 1890 than to stop at 1890?" "Yes, decidedly; except for millionaires."

"But you do make the new collector stump up smartly now and then, even for a new issue—Tobago, 1s. error, for instance?" "Well, I have, of course, to be guided by the rule of supply and demand. If I know an issue to be very limited, and likely to be in demand, I fix the price accordingly. If I had fixed the Tobago error at 10s. I could have sold all my 400 in a week."

"That may be all right in the Tobago, 1s.; but is not your new collector more frequently buying a pig in a poke than the old collector? Of old issues the rarity is pretty well settled; but the new collector, in the scramble for some new issue that is expected to be scarce, comes a cropper, and buys a common garden variety at the price of a rarity, eh?" "That may happen now and then,

but in my experience very rarely; and if the new collector buys carefully, and balances up his gains and losses every year through fluctuation of prices, the losses will be found to be insignificant, compared with the gains."

"You probably have in your mind some hauls the new collector has had in new issues that have turned out trumps. Can you instance a few?" "A few! I could fill a page!"

"Go on; don't leave it to my imagination." "Take Transvaal, 1s. with two shafts. I sold you a pair and a single for 1s. 6d. per stamp. What will you let me have them back at? I hear they are fetching 40s. each now."

"All right; one instance. Let's have a few more; one swallow does not make a summer." "Those I have already mentioned (Bechuanaland, Zululand, and Cyprus), Niger Coast provl. issue; obsolete B.S. Africa and B.C.A.; British East Africa surcharged on Company's stamps; Gambia CC; Grenada, the issue just gone out, the 1s. in 1890 at 1s. 6d., now 55s.; Cape, 1s., green, obtainable six months ago at 1s. 6d., now catalogued at 17s. 6d.; Sierra Leone, 2d., grey, 4d. last year, now 2s. 6d., and worth double; Lagos, 2s. 6d., brown; Trinidad, the issue just gone out."

"But don't you make your new collector pay heavily for his cake? Double face is 'shent per shent,' is it not?" "Don't you believe it. You would be surprised if I told you the amount I always have to keep on deposit with my agents all over the world in order to get the new issues directly they come out. Postmasters won't act as agents, and I have consequently to pay agents a commission. Then there is postage, registration, insurance, besides, of course, advertising, printing, office expenses, etc., interest on capital lying idle, and, every now and then, an agent sticks to the cash! If I sell at double face it means very little more than 25 per cent. net profit. It isn't all 'beer and skittles,' I can tell you. Then, again, there are heavy losses on stamps arriving in bad condition—all stuck tightly together, dirty, badly perforated, and sometimes soaked with grease. I received a large quantity of 1s. Niger Coast recently in a hopeless condition, and they are absolutely unsaleable. You can have them at face if you like, and try and get the grease out."

"You draw tears from me. I had no idea you were on the high road to poverty!" "That's all very fine; but I am giving you the seamy side. You know collectors are very fastidious nowadays, and want their specimens immaculate, evenly perforated, and well centred. Not 50 per cent. of what I import come in that state, and many are quite spoiled by crooked perfs. It is not often I can get these exchanged, so what am I to do with them? Lots of these badly-centred perfs. I have to send back for the agent to resell at a discount for use for postage."

"May I be inquisitive as to this capital lying idle, waiting, Micawber-like, for something to turn up?" "Well, it is never under four figures."

"Now, you have seared my feelings with the seamy side. Is there no golden lining to this horrible cloud?" "If there were not I should be in the bankruptcy court. There are, of course, occasional windfalls in provisionals and short-lived issues; and then my business is not wholly confined to the new issues, though I make that my speciality."

"Bluntly, now, what is the best haul you have had since you began?" "I can hardly say. I got £80 worth of provisional Turks Islands at face value in 1881, and they included every variety, amongst them several dozen of the 2½d. on 6d., with small "½d." (No. 20 in S. G.'s new catalogue.) Of course, all have been sold years ago; and shouldn't I just like to buy them all back! Then I bought all the remainders of Stellaland postage stamps for a mere song, and they are not finished yet. I once had sent me on approval 6 dozen Peru, at 2s. 6d. per dozen. There was one ½ peso, rose, and nearly all the rest were ½ peso, yellow, some in pairs. But never shall I forget a matchless strip of five Ceylon 4d., imperf., off the top of the sheet, with nearly half an inch margin, used and lightly postmarked. This came with a lot of other ordinary pence issue, Ceylon,

at an all-round price of, I think, 2s. a dozen. The parcel was given on arrival to an assistant to sort out. I was all unconscious of the gem it contained; and what do you think the assistant did? Why, she took a pair of scissors, neatly cut off the margins, and then divided up that unique strip into five single specimens! I will leave you to imagine my horror, and also the language I used. You will find those selfsame five stamps in the Tapling collection. Windfalls of this kind are few nowadays. The most recent instance is the 32 c., *rose*, Straits Settlements, the history of which has already been published. I got the whole 60 that were issued in error, 59 unused, and one used on the original envelope. I have sold 16 of these at £20 each, and none of the others will be sold for less."

"So much for the golden lining. Now, do you think your new collector's idea has brought many recruits into the ranks?" "I *know* it has. I have had many letters from people approving of the idea, and have sold a good many of the second vol. of Senf's albums, which provides *only* for issues from 1890, besides a large number of my 'Interchangeable' albums with blank movable leaves to accommodate the new collector."

"What about the boy collector? What is your experience?" "There are comparatively few boy collectors now; and I am of opinion that they have been frightened off by the elaboration of catalogues, especially in the matter of measurement of perforations. I also think that the constant outcry against speculative and unnecessary issues has done much to keep out recruits; it makes them afraid to buy. Don't imagine, for one moment, that I am in favour of such issues, but I think it should be left to each individual collector to decide what he shall or shall not collect. The trade has been revolutionised in the last few years. I used to sell immense quantities of cheap packets and low-priced albums, but there is little sale for them now. I used to sell 1000 ½d. unused Colonials for every shilling one, now I sell nearly as many 1s. as ½d."

"We will not touch on the outcry against speculatives, as we might get into an unending controversy. Can anything be done to win back the boy collector?" "It will take time. The first step should be a *simple* catalogue, omitting all minor varieties, watermarks, and perforations; in fact, just such a catalogue as Stanley Gibbons used to publish ten years ago."

"Do you notice any very decided partiality for particular groups of countries?" "Just now African Colonials are most in demand. Generally speaking, English collectors want British Colonies, and German collectors ask mostly for old Germans. But I may say that British Colonials are in demand everywhere."

"To what do you attribute the universal popularity of British Colonials?" "Undoubtedly because they are nearly always safe to buy. They are never reprinted for sale, and remainder stocks are never sold below face value, except in two instances only, which I can recall—the pence issues of Cyprus and Mauritius; and, in the latter case, they were all surcharged with the word 'Cancelled.'"

Stamps of the United States.

HALF A CENTURY'S ISSUES,
WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE MINOR VARIETIES.

By GRANT R. FRANCIS.

(*Continued from page* 10.)

1861 Issue.

THE design for a new issue having been approved in the previous month owing to the secession of the Southern States, a series of eight stamps was put into circulation on August 15th, 1861, and all previous issues superseded and demonetized to prevent their use by rebel postmasters. We may take it that the first emission of the new issue was as follows:—

1 c., blue; 3 c., pink; 5 c., yellow (usually described as "mustard"); 10 c., green; 12 c., black; 24 c., grey; 30 c., orange; and 90 c., blue.

These all bore the inscription "U.S. Postage" over, and the value in words under, the presidential portrait, which portrait, whilst differing in design, was in every case that of the same president as appeared on the same value in the preceding issue. A new feature was, however, now introduced in the shape of corner figures and letters, the value appearing in figures in the top, and the initials "U.S." in the bottom corners.

No alterations of the plates of this series occurred, except a very slight one in the case of the 10 c. The first impressions from the plate of this value showed a rather unfinished appearance, the fine, vertical lines of shading round the five stars above "U.S. Postage" apparently ending in nothingness, as a narrow white space appeared between them and the broad coloured label bearing the inscription. To improve this a heavy coloured line was added (soon after the first appearance of the stamp) to the plate as a termination to the shading of the stars, thus producing the common type of the stamps of this value. The examples from the first state of the plate are very rare.

If, however, this is the only minor variety in the design of this issue, it is amply compensated for by the variety of shades and colours in almost all, and of paper in several values.

The 1 c. appears in many shades, varying from a pale ultramarine to a very deep bright blue. It is known on white and on yellowish wove, and on white laid paper.

The colour of the 3 c. was early changed from pink to a pale rose, and so passed through many shades to a deep reddish colour, in which it appeared in the grilled issue. It is also known on wove and laid paper.

The 5 c. exhibits no less than three distinct colour changes. Its first shade of mustard-yellow being early disapproved of, it was altered to a deep and dull shade of brown, and for a short period (in 1865, I believe) it appeared in a very rich shade of red-brown. (This latter is described by Scott as "chocolate," but such description is utterly erroneous. I should be inclined to call the shade a rich, deep Indian red.) That this shade was only temporarily used is proved by the subsequent embossed issue of 1868, of which all examples of the 5 c. are in the dull brown colour, and no genuinely embossed example of the red-brown has yet come under my notice.

The 10 c. and 12 c. appear on both white and yellowish paper, but do not exhibit much difference in shade.

The 24 c. value (which is very prolific in colours) was first issued in a pale greyish black; then going off into a greenish grey, and from thence to a grey-violet, it finally, in 1865, appeared in several shades of lilac and red-violet. The writer possesses a grilled copy in an extraordinary shade of pale GREENISH BLUE, most probably a chemical changeling, although how changed from the dull shade of the grilled issue to its present bright colour I am at a loss to understand.

The 30 c., orange, and 90 c., blue, do not exhibit any great varieties of colour, although one or two slight variations are noticeable.

In 1862 two new values were added, viz., the 2 c. and 15 c., both black; the former exhibits a particularly hideous portrait of Jackson, totally out of all proportion to the stamp, and occupying almost its entire surface. The 15 c. shows a rather better portrait of Lincoln, and is noticeable on greyish and yellowish papers.

I may here mention the fact that this issue, in its entirety, as well as that of 1869, were reprinted in 1875 as curiosities for sale at the Centennial Exhibition. The reprints of both issues are priced very highly by Scott and other authorities. They are recognizable, the 1861 issue by the extreme whiteness of the paper, and the 1869 issue, of course, by the absence of grille. These reprints were doubtless used for postal purposes in small numbers—possibly as curiosities, much the same as the reprints of the first and second issues of the French Republic were and are now used; and, indeed, I possess two used copies of the 1 c., and one of the 2 c., of 1869 without grille, but I do not attach any particular philatelic value to them, nor, from a philatelic point of view, can I see that the enormous prices asked by Scott for the reprints of both issues are at all justified.

In 1867 it was discovered that numbers of the current issue, chiefly, no doubt, those having coloured postmarks, and principally the 1 c., 12 c., 15 c., 24 c., and 30 c. values, had been more or less well cleaned and used again, and as a preventative the process known as grilling was introduced, though evidently with but indifferent success, as it was abolished again in 1872.

It would seem that the initial experiment made in 1868 was with three values—3 c., 5 c., and 30 c.—which were embossed over the entire stamp. The idea was to break up the surface of the paper, and render it more absorbent of the obliterating ink. The 3 c. is very rare in this state, whilst of the 5 c. and 30 c. values but very few could have been so embossed; Scott prices them at no less than £50 ($250.00) each used. The 3 c. next appeared with a grille, measuring 16 × 13 mm. This was subsequently reduced to 14 × 12 mm. (in which the 2 c. and 3 c. values appeared), and again to 13 × 11 mm., when the 1 c., 2 c., 3 c., 10 c., 12 c., and 15 c. were treated; and finally the entire issue was embossed with a grille, which measured 13 × 9 mm. This was the one which was more generally used, and although (with the exception of the 3 c.) none of the grilled stamps of this issue are common, stamps bearing this size grille are much easier found than those with the larger embossings.

For the benefit of the younger generation of philatelists I may mention that benzine, the great watermark revealer, is also almost infallible in throwing up grilles; and several stamps in my own collection have been bought as the ungrilled variety which a few seconds' immersion in benzine have proved to be grilled (as, of course, in most cases I had previously suspected). I once detected an unused (no gum) copy of the 3 c. grilled all over by this means, and bought it for the modest outlay of threepence. This was in my early days as a specialist of U.S., and I was delighted to resell it to its original owner then and there for 5s. I should be glad to give him ten times that sum for it now! By the help of benzine, too, the *size* of a grille is often determinable,

which otherwise may be a little doubtful. Drop the stamp into a little of the spirit in a saucer for a second or two, and then lay on a black surface, bring your ivory gauge into play, and there you are. I would not, however, advise anyone possessing the 3 c., grilled 16 × 13, unused, and with *original gum*, or the 2 c., grilled 14 × 12, in similar condition, to adopt this principle. Benzine is *not* an improver of the O.G.

The United States have, so far as my experience goes, used five different coloured inks in their obliterations, viz., black, red, blue, purple, and violet, and all these are to be found in this issue. I myself have seen them on the following stamps :—

Black—All values.
Red— „ except 5 c., mustard.
Blue—2 c., black; 5 c., brown; 5 c., red-brown; 12 c., black; 24 c., grey; 24 c., lilac; 30 c., orange.
Purple—2 c., black; 5 c., brown; 10 c., green; 24 c., lilac; 30 c., orange.
Violet—10 c., green; 24 c., grey; 30 c., orange; 90 c., blue.

1869 Issue.

We have now come to the extremely elegant pictorial issue of 1869, one of the first and best attempts to produce upon postage stamps a series of views and illustrations of typical subjects in the history of the country of issue. Considering the extreme plainness and want of originality in the designs of nearly all the previous issues of stamp-issuing countries, the United States Government deserve the gratitude of philatelists in being the first country to give us a series at once neat, artistic, and picturesque. As a boy, I well remember the delight with which I received my first copies of the Pony, Railway and Ship Expresses, as we lads at school called the 2 c., 3 c., and 12 c. respectively, and the possession of even a frightfully mutilated copy of the 24 c., "Shylock," as we presumed the picture to represent (totally oblivious of the erratic costumes of the supposed disputants and judge), was so desirable that I remember parting with my entire set of six triangular copies, including a wood block, previously the pride of my collection, for a rag that would not now find a place in any album.

The designs on all denominations of this issue, except the 10 c. and 30 c., differ totally from one another. The size of the stamps, too, from 1 c. to 12 c. inclusive, is a small square of 22 mm., whilst the higher values measure 24 mm. each way.

The 1 c., orange, bears a head of Franklin (the same portrait as the 30 c. of 1861) in a circle with the words "U.S. Postage" above, and value in words and figures beneath.

The 2 c., brown, exhibits a picture of the "Pony Express" Delivery, as used for the conveyance of mails in districts then untouched by the railways. The inscriptions were similar to the 1 cent, except that the full title was used instead of initials, and the words occupied two lines. The colour varies from a pale to a very deep brown.

The 3 c., blue, displays a typical American Railway Engine, and bears similar wordings.

The 6 c., blue, bears a portrait of Washington with the words "United States" at each side, "Postage" at top, and initials "U.S." in top corners.

The 10 c., yellow, is a very handsome design, comprised of a shield bearing the "Stars and Stripes" of the Union, supported by national flags, surmounted by the Eagle, and bearing the words "United States Postage,' and figure of value across the shield, with value in words in a scroll beneath.

The 12 c., green, is similar in design and wording to the 3 c., but bears the Steamship in lieu of the Engine.

The higher values were printed in two colours in two separate printings, and owing to this fact errors of all four values exist with the second (central) printed portion inverted. These are, like most errors, of the greatest rarity.

The first of these two coloured stamps, the 15 c., is known in two varieties, described generally as "picture framed" and "picture not framed." I am not quite clear as to how this variety was occasioned, but should imagine, as the rarer type without the picture-frame has a very unfinished appearance, that this was noticed by the engravers, and an ornamental frame of three lines, as shown in the adjoining cut (Fig. 12), was placed around the space left vacant in the first printing for the insertion of the blue central picture. These lines, in accordance with the rest of the border of the stamp, are in brown, whilst the only bordering the picture has in the rarer type is the plain outer line of blue that is part of its design. The central picture, printed in blue, shows Columbus planting his flag on his landing on American soil. The inscription is similar to that on the 1 c.

The general features and design of the 24 c. are similar to the 15 c., but the central picture in purple represents the signing of the "Declaration of Independence." It is surrounded by a green frame.

The 30 c. is an exact enlargement of the 10 c. except for the alteration in value. The shield, Eagle, and inscriptions now appear in carmine, whilst the remainder of the stamp is in blue.

The 90 c. has, in a central oval, a portrait of President Lincoln in black, whilst the outer design is in carmine. It has the inscription "U.S. Postage" in a label at top, with figure of value in each corner, and the value in words and initials "U.S." at the bottom.

(*To be continued.*)

Samoa's Postal Affairs.

From "Filatelic Facts and Fallacies."

SINCE September 20, 1886, Mr. John Davis, of Apia, Samoa, has been by the grace of Malietoa Laupepa, not only postmaster, but practically the entire post-office department of that island country. His position is a parallel in a small way to the privilege enjoyed by the principal house of Thurn and Taxis for hundreds of years, until about 1868, throughout the greater part of Germany and Austria. In his independent position it is remarkable that he has created but one single issue of postage stamps, with a few surcharges actually made necessary by the exigencies of the time; and for this conservative and unselfish action we think all philatelists ought to be thankful.

In the *Samoa Times* of Saturday, September 19th, we find a report made by apparently envious malevolent persons, who seek to oust Mr. Davis from his position. That our readers may be fully apprised of the plans of these persons, we publish the document in full, as it forms an interesting chapter of postal history. In all probability the scheme will not succeed, as the editorial comments in another portion of the paper from which we quote, ably sustain Mr. Davis against the machinations of his enemies.

"If ever the consular board of Apia should listen to the report of Moors and Grevsmuhl," says the *Times*, "the philatelic brotherhood may prepare themselves for any amount of new and speculative issues from this small island kingdom."

The following is the full text of the report on postal arrangements, which is addressed to the Consular Board of Apia :—

"The undersigned have been deputized by the municipal council to give to you certain information concerning its desire to establish a public post-office to handle incoming and outgoing mails, and generally to transact such other business as is usually done in situations of this nature. We state as follows :—

"Owing to the inability of the Samoan Government to collect its taxes as provided by the Berlin General Act, it found itself in a bankrupt state not long after its inauguration. That it might preserve its existence, a part of the municipal funds were used. At a subsequent date a portion of the revenues of the municipality were apportioned for the uses of the Samoan Government under certain conditions.

"As the revenues of the municipality had not been more than sufficient for its uses even in its most prosperous day, it soon found itself straitened for means to carry on its administration, and to preserve in proper repair such public works as it had established in better times. The present council finds that it cannot contemplate the construction of new roads, of public buildings (which are badly needed), or a wharf at its bonded warehouse; all its funds and more are consumed in the maintenance of its present staff of officials, and in the conservation of such public works as necessity compels it to keep in order.

"Under such circumstances it behoves the council to practice the strictest economy to collect with proper care all sums which may be rightfully due to it, and to make available every possible asset which it can justly command.

"Since the establishment of the council it has been the opinion of most of its members (and this opinion has been largely shared by the general public) that the postal system of Samoa was one of the assets of the Apia municipality, and that it was a source from which a considerable revenue might be derived without increasing the expenditure of the administration. It was thought that the same officers whom we now employ at excellent salaries might do this work, and that all the revenue which would be derived from it would be clear gain to the municipal organization.

"It was thought that the sale of cancelled stamps would be an asset of very considerable value, for it was noted that cancelled stamps of Samoa have been placed on sale in London, Sydney, and San Francisco, and in doubtless many other places unknown to the members of the council. It is thought that a steady and valuable income can be derived from such a source as this, for the actual cost of the issue of the stamps must be but little.

"We note that the Berlin General Act provides that a postal system may be established by the municipal authorities, and this is spoken of as a local postal system.

"We contend that the following meaning and intent attaches to this word 'local,' namely: That the municipal council may receive and deliver to vessels within this harbour all mail matter which may arrive for local delivery, or which may be collected locally for export, but that the municipal council is not authorized to establish any system of postal delivery or collection beyond its own limits as defined by treaty.

"It was undoubtedly contemplated that a postal system might be organized by the municipal authorities, and it certainly could not have meant that a local messenger or express system should be established between the different quarters of a town so small as this, or that the council should go beyond its borders into territory over which it has no control, and there establish a system of post for the benefit of people who contributed little or nothing at all to its support.

"Having as we think successfully shown the consular board that we rightfully claim the sole control of the public postal system for the municipality, we proceed to state the desires and intent of the council if it is ultimately decided that our contention is correct.

"We propose to direct our collector of customs to make all proper arrangements with the Postal Union, whereby we may receive and send away such mails as we may wish to handle.

"We propose to ask one of the treaty powers to print for us, and at our expense, such stamps as we may find that we may need for the purposes of this business.

"We propose to have a portion of the stamps cancelled and held ready for sale to collectors and others at a uniform price of one-half their face value, and we will take care to regulate this business so that there can be no possible fraud in connection with it.

"We propose to handle the whole subject in a businesslike way, and by careful attention to detail to give general satisfaction.

"We propose to employ the remaining portion of this year in completing our arrangements so as to enter upon the year 1897 perfectly prepared to satisfy all reasonable requirements.

"We ask the prompt attention of the consular board to this matter, and also its cordial assistance.

"For the information of the consular board we may state that the present postmaster, Mr. John Davis, is acting by virtue of an appointment received from King Malietoa, and dated Dec. 20, 1886, the following being a correct copy of the same:—

"'APIA, SAMOA, December 20, 1886.

"'Malietoa, King of Samoa, do hereby appoint Mr. John Davis, of Apia, to be postmaster for the kingdom of Samoa, and give him full power to enter into any arrangement with the countries he may consider necessary for the forwarding and delivery of letters and mail matter to and from this country. Also hereby acknowledge the postage stamps hereto affixed as the Samoan postage stamps.

"'MALIETOA, King of Samoa.'

"As the present king was dethroned and deported from Samoa, and as his authority came actually to an end in 1888, the undersigned declare it their belief that at that time the above appointment became null and void. It has never been renewed since the return of King Malietoa to power, and we contend that even had the king any intention to make such an appointment, the Berlin Act provides otherwise and is paramount.

"E. A. GREVSMUHL,
H. J. MOORS."

In regard to the contention of Moors and Grevsmuhl that the appointment of Mr. Davis as postmaster is void through the exile of Malietoa in 1887, the *Times* says: "We have only to point out that, in the first place, Malietoa did not abdicate his throne, nor in any sense voluntarily relinquish the rights and privileges appertaining to his position as chief executive of Samoa; and in the second place, having created an office it cannot be made void except by himself or with his consent. The effect of the treaty powers having brought Laupepa back to Samoa was to renew and consolidate his kingship. We claim that, in reality, there was no time during his majesty's involuntary exile that he ceased to be King of Samoa. * * * We repeat that Malietoa gave Mr. Davis his appointment, and none but Malietoa can take it away."

Novelties and Discoveries.

Bulgaria.—We have the 5 stot. Unpaid Letter Stamp from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive.

5 stot., vermilion.

China.—*Le Timbre Poste* says this country entered the Postal Union on the 1st of January, and that the event will be celebrated by the issue of a series of fifteen stamps, which will be engraved and printed in Japan.

France.—Mr. Bacon, according to the *Monthly Journal*, has discovered, in the Tapling Collection, a specimen of the 20 c., *red-brown*, of the 1876 issue, in Type II. of the current design. This stamp has hitherto only been known in Type I.

Adhesive.

20 c., red-brown, Type II.

Holland.—The *Monthly Journal* describes three new letter cards received from Mr. J. R. Robert, of which three values have been issued, viz., 3 c., 5 c., and 12½ c., as follows :—

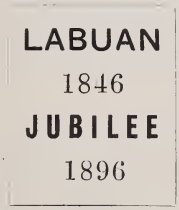
The stamp, which is at the left, is of a circular form, similar to that upon the previous letter cards, or letter sheets; it is surrounded by various ornaments, and the inscription "POST-BLAD" is on a scroll crossing the card to the right. There are two sizes of each of the lower values, the smaller size being intended to be enclosed in the larger for a reply, thus forming a reply-paid card in a very simple manner. The impression is all in colour, on card of a paler tint; the perforations are of form C, extending to the edge at the bottom only.

Letter Cards.

3 c., green on *green*	118 × 70 mm.
3 c. ,, ,,	140 × 85 ,,
5 c., blue on *azure*	118 × 70 ,,
5 c. ,, ,,	140 × 85 ,,
12½ c., rose on *rose*	,, ,, ,,

Jamaica.—In November last (vol. 18, p. 305) we innocently quoted a "Government Notice" from the *Post Office* (New York) as being dated 20th November, 1891. Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, says it is an old chestnut with a new date. The correct date is "20th November, 1861," and the document in question was published in *Le Timbre Poste* for November, 1891, in a review of the London Society's *West India* book, and afterwards in the *London Philatelist* for May, 1892. *Le Timbre Poste*, along with ourselves, has now reproduced this document with the new date attached. Query: Who is the original sinner in the matter of this new date? We thank Major Evans for the correction.

Labuan.—Our publishers send us specimens of a Jubilee issue made by surcharging the current stamps "LABUAN—1846—JUBILEE—1896," in four lines. The Jubilee celebrated is presumably that of the British occupation of the island.



Adhesives.

1 c., lilac.
2 c., blue.
3 c., ochre.
5 c., green.
6 c., brick-red.
8 c., rose and black.

Liberia.—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and Mr. H. L. Hayman for copies of a new series for this Republic. With the exception of the 50 c. the stamps appear to be the designs of the series they displace, redrawn and differently allotted as to value. The 1 c., mauve, palm trees, is similar to the design of the previous 6 c.; the 2 c., bistre, and black, hippopotamus, similar to the 1 dol.; 10 c., yellow and black, portrait, similar to the 8 c.; 5 c., violet and black, elephant, similar to the 4 c.; 15 c., grey-black, female figure, similar to the 12 c.; 20 c., red, similar to the 16 c. and 32 c.; 25 c., green, star, similar to the 2 dols.; 30 c., slate-blue, similar to the 20 c.; the 50 c., red-brown and black, is quite a new design, and is one of the most effective we have seen. As we illustrate the various designs we need not describe them in detail. By comparing them with the now obsolete series collectors will note for themselves the variations which have been introduced in the process of redrawing.

Adhesives.

1 c., mauve.
2 c., bistre.
5 c., violet and black.
10 c., yellow and black.
15 c., grey-black.
20 c., red.
25 c., green.
30 c., slate-blue.
50 c., red-brown and black.













Panama.—Our contemporaries chronicle the 50 c. in the current type, which presumably completes the series.

Adhesive.

50 centavos, brown.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1 peso of the map design.

Adhesive.

1 peso, red-brown.

Perak.—We have the 5 c., tiger's head, surcharged "SERVICE" in a used copy received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive.

5 c., yellow and lilac; surcharged "SERVICE."

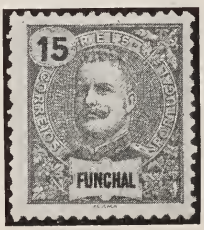
Peru.—The current 1 c., 10 c., and 50 c. stamps have been surcharged "GOBERINO" for official use. The surcharge is in black, and printed diagonally across the stamp, from the left lower corner to the right upper corner.

Adhesives.

For official use.

1 c., blue; surcharged in black.
10 c., yellow ,, ,,
50 c., rose ,, ,,

Portuguese Colonies: *Angra*, *Funchal*, *Horta*, and *Ponta Delagada*.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new series for each of these Colonies. We illustrate the design, which is the same for all. There are two printings, the value in label in upper left corner and name in a bottom label being overprinted separately. The same liberal allowance of values is supplied to each Colony referred to. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.



Adhesives.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ reis, grey,	overprinted in black.	
5 reis, bistre	,,	,,
10 reis, green	,,	,,
15 reis, brown	,,	,,
20 reis, lilac	,,	,,
25 reis, blue-green	,,	,,
50 reis, blue	,,	,,
75 reis, pink	,,	,,
80 reis, violet	,,	,,
100 reis, blue on blue	,,	,,
150 reis, brown on brown	,,	,,
200 reis, mauve on flesh	,,	,,
300 reis, blue on pale rose	,,	,,
500 reis, black on blue	,,	in red.

Queensland.—Last month (p. 23) we illustrated the new 1d. with letters of value added in the lower angles. A correspondent informs the *London Philatelist* that it is intended to alter the 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., and 2s. in the same way, in order to make the whole current series

uniform in general design with the 2½d. and 5d., which already have the figures in the lower angles.

Roumania.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the *Delivery Stamp*, "TAXA DE FAETAGIU," in a new colour; arms, wmk. as before. Perf. 13.

Delivery Stamp.
25 bani, vermilion.

Straits Settlements.—We copy the following from the *Monthly Journal*:—

Our publishers assure us that, as far as can be ascertained by enquiry on the spot and from other sources of information, only the values given below of the bi-coloured series for the Protected States have actually been issued. It is possible that full sets have been prepared, and that specimen copies have been seen, but some of these may never be issued at all; we propose, therefore, to adopt this list as a basis, and to make no additions to it until we are quite certain that other values have been put in circulation.

Negri Sembilan. — Our publishers have received the 3, 15, 25, and 50 cents, direct from the Post Office, with the information that no other values exist there. Further that the States of Negri Sembilan and Sungei Ujong are now amalgamated, under the name of the former, and that no further issues bearing the name of the latter will be made when the stamps now in stock are sold out.

Pahang.—The 3 cents only.

Perak.—The 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 50 cents, and 1, 2, and 5 dollars.

Selangor.—The 3, 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents, and 1 and 5 dollars.

Sungei Ujong.—The 3 cents only.

According to a Penang correspondent of the *London Philatelist*, 2 and 3 dollar values should be added to the above list for *Selangor*.

St. Vincent.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have, according to the *Monthly Journal*, recently purchased a horizontal pair of the 4d., *bright ultramarine*, of the issue of December, 1881, perf. 11½ to 12 all round, but imperforate vertically between the two stamps.

Tobago.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us a fresh provisional, viz., the fiscal 4d., lilac, with value in bottom label in red, surcharged "½d. Postage." This provisional, they inform us, was only in use for one mail and was reserved exclusively for postal purposes, none being sold to dealers.



Adhesive.
Provisional Issue.
½d. on 4d., fiscal, lilac and red; sur. black.

Transvaal. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 2d. value in the bi-colour of the new series. Our contemporaries have chronicled other values; but as they have been so often wrong, we will wait to chronicle the stamps when we have seen them.

Adhesive.
2d., brown, value in green.

Zanzibar.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and Mr. Riberio, of the Bombay Philatelic Co., send us specimens of the new series with portrait of the late Sultan, and we learn that this issue is now regularly franking letters from the Protectorate. Mr. Riberio tells us that his copies were received by the mail which left Zanzibar on December 4th. He further informs us that for the mail of the 15th, 17th, and 25th November there were absolutely no low values in the Post-office, and the provisionals of August 15th, *i.e.* 2½ on 2 a., were reissued to the public, and, as these were not sufficient, some 1½ a. stamps were surcharged 2½ a.; but the type and setting correspond with that of the 2½ on 2 a. issued in August, and not with the earlier provisional of December, 1895.

Zanzibar (French P.O.). — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following French stamps surcharged for use here.

Adhesives.
1½ anna on 15 c., blue; red surcharge.
2 annas on 20 c., red on green; black surcharge.
3 „ on 30 c., bistre „ „
4 „ on 40 c., vermilion on green; black surcharge.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).

The February packet contains—

FOUR VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED;
viz., Liberia, new issue, 1 c., 2 c., 5 c., and 10 c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).

The February packet contains—

FOUR VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED;
viz., Liberia, new issue, 15 c., 20 c., 25 c., and 30 c.

These packets are on sale until February 28th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates:—No. 1 packet, 12s., post free. No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Philately in the Mags.

Official Stamp Dealers in Victoria.

IN December last (vol. 18, p. 330) we gave some particulars of some stamp dealing by certain postal officials in Melbourne, and we have now the very satisfactory sequel of the conviction and punishment of those officials. We quote from the *Melbourne Argus* of Nov. 9th, 1896 :—

The Public Service Board has now communicated to the Government the result of the investigation of the circumstances connected with the irregular traffic in obsolete stamps by officers of the Postal Department. The officers concerned were Messrs. W. Morkham, accountant and controller of stamps; W. H. Sinnott, clerk in the accountant's branch; A. Coulson, clerk, now in the Income-tax Department; and H. C. Treyvaud, letter sorter, Geelong. They have been found guilty on some of the charges brought against them, and the Board recommends reductions in their salaries.

The charges concerning Mr. Morkham were as follows :—(1) Improperly trafficking in stamps; (2) allowing to be removed from the "spoil" 34 sheets of 2s., light green, stamps, withdrawn from issue in August, 1895; (3) improperly giving to certain persons, especially one Friedman, undue facilities for the purchase of obsolete and reprinted stamps; (4) selling at their face value to Friedman large quantities of obsolete and reprinted stamps; (5) selling certain reprinted stamps at their face value to Friedman after the sale of such stamps had been forbidden by the Postmaster-General; (6) making untruthful and misleading statements concerning the above matters when questioned by the Postmaster-General; and (7) negligence and carelessness in the discharge of his duties. The Board finds that the fifth and seventh charges have been proved, but not the others. Two additional charges were formulated, that Mr. Morkham did not properly distribute or account for stamps received from the Universal Postal Bureau, and that he was negligent in the discharge of his duties, inasmuch as he did not place in the official album specimens of these stamps. These charges are also considered proved, and the Board recommends that Mr. Morkham's gross salary of £750 (that is, without percentage reductions) be reduced to £700 per annum from the date of his resuming duty.

Mr. Sinnott has been found guilty on all the charges brought against him, namely :—Improperly trafficking in stamps; removing certain stamps from the department at various times; replacing them with other stamps of current issues, and selling the same at a price above face value for his own benefit; arranging with Coulson to sell certain of such stamps for him, and to share the profits; writing to various persons letters signed "C. W. Watkins," and negotiating for the sale for his own benefit of certain stamps; arranging with Treyvaud to receive such letters at Geelong, and forward them to him; arranging with Treyvaud for the sale of certain stamps at a price above their face value; and making untruthful and misleading statements to the Postmaster-General. The Board recommends that his salary be reduced from £485 to £375 per annum from the date of his resuming duty.

The charges against Mr. Treyvaud were :—(1) Assisting Sinnott in improperly trafficking in obsolete stamps by taking charge of and delivering to Sinnott certain letters which were left at the Post Office, Geelong, addressed to C. W. Watkins; (2) alone or in conjunction with Sinnott improperly trafficking in such obsolete stamps; and (3) making certain untruthful and misleading statements concerning the above matters to a person instructed by the Postmaster-General to inquire into the same.

The Board finds the first and second charges not proven, and the third proved, and recommends a reduction of salary from £174 to £160 for twelve months.

Mr. Coulson was also charged with acting in conjunction with Sinnott, but is only found guilty of making untruthful statements when under examination, and the Board recommends the reduction of his salary from £200 to £184 for twelve months.

It is understood that the Cabinet, following the usual course, will adopt the recommendations of the Board. Mr. Morkham has not been in good health for some time back, and is likely to apply to be retired from the service on that ground.

Future Australian Issues.

COMMENTING on the case of official stamp dealing in Melbourne, Mr. Castle, in the *London Philatelist*, offers some excellent advice as to future Australian issues. He says :—

Philatelists in Australia should lose no endeavour to lay before their respective Governments the desirability of avoiding frequent changes in the postal issues, and the true economy, following the example of the leading nations, of having a really good design and of keeping to it; and they should point out that these constant changes lay the Department open to loss by forgeries. Finally, they should urge that no departure from the design or details of any stamp in issue should be permitted except by the

sanction of the heads of the Government, or a Board of the Cabinet; and above all they should ask for the institution of a rule forbidding any official in the Post Office Departments from collecting or dealing in postage stamps under pain of dismissal.

Queensland Provisionals.

THE *Post Office* (*U.S.*) gives the following as the approximate quantities said to have been printed of all the recent Queensland provisionals on the respective papers :—

½d., thick or beer duty .	100,000
1d. ,, ,, ,, .	1,000,000
2d. ,, ,, ,, .	800,000
1s. ,, ,, ,, .	30,000
½d., burélé or moirée .	170,000
1d. ,, ,, .	400,000
½d., thin or secret mark .	250,000
1d. ,, ,, ,, .	1,500,000

New Zealand Cancellations.

THE *Australian Philatelist* publishes some interesting extracts from the appendices to the Journals of the New Zealand Houses of General Assembly, 1860–1–2. The following extract refers to pen-cancelled stamps of this date :—

One improvement, however, on the present system might be made which would be calculated to introduce more method and exactitude into the mode of conducting the business of the local offices, but which would entail an expenditure not hitherto authorised. The local offices have, as yet, been unprovided with date stamps, the consequence of which is that it is almost impossible in cases of delay in forwarding any letter, to trace the fault to the right source. As the number of offices unprovided with date stamps is now considerable, and as the expense of obtaining the required quantity would be therefore large, it is a matter of some importance to consider how this could be done most economically, and particularly how unnecessary expense can best be prevented. The removal of a country post office, a matter of no unfrequent occurrence, would, for instance, if the date stamps for these offices were prepared on the ordinary model, be a source of much useless expense. The date stamps, as is known, at present in use, are distinguished by bearing the name of the particular locality cut upon them at which the post office is situated. It is evident, however, that in cases of removal the date stamp of the original office, specially adapted as it would be to one particular locality only, would become useless directly the post office was removed to a locality of another name, and therefore the expense of providing it would be entirely thrown away, unless, indeed, the new office were to retain the date stamp of the original one, a plan which would lead to great confusion. In order to avoid these inconveniences it is proposed to provide a sufficient number of date stamps, and to designate the respective post offices not by the names of the places at which they are situated, but by consecutive numbers. By this plan the removal of an office would not involve the necessity of a new date stamp, as the old one would be quite sufficient to identify the office at which any letter may have been posted, or through which it may have passed.

Perak : Error "Ferak."

SOME "Notes on Straits Settlements Stamps," by Mr. Douglas Garth, are published in the *London Philatelist*. Mr. Garth is of opinion that the varieties of type employed in the sheets of the stamps surcharged "One — Cent — Perak," and "Perak — One — Cent," respectively, in three lines, were undoubtedly designed for collectors, and are, he says, practically ignored by the local philatelists in the colony. The error "Ferak" he holds, however, to be undoubtedly genuine.

It exists in the small variety of the "Perak" surcharge, one stamp on the sheet having an accidental F for the P. The authenticity of this mistake is established by the fact that all specimens were corrected in ink by the Post Office before they were sold over the counter, and steps were at once taken to rectify the mistake. I am informed that specimens of this error are wonderfully scarce in the Colony, and that the English catalogue price is far under its real value. I have newspaper cuttings to the effect that in 1894 this "Ferak" error was sold by the local dealers at 10s. 6d. apiece; but in August, 1895, it had risen to £5, and at Christmas last an inspector of police in the Perak district parted with two specimens for £20 apiece.

We note that this "error" is catalogued in the just-issued *Gibbons Catalogue* at 25s.! no advance on the previous catalogue.

More Tongan History.

MR. NEVILLE BOSTON sends the *Monthly Journal* the following extract from a book by Mr. Basil Thomson, called *The Diversions of a Prime Minister*. Mr. Thomson, Mr. Boston believes to be a son of the late Archbishop of York. He was "sent to Tonga in August, 1890, to put affairs in order on the dismissal of the Prime Minister," an ex-Wesleyan preacher, whom he terms "the Honourable and Reverend Shirley Waldemar Baker." Mr. Thomson writes in his book :—

Two months had now elapsed since my arrival, and, but for the Customs' dues, we were still existing upon credit. To retain the wavering loyalty of our Civil Servants we had paid them a month's salary, and had given a public assurance that the arrears due to them by our predecessors would be dealt with by

Parliament. With the remnant of our slender balance we had paid a quarter of our liabilities to merchants in New Zealand and Sydney—some £1500—so as to restore our credit abroad; but we had now to depend solely upon the arrears of the poll-tax for our current expenses. Before all things I was resolved not to negotiate a loan, and so exchange one set of liabilities for another, besides setting my colleagues a dangerous example which they were sure to follow in future times of financial embarrassment. It was better to make our creditors wait, and silence them by doling out instalments from time to time. I must now make a disgraceful confession. Among the letters in the postmaster's office were a number from firms in England and America which deal in postage stamps, some of which had enclosed considerable sums of money. The Treasury was in dire straits, and a sum of £200 well worth a sacrifice of self-respect. We determined to change our stamps. The change could be effected for £40; and the sale of our old stamps, thus enhanced in value, would bring us in £200 or more. I have since heard that a year later the Government of Costa Rica descended to the same disreputable expedient, but I believe I may fairly take to myself the discredit of being the first to devise the scheme.

Niger Coast Perforations.

COLLECTORS of West Africans have for some time been aware of varieties in the perforations of the current design of the Niger coast; but Mr. Walter Morley is the first to classify them *pro bono publico*. He writes in the *London Philatelist*:—

I have for some time been hunting up the various perfs. of both the first and second issues, and find so far varieties as under, which may be of interest now that the question is opened.

NIGER COAST, FIRST ISSUE.

Various values, perf. 14.
,, ,, ,, 15.
1d., 2d., 2½d., and 1s. ,, 12½ × 14 (very scarce).
1s., 12½ on left side and 14 on other three sides.
1s. on thin paper, and on thicker and whiter paper.
1d. and 5d. in two distinct shades.

NIGER COAST, SECOND ISSUE.

Various values, perf. 14, 14½, and 15.
½d., 1d., and 1s., perf. 12 × 14.
½d., 1s. ,, 12½ × 14.
½d., 12½ at top and sides, 14 at bottom.
½d., perf. 14 × 15.

These various compounds of 12 × 14, 12½ × 14, *probably appear* on same sheet as the perf. 14 all round, as they are *very scarce*, especially of the first issue.

Zululand: Rubber Stamp Cancellations.

THE Treasurer of this Territory tells the *Monthly Journal* that he has frequently been asked whether stamps cancelled with a *rubber* handstamp bear genuine postal obliterations, and he very kindly gives some information on the subject:—

It appears that these *rubber* stamps, with *violet* ink, are employed at all the Postal *Agencies* in Zululand, and all stamps used at those agencies are cancelled in that way. In illustration of this Mr. Gardner (the Treasurer) kindly sends us specimens of the surcharged ½d. English, and 1d. Natal revenue, which he assures us were never used for fiscal purposes, together with other stamps on portions of envelopes, obliterated in this fashion with the date stamps of various offices in Zululand. He does not say that the same, or similar, handstamps have *not* been employed for cancelling stamps that have been fiscally used; but it is evident, from the copies before us, that stamps thus cancelled have not always been used for fiscal purposes.

Major Evans on Speculatives.

THE Editor of the *Monthly Journal* has been more than once hauled over the coals for tilting at new issues. He has even been suspected of a chronic dislike of all new issues; but in the current number he explains his position, and those who have the true interests of philately at heart will heartily agree with him. He says:—

What we protest against is the issuing of stamps that are not in any way necessary for postal requirements, and that would never have been thought of if Stamp Collectors did not exist. Of course they are postally used, and equally of course they are collectable by all who desire to collect them; but is it wise in those who have the interests of philately at heart, or in those who are pecuniarily interested in the pursuit, to encourage the manufacture of these things? It is a matter of opinion; we, personally, think it is not wise.

U.S. Periodical Stamps.

MR. J. M. BARTELS, writing in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, says:—

I am informed, from a reliable source, that collectors having unused periodical stamps in their possession need have no fears of their ever being confiscated by post-office detectives. These may have been sold by ignorant postmasters or have leaked out through members of the International Postal Union, who are supplied with several sets each; however, the case is different with the used, which must have been stolen or secured by someone in an unlawful manner, and are subject to confiscation as Government property wherever found.

U.S. Postmaster-General's Report.

THE annual report of the Postmaster-General of the United States has just been issued, and Mr. J. M. Bartels summarises, in the *Weekly Stamp News*, those points which are of interest to stamp collectors. Our English Post Office is an immense surplus revenue producing department. That of the U.S. has been run at a loss of 8,127,088 dols. during the past year. The report, commenting on this loss, says :—

It has its chief source in the transmission at second-class rates of a large and rapidly increasing volume of matter never in the contemplation of the law, which gives the nominal rate of one cent a pound on such matter, and assuredly outside of the policy of the law as to newspapers and periodicals.

Penny Letter Postage.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL WILSON (U.S.) discusses the proposed 1-cent letter rate, the cheapest postage in the world. He says it would yield a great profit; but it is idle to talk of such reduction while two-thirds of our mail matter is handled at a small fraction of its cost, and the deficits of the department in consequence have aggregated in eleven years since the Act of March 3, 1885 (1 cent a pound rate), the enormous sum of 71,377,480 dols.

Current U.S. Imperforate.

THE *Post Office* (*U.S.*) warns collectors not to be deluded into purchasing imperforate stamps of the present issue of U.S. under the notion that they are getting something valuable.

We assure them that the supply will be equal to the demand, and after they have purchased all they care to of the humbugs they can have another lot when they get ready to throw away their money once more.

U.S. Post Office Museum.

THE museum of the U.S. Post Office Department, according to Mr. J. M. Bartels in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, has many objects of special interest to stamp collectors. Enumerating these, he says :—

The walls of the large hall are mostly covered with frames containing the exhibit of stamps contributed by various Governments for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. These were mounted and arranged by the late typographer, Mr. Rosser, and any philatelist using a blank album could glean many valuable points in regard to neat and effective designs for mounting his stamps. A number of new donations have been received of late, and the most generous countries in this respect thus far have been Mexico, Japan, and Sweden.

Truly a magnificent piece of work is the huge gilt frame containing thousands of U.S. proofs of the stamps printed by the American Bank Note Co., artistically arranged in numerous designs. The colours are blended in a way to produce a most striking effect, which must, of course, be seen to be duly appreciated. One side of the wall is covered with frames containing entire sheets of India paper proofs of postage due and periodical stamps of the American Bank Note Company and Bureau issues. U.S. entire envelopes are arranged in several large frames, and make a very good showing. The first U.S. postal card is displayed in nineteen different colours, from which it would seem that a good selection had been made in adopting a rich brown shade.

The U.S. Grille.

MR. G. C. CORBALEY in the *Evergreen State Philatelist* writes instructively on the grille used on the stamps of the United States. He defines a grille as—

A rectangle of square indentations into the paper, impressed at the back, and designed to break the fibre of the paper, causing it to readily absorb the cancelling ink and retain it so as to prevent washing and subsequent re-use.

Then he tells us that—

When grilling was first adopted by the American postal authorities, it was considered necessary to grille the stamps all over. The stamps so treated are now among the greatest of U.S.A. rarities. The first modification of this very drastic treatment was to grille a space measuring 15 millimetres square. Then the "grilled area," so to speak, was further reduced to 13 × 16 millimetres, and afterwards to 11 × 15.

And he supplies the following very useful table of grille measurements for the delectation of superfine specialists in U.S. minor varieties :

15 × 18 mm.	...	19 × 24 rows.
13 × 16 mm.	...	16 × 20 ,,
11¼ × 15 mm.	...	15 × 18 ,,
11 × 14 mm.	..	14 × 17 ,,
11½ × 14½ mm.	...	15 × 18 ,,
11 × 15 mm.	...	14 × 16 ,,
10½ × 14 mm.	...	13 × 16½ ,,
9 × 13 mm.	...	12 × 16 ,,
13 × 21 mm.	...	16 × 30 ,,
12½ × 16 mm.	...	15 × 20 ,,
11 × 13 mm.	...	14 × 16½ ,,
11½ × 14 mm.	..	15 × 17 ,,
12 × 14 mm.	...	15½ × 17 ,,
10½ × 14 mm.	..	14 × 16½ ,,
9 × 14 mm.	...	12 × 17 ,,

Jeypore "'Raj' Service."

THE *Monthly Journal* has received some further information concerning stamps surcharged "'Raj' Service," from a correspondent who occupied, a short

time back, the post of British Resident in this State.

He tells us that these stamps were employed by the Public Works Department, that their use was fully sanctioned by the authorities of the State, and that they have as much claim to be considered an official issue as those of Gwalior or Patiala. Their use was discontinued owing to the fact that the Government of India objected to stamps being surcharged except by their own officials, all the other surcharged stamps being supplied thus disfigured by the Imperial authorities. It would seem, however, that there was no great necessity for surcharged stamps in Jeypore, since the officers of the Public Works Department, when forbidden to overprint the stamps for themselves, appear to have got on equally well without them.

Boiling an "Error."

MR. CASTLE in the *London Philatelist* tells the following capital story:—

It is well known that certain values of the older French issues exist in *tête bêche*, *i.e.*, with one stamp inverted in relation to its neighbour. Of the 1849 series, the 15 c. green and 40 c. orange-vermilion have never been known thus, and we have it from a high authority on these matters, who is in a position to know from ocular evidence, that the latter never can have existed. The writer of these notes was, however, offered a specimen of the 40 c. thus inverted when lately travelling on the Continent, and, although saturated with incredulity, actually went so far as to call on the vendor with a view to examination thereof —the price being so far in the hundreds as to preclude anything more than a devout and respectful inspection. He was not fortunate enough to see the specimen in question; but it may be mentioned that when the dazzling bait was held before the writer's eyes, he was informed that the 15 c. green *tête bêche* had also been found and had been disposed of for a few hundreds of pounds; whereas in the case of the 40 c. it was indubitably rarer, as a second copy of the former was also known—we might suggest "already" between the last two words—and add "more were expected." Ultimately, after discussions and wagers between the disbeliever and the faithful, a *rencontre* between both was arranged, with the 40 c. in question in the flesh and ready to have the torments of the Inquisition inflicted upon it. Cold water, tepid water, and hot water left its character unassailable; but its constancy submitted to the "something in the boiling line" during a very *mauvais quart d'heure*, and the stamps, so happily wedded in a pair, were separated for ever.

Greece: Olympian Stamps.

HERE is the precious history of the prolongation of the use of these speculative plasters as told by "Iberius" (Mr. Andreini) in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:—

When it was known last summer that the Olympian issue had proven a dismal failure, I understand that certain dealers entered into negotiations with the Greek agent offering to handle the stamps provided the Government of Greece permitted their use for a longer period. While negotiations were pending, the period during which the stamps were to be used was extended to October 31st; but this limit proving unsatisfactory and sales backward, the Government finally permitted the use of the Olympian stamps for an indefinite period. During this interesting interval the bargain was struck between dealers and the Greek agent, and it does not take a glass of magnifying power to see the connection between that bargain and the appearance of Olympian stamps in catalogues and albums.

Philatelic Gossip.

Possible Changes in U.S. Stamps.

ACCORDING to Mr. J. M. Bartels (in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*), with the change of administration and the expiration of the present contract, we may look for something new in United States stamps. He understands that there is a probability of Gen. A. D. Hazen being reappointed third Assistant Postmaster-General, in which case he would not fail to avail himself of an opportunity to make some change in our postal issues.

The Philatelic Society of London is indebted to Gen. Hazen for the beautiful set of proofs of the Columbus set, framed and hung on its walls.

Fine, Finer, Finest.

THE discrimination, which has set in so strongly against damaged stamps and in favour of fine copies, is spreading in all directions. Its latest phase is an intimation by Mr. Gremmel, a New York dealer, that in his next price list of United States stamps there will be three columns of prices instead of two as heretofore, viz., "New ; used, first quality ; used, second quality."

Generally speaking catalogue quotations are now taken to be for "fair average copies" ; for tip-top specimens there are tip-topping prices, always topping upwards for good stamps.

The next Postal Union Congress.

TRULY 1897 is destined to be a remarkable philatelic year. Probably not the least important event from a philatelical point of view will be the next Postal Union Congress, which will meet at Washington in May next. We learn that the Congress will be in session for six weeks or two months, and that the proceedings will be in French, as the recognized language of diplomatists. Unfortunately the Congress will be held with closed doors ; but, no doubt, interesting tit-bits will leak out to gratify our very natural curiosity.

Death of the "Daily Stamp Item."

WE record with a certain amount of regret, and also with a certain sense of relief, the death of the daily stamp journal published by the Mekeel Co., of St. Louis, U.S.A. We regret its death, because such a plucky venture deserved to succeed. Nevertheless it is a relief to know that the attempt to run stamp collecting at high-pressure rate has failed.

In their valedictory, dated 26th November, 1896, the publishers say :—

In the beginning it was an experiment, but a fair trial has been given the venture and it is found to be impracticable. We decided several weeks ago that we should, at the end of the present year, conclude the issuance of the paper, thus completing four volumes, and making a full year's record ; but our publishers find they require the use of the special press which has been devoted to running off the *Daily Item* every afternoon, and on this account it was thought that Thanksgiving Day would be as good a time as any to send out our obituary notice.

We shall conclude the volume by preparing a special souvenir number that will be sent out about the holidays. It will be the same style as preceding issues, but will consist of a greater number of pages, which will be devoted to a *resume* of the famous stamp daily and its history. A roll of honor will be included, giving a full list of the names of subscribers, and just what progress this interesting little paper has made. An impartial trial was given the paper, and it has convinced us that the average stamp collector, who devotes attention to his collection only at times when not interested in his regular vocation of life, does not care to make collecting a business to the extent of receiving and reading a daily paper, wholly devoted to stamps. As a trade publication and a periodical for the dealer, or collectors who care to enter into the commercial side of philately, such a scheme could not be improved upon ; but it is evident that the mercantile side of philately has not been developed to an extent to justify the publication of a daily paper for its interests alone.

Seebeculative.

MAJOR EVANS has coined for us a new philatelic term, viz., Seebeculative, *i.e.*, stamps made for Central American Republics by Mr. Seebeck. It is a very happy hit of the Major's, and if he had kept it for competition at the forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition he would certainly have been awarded a leather medal for his wit. We guess and calculate that the term will stick.

The English Specialist's Journal.

OUR excellent little contemporary, which caters exclusively for specialists in English stamps, after a period of some months' rest, has once more put in an appearance with a December number. In future it is to be published from October to July.

The Largest Registered Letter.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Weekly Stamp News* (U.S.) says :—

The biggest registered letter ever mailed in the United States was a box containing the testimony and exhibits in a recent suit concerning the chloride process of extracting gold. The postage was $187.00. It was sent from New York to Pretoria, South Africa. The largest previously recorded was $40.00.

U.S. Plate No. Catalogue.

MR. J. M. BARTELS, Washington, announces a new edition of his U.S. Plate Number Catalogue. He says:—

The prices on the popular Bureau issue have been agreed upon by several specialists in this branch of philately, who recently met in New York for this purpose. The policy of other catalogues, to quote a stamp at the highest possible obtainable price, has not been followed; but all quotations have been based upon what the compilers are willing to pay. If the Standard Catalogues were to adopt this plan when revising prices, it seems that such phenomenal and unnecessary rises, which are discouraging to many collectors, would be less frequent.

Quite so. It would be an excellent arrangement for collectors, who want to buy, to price the catalogues of dealers. We commend the idea.

The Tobago Error.

WHEN shall we get the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about the Tobago error? That the home authorities did cable for the stamps unsold to be returned seems to be correct enough, but we have had no evidence yet that that cablegram resulted in the return of a single label. On the contrary we know of large lots of the stamps having percolated through the trade, and a correspondent of the *Post Office* (New York) explains that "the issue was stopped as soon as it came out, and certain Government officials made use of their knowledge to buy up all the stamps held by the Post Office."

Forgeries and Reprints.

Gibraltar, 1886.

BERMUDA stamps appear lately with the forged surcharge "Gibraltar," and are passed off as the first issue of Gibraltar. The surcharge, however, is $15\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ mm., instead of $15\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ mm. Besides, the stamps have been taken from a later issue, and the shades are, in consequence, slightly different. For instance, the genuine 2d. stamp is dull lilac, whereas the forgery is reddish brown; the genuine 1/- stamp is olive-yellow-brown, and the forgery pale yellow-brown. However, great care has to be taken. Both have the same water-mark, CA and Crown.

Naples : ½ Tornese, 1860.

VERY good imitations of this rare stamp have lately come under our notice, and the *modus operandi* seems to be as follows :—Postmarked and watermarked specimens of the ½ grano, lake (especially such stamps where the obliteration more or less covers the value), are chemically changed to blue. Such stamps present all the appearances of the real article, and are sold at a lower price, because as a rule they do not look so clean and fresh.

French Postage Due Stamps.

THE *Monthly Circular* publishes the following translation from the *Courrier des Timbres-Poste* (St. Etienne) :—

A well-known Parisian dealer, hearing that the French postage-due stamps of 60 c. and 1 fr. (on yellowish paper) were to be withdrawn, hastened to lay in a stock of the corresponding imperforate stamps of the Colonies, which he perforated himself and offered for sale as French stamps. Unfortunately for him, it now appears that the stamps of 60 c., brown on yellow, *were never issued from the Government manufactory, nor put on sale at any Post-office.*

It would, I think, be interesting to ask the Directeur-Général des Postes or his under-secretary, or some other official, how it was that this dealer managed to procure large quantities of unused Colonial "chiffres-taxe," while our wonderful postal administration, both in Paris and the provinces, proclaims aloud that the "chiffres-taxe" are for the exclusive use of the postal officials, and are on no account to be sold to the public.

It seems also that the same dealer is the author of the successful imitations of the *black* 1 fr., 2 fr., and 5 fr. postage-due, and the 1849 *têtes-bêches*.

In the forgeries of the former, the paper is slightly yellower, the impression rather less clear, and the ink has a reddish tinge. In

the originals the label bearing the word "Postes" has, at the upper left part, a double line on the left and the right of the word, while in the forgeries the double line has become single, and the ends of the scroll containing the value are shaded by a cross-hatching instead of uninterrupted lines.

The *têtes-bêches* are made as follows. A pair of stamps is taken and the design is scraped out from one stamp so as to leave only a piece of very thin paper. A third stamp is then taken, on which the contrary operation is performed—that is to say, the paper is scraped from the back so as to leave only a thin piece of tissue-like paper with the stamp printed on the face. This piece is stuck upside down on the doctored pair by means of a special adhesive mixture, and the whole is then pressed, re-gummed, and the trick is done. The stamps will stand any amount of soaking in cold water, and it needs four or five minutes' immersion in boiling water to detach the added stamp.

France: 1 franc, vermilion.

FROM the *Timbre-Poste* we take the following important notice regarding forgeries of this rare stamp.

The principal difference is, that the punctuation of the value in the bottom label is missing; a minor difference is, that the Greek pattern at the sides consists of only one line instead of two lines, as in the originals; the last s in Postes and the first e in Répub. are wrong. The colour is very good and can easily deceive. These stamps are sold at from 50 to 100 francs each, and are always on original envelopes.

Austria: 1891, 10 piastres on 1 Gulden.

FROM the *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift* we learn that Austrian 1 gulden stamps with forged surcharge, "10 PIAST 10," have been offered to collectors. The differences in the surcharge are as follows:—

The total length of the surcharge is 17 mm. in the genuine stamps, whereas it is only 16½ mm. in the forgery. The height of the I and O is 1½ mm. in the genuine stamps and 2 mm. in the forgery. The word "PIAST" is very regular in the genuine, and uneven in the forgery. The horizontal lines of the P, A, I, are fine in the genuine stamps and plump in the forgery. The S in the genuine stamp is broad and the T narrow, whereas these two letters are just the reverse in the forgery. Morever all the forgeries are cancelled with Austrian obliterations.

Ceylon: First issue 6d.

THE energetic Hon. Secretary of the Birmingham Society sounds a note of warning against a recent fake that he has not seen mentioned in any paper.

Some time since part of a proof sheet of the first issue 6d. on blue paper was found. It has no wmk., but some copies have had a star impressed in the gum. This simple expedient, combined with the irregular transparency of the centre of the stamp and the similarity of the colour to the original 6d. on blue, had already deceived several fairly advanced collectors who had not given themselves sufficient time to examine the stamps carefully.

Forged Yellow Mercury.

THE *Austria Philatelist* draws the attention of its readers to a forgery of the above stamp, which was made chemically out of the common blue Mercury; and says that the best test of this forgery is the pale colour and the peculiar appearance of the obliteration, which in such cases seems to go right through the paper.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

* Unused. † On original.

Buhl & Co.,
17th December, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
France, 1 fr., vermilion ..	7	0	0
Spain, 1852, 2 r., red ..	9	15	0

Cheveley & Co.,
10th December, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Barbados, 5s., rose* ..	4	15	0
British Guiana, 1876, 4 c., crimson	10	0	0
Canada, 6d., purple-black, perf.*	10	10	0
Dominica, 1s., carmine, CA*	2	16	0
Labuan, 12 c., carmine, CA sideways.. ..	5	0	0
Ditto, 6 c. on 16 c., blue	8	0	0
Mauritius, *Post Paid*, 1d., early	8	0	0
Ditto ditto, 3d., early*	34	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-red*	11	0	0
New South Wales, 5d., green; imperf.* ..	4	0	0
St. Lucia, 1s., black on orange*	3	0	0

21st and 22nd December, 1896.

Buenos Ayres, 4 pesos, red	13	0	0
Ditto, 5 pesos, orange	17	10	0
Canada, 6d., purple-black; perf.*	7	0	0
Ditto ditto, used ..	5	10	0
Ditto 7½d., green ..	2	16	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose; imperf	15	10	0
Ditto, 8d., brown; imperf.	24	0	0
Ditto, 2s., blue; imperf.	3	15	0
France, 1 fr., orange ..	5	0	0
Great Britain, 8d., brown*	4	7	6
Ditto, 2s., brown ..	2	4	0
Hamburg, 9 sch., yellow; imperf...	3	6	0
Nevis, 6d., grey; litho.* .	13	5	0
Ditto, 6d., green; pair*	13	15	0
Ditto, 1s., green; perf. 15*	4	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine*	5	17	6

Puttick & Simpson,
30th Nov. and 1st Dec., 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Cape of Good Hope, *wood block*, 4d.†	4	6	0
Dominica, 1s., carmine, CA*	3	0	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, CA	3	0	0
St. Christopher, 4d., blue, CA*	6	5	0
St. Lucia, 1s., orange-brown, CA; pair* ..	7	12	6
St. Vincent, 5s., rose-red, star*	13	0	0
Switzerland, *Winterthur*, 2½ r.	3	3	0
Tolima, first issue, 5 c. on blue wove, block of 16, penmarked	8	0	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose; perf. 15*	4	10	0
Ditto, 1s., crimson; double line	4	4	0

14th December, 1896.

Cape of Good Hope, *wood block*, 4d.	3	0	0
Nevis, 1s., yellow-green..	4	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow	3	7	6
St. Lucia, 1s., orange-brown	3	4	0

Ventom, Bull & Cooper,
26th and 27th November, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Lagos, 2s. 6d., brown* ..	3	17	0
Ditto, 5s., blue* ..	8	5	0
Queensland, 1d., carmine; imperf.; pair.. ..	3	10	0
St. Lucia, 1s., black and orange; fiscal; error, SHILDING	2	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d., ultramarine; star; pair; imperf. between† ..	5	0	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2½ r. .	4	10	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue	5	10	0
Ditto, 1869, 90 c.* ..	5	10	0
Ditto, *Periodicals*, 848*	3	10	0
Ditto ditto 860*	4	7	6
Ditto, *Justice*, 90 c.* ..	8	0	0
Ditto ditto, 90 c., used	7	15	0
Ditto, *State*, 810, penmarked	9	15	0
Ditto ditto, 820, penmarked	8	15	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow; vert. pair ..	8	5	0
Wurtemburg, 70 k., violet*	3	3	0

15th and 16th December, 1896.

Barbados, 1d. on half 5s., rose; both types; sur. right to left	15	0	0
Ditto, ditto, single, left half of 5s.; sur. left to right*	14	0	0
British Guiana, first issue, 12 c., black on blue; cut*	10	10	0
Ditto, 1851, 1 c., magenta*	4	17	6
Ditto, 1853, 1 c., vermilion; strip of 4† ..	5	10	0
Ditto, 1862, 1 c., rose; pearls	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., blue; trefoils ..	7	0	0
British Honduras, 6d., rose; CC, perf. 14* ..	3	17	6
Naples, 50 g., pale lake* .	3	5	0
Nevis, 6d., grey; litho. ..	12	12	0
Pacific Steam Navigation Co., 1 r., blue† .	8	0	0
St. Lucia, 1s., black and orange*	3	15	0
Ditto, ditto, deep shade	4	8	0
Spain, 2 r., red	18	0	0
Trinidad, 1s., purple-blue; thick paper*	5	10	0
Tuscany, 1853, 1 soldo, yellow on white ..	5	0	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue*	3	7	6

Notices.

Subscriptions.—The Philatelic Record and Stamp News will be sent post-free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 5s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

MARCH, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

AT a recent meeting of the Philatelic Society of Bengal a proposal was discussed and agreed to in favour of establishing a Philatelic Society for the whole of India, into which the various societies now in existence may be merged. The fact that Mr. Larmour has undertaken the duties of Secretary is an earnest that the movement will go ahead.

Philatelic Society for India.

The enlarged Society is to undertake the publication of a monthly high-class journal, the issue of handbooks, and the holding of exhibitions. We heartily wish the new movement every success. If successful, it may do much to popularise the genuine issues of India, and help us to separate the rubbish from what is worth preserving. Already there are indications that the genuine issues of the Native States of India are being more appreciated than they were. A year or two since they were absolutely unsaleable at our auctions; now it is not an uncommon thing to witness a brisk competition for them, especially for the rarer errors.

* * *

Friedl's Museum.

IT is with regret that we read in the *Weltpost* that this renowned Museum is to be dispersed. It was opened on the 19th of August, 1883, and we may say that it has fulfilled the purpose for which it was intended in such a manner that the very highest praise is due to the owner.

As far as the scientific side of philately is concerned no other Museum or collection exists in the world to surpass it. A good many of the items are unique, and can never be replaced. We may mention in particular the unique and almost complete collections of English proofs, and the famous original *Chalmers* essay, which was submitted to Parliament in 1834. These treasures were originally in the possession of Sir Rowland Hill; many of them bear his own marginal notes, and for this reason alone should be purchased for the British Museum, where they would form a fitting addition to the English portion of the Tapling Collection. If the authorities cannot see their way to buy them, is it not possible to start a subscription to secure those national relics, and present them to the nation?

It is the same with the magnificent collection of U.S. proofs, better and more complete than the official collection at Washington. Opportunities missed like these may never occur again.

Stamps of the United States.

HALF A CENTURY'S ISSUES,
WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE MINOR VARIETIES.

By GRANT R. FRANCIS.

(*Continued from page* 50.)

Plate Dots.

I HAVE now come to those issues of the United States which exhibit more known minor varieties than any of the previous emissions which I have described. The probability of a deluge of accusations of "splitting hairs" and such like criticisms, however, makes me very diffident about giving in this series, the result of my researches, so far as they have yet gone, in what I may be allowed to term the "plate dot varieties" of the decade 1870 to 1880, but the varieties are surely as collectable as the plate numbers in either English or American issues, and vastly more so than the control numbers and letters for which there is such a recent craze, inasmuch as the dot is visible on the face of the stamp itself and not merely on the marginal edge, as in the last-mentioned case.

At the same time the matter is, of course, at the present moment quite in a state of chaos, and I must therefore ask my readers to grant me their kind indulgence if I fail to mention *every* dot that may appear on the stamps. I only intend to enumerate those that have as yet come under my personal notice, and they may very possibly fall far short of the actual number of variations that exist.

I propose to describe the varieties of the printings of the three different Companies who were, at different periods in the ten years, entrusted with the production of the stamps, in their proper order, at the same time to mention in brackets after each description those secret or plate dots that I have seen on a specimen of that issue and value.

I will therefore, before describing the stamps themselves, remark that the dots I have so far seen are in various positions on the different values, but by far the commonest and indeed the only ones that appear on all, or nearly all, values are either at the left-hand side of the oval surrounding the Presidential portrait (in which variety it will generally be found exactly opposite the *mouth* of the portrait) or at the bottom left-hand corner of the stamp, as nearly as possible $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the extreme left edge of, and just underneath, the frame of the design. These, for the sake of brevity, I will describe as Dot 1 and Dot 2. Another dot (Dot 3) appears peculiar to the 6 c., and is found 1 mm. to the left of the bottom of the figure 6, whilst a fourth (Dot 4) appears to the right of the right-hand loop joining the labels in the 90 c. of both colours. This appears on *every* specimen of this value that I have examined. Finally Dot 5 appears immediately over the uppermost point of the central star containing the "s" of "Postage" in the 24 c. purple.

To recapitulate therefore:—

Dot 1.—Left oval surrounding portrait, opposite mouth.
„ 2.—Under design, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from left edge.
„ 3.—About 1 mm. to left of bottom of figure 6 (6 c. only).
„ 4.—To right of right-hand loop joining labels (90 c. only, both colours).
„ 5.—Immediately over point of central star containing "s" (24 c. only).

So far as I have yet gone, and in the large number of specimens I have examined, I have found no distinct plate dot on the 15 c. value, although No. 1 appears to be present on some used specimens; but, as is usual with this stamp in the used condition, the postmark is so heavy as to make the matter very doubtful, and I have not yet found it on an unused specimen.

It would appear that (with the exception of Dots 3 and 4, which seem to be on *every* stamp of the 6 c. and 90 c. value respectively, and which are sometimes found in conjunction with Dots 1 or 2 on the same stamp) it is rare for more than one dot to appear on any stamp.

The one exception which proves the rule, that I have yet found, is a grilled copy of the 6 c., which shows no less than the three first-named dots. (Some day this may equal in rarity the 3d. white dot of Great Britain. May that day soon come!)

1870-1890 Issues.

In the year 1870 orders were given to the National Bank Note Company to supply a series of eleven stamps, all very similar in design, bearing the inscription "U.S. Postage" above, and the value in words and figures beneath a central oval bearing (different) Presidential portraits. The exception to this general rule was the 24 c. purple, which had the value in words only underneath and the value in figures in each upper corner.

This issue was first sent out with the embossing, or grille, common to the previous issue, but as this was very shortly discontinued and the stamps issued without it, the specimens of most values with the grille are rare, those of the 12 c. and 24 c. values being especially so.

The colours and portraits were as follows, and I have found the subjoined plate dots on this grilled issue:—

1 c., ultramarine	Franklin	(No dots). (Dot 1). (Dot 2).
2 c., red-brown	Jackson	(No dots). (Dot 2).
3 c., green	Washington	(None found yet).
6 c., carmine	Lincoln	(Dot 3). (Dots 1, 2, and 3 together).
7 c., vermilion	Stanton	(No dots). (Dot 2).
10 c., brown	Jefferson	(None found).
12 c., dark purple	Clay	(,,)
30 c., black	Hamilton	(,,)
90 c., carmine	Perry	(Dot 4).

In 1873 the contract for the supply of stamps, and the plates for the production of the same, were taken over by the Continental Bank Note Company, who, to distinguish their productions from those of their predecessors, added certain distinguishing marks on the stamps of each value from 1 c. to 15 c., and probably on the higher values; but at present these latter have not been discovered. In describing these secret marks, I cannot do better than reproduce the points of difference shown in the latest edition of Scott's Catalogue.

To take first the ungrilled issue of the National Bank Note Company:—



1 c., ultramarine . . (No dots). (Dot 1). (Dot 2).

The pearl to left of numeral "1" is perfectly plain.



2 c., red-brown . . . { (No dots). (Dot 1). }

Under the scroll, to left of "U.S.," appear four plain vertical lines. Shade over top of scroll appears as three plain separate lines.



3 c., green . . . { (No dots). (Dot 1). }

The lower part of the tail of left ribbon has no shade.



6 c., carmine . . . { (Dot 3). (Dots 1 and 3 together). (Dots 2 and 3 together). }

The shading of lower part of left ribbon is all of one thickness.



7 c., vermilion . . { (No dots). (Dot 1). (Dot 2). }

The lines at side of the ball in lower right-hand corner are plain.



10 c., brown . . . . (No dots).

The scroll at right-hand end of upper label is quite plain.



12 c., dark purple . . (No dots).

The balls of the figure "2" are round.



15 c., orange . . . (No dots).

The shading of the upper left corner triangle is of one thickness.

24 c., purple . . . { (No dot). (Dot 5). }

30 c., black . . . { (No dot). (Dot 1). }

90 c., carmine . . . { (Dot 4) (Dots 2 and 4 together). }

The Continental Bank Note Company made the following additions:—



1 c., blue . . . { (No dot). (Dot 1). }

A small crescent in pearl to left of numeral "1."



2 c., dark brown . . { (No dot). (Dot 1). }

A diagonal line against first vertical line under scroll to left of "U.S."

Shade above scroll appears as a solid block.



3 c., green . . . { (No dot). (Dot 1). }

Heavy shade to lower part of tail of left ribbon.



6 c., pink . . . { (Dot 3). (Dots 1 and 3 together). }

Heaviness in first four lines of shade in lower part of left ribbon.



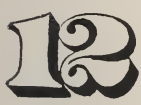
7 c., vermilion . . . { (No dot). (Dot 1). }

Coloured semicircle round lines at side of ball in lower right-hand corner.



10 c., brown . . . { (No dot). (Dot 1). }

A small crescent to scroll at right end of upper label.



12 c., dark purple . . { (No dot). (Dot 1). }

The balls of the figure "2" are crescent-shaped.



15 c., orange . . . (No dots).

First vertical line, and outer diagonal line in upper left corner triangle are heavier.

All the above were issued on ribbed paper (presumably during a scarcity of the ordinary thin, hard paper), and are very rare. In 1875 too, for the purposes of the Centennial Exhibition, a reissue of the 2 c., 7 c., 12 c., and 24 c. took place, the paper used being a very white *wove*. In this year also the American Bank Note Company took over the printings, and issued the above values (with the exception of the 7 c., 12 c., and 24 c., which were discontinued after the stock in hand was used up) on soft, spongy paper. This issue bears the same distinguishing features and dots as that of the Continental Bank Note Company; the 2 c., however, was now printed in vermilion, and a new value, 5 c., in dark blue, and bearing a full-faced portrait of Taylor, was added.

In 1882 some further changes took place. The 5 c. Taylor disappeared, and the recently-assassinated President Garfield's portrait took its place; the colour was changed from blue to brown, and the inscription "U.S. Postage" appeared under the value instead of at the top.

This stamp, both in the brown and subsequent blue colour, appears in two varieties, the first and much scarcer having the background shading of the portrait in plain horizontal lines, whilst in the second variety these are crossed by thinner diagonal lines.

The plates of the 1 c., 3 c., 6 c., and 10 c., having become worn, were retouched, and the following special features of the stamps from the re-engraved plates may be recorded.

1 c., light blue. The upper portion of the background appears much more heavily shaded than the lower, giving the stamp almost a two-coloured appearance. The circles and ornaments at top have each a dash of colour added instead of being perfectly white as formerly. (This appears without plate dots, and with Dot 1.)

3 c., green. The shadings are not so wide as formerly. A small horizontal dash has been added 1 mm. below the "TS." in "CENTS."

{ No dots. Dot 1. }

6 c., deep red. The stamps are so heavily shaded as to have a blurred, coarse appearance. In the previous issues there were four vertical lines of

shade, at the narrowest part between the shield and the edge of design, on the left of the stamp. In the re-engraved variety there are only three. (The colour is too heavy to make sure of the plate dots, but Dot 3 would appear to be present.)

10 c., brown. This also appears much heavier and coarser than the preceding issues, and, instead of six fine lines of shade between the shield and edge of design on the left of the stamp, there are now only four much thicker lines, and the secret mark added to the right-hand scroll at end of upper label by the Continental Bank Note Company in 1873 is now erased. The general heaviness of shade gives the stamp the appearance of being much darker in colour. (Found without plate dot, and with Dot 1.)

In 1883 the 2 c. in claret, with value in a straight line and portrait of Washington, took the place of the vermilion Jackson, and a new value, 4 c. in green with Jackson's portrait, appeared.

2 c.	(No dot.) (Dot 1.)
4 c.	(No dot.)

In 1887 the 1 c. was engraved with value in a straight line instead of curve, but otherwise little differing from the previous issue (no dot, Dot 1.) The colour of the 2 c. was changed from claret to green, the 1883 plate being used (no dot, Dot 1); and the 3 c. from the plate 1872, or an exactly similar one, now appeared in vermilion (no dot, Dot 1).

In 1888 the final changes of this very diversified group of issues took place; the old plates were used, but the colours in the following four values changed:—

4 c., from green to carmine (no dot).

5 c., from brown to indigo-blue (no dots).

30 c., from black to puce-brown (Dot 1 on all examples).

90 c., from carmine to purple (Dot 4 on all examples, some having Dots 2 and 4 together).

With these alterations the long series of issues of the large rectangular stamps of the States came to an end, and my work draws very near its conclusion. The subsequent issues of 1890, 1892, 1894, and 1895 present so few varieties, and have so recently appeared, that I will content myself with a bare mention of the difference of colours and design that have so far attracted my notice. The numerous varieties of paper—hard or soft, wove, laid, or ribbed—still require much attention and classification; and these, for the time being, I therefore ignore.

In the 1890 issue, without the fillets in the upper corners, the only stamp to present any variety was the 2 c., which appeared in many shades from a pale carmine to a deep crimson-lake, and also showed three minor varieties in the design. These have been called the "capped 2's," and take the form of a queer little cap or crown on the top of the figure "2" underneath the oval.

In some specimens this cap or crown appears on both the "2's," in others on the left-hand figure only, and the third variety has the right-hand "2" only showing the cap.

In the 1892 (Columbus) issue no varieties have been detected, and we may pass it over, but, *en passant*, a recently-published advertisement offering the $2 stamps, unused, "sold from a legacy," at $2 15 c., post-free from America, shows how sound was the advice (*not* to pay the ridiculous price to which all the high values of this issue were at once rushed) which the leading journals and specialists gave to collectors shortly after this issue became obsolete. There is little doubt that now the ball has been set rolling "legacies" of other values will turn up; in other words, the greedy attempts to "corner" these stamps will be visited with well-merited retribution, and holders will have to unload.

In 1894, upon the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (a Government

concern) taking over the production of the stamps from the American Bank Note Company, they adopted the principle of 1873, and added the fillet or triangle to the upper corners to distinguish their productions. At the same time the higher values were altered, stamps of 50 c., and $1, $2, and $5 replacing the 30 c. and 90 c. of 1890. In the 2 c. of this issue there are three varieties of the corner triangle. To quote from Scott:—

"In triangle 1, the horizontal lines of the groundwork run across the triangle, and are of the same thickness within the triangle as without.

"In triangle 2, the lines also cross the triangle, but are thinner within it than without.

"In triangle 3, the lines do not cross the triangle but stop at the inner frame of the triangle, and are thin."

It was discovered at the end of the year (1894) that an enormous number of the 2 c. value had been forged, and were being sold over the Canadian border at less than face-value. It was at once decided to watermark all sheets of stamps with the initials "U.S.P.S.," and this was done, but in such a manner that only a portion of a letter appears on each stamp, and that so slightly as to make it very difficult to detect a watermarked from an unwatermarked specimen. It is rumoured already that this defect is to be remedied, and a bolder and entire watermark is to appear shortly on every stamp. The triangle varieties are repeated in the case of the watermarked 2 c., and, it is said, have recently appeared in one or two other values. These will also very probably go through the entire series, so that there appears no lack of work for the specialist in the issues of the United States in the near future.

In bringing this series to a close, I have only to thank my readers for their patience in following me through the "Issues of Half a Century," and to beg their kind indulgence in any cases where I may have missed a "dot," or put in a "dash" too many.

(*Concluded.*)

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

More Medals for Exhibitors.

SINCE the issue of the prospectus the following further medals have been offered to the Committee, and will be awarded according to the decision of the judges.

By the City of London Philatelic Club: one Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze medal, for the three best collections of *used* postage stamps of the British Colonies, shown in any sort of album.

By Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.: one Silver and one Bronze medal, for the two best collections of postage stamps in use on 1st January, 1890, or issued since that date, shown in any kind of album.

By Messrs. W. Brown & S. C. Skipton: a Silver medal for the best collection of the surcharged postage stamps of the Straits Settlements (Bangkok, Johore, Pahang, Perak, Selangor, Sungei Ujong, and Negri Sembilan).

By Mr. Gordon Smith: a Silver medal for the best collection of the Departmental surcharged stamps of South Australia, not including the O.S. surcharges).

Advertisements for the Catalogue.

The Committee have decided to accept advertisements for insertion in the Official Catalogue, to be issued for the use of visitors attending the Exhibition, which will be opened on the 22nd July, 1897.

The compilation of the Catalogue will be entrusted to a Sub-Committee of well-known philatelists, and, in addition to matters of general information and interest, it will contain a plan of the galleries; a list of all the countries represented, with their position in the Exhibition; a description of each exhibit, noting its chief points and merits; and a complete index and list of exhibitors and advertisers.

The Catalogue will be indispensable to all who visit the Exhibition, forming, as it will, a philatelic guide to London. It will also doubtless be read by the philatelic world generally; and it will probably find a place in the library of all serious collectors as a work of reference to the collections shown by the leading exhibitors, from which all students of philately can from time to time derive valuable information as to the status and comparative scarcity of the principal rarities shown in the several exhibits. In this respect it will differ from magazines or periodical publications, which are generally laid aside after they have been read, and are eventually bound up without the advertisements.

The advantage of advertising in such a publication, and of bringing before the notice of the leading collectors and the philatelic world generally the names of advertisers securing a position in the pages of the Catalogue, must be obvious to all persons engaged in the stamp trade.

It is intended to print at least 5000 copies of the Catalogue, and the Committee guarantee this number as a minimum.

The following scale of prices has been fixed. For the special positions applications must be for the full page, and for other positions no application for less than a quarter page can be entertained.

SPECIAL POSITIONS.

For the outside back page of cover	£20
„ inside front page, facing matter	£7
„ inside back page	£7
„ page facing index	£7

FOR ALL OTHER PAGES.

Full page	£4
Half page	£2 10s.
Quarter page	£1 10s.

All orders for special positions must be received by the 15th May next, and in case of more than one application being received for any particular page, the same will be allotted by ballot, to be conducted at a meeting of the Council of the Philatelic Society, London, who have kindly undertaken this duty for the Exhibition Committee.

All other applications must be received, and all advertisements, with blocks, etc., must be forwarded so as to be in the hands of the Committee by the 15th June next.

In all cases the terms of payment are cash for one-half of the amount of the advertisement, to be sent with orders, and the balance by the 15th June next. Default in this respect may entail forfeiture of any moneys paid on account. In the event of more than one-half of the price of the position actually allotted being remitted with any alternative offer, credit will be given against the full amount payable, or the balance will be returned, as the case may be.

If the Committee, for want of space, or for any other cause, should see fit not to accept any order, any money paid on account will be returned.

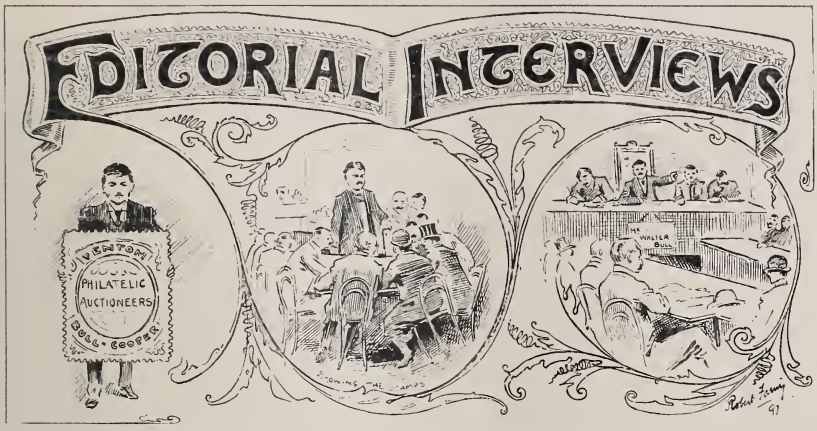
In cases where special positions are applied for, advertisers unsuccessful in obtaining one of them, and desirous of securing another position, should make their application in the alternative, and preference will be given to such alternative offers in allotting space in ordinary positions.

Applications for space should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. J. A. TILLEARD, 4, Lombard Court, London, E.C.

Our Portrait Gallery.



MR. WALTER BULL.



By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

The Inauguration of Stamp Auctions.

THE first sale of postage stamps by public auction in this country took place on the 18th of March, 1872, at Messrs. Sotheby & Co.'s, Wellington Street, London. The catalogue of that sale comprised some 275 lots. It was got up by Mr. J. W. Scott, now a dealer in New York. The sale occupied four and a half hours. The *Philatelic Journal*, edited by Pemberton, commenting on the new departure, said: "An auction in London could only have paid anyone who, like Mr. Scott, possessed so much which was undeniably required by a few people." An 1869 U.S., centre reversed, was considered to have fetched a good price at 36s.; a Brattlebro' was bought in at £3; and a 20c. St. Louis at £6. So far as we are aware, that was the first and last stamp auction sale in this country till Mr. Garth took up the matter in 1888.

In 1888 Mr. Douglas Garth, then Hon. Sec. of the Philatelic Society of London, addressed a letter to the *Philatelic Record*, which will be found in vol. x. p. 142. He solicited the views of philatelists as to "the desirability of inaugurating a periodical sale of stamps by public auction, and thereby establishing to some extent a tangible market value for rarities." Mr. Garth pointed out that "in every other object of the collector's fancy, be it art, geology, historical antiquities, or numismatics, it is well known that extreme interest attaches itself to the changes in the value of unique specimens, as established from time to time by their being offered publicly for sale on the breaking up of a collection, or on the death of a collector. A priced catalogue of an important sale is in itself an object of considerable value (for purposes of reference) to the dealer in curios. The value of a particular class of china or pottery is, for the time being, regulated by the prices realized for a few specimens of the ware at one of Christie and Manson's sales. Nor are such prices governed wholly by the scarcity of the ware and the number of specimens in existence. The fashion, and consequent demand, of the hour is a material element in establishing a value; and it has consequently been found that the fair 'market price' of such objects can only be ascertained by an expression of public opinion elicited periodically at a public sale by auction."

The first auction was held on Saturday, the 24th of November, 1888, and the auctioneers were Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper.

Interview with Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper.

Making our way to the well-known offices of our first stamp auctioneers at 35, Old Jewry, E.C., we found Mr. Walter Bull in his private office in a state of "animated expectancy," waiting to be victimised, for we had taken the precaution to duly notify him of the ordeal. Plunging right into business, we inquired as to the state of the stamp auction business. "I think," said Mr. Bull, "that stamps are fetching very fair prices."

"But the response was somewhat backward at the beginning of the season, was it not?" "Yes, to a certain extent throughout the earlier sales. But towards the end of the year, at some of the sales, quite old prices were obtained."

"And how do you account for the slackness at the opening? Prices should be better at the commencement than at the close, should they not?" "My own view is that there was a want of money."

"Was that so in the general market?" "I think so. Things were not brisk on the Stock Exchange, and that is generally a pretty fair index. Besides, the catalogues increasing their prices every time they come out with a new edition has affected a good many collectors."

"In what way?" "Many say they cannot afford to pay the high prices."

"That is bad news for auctioneers as well as dealers, is it not?" "Well, I don't know. You are sure to have some timid ones dropping out every year. But others take their places."

"High prices are no deterrent to the investor, are they?" "No, certainly not."

"And the most successful collectors nowadays are very much of the investor class, are they not?" "Yes, that is so."

"Now what is your clearest index to that fact?" "The best evidence is that some of the keenest collectors are those who pay the highest prices at my sales."

"How does the present season compare with previous seasons?" "The current season taken as a whole, I should say, is not so good as the last two seasons. In individual prices it is better, but as a whole it is not so good."

"What do you mean by that?" "I mean for special rarities."

"That is to say, good stamps continue to go up?" "Yes; but everything is a question of condition."

"And do great rarities in good condition continue to crop up as frequently as in previous seasons?" "I think not. They are gradually getting absorbed in the hands of the principal collectors, not only in this country, but also on the Continent."

"And they do not reappear for sale?" "No."

"Then you would say that rare stamps are getting rarer every year, in fine condition?" "Undoubtedly."

"And those are the stamps that are going up?" "Yes."

"Medium stamps, presumably, are plentiful enough, and prices easy?" "Quite so; but there is more difficulty every day in selling indifferent specimens. Collectors are getting more and more fastidious."

"Do you find people who cannot afford rare stamps in fine condition very anxious to secure the next grade?" "Not particularly so at my sales."

"We have heard a great deal about fashion in stamp collecting of late. How do you find it affect your sales?" "Very much indeed. For instance, when West Indians were in fashion the prices realised were very high; abnormally so, in fact. Now they have dropped back."

"Very much?" "Considerably."

"That is bad for fashion?" "But that is the case with all fashions. Take pictures, or china."

"Then that sort of thing inflates prices for a time only?" "Certainly, if it is the fashion only that has sent them up. When the group that has come into fashion is a good group, and deserving of greater attention than it has hitherto had, much of the increase remains after the fashion has passed away."

"How then has the fashion left West Indians—better or worse for having passed through the fashion?" "It is perhaps a little early to say yet, but I think it will be found that the better class of West Indians have benefited from the fashion, but probably some few West Indians on the other hand are even worse than they were before the fashion set in."

"As to buyers. How do you find your attendances made up?" "We have a very large number of private buyers attending our sales."

"But I suppose the average attendance is mostly made up of members of the trade?" "Oh, no! Of course nearly all the dealers do attend, or are represented, but there is always a good attendance of private buyers. In amount probably the chief buyers are the leading dealers, for it is the custom now with some of the principal collectors to get experts to report upon stamps, and send their bids to them. But as to the number of lots, probably private buyers are well represented."

"Going back to the question of investment, which after all is an important one when so much money has to be laid out in making a collection, how do you, as a general auctioneer, find the run of prices in stamps as compared with land?" "That is rather a difficult question to answer. In the first place, stamps are more or less speculative, and produce no interest, whereas investments in property generally yield income."

"But stamps yield, in your experience, a pretty considerable unearned increment?" "I admit that, and probably, in the long run, they may turn out a better investment than property. But people generally invest in property for the sake of a regular income, except in the case of building land. For instance, a man relying upon a few thousand pounds for an income could not afford to put that money into stamps and wait for your unearned increment; whereas he would probably do well to buy houses or land that might in the end yield him less, but would give him a certain yearly income."

"You get some curious commissions sometimes, no doubt?" "Any amount of them. A short time since a lady wrote to us to buy her some three or four lots, the whole not to exceed 5s. Each lot fetched over 30s. An American regularly sends us bids of from 5s. to 15s. for lots worth as many pounds. A well-known Continental dealer recently sent us a 45s. bid for a lot that fetched £39. On the other hand, some collectors are liberally inclined. One sent us a bid of £8 for a lot that we bought for him for 15s."

"And there are, of course, some curious sellers?" "There are, indeed. One lady brought her collection up from Bristol. She thought it too valuable to entrust it to the post. When we got it we found it to be worth barely £4. But I have had collections brought in in little washing books that fetched £70 to £80. One lady travelled up specially from the Isle of Wight with a collection worth only 10s. She thought it worth at least £100. Another time a young lady brought us in a small box of Australian stamps, amongst which were no less than forty copies of the rare 5s., blue on yellow, Victoria. Thirty-five were splendid specimens, and included pairs and a strip of three. She hoped they would fetch sufficient to give her a trip to the Riviera with her husband. They sold for £200. Some customers like to dispose of their stamps out-and-out. One gentleman brought us a collection and wanted £80 for it. I told him there would be no difficulty about his getting £80 for it, but that we did not buy stamps ourselves, and would advise him to leave it in our hands to sell for him, as he would probably make more of it by auction. He left it with us, and we sent him nearly £400, after deducting expenses."

Tobago 1s. Error: Enquiry.

WE shall get at the truth of the rumoured jobbing of the recalled supply of the 1s. error of colour after all. The rumours that are current are, to say the least, of a very ugly character. They are formulated by a local paper as follows :—

We understand that there has been considerable excitement among stamp collectors both here and at home over the recent error issue of Tobago shilling stamps. It is rumoured that a stamp collector has laid a complaint in the matter before His Excellency the Acting Governor, and that correspondence is now proceeding. It appears that the old stamps went out on September 30th and the error issue came in on the 1st October. After the stamps were sent out from home it was discovered that they were wrong in colour, and an order was issued by the Secretary of State, it is said, stopping their circulation. This was received in Tobago on or about the 8th October, and there were then only a few hundred stamps out. This issue was stopped, and applications that were made for stamps were refused on the 23rd and 24th October. However, for some reason or other, the stamps were reissued, and His Honour Commissioner Low, Magistrate Walker, and other officials bought up a large number of the stamps. These are the allegations brought to the notice of the Acting Governor.

Official Enquiry Ordered.

The following is from the official *Royal Trinidad Gazette* of the 24th Dec., 1896:—

[L.S.] By His Excellency, CLEMENT COURTENAY KNOLLYS, C.M.G., Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, Vice-Admiral thereof, etc. etc. etc.

C. C. KNOLLYS, *Acting Governor.*

To HUGH CLARENCE BOURNE, Barrister-at-Law, Registrar-General and Examiner of Titles of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, Esquire.

GREETING,—Whereas by Section 2 of "The Commissions of Enquiry Ordinance, 1892," it is provided that it shall be lawful for the Governor, whenever he shall deem it advisable, to issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners, and authorising such Commissioners or any quorum of them therein mentioned to enquire (among other things) into any matter in which an enquiry would in the opinion of the Governor be for the public welfare.

And whereas circulars have from time to time been issued by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State calling attention, among other things, to the difficulties sometimes experienced in obtaining supplies of Colonial stamps, and to certain irregularities which exist in the practice of selling stamps to dealers and collectors.

And whereas complaints have been made to me with regard to the sale in the Island of Tobago, in the month of October now last past, of certain postage stamps which had then been recently withdrawn from circulation.

And whereas an enquiry into the matters hereinafter specified would in my opinion be for the public welfare.

Now therefore, I, CLEMENT COURTENAY KNOLLYS, Acting Governor as aforesaid, do hereby in pursuance of the powers vested in me in this behalf by "The Commissions of Enquiry Ordinance, 1892," aforesaid, and of any and every other power enabling me in this behalf, issue this my Commission to you the said HUGH CLARENCE BOURNE, appointing you to be a Commissioner to enquire into

(*a*) The practice which has hitherto prevailed in the Island of Tobago with regard to the sale of postage stamps to dealers and collectors of stamps. (*b*) The circumstances connected with the sale in the said Island of certain postage stamps which had been withdrawn from circulation on the 8th day of October now last past; and (*c*) The desirability or otherwise of providing for the manner in which and the persons by whom requisitions for stamps from dealers in and collectors of stamps should in future be dealt with; (*d*) And such other matters connected with Postage, Revenue, or Fee stamps as may seem to you expedient.

And I direct you the said Commissioner to proceed to the Island of Tobago at such times as may be convenient to you, with due diligence to enquire into the several matters aforesaid, and to report to me in writing under your hand upon the said matters, and to give your opinion and recommendations thereon in one or more reports, and to furnish me with such account of your proceedings, and such reasons for your conclusions as I may require, and I direct that such enquiry shall be held in private.

And this my Commission shall continue, subject to any alteration or revocation thereof, until you shall have finally reported.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, at Government House, in the Town of Port-of-Spain, this Fifteenth day of December, 1896.

By His Excellency's Command, D. WILSON, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Review.

Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, 1897.

Stanley Gibbons', Limited, Priced Catalogue of Stamps of the British Empire, 1897. Eleventh Edition. Part I. British Empire. London: Stanley Gibbons, Limited. Price 2/-.

THE 1897 edition of this leading Catalogue marks an important new departure in its make-up. Last year, for the first time, adhesives were separated from envelopes and post cards. This year there is a further division. The adhesives are now separated into Part I., British Empire, and Part II., all other countries. To English collectors this new departure is a most welcome one. Needless to say that the work of cataloguing has been most thoroughly done. It has been no secret that the best authorities have been engaged upon the work for many months. With the exception of a few slips the Catalogue may be regarded as being as complete as it can be made, and yet preserve the happy medium between the beginner on the one hand, and the specialist on the other. The only drawback to the general excellence of the volume is the poverty-stricken character of the illustrations; but, by way of atonement, we have an excellent set-off in the careful and accurate reproduction of the various surcharges. In a future edition, no doubt, the illustrations will be taken in hand, for collectors are impatient of anything but the best from the leading firm. Needless to say there are many changes in prices. There are some reductions, but the most notable changes are of course in unused. Here are a few by way of illustration :—

Bahamas.

	1896. £	s.	d.	1897. £	s.	d.
1861. *No wmk. Perf.* 14 × 16.						
1d., lake	2	10	0	4	5	0
6d., grey	6	0	0	12	0	0
Perf. 11½ × 12.						
1d., carmine-lake	3	10	0	7	0	0
Perf. 13.						
1d., lake	3	0	0	8	0	0
1862-75. *Wmk. C and CC. Perf.* 12½.						
1s., green	2	0	0	10	0	0
Perf. 14.						
4d., rose	1	0	0	2	0	0
1882. *Wmk. C and CA. Perf.* 14.						
1d., vermilion	0	12	0	6	0	0
1883. *Prov.*						
4d. on 6d.	0	17	6	1	15	0

Barbados.

1861-70. *Rough Perf.* 14 × 16.						
6d., rose-red	1	15	0	4	0	0
1873. *Wmk. Small Star. Perf.* 14.						
3d., lilac-brown	0	15	0	1	15	0
Perf. 15½ × 15.						
5s., rose	4	0	0	6	0	0

Cape of Good Hope.

1853.						
1d., red (blued)	1	5	0	2	10	0
1871-77.						
4d. (1877)	0	2	0	0	10	0
1888-90.						
1s. (anchor)	0	7	6	0	17	6

Cyprus.

	1896. £	s.	d.	1897. £	s.	d.
July, 1881. *Wmk. C and CC.*						
6 pias., grey-black	0	15	0	2	0	0
1882-86. *Wmk. C and CA.*						
6 pias., grey-black	0	1	6	0	15	0
12 pias., orange-brown	0	3	0	1	10	0

Gold Coast.

1875. *Wmk. C and CC. Perf.* 12½.						
1d., blue	2	0	0	3	0	0
4d., magenta	0	10	0	1	0	0
1889.						
1d., in black, on 6d., orange	0	10	0	1	0	0

Lagos.

1875. *Wmk. C and CC. Perf.* 14.						
3d., brown	1	5	0	3	0	0
4d., rose	1	5	0	3	15	0
1882. *Wmk. C and CA. Perf.* 14.						
2d., blue	1	5	0	2	10	0
4d., rose	1	5	0	2	10	0
1885-87. *Wmk. C and CA. Perf.* 14.						
2s. 6d., brown	2	5	0	6	5	0
5s., blue	4	0	0	10	0	0

Sierra Leone.

1876-77. *Wmk. CC. Perf.* 14.						
1d., rose	0	0	4	0	4	6
4d., blue	1	5	0	3	0	0

Novelties and Discoveries.

Antioquia.—Our publishers recently discovered in their stock copies of the 1 c. black on white of 1875 on *laid* paper.

Adhesive.

1 c., black on white (1875) *on laid.*

Brazil.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* says this country is going to commemorate the *first* anniversary of the death of a certain Carlos Gomez, the money derived from the sale of the stamps to be used for the erection of a statue (supposably in honour of the aforesaid Gomez) in one of the public squares of Rio de Janeiro. There will be five stamps in the set—100, 200, 300, 500 and 1000 reis.

We presume the "certain Carlos Gomez" is the Brazilian composer, Antonio Carlos Gomez, whose operas, *Salvator Rosa*, *Fosca*, and *Condor* are well known in the musical world.

But if stamp collectors are to "face the music" of commemorating composers, as well as "colonels," "generals," and brigand presidents, specialism will have to still further narrow the scope of individual philatelic ambition.

British East Africa.—Owing to a dearth of lower values, with which the authorities never seem to keep the Postmaster sufficiently supplied, recourse has been had to the recently-received Zanzibar supply of the new type, with the old Sultan's portrait. The surcharge is apparently of the same setting as the former surcharges on Indian stamps; viz., "British—East—Africa" in three lines in Roman capitals and small letters. There are two provisionals, a "$2\frac{1}{2}$" on 3 a., and a "$2\frac{1}{2}$" on 1 a., both in red. For specimens of these we are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives.

On Zanzibar, Head of Sultan type.

$\frac{1}{2}$ a., yellow, green and red.
2 a., red, brown and red.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ in red on 1 a, dark blue and red.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ in red on 3 a, grey and red.
$4\frac{1}{2}$ a., orange and red.
5 a., bistre and red.
$7\frac{1}{2}$ a., purple and red.

China.—Mr. David Benjamin sends us a set of provisionals surcharged on the current series. When he wrote the regular issue was expected from the printers in Japan in time to be issued on the 2nd February, the Chinese New Year's Day, on which day China enters the Postal Union. Of the lower values he informs us that the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. is for Chinese papers, the 1 c. for foreign papers, the 2 c. for $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce letters, and the 4 c. for registration. Each stamp is surcharged in black with two rows of Chinese characters, the meaning of which we cannot at present give, and a small figure of value above the word "cents" in small letters.

Adhesives.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cent on 3 cand., lemon;	sur.	black
1 cent on 1 cand., red	,,	,,
2 cents on 2 cand., pale green	,,	,,
4 cents on 4 cand., rose	,,	,,
5 cents on 5 cand., yellow	,,	,,
8 cents on 6 cand., brown	,,	,,
30 cents on 24 cand., rose	,,	,,

Ceylon.—The *Monthly Journal* gives the following information concerning recent envelopes:—

The die with which the current 5 c. envelopes are stamped appears to have been retouched, and the frame of it reset. The lines of shading about the face are heavier, and either some fresh ones have been added, or some that had worn out have been restored; but the most noticeable difference is that the corners of the single-line frames, both the outer and the inner, which before were closed, are now slightly open, as if the parts of the die had become loosened. We have the first type in *light blue* on an envelope of vertically laid paper, and the second type in *dark blue* with the laid lines running, as is more usual, diagonally. Each has "GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, CEYLON," embossed along the upper edge of the left-hand flap, and the envelopes measure 134 × 109 mm., about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch more in each direction than the dimensions given us when the envelopes were first issued.

Envelopes.

5 c., light blue; 1st *type*; 134 × 109 mm.
5 c., dark ,, 2nd ,, ,,

Denmark.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a batch of the current series, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesives. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

3 öre, grey and blue.
4 öre, blue and grey.
5 öre, green.
8 öre, rose and grey.
10 öre, carmine.
12 öre, purple and grey.
16 öre, brown and grey.
20 öre, blue.
120 öre, yellow and grey.

Gambia.—The current issue of the embossed 1/- is in a much paler shade than the previous printings.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that the embossed stamps of this colony are at last about to be superseded by the new De La Rue type. The stock of embossed stamps was, when the last mail left, being carefully doled out to make them last till the supply of the new type arrived.

Greece.—Mr. W. H. Earl informs the *London Philatelist* that the Olympian stamps will be replaced on the 13th of March next by a regular issue of two types, if the new stamps are ready by that time.

Holland.—We have the 20 cent unpaid from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Type I.

Adhesive.

Unpaid.

20 c., blue, Type I.

Mexico.—The *American Journal of Philately* has been shown a current 12 centavos watermarked part of "Correos E.U.M.," and pin-perforated, printed by error in yellow-brown, the colour of the 3 centavos.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says the 10 c., 12 c., 15 c., 20 c., and 50 c. are all now issued with the watermark "R.M."

Adhesives.

12 c., yellow-brown, wmk. "Correos E.U.M." (Error of colour.)

Watermarked "R.M." Perf. 12.

10 c., rose-lilac.
12 c., olive.
15 c., blue-green.
20 c., brown-lilac.
50 c., violet.

Orange Free State.—The *American Journal of Philately* has received a new setting-up of the half penny provisional "HALVE PENNY" on 3 pence of Orange Free State. In the new setting the error "PEUNY" has been corrected, and the period has been added to the last stamp in the bottom row of the right pane, otherwise the setting of the words "HALVE PENNY" has not been altered. The position of the bar cancelling the original value has, however, been changed, and as a result on most of the sheets the top row is without the bar, and on most of the other rows the bar strikes through the upper part of the stamp instead of through the value.

Our publishers have received a provisional $2\frac{1}{2}$d. surcharged simply "$2\frac{1}{2}$" in black on the 3d. blue.

We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the $\frac{1}{2}$ value in a new colour—yellow, lately the colour of the shilling. Presumably, therefore, the series is to undergo a change.

Adhesives.

$\frac{1}{2}$d., yellow.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ in black, on 3d. blue.

Panama.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 50 c. of the map type, thus completing the current set.

Adhesive.

50 c., brown.

Paraguay.—We are indebted to Mr. J. Platte, of Paraguay, for a specimen of the current 10 c. in a new shade of blue.

Adhesive.

10 c., bright blue.

Persia.—According to *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* we may shortly expect a new issue for this country with a portrait, we presume, of the new Shah.

Peru.—The *London Philatelist* chronicles a set of stamps for parcel use. They are of large square size, with a numeral in the centre, "Porte de Conduccion" above and "Centavo(s)" below, all enclosed in a square frame of ruling and ornaments. The paper is white wove, and the perforation 12.

Adhesives.

1 c., ultramarine; black surcharge.
10 c., orange ,, ,,
50 c., rose-red ,, ,,

Parcel Post Stamps.

1 c., lilac.
2 c., yellow.
5 c., blue.
10 c., brown-lilac.
20 c., red.
50 c., green.

Mr. Carlos Tirado, of Lima, Peru, informs the *American Journal of Philately* that the 5 c. stamps of the present issue are exhausted, and that the postal authorities have sent to the United States for another issue of a different colour. He also says that the unpaid letter stamps of 20 c. and 50 c. are used up, and pending the arrival of those which are on order the Post-office is making use of the 50 c., rose, of 1886, and the 1 sol, grey, surcharging them with the word "Deficit."

Queensland.—The *London Philatelist* is informed by an Australian correspondent that "the next values to be tinkered will have the numerals in all four corners." Evidently the Colony is in a state of chronic unrest so far as

its postal issues are concerned, so much so that it is beginning to savour of suspicious and unnecessary changes.

Santander.—The *American Journal of Philately* has seen two horizontal rows of the current 5 c., green, imperforate horizontally between.

Servia.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles as having seen a strip of the 25 paras of 1889 perforated at the sides only.

St. Helena.—Mr. J. H. Roskilly informs us (1) that the new issue St. Helena now includes a ½d., sea-green, same De La Rue type.

(2) That a sixpenny stamp is still on sale, which he believes is still printed from the die which has done duty from '56. His correspondent tells him that the colour is grey, and the sheet is made up of 240 stamps.

(3) That the 1½d. stamp is *obsolete*, as no stamps of that value were on sale at the St. Helena Post-office when the last mail left.

*(4) That the new issues ½d. to 10d. are printed in one colour *only*, in sheets of 120 stamps, or *two* panes of 60 stamps each. The Control numbers ("2") are, as usual, *over* and *below* the second stamp from the ends of each pane (four in all). Panes are made up of 6 *across* by 10 *deep*.

Tobago.—Last month (p. 55) we chronicled a ½d. provisional on the 4d. fiscal. Mr. Ridpath now sends us a variety in which the "d" of "½d." is further from the fraction. In the normal surcharge the "d" is about ¾ m. from the fraction, and in the variety the latter is nearly 2 mm. from the fraction.

* The 6d. sheet contains 240 stamps, a proof that this value remains unchanged.

Transvaal.—Dr. Viner sends us the 3d. of the current set, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. follow with the 4d., and the *American Journal of Philately* reports having received the 5s., which, like the 10s., has the value printed in the same colour as the rest of the stamps, and "shilling" without the "s" for the plural.

Adhesives.

5d., violet and green.
4d., olive and green.
5s., slate-blue.

Uruguay.—The *American Journal of Philately* has seen a 5 c. ultramarine of 1886 with double surcharge "Oficial."

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).

The March packet contains—

FIVE VARIETIES, USED AND UNUSED; viz., Orange Free State, 1897, 2½d. on 3d.; Jamaica, 3d., new shade; Labuan Jubilee, 1 c., 2 c., and 3 c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).

The March packet contains—

NINE VARIETIES, USED AND UNUSED; viz., Dutch Indies, 20 c., new type; Orange Free State, 1d., violet; Transvaal, 1896, 3d. and 1/-; Liberia new issue, 50 c.; Jamaica, 6d., new shade; and Labuan Jubilee, 5 c., 6 c., and 8 c.

These packets are on sale until March 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, *28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.*

Philately in the Mags.

Brazil: Empire Remainders.

According to our Brazilian philatelic contemporary, *O Collecionador de Sellos*, the remainders of the stamps of the empire are about to be sold.

We are indebted to the *American Journal of Philately* for the following translation :—

By a decision of the Postmaster-General, the Director-General of that important branch of the Federal service was authorised to sell a considerable quantity of stamps of the empire still remaining in the Treasury of the Post-office.

However, we do not think that this decision will produce a good result, as we know that the stamps will be sold only in cancelled condition.

Now, anyone who knows what this service is, will see at once how such a measure cannot be carried out. We have already been to the Federal capital with a commission to buy fifty million reis worth of these stamps, and for three days we endeavoured without success to speak to the Director for the purpose of enlightening him on one of the most important points of this project.

Stamps at the present day are an article of merchandise like any other; there are catalogues in all languages which give the selling prices for the used and for the unused. Therefore, with the order to sell the stamps of the empire cancelled only (which is absurd, since, by postal notice, they are no longer current), purchasers will be few, because future catalogues will give new prices for these stamps, no doubt, because they will be sold at their face-value, and because they will bear the cancellation of the present time, which is of paramount importance to dealers.

In addition, let the Director-General consider the time that will be required in the Treasury to cancel the stamps for a purchase of a quantity like fifty millions of reis worth.

Being without value to the great majority of those for whom philately has no charms whatever, it is more than probable that those commissioned to cancel these stamps for sale will fail to do so to many, which will be an injustice to persons not having the good fortune to have an intimate friend in the department.

This is the truth, and knowing the uprightness of His Excellency, we are fully convinced that he will give orders for the stamps to be sold uncancelled.

In order that it may not be thought that we are pleading the cause of those most interested, the dealers, we state here that we shall not go to the Post-office any more to buy such stamps, as the society which we had organised among friends for that purpose has been dissolved.

There are 1,944,112,530 reis worth of stamps to be sold, and below we give the quantities of the different values:—

ORDINARY STAMPS.

3,929	10 reis	39,290
128,101	20 ,,	2,562,020
331,026	50 ,,	16,551,450
582	80 ,,	46,560
1,746	100 ,,	174,600
84,360	200 ,,	16,872,000
194,641	300 ,,	58,392,300
236,442	500 ,,	118,216,000
293,249	700 ,,	205,274,300
749,806	1,000 ,,	749,806,000

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

379,476	10 reis	3,794,760
505,965	20 ,,	10,119,300
181,666	50 ,,	9,083,300
1,024,269	100 ,,	102,426,600
498,034	200 ,,	99,606,800
282,099	300 ,,	84,629,700
265,868	500 ,,	132,934,000
183,927	700 ,,	128,749,900
185,744	1,000 ,,	185,774,000

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

1,314	10 reis	13,140
791	20 ,,	15,820
283	50 ,,	14,150
366	100 ,,	36,600
480	200 ,,	98,000
387	300 ,,	116,100

ENVELOPES.

349	100 reis	34,900
34,740	200 ,,	6,948,000
16,904	300 ,,	5,071,200

LETTER CARDS.

24,957	80 reis	1,996,560
1,021	100 ,,	102,100
8,075	200 ,,	1,615,000

POSTAL CARDS.

16,484	40 reis	659,360
83	50 ,,	4,150
289	80 ,,	23,120

DO. DOUBLE.

224	20 reis	8,960
6,671	40 ,,	533,680
184	50 ,,	18,400
2,132	80 ,,	341,120

WRAPPERS.

10,894	20 reis	217,880
9,981	40 ,,	399,240
13,359	60 ,,	801,540

In our next number we shall certainly be able to give some further details on the subject, and on that occasion we will express our judgment on the matter.

British Guiana, First Issue, 2 Cents.

Mr. E. D. Bacon gives us in the *Monthly Journal* an interesting description of the recently-discovered pair of the 2 cents circular British Guiana. He says the stamps of this newly-discovered pair differ in many particulars from the six other known specimens, all of which are alike.

In the first place the new pair is attached to a letter-sheet postmarked "Demerara, Aug. 5th, 1851," a date which is earlier by two months than that of the other six copies, which were not used until the following October. Secondly, they are initialled "E.T.E.D." by Mr. E. T. E. Dalton, the then Deputy Postmaster-General, and are therefore unlike the others, which bear the initials of Mr. James Belton Smith, a clerk in the Imperial Department of the Post-office. Thirdly, and most important of all, although both stamps are of the same type, this type is different from that of the other six specimens. In my paper on the stamps of British Guiana, which was published in the London Philatelic Society's work on the *Postage Stamps of the British West Indies*, I mentioned that the six copies of the stamp that were then known were all of the same type, and that it would appear from this that the 2 cents value had actually been printed from a single die. The new pair now entirely upsets this theory, and shows us that, like the 4 c., 8 c., and 12 c., the 2 cents was printed from more than one die. How many dies were used for the 2 cents I fear will never be discovered with certainty; but seeing that now two are known, both of which are found in the 4 c., 8 c., and 12 c., it is probable that some at least of the other dies that were used for the three higher values were employed equally for the 2 cents. The pair is described in the May number of the *Journal* as a horizontal one; but this is not so. Both this and the former pair have been cut from vertical rows. This fact, and the difference there is in the spacing of the stamps in the two pairs, show that the stamps were printed in horizontal lines one row at a time, and that the sheet of paper was then pushed forward, a second row printed, and so on until the sheet was completed. There can be no doubt that the same method of printing was also employed for the three other values.

Future of Collecting.

Mr. Castle, in the *London Philatelist*, draws a picture of collecting in the future, and most people will be inclined to say he has clearly outlined the inevitable. He says:—

No one, except abnormally rich people, will after this century be able to afford to make general or even group collections of unused stamps, which will be left to the patriotic or specialist collector. It is palpable that the early issues of unused stamps of most countries do not to-day, and certainly will not suffice to-morrow *to go round*, and that therefore they will inevitably be driven beyond the reach of the general collector. In all these cases, however, the rise is slow, gradual, and hence sure. Fortunately for the latter there are, and always will be, plenty of used specimens, and with due discrimination collections of the greatest interest may be formed therefrom.

Undoubtedly the mainstay of collecting in the future will be the liberal supply of used specimens. The quantities of most stamps printed now utterly preclude the ordinary issues from ever being classed as unobtainable.

But all this only opens up a question which will have to be faced and solved some day; *i.e.*, How shall we deal with the great gaps left by unobtainables in early issues?

Tolima: Die Varieties.

The Editor of the *Boston Stamp Book*, in his exceedingly interesting series of articles on "Die Varieties" of well-known stamps, in his February number, deals with Tolima, from which we quote as follows:—

1871. 5 Centavos, brown.

This stamp was lithographed, and, as often happens in such cases, a slight slip was made in preparing the stone. The result is that the word cinco is spelled "cingo" in some cases, though the correct spelling is the more common.

(*a*) Cinco.
(*b*) Cingo.

1886. 5 Centavos, brown.

The two types of this stamp are commonly known as the "Large Eagle" and the "Small Eagle." The chief difference is noticeable, however, not so much in the actual size of the bird, as in the width of its wings. The "Small Eagle" type shows quite narrow wings, and the blank space between the wings and the top of the flags is quite large. In the "Large Eagle" type this space is much smaller, and the tips of the wings almost touch the ends of the flagstaffs.

(*a*) Wings narrow.
(*b*) Wings wide, with tips close to flags.

10 Centavos, blue.

The main characteristics noted above are also found in this value, but there is an additional difference, in that the word "centavos" is placed in a straight label in the earlier type, while in the later type the label is curved as with the 5 value.

(*a*) Straight label, Small Eagle.
(*b*) Curved label, Large Eagle.

50 Centavos, green.

There are three types of this value—one with the Small Eagle, and the others with the

Large Eagle. The summary will indicate all the essential points.

(*a*) Small Eagle, curved label at bottom.
(*b*) Large Eagle, curved label at bottom.
(*c*) Large Eagle, straight label at bottom.

2 Pesos, violet.

This value occurs only with the Large Eagle type. The stamps were made, however, in three sections. The top part contained the central oval with its surrounding ornaments, then the label with the word "pesos" was put in position below it, and finally the numerals at the lower corners were supplied. Some of the 2 pesos stamps were issued with the last process neglected, so that the stamps appear without the numerals.

(*a*) Stamps completed.
(*b*) Stamps incomplete; no numerals.

5 Pesos, orange.

Another exhibition of carelessness occurred with this stamp, the label containing the word "pesos" being set upside down.

(*a*) Pesos normal.
(*b*) Pesos inverted.

Seychelles 36 c. on 45 c.

It has been stated that the Seychelles 36 c. on 45 c. recently issued had been bought up for speculation. The *American Journal of Philately*, however, says:—

We are now informed on reliable authority, that the fact that this value was unobtainable at the Post-office within a very short time of its appearance, is not due to speculation of any kind, but as the result of commercial necessities. At certain seasons of the year large shipments of vanilla are made through the mails, and the merchants in Seychelles find high values of stamps necessary for the prepayment of postage on these shipments. As all the values above the 18 c. were practically exhausted at the time of the issue of the provisionals, one or two mercantile houses in the islands sought to protect themselves against the necessity of using large quantities of stamps of small values on their shipments by buying up the entire issue of the 36 c. on 45 c. These stamps have been used for several months on these shipments of vanilla, and the remainders left over are still in the hands of the original purchasers.

The New Canadians.

According to the *Montreal Herald* the contract for the Government engraving, for which tenders were called two months ago, has been awarded to the American Bank Note Company, of New York, for a period of five and a quarter years.

The contract is worth $600,000, and may be renewed for a similar period. The work consists of engraving Dominion bank notes, revenue and postage stamps, postal cards, etc. At present the British American Bank Note Company, better known as Burland and Company, formerly of Montreal, have the contract. They tendered this time, but the New York Company was the lowest. The New York Company is one of the largest and best-known in the world. The firm engraves notes for some of the banks in Canada, including the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Under the terms of the new contract, the Company will require to establish a place in Ottawa to do the work, where the Government can have supervision of it. As compared with the prices paid under the Burland contract, the Government will effect a saving of $120,000 by the new contract.

Greek Olympians.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., which was the first to expose the speculative character of the Olympian stamps, is the first to set aside its own and the S. S. S. S. condemnation of the issue. In fairness we give their explanation of their change of front. They say:—

When the issue of the Greek Olympian stamps was originally predicted we, as we stated at the time, were offered the monopoly of one value, if we were prepared to invest a certain sum of money in its acquisition. Later on, when the stamps really appeared, the quantities printed of certain values were so small in proportion to some of the other values, that speculative intention was evident, and, as a matter of fact, the 60 lepta stamp was unobtainable on the very day or about the very day on which the stamps were placed on sale. Had there been no change of policy in regard to the issue and use of these stamps, we would certainly have maintained our original position of excluding them from all consideration in our Albums and Catalogues. However, about the middle of the year 1896, the Government evidently determined upon a change in this direction. The 60 lepta stamp was printed again, and since then all values have been obtainable in any quantity by anybody who applied for them at the Post-office. Besides that, the currency of the stamps was extended from a period of a few months to an indefinite time, and under these circumstances we felt compelled to give the stamps the recognition which we had refused in the first instance. At present there is no limit upon the time in which these stamps are to remain good for postage, and under such circumstances it would seem absurd to us to refuse to recognize them as a legitimate postal issue. Besides that, if some of our critics will stop and think for a moment, they will remember that the principles of the S. S. S. S. consist in proscribing all stamps which are issued in limited quantities, and the use of which is limited to a short period of time.

As the Greek Olympian stamps have now departed from this category, we fail to see any reason for our maintaining a boycott upon them.

When the S. S. S. S. awakes from its Rip Van Winkle sleep perhaps we shall hear what it has to say on the matter.

One consolation remains. The failure of a rush for the Olympian issue, as a consequence of the ban of the S. S. S. S., proves conclusively the power that leading collectors and dealers possess if they like to use it. Upon the consolidation of that power for future emergencies and its wise use will depend much of the permanence of stamp collecting in the future, both as a hobby and as a trade. Dealers who play fast and loose with bogus issues jeopardise the very existence of their trade.

Printing of Belgian Stamps.

M. Jules Bouvèz, in an interesting series of articles which he is contributing to the *American Journal of Philately* on "The First Belgian Postage Stamps with the Portrait of King Leopold II.," gives us an interesting insight into the arrangements which were made for printing the stamps. He writes :—

In the regulations concerning the manufacture of stamps, dated December 6th, 1887, the following information will be found :—

1. Sheets intended for the printing of postage stamps will have in the upper right-hand corner the printed note "Timbres-Poste," followed by an indication of the series and the number of the sheet.

2. The series will be indicated in alphabetical order, and a series begun on January 1st of each year.

3. Immediately after each printing the overseer of the workshop will stamp in the bottom left corner of each sheet the mark with the inscription.

ATELIER
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TIMBRE

4. From every new plate trial sheets shall be printed, enabling the superintendent to see whether the plate has been properly prepared, and particularly whether its level is satisfactory, and whether there is any defect in the engraving.

5. A trial essay shall be printed before the cuts are levelled by the pressman, another one after this operation, and a fresh one after the printing of each 1000 sheets. These proofs are to be submitted to the superintendent for his judgment, and he will decide whether they can be accepted or rejected. Proofs shall also be printed when the press rollers are renewed or washed.

6. For the printing of the essays ink shall be used of a different tint from that used for the real stamps of the same plate.

7. The proof sheets shall be cancelled and invoiced to be destroyed in the presence of the members of the Stamp Factory Commission.

The essays of the first issue were printed in four colours: green-yellow, green, blue and bistre; green was the colour adopted.

The stamps printed in the other colours were simply gummed and each copy was marked with a rectangular stamp. The sheets were afterwards invoiced to the Commission which was to destroy them.

Of these sheets a certain number escaped destruction and passed into the hands of collectors; and to-day some are still to be found in Brussels in the hands of dealers at the following prices :—

10 c.,	blue, issue 1869, imperf.	1 fr. 50c.
10 c.,	bistre ,, ,,	1 fr.
10 c.,	yellow-green, issue 1869, imperf.	1 fr. 25c.
10 c.,	green ,, ,,	1 fr.

French Colonies.

For those of our readers taking interest in French Colonial stamps, we take the following abbreviations of obliterations from the *Philateliste Française* (Paris) :—

Cochin China . . .	CCH
Guadeloupe . . .	GPE
New Caledonia . .	NCE
Martinique . . .	MQE
French Indies . .	JNDE
,, Guiana . .	GNE
Gaboon	GAB
St. Pierre and Miquelon .	SPM
Senegal	SNG
Oceania (French) . .	OCE
Reunion	R or REN
Nossi-Bé . . .	NSB
Mayotte . . .	MYE
La Gorée . . .	GOR
L'Assinie . . .	ASi

All these obliterations are found in black, red, or blue, on the first issue of the French Colonial stamps, those with eagle of 1859, imperf. Some of them, especially those of Nossi-Bé, Mayotte, change hands at 30–50 francs the piece.

Remainders of Saxony.

From *Die Post* (Leipzig) we take the following interesting notice regarding the sale of the remainders of Saxon stamps, which no doubt will be of use to our readers. It is headed :—

List of Stamps of the Saxon Postal Administration now on sale.

1851 Issue.

3 pf. will be sold at 4d. each.

1857 Issue.

½	ngr.	will be sold at	2d. each.
1	,,	,, ,,	4d. ,,
2	,,	,, ,,	7½d. ,,
3	,,	,, ,,	11d. ,,
5	,,	,, ,,	1s. 6d. ,,
10	,,	,, ,,	15s. ,,

No more than 5 copies will be sold of each value to any purchaser.

This price list was issued about 1890. This year's price list shows, however, a very great improvement. The 3d. 1851 has risen to 15s. each, only one stamp of this value to be sold at a time. The prices for the 1856 issue are 6d., 1s., 2s., 3s., and 10s. each, and the 10 ngr. is not quoted, no doubt the stock being exhausted.

Philatelic Gossip.

Remarkable Philatelic Joke.

Is the Philatelists' Supplement to the *Bazaar* intended as a serious philatelic publication, or as a kindly comic paper to enliven the tedium of scientific study? The following list of errors on the adhesive stamps of the Transvaal given in the last issue certainly is of the most comic character. It is truly a wonderful list. The series of *red* surcharges must be read to be appreciated. Here they are in all their pristine beauty, as discovered by "R. P. J." (*i.e.*, Remarkable Philatelic Joker).

TRANSVAAL.

1878-71 (imperforate), surcharged V. R. Transvaal in red, *inverted*.

1 penny, red on blue. 3 pence, lilac on buff.
6 pence, blue on green. 6 ,, blue on blue.

Surcharged V. R. Transvral (vaal) in red.

1 penny, blue (imperforate).
1 ,, ,, (rouletted).

Surcharged V.R. ransvaal (Tran).

Red surcharge.

Imperforate.	Rouletted.
1 penny, yellow.	1 penny, yellow.
,, orange.	,, orange.

Violet surcharge.

Imperforate.	Rouletted.
3 pence, green.	3 pence, green.
,, blue.	,, blue.

1879.—Head of Victoria, surcharged *V. R.* Transvaal.

No surcharge, imperforate.
3 pence, blue on green.
V.R. Transvaal (small "T").

Red surcharge.

Imperforate.	Fine roulette.
1 penny, yellow.	1 penny, yellow.
,, orange.	,, orange.

Violet surcharge.

Imperforate.	Fine roulette.
3 pence, green.	3 pence, green.
,, blue.	,, blue.

We have had a sort of hankering for some years for the "Transvaal" error, *inverted*, but our ambition never rose to the possession of the same error in *red*. Never! And it seems there are violet surcharges galore—quite a new issue! And the "Head of Victoria" was also surcharged "V. R. Transvaal"! Why, we leave to be explained in the next series of "Remarkable Philatelic Jokes." And there were evidently *red* surcharges of the small "V. R." series to complete the list! Marvellous!

Not one of these so-called "errors" exists as a genuine stamp.

Stamp Cleaner Arrested.

Thomas Webb, printer and stamp dealer, carrying on business in the Eastern Arcade, Melbourne, has been arrested on a charge of extensive frauds by the removal of cancellation marks from stamps. Accused, confessing, says:

I am a printer and stamp dealer, carrying on business at 18, Eastern Arcade, off Bourke Street, Melbourne. I remember seeing in a book I was reading how inkmarks could be erased from stamps. I tried to see how it would act, and I found in certain cases it was impossible with the naked eye to notice any difference between the cancelled stamps so treated and the unused stamps. Finding it so successful the idea came to my mind that I would treat cancelled stamps as above stated, and sell them over the counter as "unused" to collectors.

About July, 1896, I sold to a stamp collector named Mouldon, who is a blind man, about £20 worth of Victorian unused and used stamps. The latter went through the solution. I got their face-value, less 10 per cent. Some time after selling Mouldon the stamps he called on me and stated that he had been informed that some of the stamps had been cancelled and afterwards cleaned. I did not wish to get into any trouble, and therefore paid Mouldon for the stamps.

I also remember that, about the month of July last year, I sold to the distributor of stamps at the G. P. Office, Melbourne, about £3 16s. worth of "used" stamps treated by me in the solution, and sold by me at face-value, less 5 per cent. I also remember in October, 1896, forwarding to the Comptroller of Stamps, G. P. Office, Melbourne, two stamps; namely, £10 and £2, for exchange with other stamps. The £10 stamp was cancelled, and I cleaned it by putting it in the solution. I also remember Detective White, of the Post-office, calling on me regarding Mouldon's stamps. He told me that stamps had been sold to the Post-office that had been cleaned. I remember Detective Macmanamny calling on me on four different occasions, and on three he purchased stamps. Some of the stamps I sold him as "unused" were cleaned by me.

I would like to state that I have tried stamps of other colonies by placing them in solution, and I found that the colour of the stamp would run, and thereby spoil the design of the stamp; but on the other hand, I had no difficulty with the Victorian stamps.

I admit that the 28 stamps found on me at the time of my arrest by Macmanamny have all been cleaned. I intended them for post-marking. I will add that I have cleaned about 400 stamps altogether. Some of them I have destroyed, others I have sold, and I have also sent a number to different parts of the world.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

* Unused. † On original.

Buhl & Co.,

12th and 13th January, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
British Columbia, 10 c., blue, imperf., pair ..	4	4	0
Gold Coast, 1d., blue, CA*	5	15	0
New Zealand, 1d., red on blue*	3	15	0
U.S. *Periodicals.* "Specimen" set	5	0	0

26th and 27th January, 1897.

St. Lucia (4d.), blue, star*	2	15	0
Ditto, 1s., black & orange*	3	10	0
Tolima, first issue, 5 c., buff, pair†	4	0	0

Cheveley & Co.,

27th January, 1897.

Bahamas, 4d., rose, CA, perf. 14*	4	0	0
Heligoland, 5 m., sheet of 25*	12	10	0
United States, 1861, 3 c., pink*	4	0	0

Wm. Hadlow,

11th January, 1897.

St. Vincent, 1s., vermilion, perf. 12*	5	7	6
Switzerland, *Post Locale*, 2½ r., framed cross* .	2	5	0

25th January, 1897.

Ceylon, 2s., blue, imperf.	4	3	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue	4	0	0
Western Australia. 4d., carmine, CC, perf. 14	1	1	0

Puttick & Simpson,

19th and 20th January, 1897.

Afghanistan, 1871–2, 6 shahi, purple* ..	6	5	0
Ditto, ditto, rupee, purple*	6	15	0
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., magenta, 29×37 mm.	20	0	0
Ditto, 1860, 1 c., pink, pair	7	0	0
Buenos Ayres, 3 pesos, green*	5	12	6
Ditto, 5 pesos, orange ..	11	10	0
Newfoundland, 6d., orange*	5	5	0
Ditto, 1s., orange ..	12	15	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet ..	15	0	0
United States, *Justice*, 90 c.*	9	0	0
Ditto, *State*, 20 dol.* ..	7	15	0

2nd February, 1897.

Barbados, 5s., rose, pair*	14	14	0
British Guiana, 1862, 4 c., blue, hearts and pearls, full roulettes* ..	13	0	0
Canada, 6d., purple-black, perf.*	16	0	0
Ditto, 7½d., green ..	11	10	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown ..	14	0	0
India, ½ a., red, pair* ..	11	0	0

Ventom, Bull & Cooper,

13th and 14th January, 1897.

Dominica, 1s., lilac-rose, CA*	3	5	0
Gambia, 6d., blue, CC, imperf., strip of 5 ..	5	10	0
Naples, ½d., blue, cross† .	4	4	0
Nevis, 1s., blue-green* ..	3	15	0
Ditto, 1s., lilac, block of 4*	7	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-red*	10	10	0
St. Vincent. 4d., ultramarine, CA, perf. 14*	3	15	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., crimson, border, complete sheet of 20*	15	0	0

28th and 29th January, 1897.

Barbados, ½d. on half 5s., rose; pair showing two types; sur. right to left	16	0	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf., cut close	7	15	0
Ditto, 9d., violet-brown	4	6	0
Ditto, 2 r. 50 c., red-brown, perf. 14×12½; vert. pair*	8	0	0
France, Presidency, 10 c., buff, strip of 3* ..	4	17	6
Ditto ditto, pair ..	3	7	6
Great Britain, V.R., pair; side margin; Maltese cross cancellations; one in red, one in blk.	20	0	0
Mauritius, large fillet, 2d., blue	8	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s., violet	20	0	0
Newfoundland, 2d., carmine-red*	38	0	0
Ditto, 4d., carmine-red*	13	10	0
Ditto, 6d., orange* ..	12	10	0
Ditto, 6½d., carmine-red*	11	0	0
Ditto, 1s., carmine-red .	10	0	0
Ditto, 1s., orange ..	17	0	0
Oil Rivers, ½d., red on half 1d., pair* ..	1	6	0
Ditto, ½d., blue, block, on 2½d.*	1	1	0
Ditto, ½d., red, sans serif, on 2½d.*	1	6	0
Ditto, ½d., carmine, block, on 2½d.*	0	19	0
Ditto, 1s., violet, on 2d.*	1	4	0
Ditto, ditto, pair, one inverted*	9	5	0
Ditto, 10s., red, on 5d.*	8	0	0
Portugal, first issue, 50 r., green*	6	0	0
Reunion, 30 c., black on bluish, uncancelled† .	50	0	0
Ditto, penmarked† ..	50	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d., ultramarine, star, perf. 12*	4	4	0
Ditto, 1s., brown* ..	3	17	6
Spain, 1852, 2 r., red ..	7	7	0
Tasmania, 1d., blue, vert. strip of 3*	20	0	0
Ditto ditto, single* ..	5	15	0

Notices.

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

APRIL, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

WE heartily endorse Mr. Castle's editorial, in the February number of the *London Philatelist*, concerning unnecessary issues, but at the same time it is a thousand pities that we cannot all—collectors and dealers—see eye to eye in the matter; the sooner we manage to do so the better. Surely there should be some means of finding out how far we can all travel on the same road, and then agree to some limitation of condemnation. Condemnation there must be. The only question is, How far can we all agree in that direction? It is better to have half a loaf than none; better to all pull together than to be split up, as we are now, into separate camps of malcontents. Let us have a friendly conference of collectors and dealers, and thrash it out with a generous give-and-take on all sides. Nothing can be gained by shirking the difficulty; let us face it, and have done with it.

Postal Contrabands.

Mr. Castle says:—

> Postal contrabands should be decried by all who are desirous of the *permanency* of Philately, and nothing can better serve that end than the endeavour to point out to all and sundry the true value and merits of their purchases. It is better that the minority already referred to, who collect these Seebecks, should understand that, in expending money or time upon stamps produced by the million for ultra-Postal purposes, they are laying by no harvest for the future, and it is therefore in their real interests that Philatelic journals should fearlessly express their opinions. Confidence is the root and essence of Philately: there is nothing that so undermines stability of any pursuit as withholding true knowledge of its danger, and it is better for all that the drawbacks as well as the advantages of Philately should be openly criticised in those journals who have its real interests at heart.

Agreed. But let us talk the matter over, and so generate that confidence which is the "root and essence of Philately." Every day that we do nothing, the differences that divide us will be accentuated. Unthinkingly some of us who are wedded to a study of the earlier issues have probably been a little rough in our references to the newer issues. This has naturally been resented by those whose interests are bound up in the collection or sale of new issues. But if we come together and discuss the matter at a friendly conference, we shall surely find that the interests that bind us together are greater than those that seemingly divide us for the moment.

* * *

United States Rural Postal Deliveries.

In this country it is the custom of the authorities to regard the Post-office as an institution designed by Providence for the raising of revenue and the maintenance of peculiar permanent officials. In the United States the benefits of the Post-office seem to be divided between the public and political servitors. Neither arrangement is quite what it should be. But the balance of advantage to the public certainly is greater in the States than with us. Once elected, the officials in the States do appear to serve the public interest; whilst our postal officials are exclusively devoted to red tape and the creation of barriers to the development of a department which was intended to be a benefit to the community.

One of the postal problems in the States is that of rural deliveries. We should dispose of such a problem in the usual red-tape fashion of demonstrating that it would mean a loss of revenue, and, therefore, could not be thought of under any circumstances. In the States they are going to face the difficulty. The last Post-office Appropriation Bill set aside about £40,000 to be expended in rural free delivery experiments. The system involves the selection of some leading towns in the county selected, which is made the distributing point for the county delivery. A carrier is appointed, who is paid from £50 to £100 per annum. The carrier makes one delivery on his route every day. The route includes every farm or hamlet in the county, as it is the ambition and the purpose of the rural delivery system to furnish to the farmer a system almost as complete as that furnished in the cities. Out of the salary paid to him by the department the carrier is expected to furnish his own horse or bicycle, as it is plainly impossible for any man to cover on foot the vast territory involved in his district. The system will be started in Carroll County in a short time.

* * *

Indian Duty on Postage Stamps.

We regret to learn that our friends in India have failed to convince the Government of India of the unfairness of the duty levied on parcels of stamps sent on approval to collectors and dealers in India. The following from the *Madras Times* gives the whole story :—

> The Philatelic Society of Bengal asked the Board of Revenue to exempt foreign stamps from duty, addressing as reasons for such exemption: (1) That the value of postage stamps is purely conventional, depending entirely upon the opinion or fancy of the dealer and purchaser. One dealer might ask £5 for a particular stamp, while another would be content with £3, and no valuation could possibly be made by any Customs authority in India. (2) That the duty is troublesome to collect; yields little or no revenue. (3) That it is a recognised custom among dealers to send parcels of stamps to their constituents on approval, to make their selections and return the remainder; and even if a refund of duty is allowed on all stamps returned, this refund can only be granted on the identity of each stamp being established to the satisfaction of the Customs authorities; and that most, if not all, collectors would prefer to refuse the parcel altogether than undertake any such trouble. (4) That the duty can easily be evaded entirely, as books and sheets of stamps can be and are sent under ordinary registered cover, which are delivered without question to their addressees. (5) That this method of transmission will naturally, and as a matter of course, be adopted by all dealers and collectors, so that the duty will become a dead-letter, and a premium is laid upon easy dishonesty. (6) Under the Indian Tariff Act antique coins and medals are exempted, and postage stamps could with perfect consistency be classified under the same heading and be admitted free.
>
> The application was viewed favourably both by the Board of Revenue and by the Government of Bengal, who were of opinion that there was much truth in what was urged by the Society. Nevertheless, the Government of India state that it "has considered the proposal, and sees no sufficient reason for granting the exemption applied for." Collectors will still have to pay duty, therefore, and scrupulously honest persons will have to beware of receiving stamps in a letter through the post! To the uninitiated, who fail to see what are perhaps the Government of India's special reasons against the exemption, the ruling is likely to seem absurd.

Very absurd, we should say. Dealers at home should now take up the question, and lay the matter before the Secretary for India. Such an iniquitous imposition wants resolute and continuous exposure at home as well as in India. It is not fair that we should let our friends in India work alone in the matter.

The Stamps of Greece.

By W. DORNING BECKTON,

President of the Manchester Philatelic Society

(In collaboration with G. B. Duerst.)

A FULL history of the post in Greece has yet to be written, and, so far as I am aware, a treatise of an exhaustive kind, dealing with the stamps themselves, has also yet to be compiled.

Articles have from time to time appeared dealing with this country's stamps, or particular issues of them, from the pen of Dr. Socolis, Herrn Glasswaldt, Lieut. Napier, R.N., and Mr. Deakin, but it is still common ground with all philatelists that the Specialists' paper on Greece has yet to see the light of day.

I do not aspire to write the final word that can be said about the complicated printings of the stamps under consideration, but my aim is rather to put forward an attempt at classifying the various printings for the criticism of Greek Specialists, whereupon someone may be prevailed upon hereafter to treat these stamps in a manner which, from their artistic merits and high philatelic interest, they deserve.

The first decree dealing with the postal service, which it is necessary to quote from, was passed on May 24th, 1860. Perhaps it will be best for me to give you a translation of the decree; it is as follows:—

Law passed May 24th, 1860.

Article I. All inland letters weighing up to 15 grammes will be charged 20 lepta; if up to 30 grammes, 40 lepta; if up to 60 grammes, 60 lepta; and if up to 100 grammes, 80 lepta.

Any letter weighing above 100 grammes will be charged 80 lepta for every 100 grammes or fraction of it.

Letters posted for delivery in the same town, viz., local letters, are to be charged half of the above charges.

Registered letters to be charged double.

Article II. Patterns when posted in unsealed wrappers are charged half rate of the letters.

Article III. Newspapers and periodicals in loose wrappers, covering not more than the third, are charged 1 lepton, if weighing 30 grammes or less; 2 lepta, if weighing up to 50 grammes, and so on; viz., 1 lepton for every 20 grammes. But if weighing above 100 grammes they are charged 10 lepta for every 100 or part thereof. Nevertheless, the maximum weight of each parcel must not exceed 1000 grammes.

Article IV. Circulars, price lists, music, etc., when posted in loose wrappers and weighing not more than 10 grammes, are charged 4 lepta; if not exceeding 15 grammes, 6 lepta, and so on; viz., 2 lepta for every 5 grammes or fraction thereof. But if the packet weighs above 50 grammes, then the charge is 20 lepta for every 50 grammes or part thereof.

Article V. Books are charged at the rate of 10 lepta for every 100 grammes or part thereof.

Article VI. The weight for newspapers, etc., mentioned in the Articles II–V, is including wrappers, seals, etc.

Article VII. Letters, or any kind of written correspondence, is not allowed to be enclosed in packets of patterns or of newspapers; and if found will be treated according to the 3rd and 4th paragraphs of the Article IX.

Article VIII. All official documents are posted free of charge, and Royal decrees will decide their form of address.

Article IX. The charges of postage are payable in advance by adhering the required stamps on the letters, packets of patterns, etc.

Letters, patterns, and printed circulars, not bearing the postage stamps required or insufficiently prepaid, shall not be forwarded to their destination but returned to the sender if known; and if not known such letters are to be exposed at the local post-office for three months, and during that period the addresses of the letters are to be published three times in the principal newspapers.

If at the expiration of the three months such letters are not claimed, they are sent to the General Post Office and kept there for another three months, and destroyed afterwards if still remaining unclaimed.

Article X. Foreign letters are charged 20 lepta if their weight does not exceed 15 grammes.

Newspapers, periodicals, books, printed circulars, patterns, etc., are charged as per Articles II, III, IV, and V.

Letters, patterns, etc., sent from Greece to their branch offices in Turkey, or the Principalities and *vice versâ*, are treated as above.

Article XI. All letters, patterns, etc., sent out of the kingdom, are to be prepaid according to the International Postal Treaties.

Letters, etc., insufficiently prepaid or not stamped at all will be treated as per Article IX.

If the postal treaty leaves the option of prepayment to the sender, and such a letter or packet is not sufficiently prepaid, it will be treated as not paid at all and be charged on delivery with the full rate of postage.

Article XII. Inland or foreign letters if not prepaid are charged on delivery.

Article XIII. Royal decrees will decide the form, printing, and sale of stamps, and the mode also of cancelling same.

Vendors of stamps to receive a commission not exceeding 5 per cent., and a salary of 50 drachmas per month.

Article XIV. No person employed at the post-office will be allowed to enclose in postal documents private letters; a fine of 20 drachmas will be imposed for the first offence; 50 drachmas for the second offence; and if a third time he commits himself, he will be at once dismissed.

Article XV. Any person employed at the post-office who shall send letters, packets, etc., contrary to the regulations, shall suffer a penalty of 50 to 200 drachmas, according to the gravity of the offence.

Article XVI. Coins or bank notes, or any precious articles, are not allowed to be posted in ordinary letters but in registered letters, otherwise they cannot be claimed if lost.

A registered letter if lost can claim only 25 drachmas, and that if the loss is caused by negligence of a post-office employee.

Article XVII. No postman is allowed to carry letters, etc., except those entrusted to him by the post-office for distribution, otherwise he will incur the punishment according to the 14th Article of this law.

Article XVIII. Whoever shall make use of a stamp already used, or shall offer such for sale, will incur a fine of from 50 to 500 drachmas, and if the offender is one of the post-office employees he shall be dismissed.

Article XIX. Whoever shall print spurious and false stamps, or offer such, shall be punished according to the 51st Article of the law of the 14th August, 1836.

Article XX. All other regulations contrary to these and also the law of the 17th May, 1855, are cancelled.

This decree contemplated the issue of postage stamps, and the following two decrees are interesting as conveying the official description of the stamps and their colours.

ROYAL DECREE, JUNE 8TH, 1860.

Shape, etc., of the postage stamps.

The postage stamp is of an oblong or rectangular shape, having a width of 18, and length of 22 millimetres, and having in the centre and within a circle Hermes; the circle is 16 millimetres in diameter; above the circle are the words "Greek postage," and below, its value in numbers. The stamps are of seven different values, distinguished by their colours, viz. :—

1	lepton,	black.
2	,,	pale.
5	,,	green.
10	,,	blue.
20	,,	purple.
40	,,	red.
80	,,	orange.

ROYAL DECREE, AUGUST 24TH, 1860.

The colours of the postage stamps have been modified as under, viz. :—

1	lepton,	chestnut.
2	,,	pale.
5	,,	green.
10	,,	orange.
20	,,	blue.
40	,,	purple.
80	,,	red.

I am sorely tempted at this stage to digress from my subject into an article upon the difficulties all philatelists are under in correctly describing colours, or more especially in the absence of uniformity in such descriptions, through the want of a recognised basis to work from. This is a subject, however, that has been worn threadbare in the philatelic press without any corresponding advantage accruing. I prefer, therefore, to leave it severely alone with this one remark, that although I heartily wish some standard could be set up and universally adopted, I do not at all agree that the writers on this subject have been happy in selecting (as they almost invariably have done) the stamps of Greece as affording examples of the different colours attributed by well-known dealers in their catalogues to the same stamp. For instance, I find Lieut. Napier in his article quotes with apparent approval from an article in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of December, 1866, which states, *inter alia*, that "rose, pink, and carmine are in like manner occasionally mistaken for each other. Thus the 80 lepta Greek is *carmine* in the eyes of Messrs. Moens and Mahé; *rose* in the opinion of Mount-Brown and Maury; and *crimson* according to Dr. Gray."

Now I do not wish to be understood to say that the three colours named are not confounded by collectors, but to point out that the illustration given is an extremely bad one, because the "80 lepta Greek" exists in each of the three colours, and the authorities quoted may each, to my mind, be quite correct. It is owing to this great divergence in colour tones that the Greek stamps are so perplexing and at the same time so interesting to the serious collector who attempts to classify them in their various printings.

There is one more decree which bears date before the stamps were issued I must give, and it reads :—

ROYAL DECREE, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1861.

Article I. The scale of charges for all letters, patterns, periodicals, and all printed matters are regulated accordingly to the Articles I–VI.

Article II. No letters or any written communication is allowed to be enclosed in packets of patterns, newspapers, or books; if so enclosed they will not be forwarded but treated as per § 3 and 4 of the 9th Article of the law.

Article III. Public documents are posted free, also Government letters.

Article IV. All foreign and inland letters are subject to the regulation provided by Article 10 of the law.

Books, periodicals, patterns, etc., are treated according to Articles II, III, IV, and V.

Article V. The postal charges are to be prepaid by affixing the required stamps, the form, design, etc., of which have been regulated by our decrees of the 8th June and 24th August of the present year.

Article VI. The postage stamps for letters despatched must be affixed by the sender, but for those received unpaid the postal officials must weigh and affix the stamps.

Article VII. The postage stamps must be placed on the right corner of the envelope and on the face, and not at the back of the envelope unless there be no sufficient room on the face.

Article VIII. Prepaid letters can be posted at the post-office, or at any of the pillars or other boxes fixed for the purpose by the postal authorities.

All such boxes will be cleared at fixed days and at the hours indicated on the face of each of them.

Article IX. Exception to the above rule:

(*a*) Registered letters must be handed in at the post-office counter for registration; and (*b*) Pattern packets, books, periodicals, etc., must be posted at the post-office and not in pillar boxes.

Article X. Letters, etc., insufficiently or not prepaid at all, are treated as per § 3, 4, of the 9th Article of the law, 24/5/60, except for the first year of issue of a new stamp, when letters, etc., insufficiently prepaid, will be forwarded to their destination and charged to the receiver for the deficiency if that is less than the half of the required charge; but if the prepayment does not cover even half of the full charges then the deficiency is charged double, and postage stamps are affixed accordingly.

Article XI. Letters, etc., received from abroad unpaid, if for local delivery, are at once weighed and stamps affixed, if not for local delivery they are forwarded to their destination.

Article XII. In case any letter, book, etc., although prepaid, has not been delivered owing to the receiver not being found, having gone abroad or some such other reason, the Post-office Authorities are obliged to act as follows:—

(*a*) If the receiver's new address is known such a letter is forwarded to the post-office of the respective town, charging the same with the postage to be collected on delivery; but if the person to whom the letter was addressed had left that town also, the letter is not forwarded but returned to the post-office accompanied by the new address.

(*b*) If the person to whom a letter is addressed had left for abroad, then such a letter is returned to the General Post Office, who take the charge to return it according to the existing International Postal Treaties; except when the person before leaving notifies to the post-office his new address.

(*c*) Letters, etc., addressed to anyone but to be kept at the post-office till called for, or addressed to a sailor of an expected vessel, and also those for which there is a probability of being delivered, are kept at the local post-office for three months, and if not delivered in that time are returned to the General Post Office.

All letters received illegibly or insufficiently addressed, or of an unknown address, are returned.

Article XIII. Letters returned to the General Post Office must be accompanied with three copies of the reasons and other particulars; the first to be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, the second to be kept at the General Post Office, and the third to the appointed clerk for entrance.

Article XIV. The Minister of Finance on receipt sends stamps to replace those cancelled on the letter returned, to be handed over to the post-office whence the letter came from.

Article XV. A note of all letters returned is taken in a special Book of Record, in order to account for the cancelled stamps to the Minister of Finance.

Article XVI. Any letter, newspaper, etc., found bearing a fictitious stamp, or one that has been used before, is not delivered, but passed to the General Post Office Authorities for prosecution.

Article XVII. Those who by the 12th Article of our decree, dated the 10th August, 1861, have been appointed or allowed to sell stamps (retail), should take care to keep in stock the quantities fixed by the General Post Office Authorities. Such appointments take place once a year.

Article XVIII. Anyone neglecting the above rule renders himself personally liable for the consequences, and if he belongs to the Post-office Staff is punished accordingly; but if he is a chemist or other outsider and omits thrice to keep the required amount of stamps, he loses the privilege of selling.

Article XIX. The Authorities of the General Post Office, being obliged to see that the above rules are carried out, shall issue detailed instructions to all the post-offices of the kingdom.

Article XX. The law relative to postage stamp will be set in force from the 1st October, 1861, and all previous decrees and regulations not in accordance with these are considered cancelled.

I do not propose to make any observations on these decrees, which speak for themselves, other than pointing out that this is, so far as I know, the first time they have appeared. They were obtained for me by my friend Mr. Mertzanoff (to whom I am much indebted for the considerable trouble he has taken to assist me), and I placed them in the hands of an interpreter to translate, who informed me he had some difficulty in his task by reason of their not being written entirely in modern Greek.

(*To be continued.*)

Our Portrait Gallery.



MR. H. R. OLDFIELD.

Editorial Interviews.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

Mr. H. R. OLDFIELD.

MR. H. R. OLDFIELD is a well-known and enthusiastic collector, a Member of the Council of the Philatelic Society of London, Hon. Sec. of the Society's Standing Committee on Speculative Issues, and a Member of the Executive of the London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897. Of course, he collected as a boy, and, of course, he swopped that collection away, to his great regret. He commenced afresh, and in real, grim earnest, in 1890; and, as will be seen from his photograph, he is not yet in "the sere and yellow leaf." Papers which he has read before the London Society have been greatly appreciated, notably one on the "Cantonal Stamps of Switzerland" which is published in the February number of the *Monthly Journal*. On another page we have given some extracts from this excellent paper, which will probably be most helpful to those who are studying the interesting issues of the Swiss Cantons.

We found Mr. Oldfield, by appointment, at his office in the city of London —for he is a member of a well-known firm of City solicitors—surrounded by musty, fusty bundles of papers, some of which apparently aged back to the time of the Pharaohs. We set to work to cross-examine our witness as to his connection with the modern fad of stamp-collecting. It seemed a little out of place to be putting a hard-headed lawyer through his facings on such trivialities; but (tell it not in Gath!) lawyers, doctors, priests, and proctors are the most prone of all sane individualities to our peculiar affliction. They are all naturally keen at a bargain, but, in all probability, the priest would buy and sell the lot at a very decent profit.

"You say you commenced in 1890, Mr. Oldfield?" "Yes; I happened to be up in Scotland, and a friend was showing me his stamps, and that revived my interest."

"What did you go in for?" "General collecting."

"And how long did that last?" "It still lasts."

"Indeed! Any limitations?" "Only time and means."

"And your method of running a general collection?" "To begin with, I bought a few general collections, and every now and then one sees stamps at auctions and at dealers', and buys them; and then, looking through the stamps, one finds some country that bulks up well, or some particular country strikes my fancy, and then I specialise in that country. I have been specialising in the stamps of Switzerland, but I found that those stamps swallowed up so much of one's time and means that there was little left for specialising other countries; so I sold my special collection of Cantonals, and am now specialising in the Federal Issues."

"Are you one of those whose interest evaporates with the completion of a country?" "No; my interest does not disappear, but, my means and my time not being unlimited, I have to dispose of some if I want to take up others."

"Then it is the pleasure of actual collecting that has its interest for you, and not the mere possession of the stamps?" "Oh, yes, and the stamps too. I should not part with any of them if I could afford to keep them; it is the

limitation of the means that comes in. Take a country like Switzerland, for instance; it is going to cost you a couple of thousand pounds. Well, then, if you go and specialise in another country, and lock up, say, another thousand, unless your means are unlimited you must come to an end some time, or else you must dispose of some of the stamps you have accumulated."

"Then you don't believe in resting on your laurels?" "Oh, no! The charm of the thing is to go on, and take up country after country."

"Even at the sacrifice of an unmatched collection?" "Well, I, as a general collector, should probably pick out some of the plums, and put them into my general collection."

"Yours, then, is a method of specialising by instalments?" "To a certain extent."

"And how does it balance up financially?" "I never have balanced up. I only balanced up when I disposed of my Swiss, so far as that country is concerned."

"And the result?" "It proved a remunerative investment; it did not pay me less than 10 or 15 per cent. on my outlay."

"As a general collector, which do you consider the best groups?" "Personally, I am afraid I have been rather an erratic collector. I have gone in for certain countries in Europe that have taken my fancy. If a young collector asked that question, I should say take up inexpensive countries, and go in for used stamps."

"What countries would you call inexpensive?" "Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Great Britian; and for a more advanced collector I should add South America."

"Why the latter?" "Because the prices are moderate."

"Even of Colombia?" "Yes, even of Colombia. Although they have gone up slightly, they are still very much below their real market value. As for Europeans, I think they are at their full prices; so I consider are United States and North American Colonies."

"And what would be your order of preference in South Americans?" "That is purely a matter of fancy. I should say the most interesting are the stamps of Buenos Ayres. They are the one exception to the rule; they have gone up, and are likely to be the most valuable stamps of South America. They occupy the position in South America, for value, that the Swiss Cantonals do in Europe."

"What do you think of the other countries in South America?" "Bolivia is my favourite, and possesses the great advantage that it has not been Seebeckised, and is largely free from surcharges. It is also an inexpensive country to collect unless you go in for plating, which is quite unnecessary."

"And the others?" "Venezuela stands next, although it has the disadvantage of numerous and complicated surcharges. Chili is a good country, is free from surcharges, and is cheap. Brazil I have not gone in for much yet, but it is undoubtedly an exceedingly interesting country. Peru is awful; the surcharges are legion and incomprehensible."

"As a general collector you are, of course, compelled to take Seebecks?" "Yes; but I do not buy them unless they happen to be in a collection which I buy for other purposes. I take them if they come in my way, not otherwise."

"And what is your opinion of their influence on collecting?" "I think they have done a considerable amount of harm."

"You don't think they encourage youths to collect?" "No, I do not; for when a young collector shows his collection to an advanced collector he at once tells him what rubbish they are, and then a lad gets disgusted."

"Just now I believe you are taking a great deal of interest in the legal aspect of Exchange Clubs?" "I am. Members of Exchange Societies do not sufficiently recognise their peculiar position as the result of a recent decision. According to that decision there is no means of making a defaulting member

pay except by suing him in the name of the person from whose sheet the stamps have been removed. So that if a defaulting member owed, say, between £8 and £9 it might be that that amount might be owed to ten or eleven members, and the result to be obtained would not be worth the expense of suing by each of those members; and the society itself, under the existing law, and in the absence of special rules, is unable to sue a defaulting member."

"What do you suggest as a remedy?" "I suggest that each member on joining should sign a special set of rules, one of which must provide that, as a condition of his membership, he admits that payment for all stamps removed by him from the sheets of the Exchange is to be made to the treasurer of that packet, as if the same had been personally due to that treasurer, and that the member will not set up any defence or deny his liability to pay the treasurer for such stamps. Of course, the rules would have to be very carefully framed, but the object in view would be that the receipt of the treasurer would be a complete discharge of the debt, and that the members would not look to anybody for payment but the treasurer. Then, of course, the rules would have to provide that the treasurer would not be personally liable, and it would also be necessary to add some rules so that the society should be bound to enforce claims at the request of a member on his indemnifying it from loss."

"Then you think it is possible to frame a set of rules which shall effectually meet the difficulty?" "I do."

"Perhaps you will frame a model set of rules for publication in an early number of the *Philatelic Record*." "With pleasure. I have already roughed them out, but they will require careful consideration and some modification."

"Now, as Hon. Sec. of the Speculative Issues of the Philatelic Society of London, do you mind telling us what you are doing at present?" "Well, we are waiting for the S.S.S.S. They select the stamps to be condemned, and send them to us for our approval, and, in case of necessity, a joint meeting is held."

"There has been no Circular lately?" "No, there has not."

"But there has been plenty to condemn?" "Ahem. Of that I have no official knowledge."

"Ah, I see. I suppose, then, we must take it that the Speculative Issues Committee of the London Society is a sort of Philatelic House of Lords—no Bills, no work; no Circulars, no work, eh?" "I don't know that the S.S.S.S. would accept that version of their functions."

"Are you content with the present state of matters?" "I don't see any other course. I am a servant of the London Society, and have to wait for the S.S.S.S. to move. The whole subject is a very delicate one, and full of difficulties, as several of the leading dealers have fallen away from the S.S.S.S., by their actions at any rate, if not by their words. And, of course, if the decisions of the S.S.S.S. do not command their universal assent, it is better that they should not issue Circulars at all. At least, that is my personal opinion."

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

THE arrangements for the forthcoming great Philatelic Exhibition, to be held in London in July and August next, are proceeding apace. Already some of the exhibits are being sent in by foreign friends; amongst these we may mention the celebrated collection of St. Louis stamps belonging to Mr. Ayer, a well-known American collector.

The Medals.

The designs for the medals have occupied the attention of the Executive at the last two sittings, and a very choice design has been selected. We are not at liberty as yet to publish particulars, but hope to give an illustration of the design shortly. The gold medals will be of 15-carat quality. In size they will resemble the medals of the 1890 Exhibition.

Apportionment of the Dealers' Stalls.

The Dealers' Stalls have all been let. As arranged, a minimum figure was fixed, and tenders invited at or above that amount. The opening of the tenders received, with the duty of final allotment, was relegated to a small Committee of collectors, who had no sort of connection with any dealers. Thus all risk of complaints of favouritism was avoided. The applications, needless to say, were in excess of the spaces available. The total amount of the accepted tenders makes the respectable contribution of £425 5s. towards the expenses of the Exhibition; this amount is more than £100 over the minimum fixed by the Executive. The successful applicants are alphabetically as follows:—

1. Buhl & Co., London.
2. Wm. Brown, Salisbury.
3. Bright & Son, Bournemouth.
4. Callff & Co., Seaford.
5. H. L'Estrange Ewen, Norwood.
6. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London.
7. M. Giwelb, London.
8. Wm. Hadlow, London.
9. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.
10. Wm. Morley, London.
11. W. H. Peckitt, London.
12. G. Hamilton Smith & Co., London.
13. T. H. Thompson, London.
14. W. T. Wilson, Birmingham.

One or two notable dealers are missing from this list, but it practically includes all the leading dealers of the metropolis and most of those in the provinces. It is, however, a notable fact that no foreign dealers are placed; whether this is due to their not tendering, or to some other cause, we cannot say. It is certainly to be regretted.

Yet more Medals for Exhibitors.

To the Special Medals already published we have to add the following:—

1. Messrs. Buhl & Co., London: a Gold medal for the best collection of the stamps of Peru.

2. Messrs. Callff & Co., Seaford: a Silver medal for the best collection of Sydney Views.

3. Messrs. Butler Bros., Clevedon: one Silver and one Bronze medal for the best collections, not exceeding 2000 or 3000, arranged in any album of English manufacture; limited to collectors of 15 or 16 years of age.

Imperial Chinese Post.

Notification (Provisional) No. 20.

Mails.—On and after the 2nd February, 1897 (KUANG HSÜ, 23rd year, 1st moon, 1st day), Mails will be exchanged by every opportunity between the Post-offices now opened at the undermentioned places in China :—

Amoy.	Ichang.	Shanghai.
Canton.	Kiukiang.	Shasi.
Chefoo.	Kiungchow.	Soochow.
Chinhai (Ningpo).	Lungchow.	Swatow.
Chinkiang.	Mengtsz.	Szemao.
Chungking.	Nanking.	Taku (Tientsin).
Foochow.	Newchwang.	Tientsin.
Hangchow.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.
Hankow.	Pagoda Anchorage (Foochow).	Whampoa.
Hoihow (Kiungchow)	Pakhoi.	Woosung.
Hokow.	Peking.	Wuhu.

Also with *Hongkong*, *Macao*, and *Formosa*.

Supplementary Mails, duly advertised, will be made up at the different Post-offices to suit local requirements.

Rates of Postage.—The Domestic Rates of Postage are as follows :—

Letters : For each ¼ oz., or fraction thereof, 2 cents.

Newspapers : Posted singly, Chinese, ½ cent each ; Foreign, 1 cent each. When sent in packets, 1 cent per 2 oz. or fraction thereof.

Books, *Circulars*, *Samples :* 2 cents per 2 oz. ; Patterns or samples not to exceed 8 oz. in weight.

Parcels : 10 cents for first lb., and 5 cents for each succeeding lb.

Registration : 4 cents ; return receipt, 4 cents.

Prepayment is compulsory. During the winter, when navigation is closed by ice, Mail matter to and from Peking, Tientsin (Taku), and Newchwang is subject to the Special Tariff and Rules under which the Overland Service is conducted.

Postage Stamps.—The Postage Stamps of the Imperial Post are of the following denominations :—*

½ cent, 1 cent.
2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 30, 50 cents.
1, 2, 5 dollars.

Domestic Postcards, 1 cent.

Business Hours.—The Imperial Post-offices are open for the transaction of public business on week-days from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ; on Sundays and holidays, from 8 to 9 a.m.

Deliveries.—Delivery of Mail matter will take place as follows :—

8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon ; 2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m.

(or at other hours to suit local requirements). Correspondence for vessels in port will, as a rule, be sent to the agents, but, if desired, will be delivered on board at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., subject to alteration.

Private Boxes.—Private Boxes may be rented at any Post-office. The fee is $10 per annum, payable in advance. Boxholders will be provided gratis with an account book, and a special account may be opened for the transmission to Chinese ports of certain unstamped printed matter of uniform size and weight, such as Market Reports, Circulars, Invitations, Cards, Bills, etc., each not exceeding 2 oz. in weight, and in packets of not less than 10, the postage—at the rate of 1 cent each—being either payable in cash or charged to the sender's account, which must be settled monthly, and, as a rule, no information can be given as to particulars of matter or charge made in the account.

Inquiries.—Inquiries concerning postal business must be made at the Post-office (Custom House).

Complaints.—All complaints and representations which cannot be adjusted by the Postal Officer should be addressed to the Commissioner of Customs.

By Order of the Inspector-General of Customs,

H. KOPSCH, *Postal Secretary.*

* At present provisional surcharged Stamps of other values are in use. Issue of Postcards deferred.

INSPECTORATE-GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,
SHANGHAI, *17th January*, 1897.

Origin and Status of Russian Rural Stamps.

By WILLIAM HERRICK.

From the "American Journal of Philately."

WITHIN the past few months considerable interest has been taken in Russian Rural stamps, and quite a number of collectors, in this part of the country at least, have started collections of them.

The majority, however, of American philatelists, through lack of information chiefly, contemptuously pass them by, frightened, perhaps, by the name of "Locals" that is generally applied to them; placing them, in their ignorance, in the same class as Danish, Norwegian, or German Locals, and things unworthy of the attention of a conscientious collector.

Local stamps, as a rule, are issued by private individuals or companies to carry the mail in competition with the Post-office of the country where they are issued, with a purely mercenary motive. They generally are not looked upon with favour by the powers that be, who, as a rule, end by suppressing them, either directly or indirectly.

Such, I believe, is the general idea of the status of the local stamps; but sometimes that name is erroneously applied—for instance, in speaking about Confederate or Russian Locals, the correct appellation of which should be Confederate postmaster's provisional and Russian Rural stamps.

As a writer in *Le Timbre-Poste* put it a number of years ago, there are in Russia four kinds of local stamps:—

1. Stamps issued by the Government for use in certain cities: Warsaw, Moscow, St. Petersburg.
2. Stamps issued by the Government for certain provinces: Poland, Livonia, Levant.
3. Stamps issued with the sanction of the Government by private companies: Russian Company of Navigation, Commerce and Railroad, of Odessa.
4. Stamps issued with Government sanction by rural administrations.

This last class is the one that forms the subject of this article.

In order to fully understand the position occupied by these Rural stamps, a few words concerning the provincial administration of Russia are necessary.

Russia is divided into 91 governments or provinces, which are subdivided into districts, the total number of which is 762.

After having liberated the serfs in 1861, the Tzar Alexander II., by a decree issued on January 1st, 1864, invited the nation to take part in the administration of local affairs, such as roads, primary education, erection of public buildings, public health, rural taxation, etc.

To this end delegates of the different classes, noblemen, inhabitants of the cities, and peasants, are elected by ballot by the inhabitants of the district, and meet once a year, in September, to discuss local affairs, and legislate accordingly. This body is called ЗЕМСКОЕ СОБРАНІЕ (zyem-sko-yea so-bran-yea), which means "Rural Assembly." From their numbers are chosen the members of the ЗЕМСКОЕ УПРАВА (zyem-sko yeo co-prá vá)—"Rural Administration"—a permanent, salaried body, which carries out the instructions of the assembly, thus being a kind of executive. Members of both the assembly and the administration are elected for a term of three years.

The Governor of the Province, appointed by the Imperial Government, has the right to interfere and even dissolve the assembly, should it discuss questions outside of those to which it is restricted.

An assembly of all the rural administrations of a province forms a higher assembly to hear complaints against any district administration of the same province.

Not all the provinces of the empire are allowed the privilege of having rural assemblies. Poland, Lithuania, the south-western provinces, Siberia and the Caucasus are deprived of them, as well as some insufficiently-populated provinces, such as Astrakhan and Arkangielsk.

At the time of the organization of these rural assemblies the postal service of Russia was in a very rudimentary state, owing to lack of means of communication, or

to insufficient population, rendering the transportation of the mails very costly. The Imperial Post-office was only in operation in the more thickly settled districts, and along the lines of the railroads, which were not then very extended; consequently a large part of the empire was entirely deprived of postal facilities. It was then only natural that under such conditions one of the first subjects taken up by the rural administrations was the postal service. The first rural Post-office established was in Vetlonga, in the province of Kostroma, which began operations toward the beginning of 1865. It did not issue stamps, as far as can be learned; the first known stamp being that of Schlusselburg, in the province of St. Petersburg, issued in September, 1865.

During the following years other districts followed this example, until in 1869 quite a number of rural Post-offices were in operation, some of them issuing stamps. It is only then that this came to the knowledge of the Imperial Postal Authorities at St. Petersburg; and as in this case the rural assemblies had exceeded their rights, some of the offices were suppressed.

These attempts, however, bore their fruit; for the eyes of the Imperial administration were opened to the postal needs of the country, and the scheme of rural Post-offices having been favourably thought of, the following circular, dated September 3rd, 1870, was sent to the presidents of all the rural administrations:—

Ministerial Decree of September 3rd, 1870.

Considering the limited means allowed the Post-office Department, which are becoming insufficient to insure to all the inhabitants of the empire the delivery of their private correspondence, especially in localities which by their geographical position are almost totally deprived of postal communication, or are at a great distance from the organized offices of the Imperial post, in order to facilitate to the inhabitants of these localities the means of exchanging their correspondence in an easier and especially cheaper way, in accordance with the laws of the Senate, dated August 27th of this year, I authorize the establishing of a private local Post-office in localities where the necessity is felt, on the following conditions:—

1. The local post is authorized

(*a*) To transmit from the Post-office the ordinary mail, as well as newspapers and circulars, money orders, registered letters, and other mail matter, to all points more or less distant of the district.

(*b*) To transmit the various articles of mail matter of the district to the nearest Post-office.

(*c*) Also to transmit the local mail between the various localities of the districts deprived of postal service.

2. The local Post-office is responsible for the regularity of the mail received by it from the Imperial Post-office; and in case a registered letter be lost, this local office will agree, upon an order from the Postal Department of the Imperial administration, to reimburse the sender a sum not to exceed 10 rubles.

3. The transportation of the local mail is only authorized on the cross roads between the cities and villages.

4. The local Post-office is allowed to have its stamps, only on condition that their design differs entirely from those of the stamps used in the empire.

5. The postmen of the local Post-office may wear on their bags the Arms of the province or the district, but without the posthorn.

Notifying your Excellency of the measures taken, I have the honour of begging you to transmit to the different offices the ordinances of the organization of the local post, so as to insure to the inhabitants of the district the free exchange of their correspondence.

The Governor of the Ministry of the Interior,

(Signed) PRINCE LOBANOFF ROSTOVSKY.

The Director, (Signed) BARON VELICO.

This decree places the Russian Rural stamps on an entirely different plane, much higher than other so-called local stamps, the establishment of rural Post-offices being not merely sanctioned but recommended by the Government. The stamps are really semi-official, or, if I may express it thus, Government stamps issued by proxy.

Not all of the districts availed themselves of the privileges granted them by the above decree, for a great many have never used stamps, though having a rural Post-office. Only 141 districts have issued postage stamps, and of these 94 are in operation now; the others have been superseded by the Imperial Post-office, owing to changes in local conditions, such as increased population, improved means of communication, etc.

The first mention in any philatelic paper of Russian rural stamps is found in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* for March or April, 1869, where a stamp of Bogorodsk is described. Since that time several papers, notably *Le Timbre-Poste*, have regularly chronicled the new issues and newly-discovered old ones.

Some of the stamps issued by the rural Post-offices are quite rare, some, in fact, are absolutely unobtainable, and the cause for it is very simple when one thinks of their early history. It was only in the seventies that collectors began to look for

Zemstvo stamps, and in some districts stamps had been in use half a dozen years or more. Generally the early issues were very small, being a kind of experiment, and owing also to the small use for them, the illiteracy among the peasants in Russia being simply appalling. Several issues may have seen the light and disappeared, leaving practically no trace of their existence, before collectors began hunting for them. Some districts are supposed to have issued stamps, but where they are now no one can tell. In other districts certain stamps, by decrees and descriptions, are known to have existed, but so far they have not found their way into collections.

Another cause for the scarcity of some of the issues was the unwillingness of certain rural postmasters to sell stamps to dealers or collectors. What a Russian official does not understand is suspicious; and not seeing how men could enjoy possessing stamps, they thought the pretext of collecting a flimsy cover for some dark motive.

The rarity of some stamps is also due to the fact that the printing was frequently done without proper supervision, the town or village lithographer often using whatever ink and paper he had at hand, so that sometimes one printing was quite different in colour or paper from those preceding or following it, without for that indicating another issue, as generally no special attention was paid to such trifles.

The early issues were nearly all lithographed or type-set, and generally were very crude-looking; but within the last few years the quality of the work has been greatly improved, though losing by it some of its picturesqueness, some of them even being printed at the Imperial Printing Office, in St. Petersburg.

In paragraph 4 of the Decree of September, 1870, it was specified that the rural stamps should not resemble the Imperial ones, and this caused the suppression of several issues. In Morschansk, the 1881 issue, and Orgneyeff, the 1880 issue, were suppressed on account of their similarity, respectively to the regular Russian and the Russian Levant stamps. This restriction was also enforced, very needlessly it would seem, in the case of the rare 3 kop. red of Melitopol; and the rural administration made a silent but very forcible protest by having its next issue represent a man on horseback smoking a cigar, which, everyone will admit, is somewhat different from the Imperial stamps.

Some districts have issued provisional stamps, owing generally to a change in postal rates; and in such a case a few, *horribile dictu*, have made use of the surcharge, generally manuscript, but sometimes printed.

As far as unnecessary issues are concerned, the Russian rural administrations have been very free from the taint, only three districts having fallen from grace; of these three, one Biejetsk was suppressed on January 1st, 1896; another, Bogorodsk, the worst offender (and the postmaster a stamp collector, too!), is on the point of disappearing, as the Imperial Post-office has taken charge of nearly all its sub-offices, and is extending daily; while the third, Griazovetz, has had no new issue since 1894.

Here it should be stated that the districts are divided into ВОЛОСТЬ (vo-los-te) or sub-districts. A few districts have had issues of several stamps of the same value in different designs, or of the same stamp printed in different colours; this, at a first glance, would seem to indicate a speculative motive, but they were only to distinguish the different postal routes, each one to have its distinctive colour.

There have been practically no forgeries of Rural stamps, and the few that have been made are such bad imitations that the veriest tyro can detect them. When the collectors first began to take an interest in Zemstvo stamps, numerous bogus stamps were brought out, and an attempt made to palm them off on the public as resurrected old issues; the birthplace of them was generally Odessa, but as they in no way resemble the regular issues they are not dangerous now.

In four or five cases stamps have been reprinted; but there is always some salient feature to distinguish them from originals, and confusion from that source is easily eliminated.

With the aid of a good catalogue, and a half-hour spent in the study of a Russian alphabet, anyone of average mental powers can collect Zemstvo stamps intelligently, and avoid the pitfalls of reprints, counterfeits, etc.

The great majority of these stamps are low-priced, and for a comparatively small sum, judiciously expended, one can make a very good collection. For collectors that are fond of minutiæ Russian Rurals offer a vast and only partly-explored field; for, owing to the ignorance and carelessness of the printers, there are often, for some stamps, minor varieties of paper, colour, type, setting-up, etc., all of which are of interest to philatelists. In fact I can safely say, for it has been my experience, and that of most collectors who have taken up Russian Rurals, that the more they are studied the more fascinating they become.



Scott's Catalogue, 1897.

Scott's Postage Stamp Catalogue, giving the date of issue, colour, shape, and value of every postage stamp that has ever been issued by any Government in the world, with illustrations of nearly every stamp, and giving the prices at which most of them can be purchased—used or unused—of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd. Fifty-seventh Edition, 1897. *Thoroughly revised and corrected, and fully brought up to the day of going to press. New York: The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Limited. Price* 50 *cents.*

THERE is a "lick creation" style of phrase about the full title of the Scott Catalogue, and there is no doubt about the fact that it is a genuine attempt in that direction. Its illustrations are certainly exceptionally clear, but we do not like the jumble up of adhesives, post cards, and envelopes. Some day our American friends will have to give way on this point. Of the pricing we shall not say a word. It has been discussed exhaustively by our contemporaries on the other side as the advanced sheets were doled out to the anxious ones. Some object to any attempt to price everything, on the ground that it is impossible to do so with any approach to accuracy. But even so, it has the merit of affording the shivering outsider a glimpse behind the scenes. The Catalogue, as a whole, is as excellent as ever, and well merits the high position it has attained on this side.

Morley's Envelope Catalogue.

Walter Morley's Revised Catalogue and Price List of the Government Issuea Envelopes, Registered Envelopes, Newsbands and Post Cards of Great Britain. London: Walter Morley. Price Sixpence.

WE have received from Mr. Morley a very neat little price list of envelopes, newsbands, and post cards. Commencing with the Mulready, he gives particulars of all the envelopes in detail. There are varieties of silk threads, dated dies, undated dies, registration envelopes in all their shapes of flaps and stamps and instructions, etc. But probably the palm, as curiosities, will be given to the post cards with trial cancellations cut through the stamp in lieu of postmark. It is quite a relief to know that the idea did not pass beyond the trial stage.

Firth's Guide to Collecting.

Postage Stamps and their Collection: a Practical Guide to Philately for all Collectors. By Oliver Firth. London: L. Upcott Gill. Price 3/6.

MR. FIRTH'S book is excellently got up and very well planned out. It is full of information and of little practical hints that cannot fail to be of use to the beginner. Perhaps the most excellent feature in the work is that devoted to a description of "stamps to look for." This occupies more than half the book, and if it were well done it would be almost invaluable; but it is marred by shoals of serious blunders. The tyro is started on a wild goose chase for stamps which have never had an existence. This is particularly noticeable in the Australian lists and in Transvaal. Of the latter, wide rouletted specimens of the first German printings are said to be very scarce. Very, seeing that they have never before been heard of! Figure 178, which is said to represent a rough local impression, is a copy of a forgery. Of course the colour chart question crops up, and remains without solution. Will it ever be solved? Much space is given to advice as to making one's own mounts. With such excellent, safe, and cheap mounts as are to be had now, it is scarcely necessary to go to so much trouble. The remarks as to the collectability of "Paid" hand-stamps are to the point. "They indicate," as Mr. Firth says, "that postage has been paid just as legitimately as halfpenny or penny stamps would, and so are really postage stamps."



Argentine.—The 16 c., 80 c., 2 pesos, and 5 pesos have now appeared with the new watermark. This new watermark is a rayed sun as before, but with a slightly larger sun's face. The 80 c. value was never issued with the old watermark. Up to date the series with the new watermark is made up as follows :—

Adhesives.

½ c., blue.
1 c., brown.
2 c., yellow-green.
3 c., orange.
5 c., carmine.
10 c., carmine.
12 c., blue.
16 c., grey.
80 c., violet.
1 peso, carmine.
2 pesos, green.
5 pesos, blue.

Fiji.—According to a correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* the current series are perforated as follows :—

Adhesives.

½d., grey ; perf. 10.
1d., lilac-rose ; perf. 11.
2d., light green ; perf. 11.
2½d., brown ; perf. 11.
4d., lilac ; perf. 11 × 10.
5d., blue ; perf. 11 × 10.
6d., rose ; perf. 11 × 10.

German East Africa.—Mr. Ridpath informs us that the post cards of that Colony, bearing the same oblique surcharge as the current stamps, have now come to hand.

Great Britain.—Despite anything that may be said to the contrary, we are assured that the present year will witness the issue of a new series of postage stamps for this country.

Guatemala.—There is an epidemic of Exhibition rubbish, to which this country contributes a "Central American Exposition" series, of the same plaster size as the Columbian issue, printed in black, on surface-coloured paper.

Adhesives.

1 c., lilac.
2 c., slate-blue.
6 c., orange.
10 c., blue.
12 c., carmine.
18 c., black.
20 c , red.
25 c., brown.
50 c., dark violet.
75 c., sky-blue.
$1.00, green.
$1.50, pale rose.
$2.00, magenta.
$5.00, dark green.

Hawaii.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles a series of adhesives as just issued for the Department of Foreign Affairs. Perf. 12.

A Honolulu correspondent of the same journal writes :—

Cancelled samples of the new Foreign Office stamps have been placed for sale at the Post-office, and the public are able to get for sixty cents an alleged picture of Lorrin A. Thurston, in the colours specially suitable to the travelling statesman.

You can get him in green, his colour when he went to Washington; in blue, the colour noticeable in his physiognomy when he was "resigned" from Washington; in yellow, as he looks when he can't run Mr. Dole's Government, and gets jealous of Towse's military mass meetings; in red, as his surroundings are when he shakes hands with his partner, the devil; and finally the colour becoming to him when he shortly gets done up—"brown."

Adhesives.

Official Stamps.

2 c., yellow-green.
5 c., dark brown.
6 c., deep ultramarine.
10 c., rose.
12 c., orange.
25 c., purple.

Jamaica.—According to the *American Journal of Philately* the 1s., 2s., and 5s. stamps are now issued watermarked Crown and CA.

Adhesives.

Watermarked Cr. CA.

1s., brown.
2s., claret.
5s., mauve.

Mexico.—We are indebted to Mr. Ridpath for a batch of Mexican novelties. He informs us that the Mexican Government, having discovered that a 2 c. Interior card was an absurdity, as the 2 c. rate is for local (Urbano) use only, and 3 c. being the Interior rate, they surcharged their 2 c. Interior stock "Servicio Urbano," and ordered a correct 2 c. supply from England.

On the 1st July, 1895, the new 5 c. rate for Inland Letter cards came into force, the new cards being also of a fresh design. At the same time altogether about 200 unstamped black Interior Letter cards of the old pattern (issued 2nd April, 1895) were found in stock, and stamped along with the new issue with the 5 c. stamp of the new rate.

A new 5 c. Letter card of a novel kind has recently appeared. It contains a full sheet of note-paper, the cover itself being only ordinary white laid paper. Impression blue, and instructions on back. The printing shows several varieties.

The Hidalgo Express Company have added another one to their list of Stamped Envelopes, viz., 10 c., black on deep blue, laid, bearing of course the usual 5 c. Mexican stamp in addition.

Of the 3 c., red, on white post card, issued end of 1895, there are two varieties, one with 5 crescents, and the other with 6 crescents, below stamp.

Mr. S. Chapman has sent the *American Journal of Philately* the following Wells, Fargo & Co.'s envelopes, with stamp of the current type, and the weight expressed in grammes instead of ounces; this having been rendered necessary by the adoption of the metric system in Mexico.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.

Envelopes.

Size 152×90 mm.

White wove paper, blue inside.

10 c., emerald-green, stamp 5 c., ultramarine ("*Para Cartas de 15 gramos en la Republica Mexicana ó á los Estados Unidos,*" in green).

15 c., yellow-green, stamp 10 c., rose-lilac ("*Para Cartas 1 oz. en la Republica Mexicana exclusivamente,*" in red, the "1 oz." being obliterated by pencil; "*y á los Estados Unidos,*" in violet, and "*Para Cartas de 30 gramos,*" in purple).

15 c., yellow-green, stamp 10 c., rose-lilac ("*Para Cartas ½ oz. á Europa exclusivamente,*" in purple, and cancelled by line in red ink. "*Para Cartas de 15 gramos á Europa,*" in purple).

30 c. on 25 c., yellow-green, red surcharge, stamp 20 c., brown-lilac ("*Para Cartas 2 oz. en la Republica Mexicana exclusivamente,*" in red, the "2 oz." being obliterated by pencil; and "*Para Cartas de 60 gramos,*" in red).

30 c. on 25 c., yellow-green, red surcharge, stamp 20 c., brown-lilac ("*Para Cartas 2 oz. en la Republica Mexicana enclusivamente,*" in red, the "2 oz." cancelled by pencil; "*y á los Estados Unidos,*" in purple; and "*Para Cartas de 60 gramos,*" in red).

30 c. on 25 c., yellow-green, red and purple surcharge, stamp 20 c., brown-lilac ("*Para Cartas de 15 gramos á Europa,*" in purple, the "15" obliterated by red ink; and "*Para Cartas de 15 gramos,*" in purple).

60 c. on 10 c., blue-green, red surcharge, stamps 20×20 c., brown-lilac ("*Para Cartas ½ oz. á los Estados Unidos exclusivamente,*" in purple, the "½" obliterated in red ink; "*y en la Republica Mexicana,*" and "*Para Cartas de 30 gramos,*" in purple, and the "30" being obliterated and "120" added in red ink).

Size 225×100 mm.

White wove paper.

15 c. on 20 c. on 25 c., olive-green, red surcharge, stamp 10 c., rose-lilac ("*Para Cartas 1 oz. á los Estados Unidos exclusivamente,*" in red, "1 oz." obliterated in pencil, and "*exclusivamente*" in red ink; "*y en la Republica Mexicana,*" and "*Para Cartas de 30 gramos,*" in red).

30 c. on 25 c., olive-green, black and violet surcharge, stamp 20 c., brown-lilac ("*Para Cartas 1 oz. á Europa exclusivamente,*" in violet, "1 oz." obliterated by pencil, and "*Para Cartas de 30 gramos,*" in red.

30 c. on 25 c., olive-green, black and red surcharge, stamp 20 c., brown-lilac ("*Para Cartas 2 oz. en la Republica Mexicana exclusivamente,*" in red, "2 oz." obliterated by pencil, and "*Para Cartas de 60 gramos.*")

Nicaragua.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* has received the 1897 series for this country. The designs are similar to the 1896 set, with date and colours changed.

Adhesives.

1	centavo,	lilac.
2	centavos,	green.
5	,,	rose.
10	,,	light blue.
20	,,	light brown.
50	,,	grey.
1	peso,	slate.
2	pesos,	dark carmine.
5	,,	blue.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

1	centavo,	lilac.
2	centavos	,,
5	,,	,,
10	,,	,,
20	,,	,,
30	,,	,,
50	,,	,,

Roumania.—Our publishers have had the 1½ bani, lake, printed on both sides and postmarked "6 Feb. 92"; also the 10 bani, vermilion, in the same dual-printed state, postmarked "7 Feb. 92."

St. Helena.—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles the ½ value in the new type. Wmk. CA, perf. 14.

Adhesive.

½d., green.

Mr. Roskilly writes to us as follows:—

I am now in a position to say that the St. Helena 6d. stamp, which in a former letter I stated was on sale at the Post-office in January of this year, and which I presumed was of the ordinary (now obsolete) type, and not of the type of the new issue, was in reality our old friend which we all know so well. It is gone, however; that is, it is now *obsolete*. They were on sale up to the date of the arrival of the s.s. *Trojan* on February 14th, my informant securing a dozen for me on the very day they were withdrawn from circulation. I should say that Monday, February 15th, was the last day on which any could be procured at the Post-office. The remainders are now in the hands of the Crown Agents.

I may add that the withdrawal of the 1½d. stamp took place at the same time as did most of the others of the old type, namely, October of last year.

Sierra Leone.—Mr. E. D. Wright sends us the 1d. fiscal, which has been surcharged, in black, "Postage—and—Revenue," and is now being used for both postage and revenue purposes. The surcharge is in three lines in the centre of the stamp, and is in the same small capital letters as the "Half Penny" on "3 half pence," issued in 1894. The fiscal stamp is a long rectangular, 40 × 24 mm., printed in lilac, with value—"One Penny"—in green in two lines in a plain label at the bottom.

Adhesive.

1d., lilac and green; black surcharge.

Salvador.—The 1896 set of postal stationery has been reprinted in new colours for 1897. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says a new return receipt stamp with design, consisting of large numeral on engine-turned ground in centre, with "SALVADOR" above; numerals in upper corner; "CORREOS—AVISO DE RECEPCION" in two lines at top; "CINCO CENTAVOS" at bottom, has been issued; also two registration stamps, identical in design, but printed in different colour, with portrait in centre; "CERTIFICADO" in scroll above; "CORREOS" at right; "SALVADOR" at left; "10 CENTAVOS R" at bottom.

Adhesives.

1 centavo, vermilion.
2 centavos, green.
3 ,, brown.
5 ,, orange.
10 ,, green
12 ,, blue.
15 ,, black.
20 ,, slate.
24 ,, yellow.
30 ,, rose.
50 ,, violet.
100 ,, brown.

Return Receipt Stamp.

5 centavos, dark green.

Registration Stamps.

10 centavos, blue.
10 ,, brown.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

1 centavo, blue.
2 centavos ,,
3 ,, ,,
5 ,, ,,
10 ,, ,,
15 ,, ,,
25 ,, ,,
50 ,, ,,

Transvaal.—The *London Philatelist* says:—

"Mr. Jeppe writes us, enclosing a letter from the Postmaster-General of Pretoria, to the effect that the 5s. and 10s. values in two colours are not yet required, and hence are not even ordered, the stock of one-colour stamps now in use being sufficient. Mr. Jeppe further points out that when issued the colour of the 10s. stamp will be *light grey* and green, as being the colours adopted by agreement with Cape Colony."

We have been getting a little fogged over the mixture of recent issues of single-coloured and bi-coloured stamps for the Transvaal, but Mr. Jeppe's communication suggests, though it does not give, the explanation, viz., that the recently-issued 5s. and 10s. stamps in single colours really belong to the previous series. That being so, these 5s. and 10s. stamps must be added to the issue which is being gradually replaced by a bi-coloured series. The two series up to date will therefore stand as follows:—

Adhesives.

1895. *Pole to Wagon.*

½d., pearl-grey.
1d., pink-red.
2d., bistre.
3d., violet.
4d., black-brown.
6d., blue.
1s., green.
5s., steel-blue (1897).
10s., brown (1897).

1896–7. *Bi-coloured.*

½d., green.
1d., pink-red and green.
2d., brown and green.
2½d., blue and green.
3d., mauve and green.
4d., olive-green and green.
5d., olive and green.
6d., pale mauve and green.
1s., raw sienna and green.
2s. 6d., pale violet and green.

United States.—The *American Journal of Philately* is in possession of an unchronicled variety of the 25 cent, black, Adams Express Co., similar to our Type L1; but the frame containing the head is an octagon instead of an oval. Mr. Ch. H. Coster, in his work on the U.S. locals, mentions a stamp with octagon frame, but erroneously describes it as being with the head to left.

Adhesive.

Local Stamp.

25 c., black, white paper.

The *Philatelic Monthly and World* states that a new die of the 1897, 2 c., envelope, has been discovered, in which the head is much larger and nearer the frame than in the ordinary type; especially noticeable opposite the "O" of "POSTAGE," where the distance is only 1 mm. instead of 2 mm. It is known as die 72d.

Envelope.

2 c., green on white.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).
The April packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED; viz., United States, 1 c., pale blue, &c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).
The April packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES, USED AND UNUSED; viz., Ceylon, "Service," 2 c., 15 c., 25 c., and 30 c.; United States, unpaid, 1 c., 2 c., 3 c., 5 c., and 10 c., lake, &c.

These packets are on sale until April 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.



Curious New Zealand Error.

In some "Notes on the First Locally-printed Stamps of New Zealand," in a paper by Mr. Charles H. Mottram, read before the Philatelic Society of London, and now published in the *London Philatelist*, there are the following interesting remarks concerning a very curious misprint or error. Mr. Mottram says :—

In looking through the New Zealand portion of the collection of the late Mr. T. K. Tapling, M.P., at the British Museum, I noticed a specimen of the *One Penny, first type, printed in vermilion (or, as some may deem it, orange-vermilion), on "star" paper, and imperforate. The stamp had also passed through the post to Australia, and bears the early lined oval (enclosing "N. S. W.") cancellation of New South Wales.*

It is a most remarkable stamp in appearance, being the overprinting of parts of two impressions upon one another, thereby duplicating the design.

Either the plate or the sheet may have shifted in passing *out* of the roller-press, and in so doing the upper and lower impressions, probably in the last two rows of the plate, seem to have collided.

A further extraordinary feature about the stamp is, that whereas *the width of the label is the same, the height is less by seven mm. than that of an ordinary specimen.* By what means the *shortening* was produced is not easy even to conjecture.

The effect of this accident to part of a sheet of *240* stamps would presumably cause *the damage of two complete rows of 12 labels in each, that is 24 specimens, which number, coinciding with those missing out of the first local printing, thus far corresponds with the possibility of this dual stamp having formed part of the odd sheet of the first week's printing.*

A discovery at this juncture of a number of specimens of the *One Penny* value *of the local printings of November and December*, 1855, on their original date-stamped covers, would be most interesting as showing whether "*star*" *watermarked* or "foolscap" *paper* was used wholly or in part only; and also of utility for the purpose of *comparing the shade of vermilion* of those stamps *with that of the defective specimen* now under consideration, and by such examination it might be possible to fix the year of its issue.

At present the latter cannot with certainty be assigned to the earliest printing in the Colony. But if it did not form part of Mr. Richardson's work, Mr. John Davies must be credited with its production on his assuming the office of Government Printer in 1862, when the issue of imperforate stamps on "star" paper was again current in the Postal Service of New Zealand.

Mr. Davies, however, had had a long experience with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. in London, and therefore would have been more unlikely to have produced this stamp.

Perhaps the most singular and interesting part of the history of this variety, if it could be revealed, would be a faithful recital of its career as a "*used*" stamp.

In the absence of certain information, and assuming for the moment that it *is* one of the rejected impressions of November, 1855, by what means could it have attained the above condition?

The correspondence between the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer shows that, out of a possible 16,800 one penny stamps, only 16,776 were handed over to the latter official on November *13th* to be issued by him.

Therefore 24 stamps, or whatever might have represented that number in the printing, must have been *retained*, but apparently *not destroyed*, by the Colonial Secretary.

The inference, then, appears to be that this specimen *never* formed part of the stock of stamps at the Post-office, and consequently could *not* have been issued from thence.

This assumption seems, I think, justifiable by the absence of any New Zealand cancellation on the stamp.

The letter, therefore, with this label affixed could not have been "*made up*" in a mail, and enclosed in the mail-bag, by a Post-office official, by reason that the republished Proclamation of December 31st, 1850, in *The General Government Gazette* of July 13th, 1855, states that "*Postmasters are directed, on the receipt of stamped letters or packets in each Post-office, to cancel the stamps on such letters or packets previous to their despatch.*"

The only solution I can offer to account for its transit to Australia is that the letter it franked may have been handed to the ship-master by a New Zealand Government official (not necessarily of the Post-office), in company, perhaps, with other "*loose*" letters (which latter were permitted to be so conveyed by the masters of vessels), and was delivered, according to regulation, with the mail-bags at the General Post-office, Sydney.

The stamp may have been used shortly or long after it had passed out of the printer's hands, and the fact that the New South Wales cancellation which it bears was, I believe, in

use for a considerable period, will *not* be a guide to the age of the stamp. The colour *alone* must, I fear, be relied upon to identify it, at some future time, with its contemporaries of one of the local printings.

Destruction of Hawaiian Remainders.

One of the most interesting events that we have to chronicle this month is the burning of the Hawaiian remainders. The operation is described in detail by the local papers. The *Evening Bulletin* of January 28th last has the following. The stamps destroyed comprised all issued during the days of Kalakaua, Liliuokalani, and the Provisional Government—everything up to the establishment of the present Republic :—

Postmaster-General Oat, with his usual thoughtfulness, extended an invitation to the *Bulletin* to send a representative to witness the burning of the stamps authorized to be destroyed by the last Legislature. The method adopted for their destruction was fire, and the scene the furnaces of the Electric Light Works. The stamps, envelopes, and postal cards doomed to destruction were enclosed in new white canvas mail sacks, tied and sealed, and were taken from the Post-office in an ordinary express wagon, being, however, carefully watched by two or three postal employees.

Gathered in front of the furnaces in the boiler-room of the Electric Light Station were Messrs. F. L. Stolz, W. M. Giffard, and J. H. Soper, a special committee of three appointed by Minister Damon to attend to and verify the work of destruction. Minister Damon and Postmaster-General Oat were present in their official capacities. Superintendent Hoffman attended to the fires, while Louis Kenake threw the packages into the four mouths of the big furnace as rapidly as careful incineration would admit. Another interested spectator was Stanley Gibbons, Esq., the head of the great London philatelic firm of Stanley Gibbons Co., Limited, the largest dealers in stamps in the world, who is in Honolulu on his second tour of the world.

It was curious to watch through the open doors of the furnaces how the different packages acted when thrown on the bed of red-hot coals. The envelopes seemed to give up without a struggle, the forced draught drawing them apart and scattering them all over the furnace. The postal cards being heavier did not succumb so rapidly. Now and again the draught would pick up a bunch and scatter them to their fate, but as a rule they stayed where they were thrown until there was a sudden upheaval of feathery ashes in their places. The stamps fought bravely for their existence. They refused to be separated, and died locked in a gummy embrace. The heat melted the mucilage on the stamps, and the bundles soon looked like partly charred pieces of wood. They had to give up, after repeated stirring and raking, and soon there was not a vestige of the lot to be seen among the live coals.

The operation took about half an hour, and was quite interesting. The stamps were destroyed under authority conferred by the following Joint Resolution of the last Legislature, approved May 27th, 1896 :—

"Be it resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, that on and after December 31st, 1896, the sale of postage stamps, postal cards, and stamped envelopes, issued previous to the present issue, shall cease at the Post-office, after which date all, if any, that may remain will be destroyed; and the President shall appoint a committee of three disinterested persons, who shall serve without pay, to act with the Minister of Finance and Postmaster-General, for the purpose of checking off all remaining stock on that date, and see that the part of this resolution relating to the destroying of same is strictly carried out."

The stamps authorized to be sold or destroyed by the above resolution were the following :—

2	cent,	violet,	9400 sheets.	
5	,,	light blue,	6375 ,,	
10	,,	chocolate,	1765 ,,	
12	,,	black,	2122 ,,	
18	,,	lake,	1340 ,,	
18	,,	lake,	619 40-50 ,,	unsurcharged.
50	,,	red,	474 ,,	
100	,,	red,	872 ,,	

Each of the above sheets containing 50 stamps.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

5 cent, envelopes, 12,334.
10 cent, envelopes, 11,928.

OBSOLETE STAMPS.

2 cent, reprint, 1067 sheets; 5 cent, reprint, 55 sheets; 5 cent, specimen, 710 sheets; 13 cent, specimen, 850 sheets; 13 cent, reprint, 445 sheets.

Of the above the 2 cent reprints contained 15 stamps to the sheet, and the others 20.

The total value of the stamps authorized to be sold and destroyed as above was about $147,000, if the writer's memory serves correctly. The value of those destroyed to-day was close to $100,000, showing that about $50,000 of the now obsolete stamps have been purchased by speculators since the passage of the Joint Resolution.

Imperial Chinese Post.

Mr. D. Benjamin furnishes the *American Journal of Philately* with the following interesting details in regard to the current issue of China stamps, and also in relation to the local Post-offices which have been operating in Shanghai for thirty years, and in other ports for four or five years :—

Last week China issued a $1.00 stamp, surcharged on a 3 c. Revenue stamp, and used

postally. The Revenue stamp itself is a new issue, as China had no Revenue stamps before; but I understand they are going to impose Stamp Duty like in other countries. So far the Revenue stamps themselves are not for sale, and I do not know the reason for surcharging a Revenue stamp, which is not yet in use, into a postage stamp, especially when they still have the 9 and 12 c. of the old issue available for the purpose. The sale of these $1 stamps is also restricted to 1 and 2 to each applicant, so I can at present only send you one enclosed as a sample. I am greatly afraid these stamps will be withdrawn on the 2nd February, by which time no doubt the regular new issue will have arrived, or the quantity left over may be so small that they will sell to collectors in small quantities each, so that all can have a share. The surcharged $1 stamps are 25 in a sheet.

Another important news is that all the various Steamship Companies have notified all the local Post-offices in China, including Shanghai, that after 2nd February they will be unable to carry mails other than those put on board by the Imperial Chinese Post Office. All the local Post-offices, I am most happy to say, will be closed at the end of this month except Shanghai.

The Shanghai L. P. O. will only remain as a convenience to the Shanghai residents, and simply deliver mail from one part of the city to another only, just as you have private L. P. O.'s in the United States and Germany, etc. It will now, however, be a charge on us ratepayers, as it will lose a lot of money to keep it up, and it is only being kept up because, I believe, the Imperial Post at present are not disposed to take over the large local deliveries the local Post-office has. Possibly they will do this after one year when then the Shanghai L. P. O., the first and the last of the L. P. O.'s, will close for good. Already the staff in the Shanghai L. P. O. is reduced, and now there is only one foreigner (the postmaster) and some Chinese coolies, who distribute the local daily mails, etc. Of course, all future new issues of the L. P. O. here should have absolutely no philatelic value, and should not be chronicled in the papers; but I don't think they will have a new issue, as they do not want to go into any further expenses, unless collectors will be fools enough to buy, and the present stamps will go on till they close, as they have any amount of them. Already the postal stationery is withdrawn from sale, as it cost them more to make than what collectors buy, and as for postal purposes they are hardly ever, if ever, used.

The foreign Post-offices will remain just the same for the present, somewhat after the manner in Turkey and the Levant.

Nova Scotia Remainders.

Mr. Murray, as Premier, in his budget speech in the Nova Scotia Assembly, on the 2nd February last, made the following reference to the recent sale of the Nova Scotia remainders. We quote from *The Advocate*, published at Picton, Nova Scotia :—

It does not often happen that we have the good fortune to have a windfall in the shape of an increase of revenue. During the fiscal year we were in receipt of the sum of $18,000 from the sale of postage stamps. In order to acquaint the members of the House with the nature of this transaction I may state that at the time of confederation we had on hand a number of provincial postage stamps which were withdrawn from circulation, and which remained at Ottawa, being replaced by an issue of Canadian stamps. These Nova Scotia remainders were not considered of any value. But recently, owing to a desire on the part of a large number of persons to possess themselves of stamps as curiosities, it has been our good fortune to be able to add to our revenue to the extent as above stated. The transaction was a most agreeable surprise to me, as I feel assured it will be to every member of the Legislature. That any number of gentlemen were prepared to risk such a large sum in a transaction of this character is indeed a matter of surprise. In this connection I would like to say—and I trust that the gentlemen in this House will not require any further explanation upon this point—that when the sale of stamps took place it was accompanied by a proviso that the Government on their part would keep the quantity of stamps secret, and at this moment I have not the slightest information as to the number of stamps which were sold to bring in this handsome sum to the province. I presume that the idea of not making this information public is for the reason that if stamp purchasers throughout the world knew the quantity they could better judge of the value of these stamps, and all opportunity for legitimate speculation would be lost.

The conspiracy to keep collectors in the dark as to the actual quantities of the stamps merits the severest condemnation. We are not a little surprised that the Premier of Nova Scotia should have been a party to such a shady compact.

Seychelles Issues.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News publishes the following letter from a correspondent :—

Several errors, or misprints, have been found in the provisional 18 c. on 45 c. issue, but in very small quantities, as all that were found on the first assorting were destroyed. The principal errors are as follows: "CENTS 18," and "8 CENTS 1" instead of "18 CENTS," and a double surcharge of the word "CENTS" without any figures. The others are in very small numbers, from one to a dozen perhaps.

Both the provisional values, 18 c. and 36 c. on 45 c., are out of issue, also the 15 c. on 16 c., and it is quite settled that no fresh overprints will be made for the present, as the regular values, 18 c., 36 c., and 1 rupee, are

expected next or the following month (January or February). Postage is, therefore, being made up by using small values until they arrive.

There is a rumour that the local 2 and 3 cents values are also to be abolished, making in all seven stamps (viz., 2, 3, 13, 15, 45, 48, and 96 cents), and that the colours of the remainders are to be recast in those of the Postal Union. I have every reason to believe that this information is correct. As the 2 and 3 cents are going out of issue a 1 cent stamp has been indented for; but it is not yet known whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies will approve of this course.

The following is a list of all stamps issued in this Colony, with the quantities in stock on this date (December 21st); those marked with a * not to be reissued when the present supply is exhausted :—

	2 c. . .	72,000 *
	3 c. . .	74,400 *
3 c. on	4 c. . .	obsolete
	4 c. . .	79,440
	8 c. . .	66,000
	10 c. . .	104,400
	12 c. . .	87,000
12 c. on	16 c. . .	6,720
	13 c. . .	1,800 *
	15 c. . .	48,000 *
15 c. on	16 c. . .	240 *
	16 c. . .	9,000
18 c. on	45 c. . .	obsolete
36 c. on	45 c. . .	,,
	45 c. . .	,,
45 c. on	48 c. . .	,,
	48 c. . .	,,
90 c. on	96 c. . .	,,
	96 c. . .	,,

Peruvian Remainders.

According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*,

The Government of Peru intend to sell to the highest bidder several millions of their obsolete postage and revenue stamps, stamped envelopes, and postal cards. The total number of stamps, etc., to be disposed of aggregate 4,356,093, representing an original face value of 421,410 soles, 83 centavos of Peruvian money, which is on a silver basis. Sealed bids will be received by the Secretary of the Director-General in Lima up to noon of May 31st next.

Zanzibar Surcharges.

Mr. Julio Riberio, of Bombay, sends the following interesting information concerning the earlier varieties of surcharge of Zanzibar to the *Monthly Journal*:—

I would like you to make a few corrections in the list and description of Zanzibar surcharged stamps, as given in the new Catalogue.

The "2½" on 1½a. was issued in December, 1895, in the type which I shall call I. I enclose a specimen, and you will see that the nearest illustration to it is the one given for No. 71 of British East Africa. There is no doubt that the same setting of the surcharge "2½" was used to make the provisionals for both the places.

Then in May of 1896 came the second lot of provisionals, "2½" on 1a. None of these seem to be correctly illustrated in the book. I do not know how they were printed, having seen only a block of 30. In this I find 12 of Type I., similar in every way to the surcharge of December, 1895; and 12 in Type II. (similar to, but not exactly like, Type 4 in the Catalogue); while there were only six in a thick surcharge (Type III.), which I have found from experience to be the rarest. In these provisionals a few occur with a very thin line in the fraction, while in the provisionals of December, 1895, the thin line is the rule, and only two or three copies in the entire sheet of 120 have fairly thick lines. The earliest postmarked copy of the "2½" on 1a. that I have seen bears the date May 11th, and probably none were issued before that, for the letters franked with this stamp were at first treated as insufficiently paid.

The provisionals surcharged on the ½a., 1a., and 2½a. of the British East Africa type were issued in June. The stamps arrived towards the end of May, and the surcharging took place very soon afterwards.

The "2½" on 2a., and the 4½a., 5a., and 7½a., were issued on August 15th. The two types of the former we enclose.

In November (15th, 17th, and 18th) it became necessary to issue further provisionals. The 1½a. value was again called into requisition; but the setting of the surcharge is in every way similar to that of the "2½" on 2a. Very few, probably less than 960, were printed with this type. In each sheet of 120 there are two rows, of 12 each, with the larger type.

In the "2½" on 1½a., issued in December, 1895, there occur the errors "Zanizbar" and "Zanzidar." I have genuine copies of these, one on an original cover and two in the sheet —so that their existence is undoubted.

In the June printing occurred the error "Zanibar" on the following values only :—

½, 1, 1½, 2, 2½, and 6 annas.

Coolgardie Cycle Express.

Mr. Healy has supplied the *Australian Philatelist* with a sketch of his Cycle Express, the operations of which were brought to a close with last year by the extension of the Government mail services to the routes he formerly maintained.

The cycle service was first started in 1893, leaving Coolgardie for Southern Cross (120 miles) before the telegraph line was opened, conveying special messages at a charge of £25 each, and also carrying a few letters at various charges. The record trip was made by Bamlett in 12 hours.

No adhesive stamps were used during this year, the letters prepaid being handstamped with word "Paid."

In 1894 regular cycle mails were despatched to Widgiemula (51 miles), Norseman (120 miles), and Dundas (140 miles). Both letters and telegrams were carried at charges varying from 6d. to 5s. The through record trip was again made by Bamlett, who, with fully 80 lbs. weight of mail matter on his bicycle, accomplished the distance in 12 hours.

In April, 1895, a regular cycle mail was despatched to Menzies (110 miles) and the service was afterwards extended to Niagara (135 miles) the charges being 2s. 6d. and 5s.

When the Lake Darlot rush started, Hamblin, the champion mail cyclist, was despatched. The distance was 280 miles, and for some months the service proved the most remunerative of all, over £50 per trip being received. The record trip occupied three days, and, taking into consideration the state of the track, this was phenomenal. On this trip Hamblin put up a record for Menzies, covering the 110 miles in 10½ hours. Letters were carried at 2s., 2s. 6d., and 5s. It afterwards became necessary to employ a camel for this service owing to the weight of the mails, Crump, formerly cyclist, riding the camel.

In 1894 the stamps described in the *Australian Philatelist* for May last were issued for prepaying letters and other mail matter.

In June, 1895, a regular cycle mail was despatched to Mount Margaret, Yerilla, Goore's Puzzle, &c., the through distance being 200 miles.

The Hannan's mail was started in October, 1895, during the boom. Several of the leading brokers, who were dissatisfied at the delay in the transmission of Government telegrams, suggested that this service should be opened, and the results justified the enterprise, several instances of cyclists beating the telegrams having occurred. A charge of 2s. 6d. each was made for messages, or a weekly subscription of 10s. 6d. The distance is 28 miles, and Beverage, the cyclist, has covered it in an hour and a half.

As early as June, 1895, the first supply of stamps was running short, and a new series was ordered, consisting of three values, 6d., 2s., and 5s. Owing to vexatious delays, these stamps did not arrive till June, 1896. By this time nearly all the routes formerly served by Healy's express were taken over by the Government, only the Mount Margaret and northern localities remaining open to the camel and cycle expresses. These were principally kept going by subsidies received from mining companies having big interests in the districts. Letters were charged 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 5s. The last route was finally closed to Mr. Healy's operations in December, 1896.

The 1896 series of stamps are very attractive in design. They are large oblong rectangles, with a picture of a camel and rider crossing the desert, with the setting sun just sinking below the horizon. This vignette is surrounded by an oval band inscribed "Coolgardie Cycle Express Company." The band is broken at the bottom by a straight label containing the value in words. Figures of value are in circles in the four angles, and the words "Western Australia" are at the sides. Lithographed in two colours on white wove paper, perforated.

6d., green, camel in chocolate.
2s., yellow ,, ,,
5s., mauve ,, ,,

U.S. Periodicals Reprinted.

"Iberius," in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, makes the following almost incredible announcement:—

Sets of U.S. periodical stamps of the old types and values, one cent to sixty dollars, printed by the Bureau of Engraving, have been placed on the market by a syndicate of dealers who undertake to guarantee that only fifty sets have been printed. The price asked of collectors is but $125 a set for stamps of the face value of about $205, and it is one of the mysteries of that mysterious and incomprehensible Bureau that such special issues, apparently without benefit to the U.S. Treasury, should be permitted to be made by the Post-office officials. The set will probably be catalogued; in fact, some of the small values have been known and are catalogued already, as printed by the Bureau, but whether the guarantee of dealers, here or in Washington, is worthy of consideration is a question which I leave to the discriminating care of would-be buyers.

It would be useless to enlarge at this juncture upon the peculiar and rather unsavoury methods of Bureau and Postal officials who pretend to despise collectors and stamp collecting on the one hand, but are ever ready to make an honest (?) dollar (in league with some intermediate dealer) out of stamp collectors. What with surreptitious pink two's, die hubs, and preparatory designs "gathered in waste baskets," imperforate sheets "rescued from wastage," and special issues of periodicals "in limited quantities," the Bureau and Postal officials in Washington are making for themselves an unenviable record of crookedness which is perfectly disgusting. And if rumours are true, there will be other syndicates and further surprises to crown with inglorious renown the present Post-office Department and its Bureau adjunct.



U.S. Periodical Case.

Philatelists in the United States have been in a state of commotion over some strange proceedings concerning the possession and sale of certain periodical stamps. According to the *American Journal of Philately*:—

At the trial the defendant, Mr. Colman, testified under oath that the stamps were delivered to Mr. Munce, chief of the stamp department in Washington, in imperforate condition, that they were transferred by him to Mrs. Munce, and that she in turn sold them or exchanged them with Mr. Colman, without their original condition being altered in any way. It is, therefore, absolutely certain that these stamps left the hands of the Government, and all the officers connected with the stamp department, as imperforate trial or proof sheets, and that they must have been privately perforated, with fraudulent intent, between the time that they came into the hands of Mr. Colman and the time when Mr. Albrecht obtained them. From all that can be gathered, it appears that this fraud was perpetrated in Washington before Mr. Albrecht or any other New York man had any connection with the transaction, and we hope that at some time it will be discovered who was a party to so monstrous a fraud, so that he can be excommunicated by the stamp fraternity.

Mr. Albrecht is stated to have had the stamps in question from Mr. A. C. Townsend, a dealer of Washington.

Mr. Andreini, in his letter to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, says:—

New Yorkers have with general consent attributed the concoction of this affair to three men—two dealers and a parasite. New Yorkers can name them without hesitation, but I must decline to mention them here otherwise than as the innocent dealer, the Washington "fence," and the green goods man. The New York dealer claims misrepresentation on the part of others, and I believe it may be true. He certainly has been repeatedly warned against the Washington "fence" and the green goods man. The Washington "fence" I know little about, but given his strict principles, of which everybody speaks, I conclude he must have been exposed to terrific pressure and temptations. The green goods man is besmeared in people's minds with that green paint of the 10 cent variety of 1861, and although he is a most pleasant and well-informed man to meet, his reputation is of the shady grille kind. Which of these three worthies was the arch conspirator nobody knows as yet. It is doubtful if we shall ever know it.

The following extract from the evidence given at the enquiry, as published in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* is significant.

Mr. T. Q. Munce, chief clerk of the stamp division in the Third Assistant Postmaster-General's office, was then called to the stand.

Q. How long have you been there? *A.* Since July, 1893.

Q. Were you connected with the P.O. Department prior to that time? *A.* Yes; as a clerk.

Q. Who has the custody of proofs and specimen stamps in the P.O. Department? *A.* The Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

Q. Under what assistant is your division? *A.* The Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

Q. Do you know the defendant, H. F. Colman? *A.* Yes.

Q. How long have you known him? *A.* About five years.

Q. Did you ever have in your custody or your possession, other than in the department, any proofs or specimens of newspaper stamps? *A.* Yes, sir.

Q. Were they perforated or not? *A.* They were not perforated.

Q. Do you know whether Colman ever got any of those specimens? *A.* I am reliably informed that he had.

Q. How did he get them? *A.* I had some perforated and imperforate stamps in my possession, and I took the imperforate stamps home. My wife let Mr. Colman have some of these imperforate stamps. I also sent some of them to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General. He told me that these things looked very much like stamps. I told him they were only specimens, that they were imperforate, and he kept them. I did not want to be bothered with them, and he told me to burn them up or do anything with them I pleased. Sometime after that I burnt up some.

Q. But those you did not burn you gave to Colman? *A.* No.

Q. Do you know whether it has been the custom to give away specimens and proofs? *A.* Yes; proofs have always been given away.

Q. Do you know of any genuine stamps having been given away? *A.* Not of my own knowledge.

Q. How soon after his arrest did you know that Mr. Colman had been arrested? *A.* I heard the news through the evening paper that night.

Q. Did you ever go to the Third Assistant or Postmaster-General to tell him of your connection with this case? *A.* The next morning. I heard reports that the stamps he had were perforated proofs.

Q. Did you afterwards tell that to the Postmaster-General? *A.* Yes.

Q. Do you remember how many stamps were in the sheets? *A.* There were 100 in most of them.

Q. How many stamps in the sheets that Colman got? *A.* There were 50.

Q. Do you remember how many you gave to Mrs. Munce? *A.* All the denominations, and some were sent to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

Q. Did you have any stamps of that kind in sheets which were not gummed? *A.* Yes.

Q. How did these stamps get in your possession? *A.* They were sent from the American Bank Note Co. as a guide to the Bureau.

Q. What was done with those stamps after they were returned from the Bureau? *A.* They were put in the safe.

Q. How long had they remained there? *A.* I suppose two years.

Q. Is it not the practice to burn stamps? *A.* Yes.

Q. Do you burn them? *A.* No; I appoint a committee for that purpose.

Q. How many sheets did you give to Mrs. Munce? *A.* 25.

Q. How long before Colman's arrest was it that you saw him last? *A.* I think it was the day before.

Q. Where? *A.* In my office.

Q. by the District Attorney, who asked him whether he knew the regulations. He said he did.

Q. Did you have any direction from your superior officer to give those sheets away? *A.* I did not. I did not think it required any authority.

The defendant, H. F. Colman, was then called to the stand.

Q. Where did you get these stamps? *A.* From Mrs. Munce. I exchanged revenues with her for them.

Q. What did you do with the stamps? *A.* I handed them over to Townsend.

Q. What is your relation with Townsend? *A.* We are partners in the sale of stamps.

Q. Where did you keep the stamps after you gave them to Townsend? *A.* I kept them in the office.

Q. What was done with them subsequently, and why did you place them for sale in this perforated condition? *A.* I decline to answer.

Q. Why? *A.* Because it would tend to incriminate me.

Q. How did they get in that condition? *A.* I decline to answer for the same reason.

Q. In whose possession did the stamps remain after you gave them to Townsend and were handed to Albrecht? *A.* I decline to answer for the same reason.

London Philatelic Exhibition.

Our publishers have secured Stall No. 5 for the Grand Show in July and August next, and will be in evidence with a goodly array of stamps, arranged in special books for specialist collectors, stamps for medium collectors, and special exhibition assorted packets for beginners. They will also show a large selection of albums, publications, &c.

They have offered a special gold medal for the best collection of the stamps of Peru.

Tobago Scandals.

As an illustration how things are done in the Tobago Post-office, the *American Journal of Philately* published the following extract from a letter of a correspondent :—

On the 21st of December, 1896, there was a surcharge in the Post-office, ½d. on 4d. Revenue. 114 sheets of 60 each sheet were surcharged, and only a few were sold to the public across the counter, 12 to each person, then there was a rush to buy. The Postmaster stopped the sale of them unless cards were brought to post ; in that way I could not get any to send to you. About 1000 went through the post on cards, and about eight hundred were sold to the public. The whole of the balance were bought up by the public officers here from the Commissioner down, as the officers are all in one building, and the Commissioner is the head ; for since the 1s. error came in in September last year—and was withdrawn a few weeks after, and a few days after they were sold out almost privately by the Commissioner, who has bought up with the other officials the greater part of them—very few were sold to the public. They have all become stamp speculators. It is believed that the ½d. were run out purposely so as to have this surcharge to speculate on.

Little Mistakes.

As philatelists we are, now and then, inclined to be rather cynical concerning those little slips which are set down to that ever-sinful being, the printer. But we are constantly getting reminders in our own and other's experience that all things are possible to the manipulator of types. The latest occurs in an advertisement of Tranvaal stamps in a contemporary. The advertiser probably desires to make it known that he has some stamps with "pole to wagon" for sale ; but he is made to advertise the fact that he has a "pool to wager."

The New Order of Cataloguing.

The change in the order of classification of the countries in the new Gibbons Catalogue of Great Britain and Colonies, in one volume, and other countries in another volume, has been also adopted by Major Evans in his chronicle of new issues in the February number of the *Monthly Journal*, and we must confess we are very much inclined to follow suit in the *Record*. It is a most convenient classification to keep Great Britain and the Colonies together.

The Stamps of Europe.

Mr. Westoby's most valuable series of articles on the Postage Stamps of Europe, now running in the *Bazaar*, are to be reprinted in book-form in parts. Part I. will be ready shortly. As a help to the beginner no more interesting articles have been available for many years. They are worth a cart-load of the crude so-called guides recently issued, for they are the efficient work of an experienced master-hand.

Fireproof Paper.

According to the *Zeitschrifür Post and Telegraphie*, a Berlin firm has patented a fireproof paper, which even in the greatest heat is able to withstand the flames. This paper, of course, will be used in the first instance for documents, leases, &c., but we may hope it will also be applicable to stamps, and if, in addition, watermarks could be added and the stamps be printed in durable colours, a great boon would be conferred upon the philatelic world.

Is the S.S.S.S. Defunct?

Reviewing the new Gibbons Catalogue in their *Monthly Circular*, Messrs. Alfred Smith and Co. speak out as follows as to the S.S.S.S.:—

The inclusion of the 1896 Commemorative stamps of *Japan* reminds us that this issue has never been condemned by the S.S.S.S., which body we imagine to be defunct, for it has shown no signs of life for a long while. These stamps, as well as those of the Brussels Exhibition, have also been advertised for sale by Messrs Stanley Gibbons, and if other dealers of unquestioned standing sell them, we decline to continue to make a self-denying ordinance for our own firm. As long as the S.S.S.S. was in active operation, we followed its recommendations with entire loyalty, at no inconsiderable loss to ourselves from a pecuniary point of view, but from this time forward we intend to do as we please in the matter of buying or selling Commemorative stamps.

We ask, Is the S.S.S.S. defunct? Echo answers, "funked."

Recent Sales of Collections.

M. Victor Robert has just bought the splendid collection of unused stamps of M. Enrique Auzon, of Buenos Ayres, for £1600.

M. Steinius has bought part of the collection of Dr. Berg for 15,000 pesos. This portion comprises the stamps of Europe (Russia excepted) and of America. The remainder of Dr. Berg's collection (Asia, Africa, and Australia) was sold some time ago at a still higher figure.

M. Th. Lemaire has bought the well-known collection of M. Marconnet, said to be the finest in France. M. Marconnet will in future only collect France and Colonies.

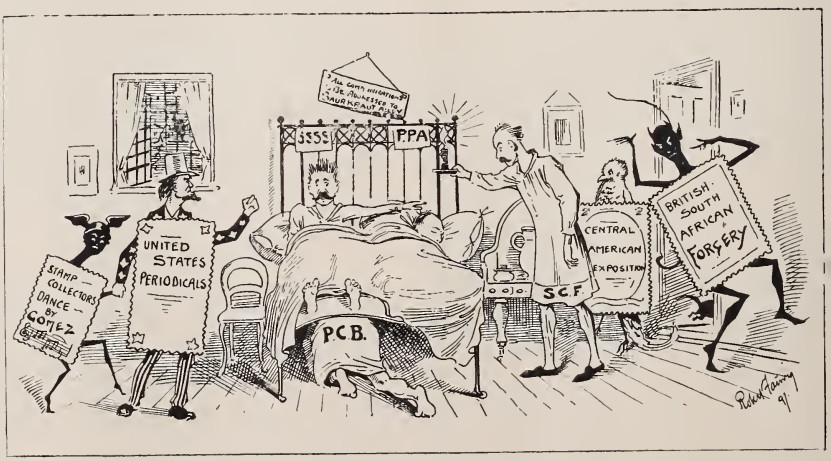
Transvaal: Bi-coloured Stamps.

The *South African Star* says, with reference to the recent issue of bi-coloured stamps:—

Even the supporters of the Government consider this an unwise move, the *Volksstem* even going so far as to say that this fact does not tend to raise the prestige of the Transvaal, inasmuch as a stable State does not keep on changing its stamps as a boarding-house does its wall paper. That last remark, by the way, argues unusual generosity on the part of the Hollander boarding-house keepers.

Berlin Exhibition.

The General Post Office at Berlin opened a branch office at the Industrial Exhibition at Berlin on the 1st of April last year. The Exhibition was closed on the 20th of October, and according to the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Zeitung* (*Leipzig*), nearly $2\frac{1}{3}$ millions of letters, post cards, and newspapers, 10,000 money orders, and 24,000 telegrams were despatched. Against these numbers 560,000 letters, post cards, and newspapers, and 5000 telegrams were delivered in the Exhibition.



THE PHILATELIC SLEEPERS.



Portugal 1st Issue, 1853.

DEAR SIR,—I have only just seen the article published in your issue of last October under the heading of "Forgeries and Reprints, Portugal 1st Issue, 1853," extracted by you from the *Portuguese Philatelist*, and dealing with Dona Maria's stamps of 50 and 100 reis.

The delusion under which the *Portuguese Philatelist* appears to have been labouring, when writing the paragraph from which you quote, I can only attribute to the effects of a night probably spent in troubled and unrefreshing sleep; for in this instance, as I shall be able to prove, he has undoubtedly discovered a *mare's nest*, which is often the case when people attempt to write superficially upon a given subject without first acquainting themselves thoroughly with it in all its minor details.

The stamps in question were never used in any of the other branches of the public services, but *always strictly and simply* as postal, consequently always cancelled by the usual postmark, and never *with pen or pencil strokes*.

Formerly (and to the best of my knowledge this practice is still continued) in the law courts in this country, when a case had to be transferred from one office to another in a different district, as, for example, in instances of appeal and such like, the documents relating to the case were forwarded by post as registered letter, but generally without any outside wrapper, the address being commonly put upon the last unwritten page thereof. Such documents paid the ordinary rate of postage, plus the registering fee; and, as anyone may easily understand, being usually very lengthy and consequently weighty, the postage at the rate of 25 reis per 15 grammes became expensive, running very often into a few hundreds of reis, and necessitating the use in each individual instance of sundry stamps of either 50 or 100 reis, which were then the highest values issued. Thus it is that, permission having been granted to a few to extract them from the files existing in the archives of the different law offices, a great many blocks, strips, and pairs of these stamps have of late years been offered by speculators to collectors and dealers at moderate prices, and not because they may be forgeries, or have had the postmark removed by any chemical process, the majority of the unused ones also offering—that is, *the high-prized and much-looked-for stamps* of the *Portuguese Philatelist*—being purely and simply those found amongst and forming part of the said blocks, strips, and pairs, and which, through a most pardonable and often-recurring negligence at all Post-offices, did evidently escape being duly cancelled.

In thus contradicting the words of the *Portuguese Philatelist*, I only put forward what I gathered from personal observation, having been one of those who, four years ago, were graciously accorded leave to go through about 5000 files at one of the principal law offices of the country; and this being more than the *Portuguese Philatelist* probably ever did, I consider myself a better authority than he is on this particular subject.

Finally, I would recommend the *Portuguese Philatelist* to in future be more careful and circumspect when giving publicity to such notices, and not to so lightly and insidiously throw a slur upon the honesty and good faith of the general body of speculators and dealers in Portuguese stamps, upon penalty otherwise of being considered as prejudiced and wanting in some of those qualities.

In giving publicity to the above in your much-appreciated *Philatelic Record* you will greatly oblige

Yours obediently,

A. B. FERREIRA.

OPORTO,
11th January, 1897.

Stamps of the United States.

DEAR SIR,—The January number of the always welcome *Philatelic Record* comes to hand with Mr. Grant R. Francis' notes on the "Stamps of the United States." The article is so well done that I am sure the author will pardon me for calling his attention to a few facts which are to some extent misstated by him.

I question first his statement about the existence of Type III. of the 1 cent, 1851. This is the imperforate stamp with what is known as "the broken circle," that is, with the ornaments at top and bottom trimmed. He says, "Until I see a vertical unsevered pair, I shall hold that all apparent copies of the 1 c., imperf., with broken circle, are merely perforated copies cut down." But in that very connection he calls attention to the supposed fact that the cutting down was made in order to give room for the perforating machine to pass cleanly between the stamps on the plate. If that is the case, which is somewhat doubtful, how could a copy of the stamp be trimmed so as to show margins of any size at all? Moreover, would not a horizontal pair give equally convincing proof with a vertical pair that the stamp in question was imperforate?

It must be said, however, that very many stamps which pass in the market as Type III. are not trimmed at all, but simply the result of the wearing of the plate, by which the top and bottom lines have become faint, and have finally disappeared. But, when all has been said, the 1 c., Type III., imperforate, exists, whatever may be the reason for it.

I have seen both the 30 and 90 cent values of this issue imperforate, printed on the ordinary paper, and gummed. It is less likely, I think, that they are proofs than that they are accidents. Mr. Francis is undoubtedly right, however, in saying that the issue stopped short at the 24 cents, and he might have excluded that value also, as no unquestioned used copy is known to exist. Most of those now in the market came from an unused sheet which was included in a lot of Government remainders obtained by a Boston dealer about twenty years ago.

One other point, and I have done. Mr. Francis says, speaking of the first perforated issue, "The perforating, too, appears to have been more or less clumsily done, as the writer possesses a copy perforated on three sides only, and clearly imperforate on the fourth." The adjective "clumsy" may be a perfectly proper one to apply to method of perforation which has always prevailed with the stamps of the United States; but the imperforate side is the result of "malice prepense and aforethought." All the stamps which have ever been issued here have been printed in sheets of either 200 or 400, divided into panes of 100 each. The earlier stamps were printed with the panes quite close together, while at the present time a larger space is put between them. In perforating, the machine is not made to cut the sides of the stamps on the lines between the pane. As a result, therefore, specialists who give attention to the matter will find the perforated stamps of the United States in nine varieties; viz. (1) perforate all round; (2, 3, 4, 5) perforate on three sides, with either top, bottom, or one side imperforate; (6, 7, 8, 9) perforated on two sides, stamps from the inner corner of each pane forming a separate variety in this respect. In the earlier issues the panes were not always cut accurately, so that one can sometimes find stamps like that which Mr. Francis speaks of. In the case of the 1861 issue, where the panes were separated by a guide line, it sometimes gives a strange appearance to see a stamp perforated on three sides, with the guide line on the other side, and beyond it a part of the next stamp.

Of course, what I said above about varieties of perforation will have to be modified in the case of stamps which were printed in sheets of 200, as the outer edge of the sheet is perforated in every case, only the inner line of separation between the panes being left imperforate.

I have taken too much space already; but I cannot forbear to congratulate Mr. Francis that he has given to the stamps of the United States so much careful study. Of course, American collectors have opportunity to gain information about their own stamps which cannot readily be obtained elsewhere; and the points which I have made simply go to emphasize the desirability of a closer and freer exchange of informaton by careful collectors in various countries.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN LUTHER KILBON.

BOSTON,
2nd February, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—On reading the paper on the "Stamps of the United States," by Mr. Grant R. Francis, in this month's *Record*, the following paragraph struck me as being a little misleading: "The perforating too appears to have been more or less clumsily done, as the writer possesses a copy perforated on three sides only, and clearly imperforate on the fourth, a considerable portion of the design of the adjoining right-hand stamps being visible, and the division having been effected with scissors."

I have specimens of several values of this and subsequent issues showing this characteristic. Sometimes the imperforate side is the right and sometimes the left.

These specimens have a line in the colour of the stamp running down the imperforate side. This line was finally abandoned in the 1869 issue, and an arrow (↓) takes its place in the 1870 issue (? also in 1869 issue). This arrow is in the margin at the top of the sheet, and its point just reaches as low down as the top of the stamp (of course, only stamps from the top row show this arrow).

Can there be any question that this line or arrow marked the centre of the sheet vertically which is invariably imperforate, but was cut through, dividing the original sheet into two before being issued to the Post-offices? Under these circumstances these sometimes so-called imperf. vertical specimens are no other than specimens from the margins of the sheets.

What evidence are they, therefore, of the stamps having been "clumsily perforated"?

Speaking as a general collector (I do not claim to be a specialist), I may add I was surprised to read that the United States stamps were clumsily perforated.

I hope Mr. Francis will accept this small critique in the same good spirit in which it is offered.

Yours faithfully,

W. DORNING BECKTON.

South African Notes.

By SALLO EPSTEIN.

It has often occurred to the writer that a few facts on the progress of philately in South Africa would interest European collectors, and may perhaps also help to remove the belief, which is held in the minds of people less in touch with the outer world, that South Africa is still a howling wilderness, where men go about armed to the teeth and in constant danger of their lives. This belief would soon give way to a feeling of wonder at the rapid progress of civilization were those people momentarily transplanted to the "Golden City" of Johannesburg. This marvellous town, a mere mining-camp ten years ago, can now claim the proud position of being the metropolis of South Africa. Verily, with its palatial buildings — which would do credit to any European capital—and its go-ahead, bustling community, composed of men of all nations, it is difficult to believe that one is in Africa.

And here I might observe that the fact that in a city to which men are come with the set purpose of making a competency in as short a time as possible, and in order to accomplish this hardly ever allow themselves any rest, and in many instances do double the amount of work they would do in Europe, there are still to be found men pursuing our fascinating study, speaks a great deal for the stability of philately from a monetary point of view.

Some two years ago "The Johannesburg Philatelic Society" was called into existence, under the presidency of the late Postmaster of Johannesburg, Mr. A. A. Osborne; with the Postmaster-General of the Transvaal, Mr. Isaac van Alphen, and that great enthusiast Mr. Carl Jeppe, as Hon. President and Vice-President respectively. The Society flourished for a time, but, as must be the case in an ever-changing community, it was found difficult to properly administrate its affairs; so that after a short but brilliant career the Society was wound up, when it was found that each member became entitled to a number of Swazieland stamps and a certain amount of cash, showing a considerable profit on the total subscriptions paid. The action of the administration of the late Johannesburg Society, in investing some of its superfluous funds in this way, might with advantage be followed by other Societies.

For a little while the ruling spirit was thus lacking to the South African philatelists, but it had evidently not gone to sleep altogether. Through the untiring efforts of two earnest students of our absorbing science, Messrs. S. A. Klagsbrun and S. F. Epstein, an unpretending little paper, called the *South African Philatelist*, made its appearance shortly afterwards. The amount of work connected with this issue must have been stupendous; printing being a costly affair, all the matter had to be first type-written and then duplicated.

The thanks of all collectors specializing in African stamps are due to the publishers for the excellent matter contained in their little publication, and it was indeed a loss to African specialists when they were forced to announce that the work connected with their issue had proved too much for them, after having bravely fulfilled their promise of publishing at least six numbers.

Thus again a blank has been caused, which has not been filled up yet; although I have no doubt a Society will rise again from the ashes of the defunct Johannesburg Society as soon as the feeling of unrest, which has been hanging over this country since the unfortunate "Jameson Raid," will give way to a settled state of affairs.

But who can say that we are without a guiding spirit whilst we have in our midst a man of such eminence in the philatelic world as Mr. Emil Tamsen, of Waterberg, whose profound knowledge of African, and more especially Transvaal issues, is at the command of any collector in doubt?

Then there are a great number of dealers in the principal centres, whose aim it is to advance the interests of philately as much as possible. In Cape Town we have Mr. L. C. Raphael; Mr. T. J. Beeman presides over the philatelic treasures in Kimberley; and in Johannesburg "Philately House" is the rendezvous of the men of light and learning in philately.

Of private dealers the number is legion, and in connection with this I would venture the opinion, that providing the dealer be a man of education he can contribute considerably to the extension and knowledge of our favourite study in those centres where *The Philatelic Record* or *The Monthly Journal* are unknown quantities.

We will now come to an important point, and that is, In which class can the African collector be ranged? In nine cases out of ten he will specialize in African countries, and spare no amount of trouble to make his collection as complete as possible. I have met with a few general collectors, but the instances are few and far between. It is the average collector's great aim to complete his Cape triangulars and first issues of the Transvaal; and I must admit a page of these do make a grand show.

The idea is prevalent that because one is in Africa one should be able to obtain African stamps much below the prices ruling in Europe. People forget that the bulk of the earlier issues have found their way to Europe, and that of the rare issues comparatively few are held in this country.



Notable Stamps at Auction.

* Unused. † On original.

Buhl & Co.,

8th and 9th February, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Cape of Good Hope, 5s., orange, CA	1	1	0
Gold Coast, 20s., green and red*	6	12	6
Naples, ½ t., blue cross, on entire journal	4	5	0
Philippines, 1854, 2r., green block of 3	3	15	0

Cheveley & Co.,

15th February, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Dominica, 1s., lilac-rose, CA*	4	0	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., medium, early ..	8	0	0
Nevis, 1s., yellow-green on laid	50	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., plum ..	16	10	0
St. Christopher, 6d., olive-brown	4	5	0
Saxony, 3 pf., red ..	6	0	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., single line*	4	0	0
Wurtemburg, 70 k., rose-lilac	4	0	0

Puttick & Simpson,

2nd and 3rd February, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Nevis, 6d., green* ..	7	12	6
Ditto, 1s., perf. 13* ..	4	4	0
Ditto, 1s., perf. 15* ..	5	15	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-red*	11	10	0
Nova Scotia, 6d., yellow-green*	5	10	0
St. Lucia, 1s., black and orange*	6	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d., ultramarine, CA, perf. 12 .	4	15	0
Ditto, 4d., do. perf. 14	4	0	0
Ditto, 1s., indigo* ..	4	0	0
Ditto, 1s., vermilion, star, perf. 12*	4	0	0
Victoria, Queen on throne, 2d., red-brown, engraved, strip of 5* ..	6	10	0

16th and 17th February, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Barbados, 1s., black, imperf., pair	4	15	0
Great Britain, V.R.* ..	11	10	0
Japan, 1st issue, 500 mons, pale yellow-green on laid	7	15	0
Mauritius, 2d., medium, early	8	15	0

Ventom, Bull & Cooper,

10th and 11th February, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Cape of Good Hope, 6d., lilac, roulette	2	5	0
Ceylon, 1s. 9d., green, imperf.*	4	0	0
Labuan, 12 c., carmine, CA sideways	4	10	0
Ditto, 1 dol., in red manuscript, on 16 c., blue*	10	10	0
Moldavia, 81 paras, blue, cut square	95	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow*	13	0	0
Philippines, 1st issue, 5 cuartos, orange, engraved	5	10	0
Queensland, 2d., blue, imperf., strip of 3* ..	78	0	0
Ditto, pair and single† .	24	0	0
Ditto, 6d., green, imperf.*	12	0	0
St. Lucia, 1s., black and orange*	5	5	0
St. Vincent, 1d., rose-red, imperf., pair* ..	7	0	0
Ditto, 6d., yellow-green, no wmk., clean perf. 15½	18	0	0
Tasmania, 1d., blue, strip of 4†	8	10	0
Tuscany, 3 lire, dark yellow	60	0	0
Western Australia, 6d., golden bronze ..	7	15	0

25th and 26th February, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, 1st issue, 4d., rose, imperf...	8	0	0
Virgin Islands, 1d., rose, sheet of 24*	0	8	0
Ditto, 4d., red, sheet of 24*	3	3	0
Ditto, 6d., deep lilac, sheet of 24*	6	10	0
Ditto, 1s., brown, sheet of 24*	8	10	0
Gambia, C C, 6d., imperf., block of 6	5	0	0
Ditto, C C, ½d., sheet of 15*	0	12	0
Ditto, C C, 1d., sheet of 15*	0	14	0
Ditto, C C, 2d., sheet of 15*	1	4	0
Ditto, C C, 3d., sheet of 15*	1	8	0
Ditto, C C, 4d., sheet of 15*	8	0	9
Ditto, C C, 6d., sheet of 15*	7	0	0
Ditto, C C, 1s., sheet of 15*	30	0	0

Notices.

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

MAY, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

JUST now corporations and individuals are busying themselves in arrangements for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and philatelists intend to celebrate that event in their own fashion with a Philatelic Exhibition. In that Exhibition, after all, only a comparative few of the scores of thousands of philatelists dotted all over the country can possibly take part as exhibitors or as sightseers.

Our National Collection.

It may, therefore, be worth while to offer the general body of philatelists a still better opportunity of celebrating that Jubilee, and at the same time of contributing substantially and materially to the permanence of their hobby.

To that end, what better work could we undertake than the completion of our national collection of postage stamps, the basis of which has been so magnificently laid by Mr. T. K. Tapling in the presentation of his invaluable collection to the nation?

In these days of the breaking up of great collections, and of the continual changing from one group of specialising to another, when even the best and most enthusiastic are tempted to part with their trusteeship of incomparable philatelic treasures, it is well that, however changeable we may be individually, we should do something to build up one great representative and permanent collection which shall be safe from the fickleness of fashion and from the temptation of high prices, and shall remain an open book of philatelic reference for ever, guarded as a national treasure.

With very little self-sacrifice the collectors and dealers of this country can, if they will, complete the Tapling collection, and keep it up to date.

And, in all probability, the evidence of a widespread desire on the part of philatelists to undertake this work would largely influence the Treasury in the matter of a grant in aid of its care and arrangement.

Why should not our Philatelic Societies take up this work, and make a regular grant of an agreed proportion from their funds for the care and proper housing of a national collection? The societies, collectors, and dealers of this country, if they all put their shoulders together, can secure, not only the completion of the Tapling collection, but also better provision for its complete and proper exhibition for the purposes of reference. As at present exhibited in

instalments, its usefulness is dwarfed to the irreducible minimum. Why should we not combine not only for its completion, but also for its full exhibition in a special room? These conditions, indeed, are inseparable. It is very little use for philatelists to expend their efforts in the bulking up of a collection that is to be permanently buried in the catacombs of the British Museum.

But if our Philatelic Societies, our collectors, and our dealers will, collectively and individually, take up this matter, there is not a shadow of doubt that we can secure the permanent and efficient exhibition of a permanent and complete national collection.

Who would not spare from his treasures, his duplicates, or his pocket, a liberal contribution for such an object? Let us see to it. Where there is the will the way will be found.

* * *

Cancellations. THE study of cancellations is one that must always more or less engage the attention of the specialist, for they are a *sine qua non* to the proper classification of the early issues of most countries. And in all probability, despite our wealth of information as to current issues, cancellations will continue to the end of the chapter to play an important part in matters philatelic. In a recent issue of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* Mr. Andreini writes:—

> Turning to the new postmarks, I think it was at the beginning of 1897 that many of the large Post-offices were supplied with new flag cancelling machines. The work of these machines is finer than the work of the old flag machines. In the middle of the flag is the number of the machine. The circle to the left with town, month, day, hour, year, and station, in the order named, is in hair-line type. These machines have not superseded the electric machines, which continue their destructive work. A recent cancellation from Washington is composed of over thirty thin vertical lines 22 mm. high, 2 mm. apart, and producing a very neat appearance. Another from Frankfort, Ky., is made of several spread eagles 68 mm. long from wing to wing, each eagle 8 mm. apart, the postmark being inserted in the space under the wings of two eagles. The device is repeated to the whole length of the envelope. I have seen as many as five cancellations on one long envelope.

Cancellations may not again be important as determining the dates of issue; but, in the matter of shades, and of printings, and of the continued use of certain stamps, they are, and probably will remain, the sole key to the situation.

* * *

The Hospital Stamp. The much-talked-of Hospital Postage Stamp is not, after all, to be available for postage. It is not, in fact, to be a postage stamp, but simply a souvenir after the pattern of a postage stamp. It will be a very beautiful bit of engraving and printing, and it is thought that it will be a very acceptable form of receipt for shilling and half-crown donations to the Hospital Fund by the general public, and particularly by the large body of philatelists. To such a proposal the most strait-laced philatelic Mrs. Grundy cannot possibly find any rational objection. We trust every philatelist will secure a copy of the two values—one shilling and two shillings and sixpence—and that those pretty souvenirs of a grand national effort in a truly benevolent direction will find a permanent place on the English page of every collection worthy of the name.

Death of Mr. J. K. Tiffany.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. John Keer Tiffany, which occurred at St. Louis, U.S., on the 3rd of March last. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* states that after a few days' illness Mr. Tiffany was moved to the Rebekab Hospital, in St. Louis, where he underwent an operation, to which he succumbed.

Mr. Tiffany was born in St. Louis, U.S., in February, 1842, and had therefore only passed his 55th birthday. He was a lawyer by profession, and a man of considerable wealth and culture.

As a philatelist, he was an enthusiast. He loved the pursuit for the simple pleasure that it yielded him, and not for the sake of the dollars which his treasures represented. On one occasion he protested—

> It is not the original intrinsic value of the objects that compose it, nor their utility, nor rarity, that at the outset inspire the interest or make the value of a collection. The collector's spirit, pure and unalloyed, turns from those objects that are sought merely for their intrinsic value, to seek those which appeal to the love of the beautiful; preserve some record of the past or present, of man or nature. To illustrate something completely is the true collector's passion. Whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, are the true collector's quest. The recognition of its interest as a record by others first gives a novel collection value.

His stamp collection, according to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, is in a dozen or more volumes that were made to order for him. These volumes fit in a special black walnut case, which occupied a prominent place in his "den" or study on the first floor of his residence in St. Louis. Entire U.S. envelopes were a favourite study with him, and these, as well as all United States varieties, were kept up in his collection long after he ceased to collect foreign stamps.

His later years were devoted to his philatelic library, which has the reputation of being the best in the world, including, it is said, 97 per cent. of all the philatelic papers ever known to exist.

As a philatelic writer he is well known on this side of the water for his *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States*, published by Mekeel in 1887. This work was, however, originally published in French by M. Moens, and afterwards rewritten and prepared for publication in the English language. In 1874 he printed for private circulation a list of his philatelic publications under the title of *The Philatelic Library*.

In 1886 he was elected President of the American Philatelic Association, an office which he resigned only last year.

The Stamps of Greece.

By W. DORNING BECKTON,

President of the Manchester Philatelic Society

(In collaboration with G. B. Duerst).

(*Continued from page* 94).

THE stamps themselves were ordered from Paris, and the engraving of the matrix was entrusted to M. Barre, the well-known engraver of the three first issues of the French stamps. It is, therefore, not a matter of surprise that the design, which I will now shortly describe, should bear such a strong family likeness to the French stamps.

Design.—The head of Hermes to right, with a winged headgear known as a petasus, on a circular solid ground of colour, surrounded by a circle of 88 pearls within a rectangle. The tablets at each side contain a Greek pattern on a solid ground, and these tablets are broken into by the circle of pearls. The upper label bears the inscription "ELL GRAMM" (Greece postage), and the lower label the value * on a solid ground. There is a small square in each of the four angles of the design, containing an ornament resembling a *Croix patté.* The space between the circle and the side and top labels is filled in with a fine network composed of wavy, vertical lines, and small dots. The design is strikingly handsome, although not elaborate, in fact much of its attractiveness is due to its simplicity.

The Plate.—The matrix was engraved in relief in steel by M. Barre, and the same matrix was used for all the values. The matrix was engraved without the figures of value in the bottom label, but it did contain the letters "L E P T." From this original matrix a plate of 150 electros (15 rows of 10) was constructed for each value. The numerals of value were inserted separately on each of the 150 electros for each plate, and consequently, as a strict matter of fact, each stamp on the sheet is different so far as the numerals of value are concerned. These numerals are too minute to attempt the herculean task of reconstructing entire sheets; at the same time there are sufficiently marked variations, especially in the positions of the numerals, to satisfy any philatelist that what I have pointed out is a fact. Although the matrix was engraved by M. Barre, yet I have a very strong reason for thinking that there his work ceased. The plates were constructed by M. Ernest Meyer, and the stamps, in the first instance, were, I believe, printed at the *Hôtel de la Monnaie*, in Paris. My ground for the first assertion is a strip of three of the 20 lepta from the bottom of the sheet bearing a marginal inscription, in the colour of the stamps of course, which reads: "Typographie Ernest Meyer, Rue de Verneuil, 22, à Paris." I ought to add that the margin on this strip is 19 mm. (whereas the usual width of the margin on the Paris issue is only 8 mm.), and that this inscription is at the bottom of the margin. The Athens prints do not exist with this inscription; in the first place the sheets have not, as a rule, so much lower margin, and

* The unit of the modern Greek currency is the drachma. At the present rate of exchange this is worth about sixpence. The name was revived in 1833, when Greece became independent; prior to that time, being subservient to Turkey, I presume the piastre was current.

First Period.

PARIS PRINTS, 1861.

First Printing.







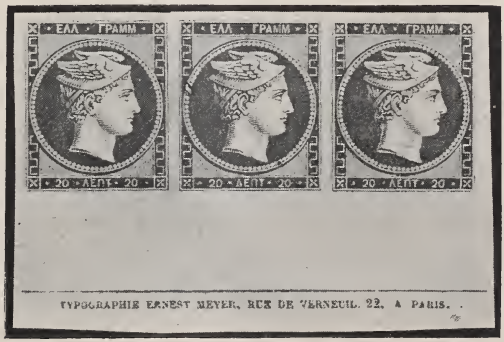








Showing Marginal Inscription.



Second Printing.







secondly, I believe when the plates were sent to Athens the inscription was removed. I will briefly give my reason for the second opinion, namely, that the stamps were first printed at the *Hôtel de la Monnaie*, in Paris. We know the French stamps of this period (the imperf. series of the empire) were printed there, and a comparison of the colours, tone, paper, tone of surface paper, and general workmanship will, I think, be sufficient to satisfy most that such must have been the case. In my opinion the same paper and colours, and the same process, were used for printing both the Greek and French stamps of the period under consideration (1860). Believing as I do that the paper employed was the same as that used for the French stamp, it would be well for me here to quote from an excellent article on the French stamps in the *Philatelic Record*, by its then very able editor: "The paper on which the stamps were printed was furnished by the firm of Lacroix, of Angoulême. It is white wove, somewhat thin, but it is not of so close a texture as that now used for the English stamps. Before the impression was made the paper was covered with a thin coat of a preparation, the secret of which was guarded; but its object was to prevent the stamp being reproduced by lithography. M. Hulot states the stamps were printed on papers *teintés en diminutif de la couleur de l'impression.* This slight tinge of colour was doubtless mixed with the chemical preparation, as in itself it is said to have been colourless." This previous preparation of the paper has always been adopted in France, although such is not the case in Greece. As recently applied in France it formed a safeguard against cleaning the stamps, for it disintegrates on the application of detergents, and the impression is destroyed.

I propose now to bring my general observations to a close, and to consider the several issues. It will avoid confusion if I state the order in which I propose to discuss the stamps. For the purpose of this paper I shall do so in the order in which they are arranged in my collection, for the reason that it will be easier for me, and secondly, because I can find at present no better system of arrangement; it is as follows:—

First Period.

The *Paris* prints, 1861.

Second Period.

α The *Athens* prints most nearly allied to the Paris.

β The *Athens* prints prior to 1870.

γ The *Athens* prints from 1870 to 1876 (except in the case of the 1 lepton and 2 lepta, which are brought up to 1885).

Although this period is subdivided I propose to take each value right through the three subdivisions before parting with it to describe the next.

Third Period.

The stamps (except 1 lepton and 2 lepta) issued in 1876 on creamish tinted paper, with numerals on the back, including (as I am obliged) the 30 lepta and 60 lepta *Paris and Athens.*

Fourth Period.

The stamps (except 1 lepton and 2 lepta) of 1878–85, on similar paper, but without numerals of value on the back.

These four periods incorporate all the issues of the first type of head, the stamps of which I only collect; those of the second type of head I leave the new collector to deal with.

The errors and minor varieties of numerals on the back will be dealt with in

a chapter to themselves, and my paper will be brought to a close by a consideration of the Unpaid Letter stamps and their various perforations.

Let us now turn to the stamps of the First Period, known as the Paris prints, and so called because the stamps themselves were printed there. The stamps of this issue can be distinguished by the splendid execution, the shading on the cheek of Hermes being composed of very fine lines, which are more or less broken up, making the shading appear as if it were composed of dots and short dashes. This is the best test of the Paris prints. The values, except the 10 lepta, have no numerals of value on the back. The 10 lepta value has numerals measuring 8 mm. in height on the back, 𝟙𝟘.

The idea of printing the numerals of value on the back of the stamps emanated from M. Hulot, who superintended the printing of the French stamps in Paris, and a suggestion was made by him to have the numerals printed on the back of the French stamps; but it did not meet with favour, and was not adopted.

This novel idea commended itself to the printer of the Greek stamps, and by way of experiment he delivered the 10 lepta value having the numerals on the back. The obvious advantage was that mistakes might be prevented by the Post-office clerks, and also that the different values could be easily distinguished by the public. To anyone unacquainted with the colours, or colour-blind and at all short-sighted, apart from the numerals on the back, it must have been very trying to tell the different values, owing to the numerals of value in the label on the face being so small. That the experiment found favour in Greece is established by the fact that practically so soon as the stamps were printed in Athens the system was adopted for all the values except the two lowest. The size of the numerals on the Athens prints is, however, much smaller, measuring 6¼ mm. in height, instead of 8 mm. The reason for this change would seem to be a printer's one. To make myself clear you must understand that first of all the stamps were printed, then the numerals were printed on the back, and the sheets finally were gummed. A plate of 150 *clichés* of numerals was set up, and this plate corresponded with the size of the plate for the stamps. With this plate the numerals were printed on the back of the stamps. Now it will at once be seen that great care would have to be exercised in printing from this numeral plate to make the numerals fall correctly on the back of the stamps, especially when such a large size of numeral as that of the Paris 10 lepta was employed; and this difficulty would have been emphasized in the case of the other numerals if made of a size to correspond with the 10, because the numerals 20, 40, or 80 must occupy more space than the numerals 10. For this reason, and to have the numerals of value for the different values uniform in size, we find that the numerals on the back of the Athens prints are much smaller, measuring 6¼ mm., as against 8 mm. of the Paris.

Gum.—This all-important matter, nowadays, I will say a few words upon, confining my remarks to the Paris issue. Two distinct kinds of gum are to be met with. The first is of a yellowish kind and good substance, what my friends call "good old crinkly gum"; the second is quite colourless and thin, showing a smooth surface on the back of the stamp, of a kind that seldom crinkles. There were two printings at Paris, which will be dealt with in due course; the yellowish gum, although I have described it first, was really used on the second printing, *et sequitur* the colourless gum on the first.

A number of stamps have recently been on the market without gum; these are from damaged sheets, and were, I believe, found, together with the imperf. Roumania of 1872, in Paris. The supply was limited, by no means equal to the demand, consequently collectors need not be alarmed. No 1 lepton or 10 lepta were found. Why I mention the matter is that specimens offered me recently as O.G. were by no means correctly described; if the O had been omitted I should not have cavilled at the description.

The first printings of the Paris were issued in Athens on October 1st, 1860, according to the Greek calendar. This would be October 13th by the Augustine Table.

First Printing.

1 lepton, chocolate-brown, varying in shade to deep chocolate-brown; on cream paper.
2 lepta, olive-bistre, varying in shade to very light; on yellowish paper.
5 ,, pale emerald-green; on greenish paper. Practically no shades.
10 ,, bright orange-red; on greenish blue paper. These vary but slightly in shade.
20 ,, clear blue, varying in shade to deep; on faint bluish paper.
40 ,, bright violet; on greenish blue paper. These vary but slightly in shade; used specimens, however, are often very faded.
80 ,, rose; on creamish paper. Slight shades. The colour of this value is apt to run and impart a pink tone to the surface of the paper.

Second Printing.

1 lepton, reddish chocolate, varying in shade to very light; on cream paper.
2 lepta, ochre-bistre, varying to dark; on yellow paper.
5 ,, green; on greenish paper.
20 ,, blue (paler than in the first printing); on bluish paper, which is deeper than in the first printing.
40 ,, violet (which is deeper than in the first printing); on greenish blue paper.
80 ,, carmine (varying in shade); on cream-tinted paper.

To distinguish between the two printings there are three guiding stones. The colours, or rather the tones of colour, are different, especially marked being the 2 lep., 20 lep., and 80 lep. In the second place, what I have already mentioned—the gum; on the second printing you will remember it is the good old-fashioned sort. Thirdly, and this is a very important matter in view of the assertion I am going to make hereafter, the lines of shading on the neck and cheek are distinctly heavier, and are almost continuous lines, in lieu of being very much broken up into dots and dashes as in the first printing. The impression of the second printing is heavier than that of the first. It is to the very light printing of the first Paris that I attribute the shading on the face appearing in dots and dashes. The whole of the lines of shading were, I maintain, on the plate; but sufficient pressure was not applied, or the mode of printing* was not adapted for bringing out these lines, especially on the glazed paper employed, and again the composition of the colours might not be suitable. On the second printing, when deeper colours were employed, we find these lines of shading showing up.

There is another matter to be considered on this head, and that is, "How is it that on the 10 lepta the lines of shading are clearer than on the other values of the first printing?"

This value was taken from the same matrix, and must be identical, so far as the shading on the plate goes, with the other values. How is it then that the shading appears heavier? My answer is, On account of the ink being of a richer substance, and greater pressure applied in printing. I think it by no means unreasonable to suppose that this value was handed to a different workman to print and put the numerals of value on the back, so that by separating from the others no mistake might be made as to the numerals appearing on the wrong stamps. But whatever the reason is, the fact of the shading appearing

* Unfortunately, owing to the death of the printer, which took place in Dresden in 1894, I have been unable to ascertain definitely the mode of printing employed.

heavier remains. It is similar to the shading on the second printing, in which the 10 lepta value is not found.

Having dealt with the two printings, I must now say a few words upon that well-known stamp, the 10 lepta Paris, without figures on the back. It has been called an error. This I cannot believe, because it is not in the same tone of colour as the one with large numerals at the back. The colour of the one without numerals I should call vermilion-red, on greenish blue paper. It is certainly not orange-red.

It has also been said that the first few sheets printed were without numeral, and that the second printing was with numeral, and this was the solution of the difficulty suggested in a few observations I made last season on the Paris issue. At the present time I do not believe this to be the case, for the reason that the first delivery at Athens, which included the stamps of the first printing, also included the 10 lepta value with numerals.

There is a third explanation—but it is one I am very loath to adopt—that it is a proof. No used specimen on the entire envelope is known, which certainly would have been the case, bearing in mind the stamp is no rarer unused than its fellow with numerals, had the stamp been issued. Can it be placed in the category of stamps printed for use but not put into circulation? This would put it on a par with the V.R. It may have been that some sheets were printed without numerals first of all, and rejected on that account. This I think hardly probable. It is a stamp around which much doubt still exists, and for that reason is so fascinating that it ought not, in my opinion, to be excluded from a representative collection on the ground of being a proof, which I must confess I believe it is, until its status is definitely decided.

The 1 lepton exists in black-brown and rusty light brown.
The 20 lepta ,, Prussian blue.

These varieties are proofs. The 20 lepta was printed on both sides, and exists twice printed on the face. It is doubtful whether these varieties were issued.

The Paris issue was generally in use until the early part of 1862, although by that time some of the values, notably the 1 l., 10 l., and 20 l., were used up at the chief offices, and the Athens prints had superseded them. The obliteration was in the shape of a diamond composed of dots with numerals in the the centre, signifying the number of the Post-office; each office having allotted to it a different number as in this country; *e.g.*, 1 was Athens. During the first three months, namely, from October 1st to December 31st, 1861, stamps to the value of about £4000 were sold.

Second Period.

α The *Athens* prints most nearly allied to the Paris.

β The *Athens* prints prior to 1870.

γ The *Athens* prints from 1870 to 1876 (except in the case of the 1 l. and 2 l., which are brought up to 1885).

It will occur to you, perhaps, as strange that I should have considered it necessary to subdivide into three groups the Athens prints for the above period. I hope you will follow me in the reasons I am about to put forward for so doing, and that you will agree that this subdivision is a wise one to make, and assists in the unravelling of the intricate printings of the various values which we are about to consider.

You are all aware of the characteristics of the Athens prints. In the olden days it was sufficient to know that the Athens prints in the case of all values except 1 l. and 2 l. had amounts of value on the back measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in height, and that the 1 l. and 2 l. could be distinguished by the heavier shading on the face and neck.

The last of these characteristics is the one which I prefer to give as the true way of distinguishing between a stamp of the First Period (Paris) and the Second Period (Athens), especially as the other is scarcely true, because, as we shall see hereafter, the 10 l. and 20 l. were first printed in Athens without numerals on the back. The fact that so few were so printed does not in itself affect the incorrectness of the descriptive characteristic as used in the olden days, but it may account for it, as possibly, owing to the rarity of the stamps without numerals on the back, they were overlooked.

Returning to the distinguishing feature, *i.e.*, the heavier lines of shading on the neck, it at once will occur to you to ask, To what do I attribute it? I have carefully considered this problem, and have in addition examined some thousands of specimens, and the conclusion I have arrived at is opposed to the reason which has always hitherto been advanced.

Every writer on this subject, so far as I have read, has always stated that the plates were retouched by having the lines of shading on the face and neck deepened or strengthened prior to the stamps being printed in Athens in December, 1861.

From this I dissent, and for the following reasons:—

After the second printing at Paris the plates were sent to Athens with a working printer to instruct the Athens workmen in the art of printing stamps, and this workman took with him a quantity of ink and paper from Paris.

The stamps of the Second Period, subdivision α, were printed by this workman in Athens upon paper he brought with him and with the Paris ink. These stamps are known to collectors as the First Athens, by reason of their good execution, and the colours resembling but not being identical to the Paris. The difference is of course accounted for by the printer having to mix the colours afresh. The α stamps show the shading on the neck in very fine lines very clearly defined. The β stamps have their lines slightly heavier in the first printings, and considerably heavier in the later ones. The stamps of this period (β) were printed in Athens by Athens workmen, in the first stages under the supervision of the French workman. After his departure, in the first stages very good paper, possibly Paris, was used; later, inferior kinds. Some of the later printings of this period were very bad indeed, due partly to the continual printing from the same plates, and secondly to the inexperienced workmen employed. So much was this the case that we find in 1870 a German workman was sent for to clean and renovate the plates, and he brought with him a new printing press. The stamps printed by him from the renovated plates and those printed after he left I have identified by calling the γ period.

Before leaving this, the γ period, I must describe two curious variations which occur on each sheet of the 1 lepton of all the printings in this period. On the 44th stamp on the sheet, being the 4th stamp in the 5th row, there is an irregular white blotch on the pearl circle between the bottom of the fore part of the neck and the lower label, being over the letters P T. This minor variety I have described hereafter as Flaw No. 1. The second variety is the 55th stamp on the sheet, being the 5th stamp in the 6th row, on which there is a irregular white blotch (not so large as the first variety) at the back of the head, and running through the lower end of the ribbon. This variety I describe hereafter as Flaw No. 2. Both these varieties are due to a mishap which occurred to those two particular *clichés* when the plate was being cleaned in 1870. Although minor varieties, they are more than usually interesting, as clearly demonstrating that the same plate was used for the beautiful fine prints of 1870 and all the subsequent printings, the majority of which were blotchy, heavy, and poor.

(*To be continued.*)

British Indian Stamps

SURCHARGED FOR THE NATIVE STATES.

By C. STEWART WILSON.

From the "Philatelic Journal of India."

THESE notes are the first attempts to put together materials for an illustrated handbook on these stamps, of which it is intended to issue at least a portion to our members during the present year. My object in publishing this rough draft is two-fold. The information given appears to me to be so interesting and so, contradictory to all received ideas on the subject of these (so senselessly abused) stamps, that I thought it a pity to keep it longer to myself. I also felt that a preliminary publication in this manner would be the best means of enlisting help and advice from others.

I am satisfied that the recent action of the Bengal Society, whose letter to the Director-General of the Post-office of India will be found in another column, will save the world of Philately from further "errors" in surcharging. This being so, it is very advisable that an authoritative list of all "errors" detected in former printings should be made public. I have for long been making a special study of this subject, and have succeeded in collecting a large number of examples. In many cases I know that my own collection is deficient in "errors" in certain values of which I have specimens in others, while it is probable that some varieties are altogether wanting. These "errors" are often of the greatest interest, and in very many cases of the extremest rarity. I trust that all readers of this paper will carefully compare my reference list with their own collections, and at once communicate to me any omissions.

General Remarks.

The Government of India, at one time and another, but not in recent years, has entered into postal "conventions" with the Hill State of Chamba, the four Cis-Sutlej Sikh States of Patiala, Nabha, Faridkot, and Jhind, and with Gwalior. As far as philatelists are concerned, the interest of any one of these conventions lies in the mutual recognition by each party thereto of the franking power of the other's postage stamps within the territories of both. In other words, the stamps which we are now considering will frank a letter throughout the State concerned, and also throughout British India. In fact, like the stamps of Perak and the other Native States of the Straits Settlements, they combine the nature of "locals" with that of "general issues." The only difference between the two is that the stamps with which we are now concerned will frank a letter over the whole of British India, whereas those of the Straits Native States circulate only in the very limited area under the control of the Government of the Straits Settlements. It has long been held orthodox to collect Perak, Selangor, etc. We ask the same indulgence for Patiala, Gwalior, etc.

These conventions further bind the Government of India to supply to these States, on indent, the stamps current in British India surcharged with the name of the indenting State. The charge made for this service is the actual price paid by the Government of India to Messrs. De La Rue for printing the stamps, *plus* freight to India, *plus* the actual cost of surcharging. No profit is made on the transaction.

The surcharging is done in Calcutta at the Government of India Central Printing Press under conditions which make underhand work an absolute impossibility. The only fault which can be found with the work of the Press is that it has hitherto allowed the compositors too much latitude in averting the evil eye by divesting their work of perfect uniformity. It will at once be conceded that, when a certain set of words has to be set up 240 times, it is difficult to secure perfect uniformity. This difficulty is increased when this setting up has to be done more than once at varying intervals of time. Even the very greatest human precautions can hardly absolutely eliminate all chances of error. Still, I think that it will be generally conceded that the Government Press should be able to guarantee practically absolute immunity from typographical errors, and this, I understand, will be the case in future. So far, considering the class of men who are of necessity employed, the work has shown but few inaccuracies. We shall soon have none at all.

Chamba.

Chamba is a Hill State situated between Kashmir and the Punjab, on the North-Eastern frontier of the latter. Though it has an area of 3126 square miles, it has a population of only 124,032. The population is mainly a rural one. Its one town had only 5905 inhabitants at the last census. By far the larger number of the people of the State are of the *bonnet laird* type, and cultivate their own land, living in modest comfort.

As in the case of the other States with which "conventions" have been entered into, it has been most unreasonably assumed of Chamba that its postal system exists only on paper, and that its purpose is merely to give a fictitious official sanction to the issue of certain so-called postage stamps, which are then sold to unfortunate collectors, through the medium of dealers, to the great profit of the State. Like most unreasonable assumptions, this one is totally wrong. Its only foundation, in truth, lies in the fact that, provided that the stamps of a small and of a large country are equally sought after, the proportion to the total issues of the quantities which are bought for collections must of necessity be greater in the case of the small country than of the larger one; *e.g.*, the percentage of Gibraltar stamps bought by dealers to the number used for postal purposes is greater than in the case of Great Britain. Yet no one thinks of saying that Gibraltar stamps are "made for collectors."

The facts of the case are that Chamba has an excellently administered postal system, under the able control of M. Gurditta Mal. The State has eight Post-offices with runners, lines, etc. The postal facilities thus provided are used by the public generally, and by the State itself in its internal administration, which is controlled from the town of Chamba.

Supposing that each stamp, embossed envelope, and post card issued since 1886 represents one postal article, and assuming that one year's supply is still in hand, the total number of articles posted each year by each *literate* person in the State works out to about 27. The average per head of literate population throughout British India is over 30, and in the Punjab alone over 50. So, judged by this practical test, it does not appear likely that an unreasonable percentage of the stamps of Chamba is diverted from postal purposes into the stocks of dealers.

Chamba entered into its convention with the Government of India on 30th September, 1886.

Since then it has issued the following denominations of stamps, the figures at the beginning indicating the year of first issue :—

Ordinary.

1886.	½ anna	green	*Wmk.* Star.
1886.	1 ,,	purple-brown	do.
1895.	1½ annas	bistre	do.
1886.	2 ,,	blue	do.
1895.	2½ ,,	yellow-green	do.
1887.	3 ,,	orange	do.
1886.	4 ,,	olive	do.
1890.	6 ,,	yellow-brown	*Wmk.* Elephant's Head.
1887.	8 ,,	mauve	*Wmk.* Star.
1890.	12 ,,	brown on red	do.
1887.	1 rupee	slate	do.
1895.	1 ,,	carmine and green	do.
1895.	2 rupees	brown and carmine	do.
1895.	3 ,,	green and dark brown	do.
1895.	5 ,,	violet and ultramarine	do.

Service.

1886.	½ anna	green	*Wmk.* Star.
1886.	1 ,,	purple-brown	do.
1887.	2 annas	blue	do.
1890.	3 ,,	orange	do.
1886.	4 ,,	olive	do.
1890.	6 ,,	yellow-brown	*Wmk.* Elephant's Head.
1887.	8 ,,	orange	*Wmk.* Star.
1890.	12 ,,	brown on red	do.
1890.	1 rupee	slate	do.

The sheets of stamps with the Star watermark were surcharged with the words "CHAMBA STATE" at one printing. The 6 anna stamp, being smaller and on a larger sheet, required a special setting up, and was surcharged in two printings, half of the

sheet being surcharged at a time. It is to this fact that are due one or two errors peculiar to the 6 anna stamps.

The same is true with respect to the supplementary surcharge of "SERVICE," which was applied subsequently to the required number of sheets after the ordinary surcharge had been made.

The surcharges in Chamba State stamps are invariably in black.

The dimensions of the surcharges are :—

"CHAMBA"	10½ × 2 millimetres.
"STATE"	8 × 2 ,,
Interval between "CHAMBA" and "STATE" .	1 ,,
"SERVICE"	10 × 2 ,,

The word "STATE" is arranged at the centre of the word "CHAMBA." The interval between "SERVICE" and "CHAMBA" varies greatly. I have seen the interval as small as 6 millimetres, and as great as 10. I attach no importance to these varieties, as the "SERVICE" surcharge is made separately from the other.

We now come to an enumeration of the stamps surcharged, their dates of issue, and the number supplied of each denomination on each occasion.

These figures I owe to the kindness of the Director-General of the Post-office of India.

In December, 1885, H. H. the Rajah of Chamba sent in his first indent for overprinted stamps. In April, 1886, proofs were received from the Superintendent of Stamps, surcharged in red. These were not approved, as the ink was apt to be either too oily or too dry, and the depth of colour uncertain. The Superintendent of Stamps was asked to overprint all such stamps in future with black ink. Proofs printed in black were approved in June, 1886.

The first supply was made about October, 1886, and consisted of: —

Ordinary.		*Service.*	
½ anna	20,000	½ anna	10,000
1 ,, ...	7,000	1 ,, ...	5,000
2 annas . . .	5,000	4 annas . . .	1,000
4 ,, ...	2,000		

The next supply was sent off about September, 1887, and consisted of the following values :—

Ordinary.		*Service.*	
½ anna	30,400	½ anna	60,800
1 ,, ...	5,600	1 ,, ...	11,200
2 annas . . .	2,800	2 annas . . .	5,600
3 ,, ...	1,067	4 ,, ...	2,000
4 ,, ...	1,090	8 ,, ...	1,600
8 ,, ...	800		
Re. 1 (slate) . . .	500		

The third supply was made in the beginning of 1890, and consisted of :—

Ordinary.		*Service.*	
½ anna	19,200	1 anna	16,000
1 ,, ...	9,600	2 annas . . .	1,600
2 annas . . .	4,800	3 ,, ...	1,567
3 ,, ...	2,667	4 ,, ...	1,200
4 ,, ...	2,000	6 ,, ...	1,033
6 ,, ...	767	8 ,, ...	400
8 ,, ...	1,000	12 ,, ...	767
12 ,, ...	767	Re. 1 (slate) . . .	700
Re. 1 (slate) . . .	480		

In July, 1891, the following further supply was printed :—

Ordinary.		*Service.*	
½ anna	28,800	½ anna	48,000
1 ,, ...	9,600	1 ,, ...	19,200
2 annas . . .	3,500	2 annas . . .	4,080
3 ,, ...	1,200	3 ,, ...	2,640
4 ,, ...	3,360	4 ,, ...	4,080
6 ,, ...	1,440	6 ,, ...	1,440
8 ,, ...	1,920	8 ,, ...	1,200
12 ,, ...	720	12 ,, ...	720
Re. 1 (slate) . . .	800	Re. 1 (slate) . . .	1,200

This supply appears to have lasted till June, 1895, when the next indent was received. It was sent out in December, 1895, and consisted of :—

Ordinary.

½ anna	44,640	4 annas	2,400
1 ,,	2,400	6 ,,	1,440
1½ annas	3,700	8 ,,	1,200
2 ,,	5,500	12 ,,	1,200
2½ ,,	1,920	Re. 1 (new type)	1,440
3 ,,	1,920		

Service.

½ anna	63,840	4 annas	2,640
1 ,,	24,000	8 ,,	5,760
2 annas	480		

A supplementary indent for the high value stamps received in September, 1895, was supplied at the same time as the above. The printing consisted of the following *ordinary* stamps :— Rs. 2, 3, and 5 . . . 192 each.

This indent was made with the idea that each sheet consisted of 240 stamps. On it being discovered that the sheet contained only 96, a further indent was sent in, and executed about November or December, 1896. It consisted of :—

Rs. 2, 3, and 5 . . . 288 each.

The following table gives the total numbers of each stamp supplied up to date, arranged so as to show the comparative quantities of each. It should be added that these figures include 500 of each kind reserved by the Director-General of the Post-office of India for supply to Postal Union Administrations. In the case of the three highest values, the number so reserved appears to have been 192 of each :—

½ anna, Service	182,640	6 annas, Ordinary	3,647
½ ,, Ordinary	143,040	12 ,, ,,	2,687
1 ,, Service	75,400	6 ,, Service	2,473
1 ,, Ordinary	34,200	Re. 1 (slate), Service	1,980
2 annas ,,	21,660	2½ annas, Ordinary	1,920
2 ,, Service	11,760	Re. 1 (slate), Ordinary	1,780
4 ,, ,,	10,920	12 annas, Service	1,487
4 ,, ,,	10,760	Re. 1 (new type), Ordinary	1,440
8 ,, ,,	8,960	Rs. 2, Ordinary	480
3 ,, Ordinary	6,854	,, 3 ,,	480
8 ,, ,,	4,920	,, 5 ,,	480
3 ,, Service	4,207		
1½ ,, Ordinary	3,700		534,875

It now remains to group together the errors which I have hitherto been able to detect in the stamps of this State. In compiling the following list I have been careful to avoid mere cases of broken type, accidental smudges, or cases where something has temporarily prevented a portion of the surcharge from showing. Those which I have seen myself I have not marked in any way. Others which are vouched for in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue I have marked with an asterisk. Those values which I have not seen at all in collections or recorded, but which must exist as being issued in the same printing with those I have seen, I have printed in italics.

I.

"CHMABA" for "CHAMBA."

Ordinary Stamps.

1.	½ anna	120 copies	5.	4 annas.	14 copies
2.	*1 anna	40 ,,	6.	8 annas.	8 ,,
3.	*2 annas*	14 ,,	7.	*12 annas*	3 ,,
4.	*3 annas*	5 ,,	8.	*Re. 1 (slate)*	2 ,,

Service Stamps.

9.	½ anna	200 copies	13.	*4 annas*	5 copies
10.	1 anna	80 ,,	15.	*12 annas*	3 ,,
11.	2 annas	17 ,,	16.	*Re. 1 (slate)	5 ,,
12.	3 annas	11 ,,			

This is one of the rarest "errors" of all. It occurred in the fourth (1891) printing. It exists only once in every sheet, and therefore the total number of copies ever printed is that shown against each value above.

II.

The "A" in "STATE" from a smaller fount. This variety occurs in all values of the Ordinary and Service stamps, except the three highest values. With that exception, no printing for this State has escaped this error at least once or twice in every sheet, so that it is comparatively frequently met with in all values up to and including one rupee.

III.

The first "A" in "CHAMBA" from a smaller fount. I have not been able to find out in which printing this occurs. It is not common. It certainly occurred in the 1895 printing. The following are the values in which I have found it :—

Ordinary Stamps.

1. ½ anna	4. 2 annas	7. 8 annas
2. 1 ,,	5. 2½ ,,	8. 12 ,,
3. 1½ annas	6. 4 ,,	9. Re. 1 (new type)

Service Stamps.

10. ½ anna	12. 3 annas	14. 8 annas
11. 1 ,,	13. 4 ,,	

IV.

The last "A" in "CHAMBA" from a smaller fount. This I have found only in the 6 annas of the 1895 issue, and in one of the printings of the 2 annas Ordinary. It no doubt exists in other values.

V.

Inverted "V" in "STATE" instead of "A."

This is chronicled by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons as occurring in the ½ annas, both Ordinary and Service. I have seen it in the following :—

Ordinary Stamps.

1. 2 annas | 2. 6 annas | 3. 8 annas

Service Stamps.

4. 2 annas | 5. 4 annas

VI.

Inverted "V" instead of last "A" in "CHAMBA."

The following are the values in which I have seen this error :—

Ordinary Stamps.

1. ½ anna	3. ½ anna	5. 6 annas
2. ,,	4. 4 annas	6. 12 ,

Service Stamps.

7. 1 anna | 8. 4 annas | 9. 6 annas

VII.

A very small capital "T" with a dot below it, in place of second "T" in "STATE." Of this very curious variety, which is not a mere broken type, I have seen only :—

Re. 1, new type, Ordinary ; and the 1 anna and 2 annas, Service.

VIII.

"STATE" so placed with respect to "CHAMBA" that the letter "C" is almost exactly over "S."

This occurs only in the 6 annas, Ordinary and Service, of the 1890 printing. As it occurs only twice in every sheet of 320 stamps, there cannot have been more than five copies of the Ordinary and six of the Service stamps of this variety.

"ISERVICE." IX.

This is caused by a "lead" printing.

It occurs only in the 9 annas of 1890, and is therefore very rare.

"SERV CE." X.

This I have seen only in the 1 anna and 4 anna values of the first issue. It must also exist in the ½ anna value.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons chronicle :—

XI.

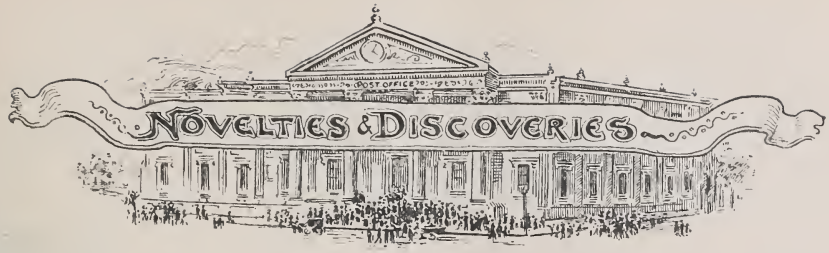
"SLALE." 12 annas, Ordinary.

Messrs. Collin and Calman, in their *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, mention :—

XII.

Double surcharge (of "SERVICE"?). 1 anna, Service.

It will be observed that I have not mentioned the "8TATE" variety, as I do not at present believe it to be more than an accident caused by too much ink in the "S." I am inquiring into the matter.



British Empire.

Great Britain.—In the latest printings of the halfpenny "Army Official" stamps the error "Officiai" has been corrected.

Bermuda.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* hears that a new issue of the Leeward Island type will shortly be issued here.

Canada.—It is stated that a Jubilee stamp of 3 c. is to be issued; but it is not said whether it is to displace the ordinary 3 c. stamp as a permanent stamp, or only another addition to the flood of ephemeral commemorative rubbish made for sale to collectors.

Jamaica.—The *Philatelic Journal of America* hears that the following values are now issued on paper watermarked Crown CA, perf. 14.

Adhesives.

1s., crown.
2s., claret.
5s., brown.

Negri Sembilan.—We have some further values of the tiger's head bi-coloured series from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives.

15 c., green and violet.
25 c., green on red.
50 c., green and black.

Newfoundland.—Mr. J. W. Scott is reported to have private information that Newfoundland is to have a new issue of stamps of seven denominations.

Niger Coast Protectorate.—Mr. A. G. Griffith has forwarded to the *London Philatelist* specimens of three Registered Envelopes, which arrived in the Protectorate on the 10th January. The sizes are G, H², and K, and they are of the old pattern, with flap at the back, underneath which is "Thos. De La Rue & Co. Patent." The stamp on the flap is enclosed in an ornamental rectangular frame, similar to that illustrated on page 50.

Registered Letter Envelopes.

2d., blue (3 sizes).

North Borneo.—From information received from the British North Borneo Co. by the Philatelic Society, London, the *London Philatelist* learns that the Governor at Sandakan, writing on 28th June, 1896, advises the addition of Chinese and Malay characters to the inscriptions on the stamps of North Borneo and Labuan. Hence the designs have been altered to include these, and the new stamps were to be in use about the middle of April.

Adhesives.

1 c., ochre and black; *redrawn type.*
2 c., lake ,, ,,
3 c., lilac and olive-green ,,
5 c., vermilion and black ,,
6 c., olive-brown and ,, ,,
8 c., dull lilac ,, ,,
12 c., blue ,, ,,
18 c., green ,, ,,
24 c., dull lake-blue ,,

Sierra Leone.—Last month we chronicled a provisional 1d. on the long rectangular fiscal. Since then further surcharges have taken place on the fiscals. We have now before us three additions, viz., 2½ on 3d., 2½ on 6d., and 2½ on 1s. All are surcharged as described last month, "Postage and Revenue," and the new value is surcharged in figures in the centre of the stamp. There are four distinct varieties, which we will fully illustrate and describe next month.

Adhesives.

2½d., in black, on 3d., lilac and green; 4 types.
2½d. ,, ,, 6d. ,, ,, ,,
2½d. ,, ,, 1s. ,, ,, ,,

St. Vincent.—The *London Philatelist* announces that at the beginning of the year a new post card, value ½d., was supplied to this Colony. It is of small size (121×75 mm), and bears the usual stamp and inscriptions.

Post Card.

½ penny, green on *buff.*

Other Countries.

Egypt.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* says: A special series of provincial "war stamps" has resulted from the recent advance into the Soudan. The following newspaper clippings will show the nature and limitations of the stamps in question:—

There is no intention, we believe, of issuing special postage stamps for use in the Soudan. The ordinary Egyptian stamps will be utilized for the present, with the word "Soudan" printed across the face.—*Egyptian Gazette*, Feb. 22, 1897.

From 1st March instant, correspondence posted at the camp Post-office, Wadi-Halfa, and at places south of Halfa, will be prepaid by postage stamps of the present issue bearing the surcharge "Soudan." These stamps will be receivable for postage only at the places indicated above.—*Journal Official*, March 8, 1897.

Mekeel's correspondent says five of the current Egyptian stamps have been treated with this overprint.

Adhesives.
Provisional Postage Stamps.
1 millieme, brown, *black.*
2 milliemes, green, *black.*
3 milliemes, orange, *black.*
5 milliemes, carmine, *black.*
1 piastre, blue, *black.*

German Colonies.—According to the *London Philatelist*, the current German adhesives and post cards have been overprinted for use in the various Colonies as follows:—

German South-west Africa.—"Deutsch"—"Süd West-Afrika," surcharge in two lines, reading upwards from lower left-hand corner.

Adhesives.

3 pf.,	brown,	black surcharge.
5 ,,	green	,, ,,
10 ,,	carmine	,, ,,
20 ,,	ultramarine	,, ,,
25 ,,	orange	,, ,,
50 ,,	red-brown	,, ,,

Post Cards.

5 pf., green; black surcharge.
5+5 ,, ,, ,, ,, (reply).
10 ,, carmine ,, ,,
10+10 ,, ,, ,, ,, (reply).

Cameroon, on the West Coast of Africa. The same stamps, etc., surcharged "Kamerun."

Marshall Islands, in the Pacific Ocean. The same series surcharged "Marschall-Inseln."

New Guinea.—For use in the German possessions (Kaiser Wilhelm Land), the same series with surcharge "Deutsch"—"Neu-Guinea," in two lines.

Togo.—German Colony on the West Coast of Africa. The same series with surcharge "Togo."

Madagascar.—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a set of the current French Unpaid Letter stamps which have been surcharged "Madagascar et Dependances," and issued imperf. for use here.

Adhesives.
Unpaid Letter Stamps.
1 c., green; surcharge red.
5 c., blue ,, ,,
10 c., brown ,, ,,
20 c., yellow ,, blue.
30 c., red ,, ,,
40 c., mauve ,, red.
50 c., violet ,, blue.



Peru.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 50 c. and 1 sol. type of 1874–9 in new colours, and surcharged "Déficit" in block letters, diagonally.

Adhesives.
Unpaid Letter Stamps.
50 c., red.
1 sol., brown.

Uruguay.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the three stamps issued in July last, to commemorate the unveiling of the statue of Joaquin Saurez. (See vol. 18, p. 223) surcharged "provisorio, 1897."

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The May packet contains—

NINE VARIETIES, USED AND UNUSED; viz., China provisionals, 1 c. on 3 c., scarlet; 2 c. on 3 c., scarlet; ½ c. on 3 c.; Orange Free State, ½d., orange; Turkey provisionals, 5 paras, black and green, and 5 paras, red and green; Swiss Unpaid, 1 c., new shade; Great Britain, Army Official, ½d. and 1d.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra). The May packet contains—

EIGHT VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED; viz., China provisionals, 1 c. on 1 c., green, of 1886; 2 c. on 3 c., lilac, of 1886; 5 c. on 5 c., lemon, of 1886; 4 c. on 4 c., pink; 5 c. on 5 c., yellow; 8 c. on 6 c., brown; 10 c. on 12 c., yellow; Hayti, 1886, 20 c., brown.

These packets are on sale until May 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.



The Tapling Collection.

THE following from the *London Philatelist* may be read as an official pronouncement on the subject of the Tapling Collection.

A paragraph to the following effect has appeared in a number of provincial newspapers:—

"Philatelists will hear with satisfaction that the Treasury has consented to the insertion of a sum of money in the Estimates of the British Museum for the arrangement of the famous Tapling Collection of postage stamps, to be continued until the task is finished. Mr. Tapling left £2000 to be expended in mounting and arranging the collection so as to make it available for reference, but all this money has been used, and there is still a great deal to be done before the work can be said to be accomplished. Mr. E. D. Bacon, who was associated with Mr. Tapling in the formation of the collection, and who has been entrusted by the Trustees with the duty of placing the specimens in order, calculates that it will take over two years before his work in this respect is completed. The collection fills three large wooden cases, deposited in an immense iron safe, and its present market value is estimated at not less than £80,000."

After making due enquiries we are at a loss to gather from whom this report emanated, which is obviously incorrect in several of its statements. The amount left for the arrangement of the collection by the late Mr. T. K. Tapling was not two thousand, but one thousand pounds—which sum, we believe, has been expended. The grant now made by the Treasury will cover the expenses of mounting the adhesive portion of the collection; but the final and difficult matter of the proper classification of the envelopes and post cards will remain a question for the future. The grant made by the Treasury in the present instance is but a modest one, but is none the less to be welcomed, as showing that the Trustees of the British Museum are now imbued with a fuller appreciation of the importance of Mr. Tapling's bequest to the nation. It is, however, much to be deplored that no arrangements have been made for the continuation of the collection. The acquisition of all new issues without cost, and the patriotism of British philatelists, would require but a very small annual grant in order to keep the collection literally up to date. We sincerely trust that some such step will be taken, and would suggest that the present is an especially favourable time to approach the Government hereon.

Colonia Eritrea.

WE are indebted to *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* for the following translation of an interesting article in *Der Philatelist* on postal arrangements of Eritrea:—

In 1880 the Italian Government acquired from the Steamship Compagnie Rubattino a piece of land on the bay of Assab, which several years before had been ceded to the above corporation by some local chieftains. On January 9th, 1881, Italy took official possession of this land by a Government Commission, and in the spring of 1883 the first postal agency was established in Assab, in order to facilitate communication with the home country. Assab is situated in the present Colony of Eritrea, and not until 1887 was the small postal agency (similar to our fourth-class post-office) changed into a full-fledged post-office.

In the meantime, and later on, three more post-offices were established: February 22nd, 1885, in Massouah, and March 10th, 1892, in Cheren and Asmara. The stamps used by these four offices were, up to 1892, the same that Italy used for all her foreign offices at that time, the well-known "Estero" stamps. In the beginning of 1893 special stamps were provided for the Colony, consisting of the ordinary Italian stamps with the surcharge "Colonia Eritrea." Of these from 1893 until June 30th, 1896, the following quantities have been furnished by the Government printing office in Turin.

1 cent.	360,000	40 cent.	102,000
2 cent.	670,000	45 cent.	140,000
5 cent.	220,000	60 cent.	30,000
10 cent.	350,000	1 lira	25,000
20 cent.	900,000	5 lire	9,000
25 cent.	170,000		

When the Italians advanced further, more offices became necessary, and were established in Ghinda, Adi-Ugri, Saganeiti, Cassala, Adigrat, and Adua. Meanwhile the luck of the Italians turned, and the army met with disaster. For collectors of cancellations Adua will be very desirable, as this office had a duration of a few weeks only. Adua was the first place to fall back in the hands of King Menelik's dusky braves, and on the night of December 1st and 2nd, 1895, the post-office and full stock of stamps, etc., on hand were burned. Adigrat followed soon. To make up for losses, the Italians established a new small office, on July 1st, 1896, in Adicaie.

Aside from the above-named regular offices, the Italian army had several field post-offices for the forwarding of letters from the soldiers. Such letters, according to a Royal Decree of January 23rd, 1896, paid no postage. This privilege ceased with the conclusion of the real warfare on July 15th, 1896, but from that time on was given to the poor soldiers and officers in captivity with the Negus. This deserves special mention for the reason that

previously, when the poor fellows franked their letters with Abyssinian stamps—probably for the very good reason that the Negus would not sell them their own—such letters, after arrival in Italy, had to be treated as unpaid and were charged with 50 centesimi postage due, Abyssinian stamps so far not being recognized by European Governments.

Between Eritrea and Italy ordinary inland rates rule, while between Eritrea and European countries outside of Italy the postage is 40 centesimi for 15 grammes (½ oz.). Italian stamps without surcharge are accepted in full for postage the same as surcharged stamps.

Rather scarce errors are those 1, 2, and 5 cents. stamps considered, which show the surcharge on the bottom instead of on the top. The last issue of Italian stamps, large numerals in the corners, have also been surcharged.

France, 5c., green, 1870.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has been searching for varieties in the stamps of France, and affords fresh proof that there is practically no limit to the possibilities of critical philatelic examination of stamp engraving.

Learning from the article on "The Stamps of France, 1870," appearing in this number, that two drawings were made for the 5 centimes, green, we examined the copies in our collection to see whether we could find out any differences. To a certain extent we have succeeded in doing so, though we cannot trace such distinct differences as in the 20 centimes value of the same issue. The only really noticeable difference we can trace is, however, a very marked one, and consists of a distinct line behind the head, running along the hair and between the hair and the background. This line is formed by a distinct curved streak of white, and is caused through the shading of the hair apparently not having been started far enough back.

Gambia Shades.

Mr. H. W. Plumbridge, in a chatty article on West African stamps in the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, touching on the shades to be looked for in the stamps of Gambia, says :—

Not more than one shade of the 3d. blue is listed, viz., the ultramarine; but there are distinctly two shades, as in the 6d., the darker shade being decidedly rarer. All the values of the CA issue exist in two distinct shades or printings, the first print being light and the second darker. The first print of some of the values, notably the 4d. in light brown and the 6d. in light yellow-green, are difficult to obtain unused. The shilling value is catalogued in two shades, violet and deep violet. As the present shade, however, is very much lighter than the shade in use some time back, I think that this was in use at first and at the present time, and that consequently the deep shade was in use in between the two.

Japanese First Issues.

The following information concerning the first issues is given by the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* (*P. J. G. B.* translation) from an official work on the stamps of Japan by Mr. W. T. P. Ohrt. Only 300 copies are said to have been printed, and it is entitled *Tai Nippon Teikoku Jubinkitte Jenkakuschi*, meaning Large Nippon (Japan) Empire. History of Stamps. The work is profusely illustrated, partly by genuine stamps and partly by reprints.

The numbers after the S (syllabic) signify the numbers of the plates of the stamps used for illustrating the work.

			Issued.	No longer issued, but still used.	No longer admissible for postage.
48 mons,	dark brown	....	1 March, 1871	.... February, 1872	.... 30 November, 1889.
100 ,,	blue	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
200 ,,	vermilion	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
500 ,,	blue-green	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
½ sen,	brown	....	February, 1872	.... 31 May, 1873	.... ,,
1 ,,	blue	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
2 ,,	red	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
5 ,,	greenish blue	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
1 ,,	blue (no S)	....	20 July, 1872	.... 4 February, 1875	.... ,,
2 ,,	red ,,	....	,,	.... 5 June, 1873	.... ,,
10 ,,	green ,,	....	1 September, 1872	.... 4 February, 1875	.... ,,
20 ,,	violet ,,	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
30 ,,	grey ,,	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
½ ,,	brown ,,	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
4 ,,	rose ,,	....	1 April, 1873	.... ,,	.... ,,
2 ,,	yellow ,,	....	5 June, 1873	.... 17 May, 1876	.... ,,
6 ,,	violet-brown (S 14)	....	1 January, 1874	.... 4 February, 1875	.... ,,
12 ,,	rose (S)	....	1 January, 1875	.... 29 June, 1877	.... ,,
15 ,,	lilac ,,	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
45 ,,	carmine ,,	....	,,	.... 18 August, 1877	.... ,,
½ ,,	grey (S 3)	....	4 February, 1875	.... 17 May, 1876	.... ,,
1 ,,	brown (S 14)	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
4 ,,	green (S 1)	....	,,	.... 23 June, 1876	.... ,,
6 ,,	orange (S 16)	....	,,	.... 29 June, 1877	.... ,,
10 ,,	blue (S 4)	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
20 ,,	carmine (S 8)	....	,,	.... 18 August, 1877	.... ,,
30 ,,	violet (S 4)	....	,,	.... ,,	.... ,,
5 ,,	green (no S)	....	19 March, 1876	.... 23 June, 1876	.... ,,

How to Distinguish Ribbed U.S.

Mr. Crawford Capen, in the *Post Office* (U.S.), comments on the fact that many advanced philatelists have given up the study of the Continental Company's ribbed paper used from 1873 to 1875, because they believe that it cannot be decided with certainty that a stamp is or is not upon Continental ribbed paper. He asserts, nevertheless, that the ribbed Continental paper is one which is more easily detected and with greater certainty than any other variety with which he is acquainted. That is a pretty sweeping statement. However, here are his instructions how to distinguish the ribbed paper :—

A sheet of what is commonly called linen writing paper, when held to the light, shows the laid lines very plainly. The same sheet laid on a dark surface shows those lines, but less plainly. This approximates the appearance of Continental ribbed paper. Let one, for his education in this matter, lay on the sheet stamps of the Continental print which show vertical or horizontal roughness. Lay there also American print stamps, showing the lines often found in that paper. They will be found to have an essentially different appearance from that of the laid linen sheet.

Ribbed Continental stamps show their peculiarity best after being dropped into water during the process of drying. We have found the largest proportion of these ribbed Continental stamps in early used specimens of the one and two-cent stamps of the War Department. Let a number of these stamps be thrown into water, or if one does not have them, some early dark green three-cent stamps of Continental print. Watch them as they dry, and the similarity of some of them (if there be Continental ribbed stamps among them) to the laid linen sheet will be striking. The philatelist who once gets the idea of this paper will never lose it, and when offered the opportunitiy to experiment will be able to decide with certainty concerning any stamp.

Writing on the same subject Mr. J. M. Bartels, the well-informed Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, says :—

The stamps generally have a somewhat glazed appearance, and the paper besides being ribbed appears slightly thinner than the ordinary, and very crisp. The shades are generally uniform, the 2 c. is as light as any of the Continental print, and the 3 c. a very dark green.

An unpractised eye will be able to distinguish the ribbed paper most readily by holding the stamp horizontally to the light, when the ribs will appear plainly on either face or back.

The 3 c. Post-office is also to be found on this paper, and should be catalogued. The 1 c. Executive is known to exist horizontally ribbed, but surcharged "Specimen" only.

At times stamps appearing to be ribbed are found which are printed by the American Bank Note Co. on soft porous paper; the first thing, therefore, to ascertain is texture, which must be always thin and crisp.

The 2 c. and 3 c. are almost always vertically ribbed, the horizontally are doubtless rarities. The 1 c. seems to be equally rare either way.

Spain, Don Carlos.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* quotes from *Mitteldeutsche Philatelisten Zeitung* an interesting article on the two types of the Don Carlos stamp, 1874-76, ½ real, rose, dull red, as follows :—

I. TYPE.

(*a*) The band containing the words *Espana Valencia* nearly touches the frame.

(*b*) The value ½ is in the middle, between the words CORREOS and REAL.

(*c*) On the right of the head are thirty lines and on the left thirty-one.

II. TYPE.

(*a*) This band is ½ mm. from the frame, and the lines of the background can be seen clearly.

(*b*) The value ½ is nearer to the word REAL.

(*c*) On the right of the head are thirty-two lines, and on the left thirty-four.

Philately as an Investment.

Our friends on the other side of the water have, during the last few months, been doing not a little croaking about the flatness of the stamp business. Here at last is an indication that the clouds are clearing a little, says the *Post Office* (*New York*):—

The philatelic world will come down finally to the truth that there is not a thing the matter with stamp collecting in this country, except the hard times which are certain to affect every business in turn.

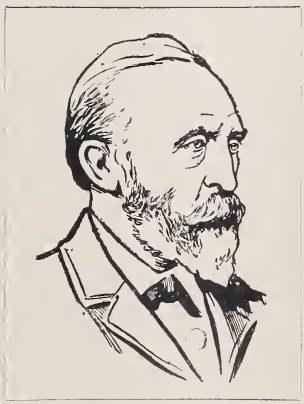
There has been a great deal of speculating in stamps. It proved a profitable field to many speculators when there was nothing else in which money could be made. Finally distrust entered here and the speculators stepped out. This left the market to the support of dealers and collectors who could not sustain it fully.

This is distinctly for the benefit of collectors, and those who realize this, and pick up the many bargains now offered, will have cause to congratulate themselves when the speculators come back, as come they will with the first signs of permanent improvement in the times.



Death of Dr. von Stephan.

DR. HENRICH VON STEPHAN, who died on the 8th of April last, had made his mark on the commercial history of the century as the inventor of the post card. Dr. von Stephan was born in 1831.



DR. HENRICH VON STEPHAN.

Though a self-made man (his father was an artisan), he passed with rapidity through all the grades of the German Civil Service. In 1870 he was at the head of the postal system of the North German League, in which capacity it fell to his task to organise the field service during the great war. With the return of peace, Dr. Stephan could apply himself to the development of his departmental work. Already, in 1868, he had drafted a scheme for the Union Postal Universelle. In 1874 a Postal Congress was held at Berne, and this most significant product of modern civilization was adopted at the hands of the German official. Within the Fatherland he introduced the Imperial penny postage, the post card, and the postal order. In recent years the enormous development of the telegraph, pneumatic tube post, and telephone systems of Germany was entirely owing to him. In 1880 the Emperor William I. conferred upon Dr. Stephan the rank and title of Secretary of State, and in 1885 the patent of nobility. In 1895 he received the title of a Minister of State.

Imperial Penny Postage.

A STATEMENT appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* on the 17th April that the Hon. John Gavan-Duffy, Postmaster-General of Victoria, who has been deputed to represent all the Australian Colonies at the approaching Universal Postal Congress at Washington, and who will be in London a few days hence, is the bearer of instructions to press upon the Congress the advisability of sanctioning an increase of the present twopence-halfpenny rate between Great Britain and the Colonies, and the *Chronicle* added that "Mr. Joseph Cook, the Postmaster-General of New South Wales, declares that the present low rate of postage to and from Europe results in a considerable loss to the Colonies." He estimates that New South Wales suffers in this way to the extent of £11,000 a year.

This drew from Mr. Henniker Heaton the following information in the shape of a letter to *The Times*, concerning the present position of the question of Imperial penny postage :—

SIR, — The most amazing ignorance in regard to the scheme for establishing Imperial penny postage is still being exhibited. It is urgently necessary that I should at once clearly repeat what is being done. Long ago we gave up as hopeless the idea of getting a return penny postage from the Colonies. We found it as difficult as to compel all the Colonies to adopt free trade in order to bring themselves into line with the mother country. We therefore contented ourselves with a scheme for making (so far as England was concerned) the British Empire one postal district. We have already established Imperial and universal halfpenny postage for printed matter under two ounces in weight.

It is a halfpenny post whether from one street to another in London, or from London to New Zealand.

We now ask that the postage on letters from England and Ireland to every part of the British Empire be reduced to one penny per half-ounce. The printed and the written matter travel in the same trains, ships, and coaches, and surely common sense would say the request is not unreasonable.

The next question that arises is the cost or loss. It is infinitesimal—only the cost of a picture for the National Gallery. The British Post-office deals with eighteen hundred and

fifty million (1,850,000,000) letters annually. Only ten millions (10,000,000) of these letters are from the Colonies. It is a drop in the ocean; and distributed among the British Colonies and dependencies three times the number would not involve the employment of a single extra train, coach, or letter carrier.

Defeated at every point, the postal officials of St. Martin's-le-Grand, who are stronger than any Government, were driven to set up the plea that two out of the seven Australian Colonies were against our scheme for Imperial penny postage, on the ground that it would cause dissatisfaction among the Australian people who did not themselves enjoy penny postage. In other words, as the Melbourne *Argus* pointed out, these Colonies said to the mother country, "What we cannot have you shall not enjoy." I am now happy to say that during my recent visit to Australia the whole of the Colonies gave their assent to England establishing penny postage to the Colonies, and I have conveyed that assent to the Post-master-General. The Australian Postmasters-General now say that if their people want penny postage they must pay for it. And these able gentlemen recognised the following important facts: (1) Though it is an anomaly to charge 1d. to the Colonies and 2½d. home, yet man for man the poor people of England and Ireland are less able to pay the higher rate than their relatives in the Colonies; (2) the British Post-office has a surplus of 3½ millions, whereas all the Australian Post-offices are carried on at a loss; (3) that though it is an anomaly to charge different rates for letters to and from the Colonies, there exists already an anomaly in charging a penny for a post card from England to Australia, and 1½d. for a post card from Australia to England, and a halfpenny for two ounces of printed matter to Australia, but one penny for a similar packet from one street to another in Adelaide. I was also able to quote the example of the United States, that established penny postage for one-ounce letters even to Canada and Mexico, although these countries do not reciprocate. A convention was simply entered into between the countries named enabling this to be done.

There are other and even more powerful arguments in favour of England establishing penny postage to all parts of the empire for the purpose of encouraging trade and good feeling among the subjects of Her Gracious Majesty in this auspicious year.

It is well known that I have the most cordial letters of approval of the scheme from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. In a few days we shall know whether the Postmaster-General will carry out the great idea or not.—I am, your obedient servant,

J. Henniker Heaton.

Failure of the Mekeel Co.

We take the following information from the *American Journal of Philately*:—

We have just been informed that the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. have filed a chattel mortgage for $13,280.94 on Thursday, March 25th, to W. C. Becktold, Trustee for the Becktold Printing and Book Mfg. Co. and others. The mortgage covers the entire stock of stamps and publications at the store of the Mekeel Company, and its meaning, as far as we are informed, is the eventual retirement of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co. from business.

The failure of so large a concern will no doubt be surprising to many collectors and dealers, but it appears to be due to ill considered and extensive expenditures entered into for the purpose of securing additional trade and enlarging the business of the company.

The following announcements are made in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* of the 8th April. By W. B. Becktold, Trustee:—

I have taken possession of the entire stock of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., as Trustee, under deeds of Trust issued for the benefit of all creditors of that corporation, and I am ready to fill all orders, either wholesale or retail, the day of receipt.

I have retained the regular employees, and am prepared to give business the best attention.

By C. H. Mekeel, dating from 4516, Cook Ave., St. Louis:—

The affairs of the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Company having become involved, the Directors have placed the property in the hands of Trustees for the benefit of the creditors.

The assets are ample, and there is no doubt but that all the creditors will be paid in full. *All* the creditors are protected.

I am at present assisting the Trustee in getting matters settled up.

The corporation will no doubt go into liquidation and wind up its affairs.

After I have done all that I can to assist in this matter, I shall start in the stamp business individually on my own account, making a speciality of the better class of trade.

By I. A. Mekeel, Editor and Publisher:—

This paper undergoes a slight change with this issue; heretofore it has been published by the C. H. Mekeel Stamp and Publishing Co., but the undersigned has leased the property, and will continue the publication independently.

A £50,000 Collection.

Mr. C. J. Phillips makes the following announcement in the *Monthly Journal*:—

Our publishers have had a good many big collections in the last few years, and we thought it would be hard to beat the Castle collection, for which we paid the sum of £10,000, followed soon after by the Ehrenbach collection of German stamps for £6000. Now, however, these figures, great as they are, are rendered almost insignificant by the size and amount of the vast collection we have just acquired, the value of which is nearly

£50,000. This collection is a part of that of Mr. F. W. Ayer, of the United States of America, well known as the largest purchaser of stamps in the States. The portion of the collection we have got consists practically of the rarities only. The common stamps Mr. Ayer has not troubled to part with or to value, but we have secured the finest lot of the *great* rarities that has ever been on the market since we have been stamp dealers. It is not our intention to publish a price list of this collection, as it would be giving too much information away in regard to the market price of the first-rate rarities.

But Mr. C. J. P. might, however, have given a sample of the latest edition of his "best endeavours."

U. S. Periodical Case.

Last month (p. 114–5) we published an account of the inquiry into the U. S. Post-office scandal concerning the fraudulent perforation of periodical stamps. We now learn from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* that Capt. Munce, Chief Clerk of the Stamp Division of the Third Assistant Postmaster-General's office at Washington, was suspended from office indefinitely on the 3rd of March last by Postmaster-General Wilson.

Meanwhile, Colman, who has been indicted to stand his trial on the matter, declares that he would rather go to jail than confess who perforated the stamps.

The "Army Official" Error.

What is the market value of the "Army Official" errors? The answer is both various and curious. They were started by an English specialist dealer, the ½d. at 10s., and the 1d. at 7s. 6d., then they dropped down to 5s. each in an addendum to Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, but some more appreciative souls in the United States have been asking ten dollars (£2) for the 1d. error. An American writer says such disparity in prices is enough to give rise to disgust and profanity. Yet, after the swearing is over, let us ask, How can we expect the first hasty guesses at value, with no data to go upon, to be correct? They are guesses at the best. There may have been a thousand or a hundred thousand printed. Even yet we don't know the real value of these errors.

Philately in Schools.

The writer of an article on stamp collecting in the *Daily Record* of Glasgow remarks :—

As one proof of stamp collecting's educational advantages, I know one school where it is taught as an ordinary study. I had the pleasure of receiving a copy of the examination paper, and a most searching one it was. If every school did the same it would go a long way to brightening the faculties of boys dull through having nothing to interest them.

Lourenzo Marques.
Provisional, 50 Reis on 300 Reis.

Mr. Gordon Smith, writing from the palatial offices of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, sends to a chosen few of our excellent contemporaries the following circular, numbered blank :—

DEAR SIR,—A correspondent at Johannesburg writes as follows :—

"On my writing to a friend at Lourenzo Marques for a supply, he informed me that he was unable to obtain any, as only 4000 of them were printed and very few were issued, the Governor's Secretary having taken up the lot. This gentleman now demands £1 per piece for them. Consequently, very few, even of the people of Lourenzo Marques, have seen this stamp, and it is very evident they could not have been printed for genuine purposes."

Yours faithfully, GORDON SMITH.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
15*th March*, 1897.

Philatelic Exhibition at Plymouth.

An interesting "display of stamps" by members of the Plymouth Philatelic Society was held on Saturday, February 27th, at 9*a*, Princess Square, in a large room placed at the disposal of the Society for their meetings by Mr. W. Earl, solicitor. It was the first exhibition organized by the Society during the current session, and both in the growth in number and variety of the exhibits, and the larger attendance of visitors compared with previous displays, showed evidence of increased interest in philately in the district.

Prominent among the exhibits was Mr. R. Tyeth Stevens's collection of the stamps of Barbados, which, though containing few of the extremely great rarities, was noteworthy for its fine range of shades of colour. Mr. Stevens also showed comprehensive little collections of the stamps of Antigua, Bahamas, Bermuda, and Dominica. Both series bore evidence of extreme care and neatness in mounting, the stamps of Barbados being arranged on the plan of the new handbook of Messrs. Bacon and Napier.

Mr. M. Z. Kuttner exhibited the stamps of St. Helena, also scientifically mounted, each stamp being arranged in its proper issue, and annotated with the exact measurements of the overprints and length of bars. His collection included all the known varieties up to the 1894

issue, and many minor varieties that are not catalogued. Mr. Kuttner also sent nearly a dozen sheets of rarities, including complete sets of used Ionian Isles, a pair of £5 British Bechuanaland stamps, several Cape wood blocks, including the scarce damaged *cliché*, a 20s. Gold Coast stamp; a magnificent used copy of the 5s., blue, Lagos; complete sets of the early issues of the Mauritius stamps, showing different states of the plates; unused pairs of unperforated Gambias, and many other fine examples of desirable stamps that excited the admiration and envy of collectors.

Mr. A. R. Barrett sent a collection of unused Jamaica stamps, which were greatly admired for their fine range of shades. Among them were blocks of the early pine issue and the split 1d. pine on the entire cover, and a curious double surcharge, besides a fairly complete set of the stamps of Gibraltar.

Mr. H. W. Mayne sent a number of Cape of Good Hope stamps, including some fine pairs of the early stamps, and a well-selected series of the later issues.

Mr. J. E. V. Moreton showed a small group of Tonga stamps. Being all of comparatively recent issue and consequently not well known, they attracted a good deal of attention. While they could not be commended for beauty of execution, they were remarkable for the extraordinary variety of surcharges, which created a good deal of comment and elicited many inquiries as to their meaning.

Mr. W. J. W. Miller contributed several sheets, showing the various issues of the stamps of Norway, including the extremely rare error of the first issue, and nearly all the newly-discovered minor varieties.

Mr. Preston Pearce lent his very fine collection of United States Revenue stamps, comprising some seventy pages of his album, and including many of the scarce stamps that are now fetching very high prices in America.





The Flight of Decker.

PAINFUL rumours have been current for some time concerning Mr. Hermann Decker, who has for years occupied unquestioned the position of one of the most competent experts on German stamps. In the hope that they would be dissipated by some explanation, we have hesitated to give publicity to them, but the following letter makes the matter distinctly public :—

HANOVER, *Feb.* 23, 1897.

The undersigned feel themselves bound to inform the whole philatelic world that the stamp dealer, Hermann Decker, has disappeared from Hanover since Feb. 15th.

This disappearance is connected with misdoings in the matter of expertising stamps.

It would, therefore, naturally be as well to make no further sendings to the above address.

OTTO PILZECKER.
HANS MÜLLER.
W. GEORGES.

The following note in the *London Philatelist* obviously refers to this matter:—

It is with great regret that we learn from the columns of the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* of the sudden termination of the philatelic career of one of the most noted German experts. The dealer in question has long been known as one of the very finest judges of stamps on the Continent, and has expertised stamps for many years past, until the appearance of his initial on the reverse of a stamp had come to be implicitly relied on. *Crede experto.* We regret deeply to learn that the subject of this note has been guilty of the meanest form of stealing—in the substitution of inferior or worthless stamps for those submitted to his judgment as an expert. The offences seem to have been fully brought home to him, by means of previous and subsequent photographs of the stamps submitted and returned; and having a presentiment of his downfall, he has fled from his country. The loss that philately has sustained is distinct, and painful indeed are the circumstances connected therewith.

Nicaragua Reprints.

WE regret to hear of the reprinting of the first issue of Nicaragua. Nothing seems to be safe in the Seebeck countries. In fact, it is becoming more and more apparent that these seedy Central American Republics should be omitted altogether from the stamp collector's list of countries to collect as ineffable rubbish. We are indebted to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* for the following information concerning the reprinting:—

The reprints were made by the American Bank Note Company, by order of the Nicaraguan Government, from the original plates still in their possession. As might be expected under the circumstances, the reprints are most excellent imitations of the originals, and it will be exceedingly difficult to make sure of their detection. There are differences to be sure, but they are so slight as to make description very difficult, and render actual comparison necessary to a certain decision in any case.

The originals were issued with thin white gum and also with thick yellowish gum. Both of these varieties were applied somewhat unevenly, and in the latter case the paper has a slight but unmistakable yellowish cast, derived no doubt from the gum. Both varieties also show more or less crackling, due to age and handling. The gum applied to the reprints is of the thick yellow variety, but the application is perfectly smooth and even; it gives no indication of cracking, and the paper is a clear white in all cases. Thin white gum on white paper, or thick yellowish gum on yellow paper, declare an original at once.

In regard to the colours there is less to depend on, as the shades have been as well imitated as is possible in a new mixing. In a general way it may be remarked that the colours are less vivid throughout, and that the rouletted stamps are exactly the same shade as the perforated, this shade being slightly different from either original.

The last remark is justified by the fact, so well known among collectors of shades, that the perforated and rouletted issues were not the same in this respect; *e.g.*, the 25 c. perforated is a decided yellow-green, the rouletted stamp contains much less yellow, and the reprints are almost a blue-green. The original 1 c. was issued in both styles of perforation with much more yellow in it than can be discovered in the reprints. The 2 c. reprints are considerably lighter than either of the originals, and the scarlet of the 10 c. lacks much of the original richness.

It should be noted that the 5 c. value has been included in both sets of reprints, although there were few, if any, of either style in the original remainders, and the sets generally offered by dealers have been lacking in this stamp. Any complete sets now offered at cheap rates should be viewed with suspicion and carefully examined before purchasing. The colour of the reprinted 5 c. is a dull,

plain black, which may be readily distinguished by comparison. The perforation and rouletting are the same as the originals.

Romagna.

THE *Phil. Journal of Great Britain* exposes a forgery of the 20 baj. It says :—

Lately a very good forgery of the 20 baj. stamp of this country has been put upon the market. This forgery seems to have been done by lithography, and can easily deceive even good and experienced collectors. The genuine stamps are typographed.

In the first instance we would point out that all the letters in the forgeries are too thin, thus giving the stamp a cleaner appearance. This can be specially noticed in the figure 20, which from the same cause looks too long. One of the best tests, however, is the final "E" in "POSTALE," which reaches over the horizontal line of the inner frame in the forgery, whereas it should not do so. The paper is very little thicker than the originals, and the colour nearly identical.

Saxony, 1854.

THE same journal has lately seen a very clever though unmistakable forgery of the 2 ngr., black on blue.

It seems that the forger has first bleached the stamp, *i.e.*, he has taken the blue colour of the paper and then dyed the stamp in the colour of the 1 ngr., rose, thus producing a 2 ngr. stamp, black on rose. The colour, which is identical with the 1 ngr., rose, is no doubt caused by the chemical action of the acid used to bleach the stamp in the first instance ; the paper feels greasy to the touch, is nearly *pelure*, whereas the original stamps are printed on medium thick wove opaque paper. We understand this stamp has been offered as an error at a stiff figure.

Servia, 1866.

AS the old forgeries of the 1 and 2 para, of 1866, are constantly passing current, the *Austria Philatelist* gives the following points (per *P.J.G.B.* translation) for their detection :—

The beard is very badly drawn, and makes the face look smaller and thinner. The figures of value in the bottom label are the same size as the word "PARA" in the forgeries, whereas they are larger in the genuine stamps, and fill the whole width of the bottom label. The paper these forgeries are printed on is also too thin. The colours are too light, and the height a little too large.

Both values exist forged, perforate, and imperforate.

A Warning.

THE *London Philatelist* publishes the following timely warning :—

We have received from Mr. Hugo Krötzsch, the President of the Leipsic Section of the Deutsche Philatelische Verband, a timely warning against the "goods" submitted to collectors by Mr. A. Batifort, of Manilla. It would appear that in a selection (?) of the surcharged French Colonial issues, submitted to a member of that Society, amounting to 2806 marks, there was not a single genuine specimen as regards the surcharge.



PORTUGAL FIRST ISSUE, 1853.

DEAR SIR,—I was very pleased to see in the April number of the *Record* that Senhor Terreira, of Oporto, had written denying the statements contained in the *Portuguese Philatelist* anent the chemical cleaning of the 50 and 100 reis of the first issue.

In the interests of truth I am sorry to have to say that occasionally, but very rarely, the stamps in question *were* obliterated in pen and ink—and the three specimens I enclose will bear me out in this statement.

In the early part of last year a number of early Portuguese stamps were offered in Lisbon, and among them were several of the 50 and 100 reis D. Maria unused. They were all of them on large portions of their original covers, and I had the opportunity of examining them very closely and inquiring into their history, and the conclusion that not only myself, but most of the serious collectors of Lisbon, arrived at was that they were undoubted unobliterated stamps that had escaped cancellation—either through ignorance, accident, or because, although placed on the covers for paying postal transmission, they had, as a matter of fact, been held back, or perhaps sent by hand.

One strip of three unused 50 reis had the date "6th January, 1855," written in a small hand along one of the outer margins. From this I inferred that the person who intended to obliterate the stamps was in those early days uncertain how to do so, and probably thought that doing as he did was quite sufficient.

In conclusion, I would say that the Editor of the *Portuguese Philatelist* himself made an offer for the unused stamps, but of course was unsuccessful in obtaining them, otherwise we should never have seen the matter mentioned in his paper.

I must apologize for having taken up so much of your valuable space.

Yours very truly, J. N. MARSDEN.

118, RUA DE SAN BERNARDO, LISBON,
31st March, 1897.



Notable Stamps at Auction.

* Unused. † On original.

Buhl & Co.,

24th February, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Baden, 3 k., rose, perf. 13½*	4	15	0
Gold Coast, 1d., blue, CA*	4	8	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet ..	17	0	0
Tobago, 6d., ochre, CC*.	8	0	0

Cheveley & Co.,

1st March, 1897.

Naples, ½ t., blue cross ..	4	10	0
Newfoundland, 6d., carmine-red	6	10	0
South Australia, 10d. on 9d., yellow, inverted ..	4	0	0

11th March, 1897.

Canada, 6d., grey-lilac, perf.*	6	5	0
Ceylon, 8d., yellow-brown, star, perf.	5	5	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., earliest	5	0	0
Nevis, 6d., grey, litho. ..	5	10	0
Ditto, 6d., green* ..	7	15	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-red	7	15	0
Saxony, 3 pf., red ..	6	0	0
Tobago, 6d., ochre, CC ..	4	2	6

22nd March, 1897.

British Bechuanaland, £5, postally used	4	7	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	13	10	0
Colombia, 1862, 20 c., red	6	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1 peso, lilac	5	0	0
Great Britain, 4d., rose-carmine, white paper, medium garter, pair*	29	10	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., early†	15	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto ..	13	10	0
Nevis, 4d., orange, litho.*	7	5	0
Ditto, 6d., olive, litho.*	10	5	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow*	19	10	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve ..	17	10	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-red*	10	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., cold violet, fine margins	25	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ordinary margins	15	0	0
Peru, ½ peso, rose	12	10	0
Spain, 1851, 2 r., red* ..	33	10	0
Ditto, 1852, 2 r., red* ..	23	10	0
Ditto, 1853, 2 r., red* ..	11	0	0
Tobago, 6d., ochre, CA ..	11	5	0
Trinidad, *Lady Macleod*†	12	10	0
Turks Islands, 2½ on 1s., prune (type 10)* ..	6	15	0

Puttick & Simpson,

16th and 17th February, 1897.

Nevis, 6d., grey, litho.* ..	11	17	6
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine-red*	17	0	0
Switzerland, Vaud, 4 c. ..	19	0	0
United States, *Justice*, 90 c.	7	0	0

2nd and 3rd March, 1897.

Ceylon, 4d., violet-brown, imperf.	4	10	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow	4	8	0

16th and 17th March, 1897.

Tobago, 6d., ochre, CA ..	9	0	0
Western Australia, 4d., carmine, CC, perf. 14, vert. pair*	6	10	0

Ventom, Bull & Cooper,

25th and 26th February, 1897.

Brazil, sloping figures, 600r.	3	12	6
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	8	0	0
Gambia, 6d., blue, imperf., CC, block of 6* ..	5	0	0
Ditto, 1s., green, sheet of 15*	30	0	0
United States, 1856, 90 c., blue	4	0	0
Ditto, *Justice*, 90 c., penmarked	5	10	0
Zululand, 5s., rose ..	3	0	0

11th and 12th March, 1897.

Bahamas, 4d., rose, no wmk., perf. 13* ..	6	0	0
British Columbia, Vancouver, 5 c., rose, imperf.†	20	0	0
British Guiana, 1862, 2 c., yellow, pearls, rouletted all round	6	0	0
Buenos Ayres, 1 peso, blue*	1	14	0
Ditto, used	0	15	0
Ditto, 1 peso, brown ..	2	4	0
Ditto, 2 pesos, blue* ..	2	6	0
Ditto, 3 pesos, green ..	7	15	0
Ditto, 4 pesos (4 reales), brown*	4	0	0
Ditto, 5 pesos, orange ..	28	0	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf.	16	10	0
Finland, 10 p., brown on lilac, wove	4	8	0
Nevis, 6d., green	7	10	0
New Zealand, 1s., blue, rouletted	8	15	0
Queensland, 2d., blue, imperf., pair and single†	21	0	0
St. Vincent, 1d., rose-red, imperf., pair* ..	8	10	0
Ditto, 4d., blue, CA, perf. 12*	5	5	0
Switzerland, *Basle*, 2½ r.†	5	12	6
Ditto, *Geneva*, double 5 c., severed and re-joined†	11	17	6
Ditto, ditto, envelope stamp used as adhesive†	14	10	0
Ditto, *Vaud*, 4 c.† ..	18	5	0
Ditto, Zurich, 4 r., vert. lines	16	0	0
Transvaal, 1d., red, pelure, all caps.	1	0	0
Ditto, 1s, red sur., all caps.	2	6	0
Ditto, 3d., lilac, red sur., all caps., wide rouletted	5	5	0
Ditto, 1d., red on blue, "Transvral" error, thinned*	50	0	0
Turks Islands, ditto, ditto (type 10)*	8	0	0
Ditto, 2½d. on 1/–, blue (ditto)*	10	10	0
Ditto, 1/–, prune, cut into top and right ..	12	0	0
Tuscany, 2 soldi, brick-red*	18	0	0

Notices.

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	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Whole Page	3 0 0	2 16 0	2 12 6	2 4 0
Half Page.....	1 14 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 4 0
Quarter Page	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0

Small Advertisements—5s. per inch, in double column, prepaid.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JUNE, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

WE have such a quantity of matter to crowd into our limited space this month that we are compelled to hold over several pages, including our Auction page, Forgeries and Reprints, several Editorial Notes, and much Philatelic Gossip.

To our Readers.

The *Philatelic Record* is making very satisfactory progress, but we need to quite treble our circulation to enable us to cover the ground that we wish to cover every month. It is a case of ways and means. If our readers will put their shoulders to the wheel, and help us with new subscribers, we shall soon be free of the disagreeable necessity of considering ways and means when there is a rush of matter. We wish to reach such a booming circulation that there will be no need to consider ways and means, even though it frequently takes a double number to satisfy our editorial requirements.

We must have a big circulation if we are to fully develop the *Philatelic Record*, and make it the splendid journal it should be. If *every reader* will busy himself, and put forth a special effort to get us two or three new subscribers, the business will be accomplished. It is true that circulation does not provide the grist to run the mill, but it is the only means to the desired end; for it is a large and influential circulation only that draws the profitable advertiser. We get an abundance of kindly and much-appreciated approval of the admittedly superior get-up and contents of the *Philatelic Record*, but most of our readers appear to take it for granted that the *Philatelic Record* in its present form cannot fail to make its way as a matter of course. But it will not do to merely deserve success; we (*i.e.*, our readers and ourselves) must do something more—we must button-hole new subscribers.

At present our limit of pages is from twenty-four to thirty-two. With a large circulation we should be able to extend our space, without loss, to forty-eight, fifty-six, sixty-four pages, or even more, as required. And the gain would be our readers' as much as ours. Such an old and successful journal as the *Philatelic Record* can always command plenty of matter. It is the editor who growls when, with all the material for making a fine double number, he is told by his publishers he must wait a bit, till the circulation and the consequent financial results warrant unlimited editorial extravagance.

Naturally, therefore, we are anxious to reach that happy time when we may have a free hand to indulge our editorial extravagance in the most unlimited manner that an editor could desire. We trust we have already, in this New Series of the *Philatelic Record*, sufficiently shown what may be done to warrant our readers giving us their most generous personal support for still further developments.

We are preparing neat circulars, with specimen pages and order forms, for pushing the *Record*, and shall be glad to forward copies to any of our readers who can use them to advantage.

The Stamps of Greece.

By W. DORNING BECKTON,

President of the Manchester Philatelic Society

(In collaboration with G. B. Duerst).

(*Continued from page* 131.)

TO come back to the question of the so-called retouch of the plates in 1862, I would ask, What occasion was there to retouch the plates then? They had only been in use a very short time; and, further, it is not at all likely that they were retouched before leaving Paris, and I think much more unlikely to have been retouched in Athens. I am of opinion, firstly, that there was only one plate for each value; secondly, that this plate was used for the stamps, both of the First and Second Periods (Paris and Athens); thirdly, that nothing was done to the plate until 1870.

In support of this opinion I beg to point out that if the plate was retouched the different stamps on the sheet would certainly bear signs of the retouch in the length or quantity of the lines of shading on the face and neck varying, apart altogether from minor differences in the other parts of the stamp, which might or might not exist, and which would depend upon whether the other parts of the stamps were retouched. I have very carefully examined entire sheets, and I cannot trace any signs of a retouch at all. What difference there is, is simply in the thickness of the shading lines, and this I maintain is due to the printing.

I would also point out that there are one or two peculiarities in the shading on the neck and face which are to be found on every stamp. This surely would not have been the case if the entire plate had been retouched.

I know full well there is another possible explanation, but it has not been advanced, and that is that the matrix was retouched and a fresh plate for each value constructed from the retouched matrix. This would, of course, make every stamp on the sheet the same. I ask again, Is it likely? But I go further and say that it is not so, for we have evidence that the plates went to Athens from Paris, and accompanied the second printing of the Paris; so that this theory of new plates from a retouched matrix is not tenable.

Again, I have carefully examined large blocks of the First Period (Paris) with corresponding blocks from sheets of the Second Period (Athens), and I find the positions, etc., of the small numerals in the lower tablets identical. Does not this conclusively prove the same plate was employed?

Having dealt with the reasons against a retouch, I will briefly recapitulate those I have for saying that the depth of shading is due to the printing.

If you will take a specimen of the

1 lepton; the First Period, First Printing
" " " Second "
" Second " *a*
" " " *β*

and place them in a row, you cannot fail to be struck with the gradual increase in the depth of the shading lines on each successive stamp. This increase is not enough in itself to make one think that anything was done to the plate, especially when one takes into consideration that the plate was made of bronze,*

* In answer to an enquiry I made concerning the material used for the plate, I was answered by the word "Ορειχαγωος," which in English is Brass. I think, however, it much more likely they are bronze or copper; in any case they are the same as the French plates, made by the same engraver for the French Government.

Second Period.

ATHENS PRINTS.

1 lepton, various printings, showing gradations of shading on the neck and face.






PRINTING I. PRINTING J.






FLAW NO. 1. FLAW NO. 2.

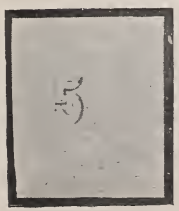
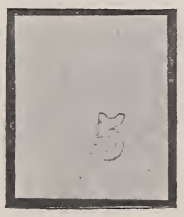



PRINTING C. PRINTING I. DOUBLE PRINT. STRAIGHT NOSTRIL.






THE TWO VARIETIES OF NUMERAL 5.

and thus that these lines of shading under heavier pressure would be likely to wear and become by use heavier.

If you will again carefully compare this row you will find on each stamp the lines of shading are identical in length and position, differing as they do only in thickness. Does not this show that the reason for the difference in thickness is one outside the plate, *i.e.*, in the printing, and perhaps in a secondary degree in the ink and paper employed?

Look at them just again, and you will trace the lines of shading are thin in the second printing of the Paris, and if you will take a number of unused specimens of the 1 lepton, Paris, first printing, you will find that the so-called dots and dashes in the shading vary. This is accounted for at once by my theory, that these dots and dashes are not on the plate, but are caused by the imperfect printing of the lines of shading, which on the plate are lines, but have not been brought out except in an imperfect form, dots and dashes, through the lightness of the imprint. This time take a set of the Paris issue, first printing, and you will fail to trace the slightest difference in the stamps, except the numeral of value. Yet you will at once see that the 1 lepton shows the most dots and dashes, and the 10 lepta practically none. How is this accounted for except by the printing, and that the colour employed for the 1 l. was not so well adapted as the one used for the 10 l.? The 20 l. and 40 l. show the lines clearer than any of the others after the 10, and here we find the composition of these colours is more nearly allied to that used for the 10 l. than the other values. You must also bear in mind that these dots and dashes are fast disappearing on the second printing (Paris), and that almost continued lines of shading take their place; this would not be so unless the lines were on the plate.

Again, the difference between the Paris and the early Athens is no more marked than the difference between the 1870 of the 1 lepton and those that follow. Now we know that these stamps were printed from the same plates, as we find the two varieties, numbers 44 and 55 on the plate (previously described), on the 1870 and all subsequent printings. The variation, indeed, is so marked in the last instance given, that heretofore the 1870 printing has been called a new plate, and different from the plate employed for the subsequent issues. I never agreed in this contention, and recently, from specimens which have come into my possession, I am able to show that such is not the case. When, therefore, we find that the mode of printing has been accountable for the error into which collectors have fallen in describing specimens of the "fine and short lines of shading," *i.e.*, the 1870 issue as a new plate, it is not unreasonable to find that a similar cause has led to the belief in the retouch of the Paris plate before the printing in Athens.

I know I have laboured this subject, but my excuse for doing so must be the very great issue involved, it being no less than the complete overthrow of a fallacy, namely, the retouch of the plate which has always been accepted as gospel for the last thirty years.

We will now turn our attention to the different printings of the stamps in the α, β, γ subdivisions of the Second Period, commonly known as the Athens prints. The values will be taken each in turn, and each value will be taken through all the subdivisions α, β, γ before leaving it for the next values.

The dates I give are only approximate, as they must necessarily be, in the absence of any official record of the different printings, or even of the total number of stamps printed. Much, but not all of the difference whereby the different printings can be distinguished depends upon the colours. I have bestowed a great deal of time and care in my description of them, and at times, to emphasize the distinction, I may have made use of names which, to one not versed in Greek stamps, may appear somewhat ridiculous. Only those who have attempted a similar task can really know how difficult it is. I shall no

doubt have attributed to some stamps a colour which some of my friends may disagree with. At the same time I only claim to have been consistent in my nomenclature, and if those who differ from me will have the patience to follow me through, I trust they will agree that in making the claim I do I am at all events right.

SECOND PERIOD.

Subdivision α.

1 Lepton value.

PRINTING.

A. Dec. 1861. Deep chocolate-brown; finely executed; lines of shading on the neck thin; on highly glazed paper, resembling Paris in colour and tone, clear impression.

Subdivision β.

B. Jan. 1862. Chocolate-brown; varying from light to medium, but none so deep or rich in tone as A; well executed; lines of shading on the neck more pronounced but clear; on glazed paper slightly tinted cream;* clear impression. This printing is popularly known as the first Athens prints; technically it is the second Athens, the stamps of the first Athens (printing A) being very scarce.

Variety.

On paper vertically ribbed.†

C. March 1862. Brown, varying very slightly in shade; fairly executed; lines of shading on the neck as B; paper not glazed, but tinted as in B; clear impression.

Variety.

On paper vertically ribbed.

D. April 1862. Olive-brown; in all other respects identical to C; the colour is very distinctive, and in some specimens is nearly allied to that used for the 2 lepta issue; the paper is also slightly deeper cream. This difference, however, is not sufficiently pronounced to be traced in single specimens, but is noticeable in blocks having the margin.

E. 1863. Pale brown, in colour resembling C, but lighter and warmer in tone, having more red in its composition; the shades vary from very pale to medium, the lighter shades being greyer in tone; not so well executed, the lines on the neck being more pronounced; cream paper, not glazed; impression not so clear, showing wear of the plate.

F. 1865. Black-brown, very distinctive colour; inferior execution; lines of shading on the neck down the cheek-bone having a tendency to run into one another; deep cream paper, not glazed; heavy impression. The paper of this printing varies in texture, some of it resembling the paper hitherto used, which is opaque, the other being thinner and semi-transparent.

G. 1866. Purple-brown; better executed than F; cream paper, not glazed; light impression, which I think accounts for the better execution; the paper is opaque.

* The stamps of this printing vary greatly in shade.

† This variety is on distinctly ribbed paper, visible on the face and back of the stamp, and the ribbing resembles that of the Pence Issue of Canada. Various opinions have been hazarded as to the *raison d'être* of the Canadian ribbed papers, but from a block I have of these Greece ribbed there can be no question that only very few of this variety are on the sheet. The ribbed varieties are those at the edge of the sheet, the ribbing extending entirely over the outer right vertical row and about three-quarters over the stamps of next vertical row, whereas the other stamps bear no signs of ribbing. The ribbed varieties are very scarce, very few sheets showing this variety in the paper.

PRINTING.

H. 1867. Reddish brown, very warm in tone, and quite different from the colour of any of the foregoing printings; poor execution, the inscription of the marginal stamps being hardly legible. This, I think, was probably caused through excessive pressure having to be applied to print the stamps owing to the condition of the plate. The lines of shading on the neck down the cheek-bone not discernible, forming a solid blotch of colour; paper resembling F, but none semi-transparent; blurred impression.

Variety h. A few sheets of the glazed paper, being on hand, were used up in this printing. In consequence of the better-finished paper the impression is much clearer, and at first sight would appear to belong to an earlier printing (B); but the colour and the lines of shading on the neck not being so clearly defined at once locates the stamp. It is, in my opinion, a very scarce variety.

The unsatisfactory appearance of the last printing, caused no doubt through the wear and dirty condition of the plates, made it imperative on the authorities to do something in the matter. For some reason or another no attempt seems to have been made by the printers at Athens to cope with the difficulty, and the authorities ultimately deemed it advisable to consult a printer of experience from Germany; the result being that the plate was thoroughly cleaned, which is the characteristic of the next printing.

Subdivision γ.

I. 1870. Pale red-brown, the lighter shades verging on fawn; finely executed; lines of shading on the neck much shorter. This shading varies slightly in different specimens, and in the majority of cases is rounded off on the cheek, from the front of the ear to the chin, differing from all the former and later printings where the shading forms a distinct angle at the chin. This peculiarity gives a rounded and fuller appearance to the face. Highly-finished toned paper; clear impression.

The whole execution of this stamp points to the fact that an experienced workman at all events superintended the printing of these stamps, if he did not himself print them. The scarcity of the stamps also shows that only a limited quantity were printed. This stamp has always hitherto been chronicled as one from a new plate, but in this I do not agree, for the reasons previously mentioned. I also see that so early a date as 1864 has been assigned to this stamp; this is much too early. All dated postmarks I have seen are 1870–1, and it cannot be placed earlier than 1870, as it was then that the plate was cleaned, etc., which, with the method of printing, accounts for the fine appearance of the stamp.

There are two minor varieties of this and each subsequent printing, which I describe as Flaw No. 1 and Flaw No. 2. The former (Flaw No. 1) consists in an irregular white blotch which appears on the bottom of the pearl circle (see illustration). This is stamp No. 44 on the sheet, being the fourth stamp in the fifth horizontal row. The latter (Flaw No. 2) consists in an irregular white blotch which appears in the hair behind the head (see illustration). This is stamp No. 55 on the sheet, being the fifth stamp on the sixth horizontal row. As before mentioned, these minor varieties are more than usually interesting, as demonstrating that the same plate was employed for Printing 1 and all the subsequent printings.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
„ „ No. 2.

PRINTING.

J. Red-brown, varying from light to deep; well executed; cream
1871. paper, not glazed. The impression (which is fairly clear) is what one would expect from Athens workmen having cleaned plates to deal with.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
„ „ No. 2.

The general appearance of the stamps is practically identical to those of the printing A to G, but the expression on the face strikes one as being somewhat haggard, and as not possessing the repose of the earlier printing.

The following three printings are easily recognized owing to being on coloured paper:—

K. Red-brown, varying much in shade from light to deep; fairly well executed; lines of shading as I. The paper (which, as is mentioned in the head-note, is a reliable guide to this printing) is orange-buff on the surface, and the deeper the impression, the more orange the paper appears, leading one to believe that the colour of the stamp exercised an influence on the tone of the paper. Impression varies according to the depth of colour, in the lighter ones being fairly clear.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
„ „ No. 2.

L. Deep ochre-brown on orange-buff paper; in all respects like K.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
„ „ No. 2.

M. Full grey-brown; execution as last; lines of shading as in J. The paper (a reliable guide) is canary-yellow, and is thin in texture, the impression showing through on the back.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
„ „ No. 2.

N. Coffee-brown, varying very slightly in shade; execution and shading as in K. The paper (a reliable guide) is buff; clear impression.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
„ „ No. 2.

O. Red-brown on coffee-coloured paper. The paper of this printing looks as if it had been steeped in coffee; so much is this the case that at first I refused to believe in the *bona fides* of these stamps, and it was not until I had obtained several from different undoubtedly good sources that I became convinced.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
„ „ No. 2.

PRINTING.

P. Deep brown. This printing must not be confounded with F, the only one to which it bears a resemblance, the colour not being so dark, and having more red in its composition; the paper is also deeper in tone; fair execution; lines of shading on the neck heavy, particularly on the marginal stamps, having a tendency to run into one another. The paper is light buff; impression heavy, the plate showing signs of neglect.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
,, ,, No. 2.

Q. **1878?** Stone-brown, varying in shade from light to deep; execution as in P; paper similar to P, but closer in texture; impression as last.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
,, ,, No. 2.

R. Grey-brown, varying from light to full; execution fair; lines of shading distinct, light impression; paper light buff, not so deep as N.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
,, ,, No. 2.

S. **1881.** Light fawn-brown; fair execution, probably due to the colour and better quality of the paper; paper varies, being sometimes well finished—it is tinted cream; impression clear on the well-finished paper, but blotchy on the indifferent papers.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
,, ,, No. 2.

T. **1883.** Reddish fawn-brown, resembling S, but much deeper in tone, and with more red in the composition; not so well executed as a whole; paper as in S; impression blurred as a rule, and especially on the marginal stamps, the outer tablets being almost a solid ground of colour; the Greek border on such particular stamps being almost invisible.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
,, ,, No. 2.

U. Fawny brown; fair execution; paper and shading as in S, from which printing it can be distinguished by the colour, which is quite different, the S printing being very much lighter and more yellowish in tone. The impression might have been on dry paper, which could not absorb the same quantity of colour, thus conveying to one's mind that the stamp is somewhat larger. The small numerals of value are certainly clearer and thicker, due to the printing.

Minor Varieties.

With Flaw No. 1.
,, ,, No. 2.

(*To be continued.*)

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Editorial Interviews.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

Mr. C. J. PHILLIPS.

OF the commanding position of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, in the stamp trade we need say but little. It is a pillar of strength to philately in general. Its splendid publications have done yeoman service in the work of popularising the pursuit of stamp collecting; indeed, it would be difficult to estimate what would have become of stamp collecting without the fostering care of the great Strand firm. May it ever flourish in the very forefront of those workers who are doing so much to raise our pursuit to the highest level of scientific inquiry. That it is a trading firm with a keen eye on the main chance cannot rob it of the kudos it is earning by its invaluable contributions to philatelic investigation. The honourable connection of Major Evans with the literary department of the firm, and the superabundant energy of Mr. C. J. Phillips as Managing Director, are alone sufficient to guarantee efficiency and thoroughness in its productions.

Dropping in at the well-known establishment on a recent evening, we found ourselves closeted with the Managing Director after closing hours. The members of the staff, one after another, had departed; and we were alone in a veritable philatelic treasure-house. On the tables before us were several volumes of the recently-purchased Ayer collection. The massive door of the great strong-room swung upon its hinges, revealing tier after tier of valuable stock books, and innumerable shelves and drawers around suggested a wealth of philatelic treasures, and a mastery of business detail.

The opportunity was too good to be lost. Turning from the subject of our conversation we suggested an interview for the *Record* on the spot, after the manner of the highwayman—"Your money or your life!" The Managing Director stepped back and ruminated. "What!" he said. "Now?" "Yes, now. Why not?" "No!" said he emphatically. "Not a word till I have the complete 'copy' for your Transvaal Handbook."

Here was a poser! Some years since we suggested the now popular series of Stanley Gibbons' Philatelic Handbooks; and, in a weak moment, we hung a millstone around our neck in the shape of a promise to do a handbook to the Transvaal right off the reel. Those were the days of our philatelic innocence. We have since learned the lesson that though leaders and interviews may be done right off the reel, the writing of a philatelic handbook requires unlimited patient research, and infinitely more time than the average busy journalist can spare from the odd moments at his disposal. However, the way was ultimately smoothed, upon terms, and the interview proceeded.

Naturally our first question was, "How does the stamp trade flourish?" "Never better, especially in rare stamps," was the prompt and decisive reply. "To give you some idea as to how the trade progresses," continued he, "I may tell you how it stands with our firm. Up to the time when I bought this business Mr. Gibbons' best year was just under £8000. This year we anticipate a turnover of fully £60,000."

"Do you find any particular stamps selling better than others?" "The first-rate rarities sell best. In fact, the rarer the stamp the better it sells."

Our Portrait Gallery.



MR. CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

"Would you particularise any special country as first favourite?" "Amongst the rare stamps most sought after I should place British Guiana first."

"And after British Guiana?" "Mauritius and the Hawaiians run a close race. There is also a general demand for fine unused Australians, and rarities of European countries are always very saleable."

"What about Australians generally?" "Australians generally being met with in such poor condition, as in the auctions, are not much sought for. It is only mint copies for which there is a steady, growing demand."

"Do you find Australians recovering from the slump following on the bank failures?"

"Undoubtedly; so much so that Australian collectors are beginning to buy back from us, and our policy of stocking Australians during the past few years is likely to have good results."

"Now, of this £60,000, what has been the top figure of your best endeavour for a rarity?" "Well, the best prices realized during the past few months have been £750 for the celebrated Baltimore 10 cent red envelope, and £700, which I received for one of the first issue of Hawaii. This latter stamp, by the way, I might mention, I see by the *Eastern Philatelist*, U.S.A., is stated to have been sold to H.R.H. the Duke of York. On what ground such a statement is made I am totally at a loss to conceive, as the stamp has been sold on the Continent."

"What about this big collection which you have bought?" "I suppose you mean the collection of Mr. F. W. Ayer, of Bangor, U.S.A. This gentleman was undoubtedly the leading collector in the United States, and possessed what I should estimate to be the third finest general collection in the whole world, at any rate as regards rarities."

"It is said you have bought only the gems."

"That is quite correct. We have a very large stock of ordinary stamps, quite sufficient for general needs, and only desired the very finest stuff that can be obtained. Consequently I jumped at Mr. Ayer's rarities. A long list of them has been published in the *Monthly Journal;* but since that list appeared I have received and priced a further wonderful lot of stamps from the Ayer collection, notably the United States of America and the North American Colonies. For instance, look at these New Brunswicks. Here you see there are four copies of the rare one shilling, unused, in mint condition, all different shades. There are nine single copies used. There are several specimens of the one shilling bisected on entire envelopes, and even that rarity, a quarter of the shilling used for a 3d. stamp. You will also notice here a row of four of the celebrated Connell stamp, one of which is postmarked, the only copy I have yet met with in this condition. In the North American portion the Ayer collection is exceedingly strong in large blocks and in bisected of all kinds. In the Newfoundlands, in the carmine-vermilion there are two unused copies of the 2d., three of the 4d., two of the 6d., and five of the 1s., all unused. A number of these stamps go into three figures. The Canadian are a splendid lot. Just look at these 12d. stamps. Here are two single copies on laid paper unused, a fine horizontal pair used, two single specimens lightly cancelled, and still two more on entire envelopes; making in all eight of these rare stamps. Nova Scotia, again, are a remarkably pretty lot. There are three of the shillings unused in varying shades, and thirteen used specimens, all brilliant copies with margins, and mostly on the original envelopes. The United States of America, as might be expected, are magnificent. I can only show you a few of them now, as the others are being arranged. Here is a block of seven unused, with gum, of the five cents, red-brown, 1851 issue, followed on the next page by a block of thirty of the twelve cents, black, also unused. The United States are beyond doubt the finest in the world."

"And the selling of this enormous collection; how does it proceed?" "The sales average £1000 a week, and seem likely to increase."

"You have published the second part of your Catalogue?" "Yes, thank goodness, Part II. is out at last. We have been at work on it since last October, and the book is not a compilation from other catalogues, as is so often the case, but is based strictly on our stock, which is arranged in all cases by experts of the first rank. Our system is first to arrange the stamps, then to write the lists, and then to price them. Before pricing we endeavour, by writing to all likely quarters, to fill up all gaps in our own stock. In doing this we get to know the prices asked in all parts of the world, and are thus enabled to estimate the real rarity of all stamps. All the prices in the Catalogue, with the exception of printer's errors, are those at which the stamps are priced in our books for sale."

"In the movement of prices, what stamps, in your experience, have increased most in the past twelve months?" "Undoubtedly, Scandinavians. In this group I include Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. These have all been neglected countries. They are of great interest, and it is only lately that collectors have been finding out how rare fine unused copies are, and what a host of rarities there are in them."

"And have any stamps dropped in price?" "Do you expect a dealer to admit that?"

"How shall we put it more mildly?" "Well, you might say there have been some slight rectification of prices. Where, by judicious purchases, we have been able to reduce prices we have done so, but we cannot name any country that has had a serious fall. During the past year English stamps have been in as great a demand as those of any country, and we anticipate a steady gradual advance in prices for many years of unused English in mint condition. The leading English collectors turn more and more to their own issues. This, of course, with an increasing demand and a decreasing supply, must tend to force prices upwards."

"I suppose I may take it that your general publication business flourishes alongside the increased demand for stamps?" "Certainly. In fact, in our business the albums and the catalogues create new collectors in thousands every year. We are now selling annually some thirty thousand catalogues and nearly twenty thousand albums of all sorts. Naturally, this amount of instructive matter put into the market must create very many new collectors."

"There has been a great deal of croaking about the disappearance of the boy trade. How do you find trade with the junior collector?" "Steadily increasing all along the line. Indeed, there is quite a difficulty with us in getting packets and sets made up quickly enough to meet the demand. In fact, so much stuff is required for making up packets and sets that during the past two years we have almost entirely dropped our wholesale trade in stamps, finding that we can use the stamps to much greater advantage by retailing them in packets and sets. Whenever new issues of low values appear, it is a common thing for us to buy from ten to fifty thousand of one variety as stock for the commoner priced packets."

Australasian New Hebrides Stamps.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

THE Australasian New Hebrides Company was formed in 1887, and its operations, at first very small, have grown to an enormous extent.

During 1892–3 a steamer belonging to the Australian United Steam Navigation Company ran through the New Hebrides group, carrying cargo, passengers, and mails. This service was subsidised by the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, but the subsidies ceased in 1894. At this time the operations of the Australasian New Hebrides Company had increased to such an extent that they purchased a steamer and inaugurated an interisland service.

Subsequently a direct steam service to and from Sydney and Port Vila was added, and the steamer now leaves Sydney at intervals of three weeks, connecting with the interisland steamer, which makes a tour of the group, occupying the three weeks between the visits of the direct steamer.

The New Hebrides are at present neutral ground, under the joint control of England and France; but these powers, as a rule, only take action in criminal matters. The Australasian New Hebrides Company being the only British company in the group, and controlling almost the whole of the commercial operations, is looked to by the residents to push British interests in the islands. There can be little doubt that the absolute control of the New Hebrides group will fall to the nation which makes the greatest commercial progress within its limits.

This Company has just issued two stamps for prepayment of postage on letters carried between the islands by their steamer. On and after the 1st June they will require all letters from the islands to Sydney to bear an interisland 1d. stamp in addition to the 2½d. New South Wales stamp, which carries the letter to any destination. Of course, all letters from one port in the islands to another will be prepaid solely by the Company's stamps.

The following are the interisland rates of postage:—

Letters. For every ½ oz., or fraction thereof	1d.
Packets and Magazines, not exceeding 4 oz.	1d.
„ „ every additional 4 oz., or fraction thereof	1d.
Parcels, every 8 oz., or fraction thereof	1d.
Newspapers, every 8 oz., or fraction thereof	1d.
Registration	2d.

The stamps (specimens enclosed) bear a view of Port Vila, Sandwich Island, New Hebrides.





Lithographed by John Sands & Co., Sydney, white wove paper, no wmk., rouletted.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

The Judges.

THE following gentlemen have accepted the invitation of the Committee to act as Judges for the purposes of the awards in the several competitions:—

Mr. E. D. Bacon Mr. M. P. Castle Major E. B. Evans
Dr. A. H. Fraenkel, and Lieut. F. A. Napier, R.N.

Two other representatives of foreign countries have been invited, and as soon as their replies have been received the list of Judges will be completed.

Opening by H.R.H. the Duke of York.

It has been arranged that the Exhibition will be opened on Thursday, the 22nd July, at 3 p.m., by H.R.H. the Duke of York, K.G.

The prices of admission fixed by the Committee are:—

	s.	d.
On the opening day (up to 6 p.m.), *by Tickets only*, which must be obtained beforehand . . .	10	0
After 6 p.m. on the opening day . . .	2	6
Admission on all other occasions . . .	1	0
Season Tickets can be obtained for the whole period of the Exhibition, including admission to the opening, price	15	0
Season Tickets can be obtained for whole period, except opening	7	6

Tickets can now be booked on application to the Secretary, J. A. Tilleard, 4, Lombard Court, E.C., and will be forwarded as soon as issued.

Postal Orders for the tickets bespoken must accompany all orders.

More Medals for Exhibitors.

H.R.H. the Duke of York has placed at the disposal of the Committee one gold and one silver medal for the two best collections shown in Class IV., formed and owned by ladies.

Mr. W. S. Lincoln offers one gold and one silver medal for the two best collections of the postage stamps of the Transvaal.

A slight inaccuracy occurred in our announcement in our April number concerning the medals offered by Messrs. Butler Bros. It should have read as follows: Messrs. Butler Bros., Clevedon; one silver and one bronze medal for the two best collections, not exceeding 2000 varieties, to be shown in any album of English manufacture by exhibitors under the age of sixteen years.

Philatelic Exchange Societies.

By H. R. OLDFIELD,

Vice-President of the International Philatelic Union.

IT may be the fact that most of the Philatelic Exchange Societies have been formed in reliance upon the mutual good faith and intention of the members to fulfil their honourable obligations; but it has probably been assumed that the due observance of such obligations could be enforced, if necessary, by action at law.

The proceedings in the case recently instituted on behalf of the International Philatelic Union against one of its members, which have been widely reported in the Philatelic press, have shown the practical fallacy of this assumption, and have illustrated the difficulties and pitfalls which have to be met and avoided in legally enforcing the liabilities of a defaulting member. Consequently it is not out of place to consider whether rules cannot be passed which will obviate the necessity for relying solely and entirely upon the good faith of the members of the various societies.

There has never been any very serious legal difficulty with regard to a member recovering from the secretary or treasurer of a society any sums which such secretary or treasurer may have received upon his account; but the position of such secretary or treasurer in attempting to recover balances due from members in respect of stamps they may have removed from the sheets of other members is altogether different.

The law regards the secretary as simply an intermediary, or agent, between the two real contracting parties, viz., the member from whose sheets stamps are removed, and the member who removed such stamps, and consequently the right of action to recover the value of stamps so removed rests solely in the member from whose sheet such stamps were taken, if the secretary cannot successfully take proceedings in his own name or in that of the society.

The first difficulty in recovering the money would probably be the number of persons having claims, and consequently the number of actions to be brought, coupled with the probable smallness of the various claims, although in the aggregate they might amount to a substantial sum.

A further difficulty might arise in consequence of the residence of the various members concerned being some considerable distance from the place where the action had to be tried, as the trouble and expense of attending might be more than the amount involved.

Again, if the accounts had been standing over for some considerable time, it is possible that some of the claims might have been settled by the secretary or treasurer out of other funds in his hands, and further difficulties and complications would thus be caused.

It is quite evident that such a position of affairs is very unsatisfactory to all parties concerned, and the probabilities are now increased that a member having a real or fancied grievance or claim against the manager or managers of a society of which he is a member, may avail himself of the state of the law and decline to settle his liabilities, relying upon the difficulty in enforcing the same against him.

So far as existing societies are concerned, the only way to avoid a multiplication of small actions would be for the secretary or treasurer to

have the debts conveyed to him by deed, and then, after giving notice of such deed to the defaulting member, he would be in a position to sue him to recover the amount.

For any societies who desire to avoid such cumbersome proceedings, and who think it wise not only to rely on the good faith and honesty of their members, but also to have the authority of the law behind them, a set of model rules has been framed, and is appended to these notes. These rules have been carefully considered and revised, and may be adopted or made use of by such societies as would like to avail themselves of them.

Regulations of The Exchange Club.

1. All members who send sheets of stamps to the Monthly Packets, or who remove stamps from any of the sheets in such packets, by the fact of their so doing are to be deemed to assent to and be bound in all respects by the following regulations, and their sheets are received and the packets sent to them only upon such conditions.

2. The property in the stamps sent in by members for exchange purposes shall vest in the Exchange Superintendent as soon as such stamps come into his actual possession, to be held by him as a fee on behalf of the owners and of all other members of the Club for the following purposes: First, *to circulate* the said stamps, and otherwise deal with them as may be required by the regulations of the Club for the time being in force. And secondly, after the said stamps shall have been circulated or dealt with, and the proceeds of those removed shall have been ascertained, within a period which shall not in any case exceed one year from the date of the original receipt of the said stamps by the Exchange Superintendent, *to deliver* to the original owners of the said stamps respectively such of the said stamps as shall have been returned to the Exchange Superintendent by the members, and to pay to the said original owners such part of the proceeds of any stamps which shall have been removed as shall be due to them under the said regulations.

3. Members shall send to the Exchange Superintendent their stamps for exchange purposes on or before the . day of each month. The stamps must be securely hinged on sheets of such paper as may be prescribed from time to time; the price is to be written above each stamp and be such as as will allow of a discount of fifty per cent., and such prices shall not be altered in transit.

4. The Exchange Superintendent must be a member of the Club.

5. The Exchange Superintendent must make up the sheets sent in to him each month into a packet, which shall be sent round to the members in the following order. [Here set out such provisions as may apply to the particular Club.]

6. Members when removing stamps from the sheets shall initial each space from which a stamp is removed, and enter on the front page of the sheet from which stamps are taken short particulars of such takings. Each member shall also specify on the back of his own sheet (or if he himself has not sent a sheet, then a piece of blank paper to be inserted by him for the purpose) full particulars of all stamps he may have removed from the packet, specifying the respective sheets, and the number and value of stamps removed from each, and shall insert short particulars of his takings in the spaces provided for the purpose in the Postal List accompanying the packet.

7. Each member when he removes stamps does so upon the faith of an understanding and undertaking on his part, deemed to be implied by the mere fact of such removal, that he will pay to the Exchange Superintendent for the time being the price of the stamps so removed, and the same shall be a debt due from such member to the Exchange Superintendent [in accordance with the regulations of the Club for the time being in force].

8. The Monthly Packets must be sent on by registered Parcel Post within twenty-four hours after receipt (Sundays excepted), and every fourth member on the list shall send a post card to the Exchange Superintendent to advise him of the receipt and despatch of the packet. Members neglecting to register shall be fined ; members neglecting to send such post card shall be fined ; and members delaying the packet shall be fined per day, unless this default shall be explained to the satisfaction of the Committee of the Club.

9. All fines shall be payable to the Exchange Superintendent for the time being, and shall be placed by him to the credit of the Insurance Fund herein after referred to.

10. The Exchange Superintendent shall have a discretion as to the sheets to be included in the packets, and may refuse such as may be too bulky, or may, in his opinion, contain dirty or damaged stamps, reprints, forgeries, or stamps marked at excessive prices; but in such case he shall forthwith return such sheets to the members who may have sent them.

11. The Exchange Superintendent shall be at liberty to mark the space over any stamp sent in which, in his opinion, may be a forgery; but he shall not be bound to do so, and the absence of any such mark shall not imply any guarantee on his part as to the genuineness of any stamp on the sheet.

12. Members must be particular to check all vacant spaces, and if any space is not initialed to advise the Exchange Superintendent, as the value of the missing stamps will be debited to the member on the list preceding the one who advises the Exchange Superintendent.

13. On the return of the packet, the Exchange Superintendent shall make out and send to each member concerned a statement showing the balance due to or from him, made out on the gross prices of the stamps. The members *to* whom balances are due for stamps removed shall only be entitled to receive 50 per cent. of the gross amount, they having priced their stamps upon this assumption. All balances due *from* members shall be payable immediately on receipt of the statement showing such balance to be due. If any member owing any balance shall pay the same within a period of weeks from receipt of the statement he shall be entitled to a discount of 50 per cent. off such balance; but time is strictly of the essence of this provision, and no discount shall be allowed by the Exchange Superintendent unless payment is made within the period aforesaid.

14. No packets shall be sent to members who are in default, nor shall their sheets be returned to them so long as such default continues.

15. In cases where defaulting members are liable to pay their monthly balances in full, an amount equivalent to the 50 per cent. discount thereon shall be carried by the Exchange Superintendent, when received by him, to the credit of the Insurance Fund.

16. Each member contributing sheets shall be charged and shall pay to the Exchange Superintendent the sum of 2d. for each packet in which such sheets are included, and such payment shall be carried by the Exchange Superintendent to the credit of the Insurance Fund.

17. The Exchange Superintendent shall be entitled (but shall not be bound), with the sanction of the Committee, to sue for and enforce payment of debts due from members for stamps removed or otherwise payable under the regulations, and he shall be indemnified by the Club from and against all expenses properly incurred by him in connection with such proceedings. In the event of the Exchange Superintendent or the Committee being unwilling to institute such proceedings, any member or members, whose stamps have been taken by any defaulting member, shall be entitled to request the Exchange Superintendent to endeavour to enforce payment, upon giving to him a full and sufficient indemnity against any expenses he might incur, or liabilities he might be put to by reason of any such endeavour to enforce payment from such defaulting member.

18. A defaulting member shall not be entitled to require evidence to be furnished as to the prior sanction of the Committee, nor shall the absence of such sanction be a defence to any proceeding by the Exchange Superintendent to enforce payment, the object of such prior sanction being merely to protect the members of the Club from liability by reason of such proceedings without the previous sanction of the Committee for the purpose.

19. The Exchange Superintendent shall be only liable to account to members for money actually received by him; but otherwise, and in the absence of gross and culpable negligence, neither he nor the Committee, nor any member of the Club, shall be responsible for debts of members, nor for stamps lost in transit.

20. The amount standing to the credit of the Insurance Fund shall be applicable towards making good bad debts, or stamps lost in transit, or other losses (if any) in connection with the Exchange Packets. Payments shall be made in the month of January in respect of losses incurred during the year ending on the 31st December then preceding, and if the funds will not permit the same to be settled in full, claims shall be settled *pro rata*, in so far as the funds will go. No claims shall be carried forward towards the succeeding year. The Committee shall be the sole judges as to any claims which may be made or the amount to be paid in respect thereof.

21. In the event of the Club being dissolved, all moneys standing to the credit of the Insurance Fund shall be divided equally among such of its members as have sent in not less than sheets to the Exchange Packets during the three years immediately preceding the date of dissolution; but no person who has ceased to be a member prior to such dissolution shall have any claim or right to share in the assets of the Club.

22. A stamped and addressed envelope must be sent with each sheet of stamps, or with any letter to the Exchange Superintendent requiring an answer, failing which one penny will be charged against such member, and be payable by him to the Exchange Superintendent in addition to the postage for any envelope supplied for the return of any sheet.

23. Members infringing the above regulations, or any of them, may, on a resolution of the Committee, be debarred from seeing the Exchange Packets.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

I, of , a member of the Exchange Club, being desirous of contributing stamps and of seeing the Exchange Packets, hereby acknowledge myself to be bound by the foregoing regulations, or other the regulations for the time being in force [of which I may have received notice]. I agree that the account of each Monthly Packet shall be treated as entirely separate transactions, without regard to the accounts of any other month, and I admit that any amount or balance due from me in respect of any Monthly Packet is to be deemed to be personally due, and to be payable by me, to the Exchange Superintendent for the time being, at such address in as the Committee may from time to time appoint. All balances shall be remitted to such address free of expense. I undertake and agree not to raise a defence on any proceedings by the Exchange Superintendent to recover any balance due from me which may be based upon the constitution of the parties to such action, or to raise any counter claim, except in regard to any money due for stamps taken from my sheets for which payment shall have been actually received by the Exchange Superintendent.

If a member be an infant proper guarantee should be given.

No Stamp Duty is required on these agreements by the Exchange Society.

The Universal Postage Stamp.

BY JULES BOUVÈZ.

From the "American Journal of Philately."

AMONG the questions which will be considered at the next Postal Congress to be held at Washington in the month of May, 1897, the most important is unquestionably that which relates to the creation of the universal postage stamp—a question which the journals have been earnestly discussing for some time, and one which, to an unusual degree, has attracted the attention of the philatelic world. It is this all-important question which at this time induces us to impart to the collectors of postage stamps the interesting facts which we have been able to gather.

It will not be necessary to dwell here upon the great importance of the creation of a universal postage stamp. It has been conceded by everybody that such a creation would be of incalculable benefit to the public at large. Under present conditions, if anyone desires to secure information from a country other than the one in which he lives, it is impossible for him to send a postage stamp for the answer, his only course being to resort to the international card correspondence, answer prepaid, such prepayment being frequently insufficient, or the desired object not being attained. When the universal postage stamp comes into use it will be possible to supply the postage necessary to cover the desired answer, and to pay to a correspondent trivial amounts

which are frequently not far in excess of the charges imposed by the postal authorities for the issuing of money orders, which orders are moreover limited to certain countries of the Union.

Who suggested the idea of introducing this form of value, which is to become, as it were, paper money, recognized throughout the world? and under what form will it be presented to us? These are the two questions which we may ask ourselves, and with which we intend to engage the attention of our readers.

Let it be remembered at the outset that this project of creating a universal postage stamp is by no means a new one. On referring to the documents of the last Postal Congress, held at Vienna in the year 1891, we find that already, at the meeting of the "Committee for The Examination of the Proposition Concerning the Chief Convention and the Plans for the Creation of a Central Office of Account and Liquidation," held on the 2nd of June, the creation of this form of value came up for consideration. In order to simplify the study of this important reform, the following motion was advanced to the Congress Committee by the delegate of the postal authorities of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg:—

For the purpose of facilitating relations between the countries of the Union, that there be created a universal postage stamp, bearing the values of 25 and 5 centimes.

That this stamp be admitted in all the countries of the Universal Postal Union to cover the postage of international correspondence, concurrently with the stamps issued by each country.

Said stamp not to be good for interior service, nor to be exchanged in the post offices for ordinary stamps.

The sale of the universal postage stamp to take place for account of all the countries of the Union. After deduction of manufacturing, or other expenses, the proceeds of the sale to be divided amongst them in the proportion fixed by Sec. 3 of Art. 28 of the Rules of the Chief Convention relative to the division of expenses of the International Administration Office, or at a rate to be agreed upon.

The liquidation of such proceeds to be made either by compensation at the time the contributive share of each country in the Union expenses, referred to in the previous paragraph, is determined, or by putting such liquidations to account against the labour of the International Bureau in connection with the service of postal or other orders.

That decisions be arrived at in this matter, to the effect that the International Office be charged with the manufacture and storage of this stamp, as well as with the shipment of same to each country, and also with the accounting in connection with such service.

In order to clearly understand the conditions under which this project was to go into effect, it will be useful to indicate here the manner of dividing the expenses of the International Post Office, according to Art. 28 of the Rules of the Convention.

The countries of the Union are divided into seven classes, contributing, each one, for its share of the expenses, in the proportion of a certain number of units, viz.:—

1st Class, 25 Units.	5th Class, 5 Units.
2nd ,, 20 ,,	6th ,, 3 ,,
3rd ,, 15 ,,	7th ,, 1 ,,
4th ,, 10 ,,	

These co-efficients are multiplied by the number of the countries of each class, and the amount thus obtained furnishes the number of units by which the total expense is to be divided. The quotient gives the amount of the unit of expense.

The countries of the Union are classified as follows with reference to the division of expenses:—

1st Class: Germany, Austria-Hungary, United States of America, France, Great Britain, British India, British Colonies of Australasia, all the other British Colonies and Protectorates (except Canada), Italy, Russia, and Turkey.

2nd Class: Spain.

3rd Class: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Netherlands, Roumania, Sweden, Spanish Colonies and Provinces beyond the sea, French Colonies, Dutch East Indies.

4th Class: Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Portuguese Colonies.

5th Class: Argentine Republic, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Greece, Mexico, Peru, Servia, Tunis.

6th Class: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Luxemburg, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Persia, German Protectorates, Salvador, Kingdom of Siam, Uruguay, Venezuela, Danish Colonies, Colonies of Curaçao (or Dutch Antilles), Colony of Surinam (or Dutch Guiana).

7th Class: Congo Free State, Hawaii, Liberia, Montenegro.

It must be stated that the proposition made by the delegate of the postal authorities of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg did not meet with the approval of the members of the Congress Committee of Vienna.

At a meeting held a few days later, during the same Congress, the delegate of the postal authorities of the United States of America advanced a new proposition to the same effect, but this did not have any better success than the other, and then the idea was for some time abandoned.

Although the Postal Congress was closed in 1891 without any decision being arrived at, it is nevertheless true that this question made rapid strides on that occasion.

Three years later the postal and telegraphic authorities of Germany entered into further negotiations with the members of the Union with a view to an understanding in this matter, and a conference was officially announced for the 15th of July, 1895. The minister of the German Postal Department presented on this occasion a design for a universal postage stamp, and renewed the plan of adoption above described, which was acknowledged to be of such a nature as to preclude any kind of fraud. Indications now point to the adoption of the above-described project.

The sale of the international stamp would therefore be conducted for the benefit of all the postal administrations of the Union, and the proceeds of such sale would be divided amongst the various administrations in the proportions fixed by Art. 32 of the Convention, as per extract given above.

At the risk of being considered indiscreet, let us say a word now with regard to the composition of the stamp.

It would be perforated, and of the dimensions 38 mm. × 25 mm., so that the names of the various countries which recognized its postal value might be artistically combined on the surface, such combination to be made in alphabetical order, the classes of the various countries being also considered.

By reason of the difficulties which would ensue from the indication, on the obverse of the stamp, of the charge imposed by such countries as do not use the franc as their monetary standard, the method inaugurated by Mr. Albert Barre, of Paris, and which was applied to the Greek stamps of the first issue, would be adopted on the stamp; that is to say, the value would be printed in colour on the reverse of the stamp. The adoption of this method would also simplify the formation of the design, which would be simple and at the same time attractive.

Will all these measures be of such a nature as to absolutely preclude all possibility of counterfeiting this stamp? Although the Postal Congress of Vienna clearly and definitely outlined the steps that were to be taken with a view to the prevention of counterfeiting in any of the countries of the Union, it would seem advisable, as an additional safeguard, to select a special kind of paper for the printing of this stamp. In this connection we must not lose sight of the fact that, if Bank of England notes, the simplest of all in appearance, are yet far more difficult to imitate than those of other countries which are often characterized by a lavish display of ornamentation, this is to be attributed to the fact that their principal safeguard lies in the paper itself. The public are unaware of the traps that are laid for the counterfeiter in this one primary operation alone, by which, at the will of the manufacturer, there may exist certain diversities of thickness, skilfully calculated, which are noticed on certain parts of the sheet, and which are nothing more than skilfully-arranged watermarks. It would also be well to bear in mind, in the selection of the paper, that the universal stamp will be, as we have previously stated, a paper money, and from its very nature must be subject to transfer from hand to hand. It must therefore be small in size, and at the same time of exceptional strength, and consequently ought to be the object of a special manufacture.

Doubtless these several points will occur to the minds of the members of the Washington Congress, who will, we trust, by the creation of the universal postage stamp, solve this difficult problem.



Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, 1897.

Stanley Gibbons', Limited, Priced Catalogue of Stamps of Foreign Countries, 1897 *Eleventh Edition. Part II. London: Stanley Gibbons, Limited. Price 2/-.*

In our March issue (p. 79) we noted the publication of the first part of this admirable Catalogue, and we have now the pleasure of announcing the arrival of Part II.—Foreign Countries. It is very neatly bound in navy-blue cloth, and tastefully lettered in silver. The matter is excellently arranged and beautifully printed. The illustrations are not yet all that could be desired, but much has been done to remedy the defects of the previous edition in this respect. The illustration of surcharges set out clearly in *fac-simile* apart from the stamp, so successful and marked a feature in Part I., is continued in Part II. Numberless valuable and instructive notes are sprinkled here and there as required, to help the collector in his search for little-known varieties, or to enable him to distinguish between various issues. Many countries have been thoroughly revised, others await that process. The hand of the experienced expert may be clearly traced on almost every page. Transvaal will claim more space in the next edition. But why this country should be relegated to a new heading as "South African Republic" we cannot conceive. "Transvaal" may be regarded as a generic term which covers everything; whereas "South African Republic" certainly cannot correctly include the period of the British occupation.

A striking departure has been made in the grouping of countries and their colonies, thus following out the plan of Part I. of Great Britain and Colonies. After Denmark will be found Danish West Indies and Iceland; after Germany, all the old German States; after France, all the Consular stamps and those of the French Colonies; after Italy, all her States; after Portugal, all her Colonies, and so on; a decided improvement, which may be said to be a concession to the influence of specialism.

Were we given the liberty of the editorial blue pencil, we should very much like to draw a ruthless line through many a long list of locals, though we are bound to confess our admiration for the splendidly set out list of Russian Locals, which, presumably, few would care to see deleted, despite their comparative unpopularity.

Of the pricings we shall say but little. It will ever be a bone of contention. But after all the grumbles that are certain to be forthcoming, we shall probably settle down, as heretofore, to the basis of our *Gibbons*. Scandinavians, of course, are up, and they are probably the most notable of the increases in price. The stamps of Sicily show slight reductions in unused, but decided increases in used copies, an order which no doubt will be reversed in the next edition. Of course, Transvaals are up, and also West Indians, as compared with the previous edition.

It is a big order to attempt to chronicle shades of printing. To give all variations of shade in one issue, whilst leaving another issue of the same country, even more susceptible of shading, untouched, is a little misleading. We have noted here and there slips of this sort; but it is almost churlish to mention these little blemishes beside the general excellence of this splendid contribution to our standard philatelic literature.

We note with regret the statement in the Preface that the Inland Revenue Authorities have been worrying the publishers with threats of proceedings for reproducing stamps in the original size, and that, as a consequence, the old blocks which were so clear and serviceable have been photographed down to one-fourth the actual size.



British Empire.

Australasian New Hebrides Company.—On another page Mr. Basset Hull gives a full account of the postage stamps issued by this Company, which seem to us to be fully entitled to be classed as postal issues. Illustrations of the stamps will be found in Mr. Basset Hull's paper. They are oblong, bicoloured, rouletted, on thick paper, and unwatermarked.

Adhesives.

1d., magenta, centre black.
2d., red, centre blue.

Bechuanaland Protectorate.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write :—

When this Colony was annexed to the Cape, the remaining stock of stamps was sent to Cape Town. They have now been brought again into use, not in British Bechuanaland Protectorate, which is the country to the north of Bechuanaland, extending to the British South Africa Company's boundary. We have received letters from Palapye (Khama's Town) franked with the stamps overprinted on English ; but we believe as these are exhausted they will be replaced by others overprinted on the current Cape. The first of these has already appeared—the ½d., green, a specimen of which we enclose.

The ½d. Cape stamp enclosed is surcharged "British Bechuanaland" in the same style of type as the first ½d. English, but slightly bolder.

British Central Africa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of the current design on watermarked paper, some Crown and CA, and some Crown and CC.

Adhesives.

1d., black	wmk.	Cr. CA.
2d., green and black	,,	,,
4d., brown-buff and black	,,	,,
6d., ultramarine and black	,,	,,
1s., pink and black	,,	,,
2s. 6d., mauve and black	,,	Cr. CC.
3s., orange-yellow and black	,,	,,
5s., olive and black	,,	,,
£1, ultramarine and black	,,	,,

Canada.—There are various rumours afloat as to the forthcoming jubilee issue. A Canadian correspondent of the *American Journal of Philately* writes :—

I saw to-day photographs of three different designs of the Canadian Jubilee Stamp, but do not know which of them will be adopted by the P.M.G. The three designs have the head of the Queen in 1837 and in 1897. The value indicated on the photographs I have seen is "Fifteen Cents"; this seems to indicate that a whole set will be printed instead of only a 3 cent stamp, as it was rumoured. The stamp will be of the same shape as the U.S. Columbian issue.

Cape of Good Hope.—The 2d. and 4d. are chronicled in the new colours, perf. 14.

Adhesives.

2d., brown.
4d., olive.

Indian Native States.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* gives some interesting particulars concerning issues for the Native States of Charkari and Duttia. Both these States are in Bundelkhund, not far from Jhansi, Central India. The Charkari stamps are five in number, with two additional envelopes. It appears that Duttia has had a post office and postage stamps since 1893, and the present service consists of one head office and nine branch offices. The stamps are printed at a private press, and it is said an ingenious device is resorted to in order to prevent forgery. No stamp, envelope, or post card is available for prepayment of postage until it bears the impression of the Maharajah's seal. The stamps, which our contemporary illustrates, are of a type-set rectangle, 25 mm. high and 20 mm. broad. In the centre the figure of the god Ganesh appears; on the left-hand side, reading upwards, is the word "Duttia"; at the top "State"; and on the right-hand side, reading downwards, "Postage"; value in Hindi at base; the whole design being enclosed in a single-lined upright rectangular frame. There is a second type with a trefoil border and inscription in Hindi at base only. Both types are printed in a hand-press one at a time—in the case of Type 1, in horizontal strips of six, and in the case of Type 2, horizontal strips of eight. There are also envelopes and post cards, of which we can only at present mention the existence. The Maharajah's seal, which gives the stamps their postal value, is circular,

23 mm. in diameter; in the centre is the figure of a god sitting cross-legged, surrounded by a Hindi inscription, and finished off with a beaded border. The seal is impressed in various coloured inks, and when used through the post is cancelled with a pen mark, and the stamp by an oval obliteration bearing the words, "Head Office, Raj Duttia," in Hindi. The varieties at present known are as follows:

CHARKARI.

Adhesives. ½ anna, rose.
½ ,, purple
1 ,, green.
2 ,, ,,
4 ,, ,,

Envelopes. ½ anna, rose.
½ ,, purple.

DUTTIA.

Adhesives.

½ anna, black on *orange-red; thin wove paper. Type* 2.
½ ,, ,, ,, *light blue-green* ,, ,, ,,
1 ,, red, on *white wove paper. Type* 1. ,,
2 ,, black, on *yellow; thin wove paper. Type* 2.
4 ,, ,, ,, *rose;* thin wove paper. *Type* 2.

Envelopes.

½ anna, black, on *thin white laid paper*, 120×68 mm.

Post Card.

¼ anna, black, on *stout white wove paper*, 21×21 mm.

Bhopal.—Our publishers have the ¼ a. of the first type of 1884 in black, imperforate. The stamp has hitherto been known only as ¼ a., blue. The black print is evidently a genuine variety, as our publishers have it on the original envelope, and they have had more than one specimen.

Adhesive.

1884. First type.
¼ anna, black; *imperf.*

Mauritius.—Mr. Thos. Ridpath sends us the 4 cents in the arms design of the 3 cents, with the value printed in pale green.

Adhesive.

4 cents, mauve, value in green.

New South Wales.—We are indebted to Mr. Basset Hull for the following clipping from the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* of the 12th of April last:—

The Postmaster-General has under consideration a proposal to introduce a series of new postage stamps in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Queen's reign. One of the suggestions made to Mr. Cook was that a series should be prepared similar in motive and execution to the Columbian issue of the United States, containing designs portraying some of the principal historical events which have marked the Victorian era. Owing to the want of the complicated and expensive machinery necessary for the production of this class of work in the Colony, and the limited time at the disposal of the Government, this suggestion could not be carried out; but it has been definitely decided to mark the occasion by the issue of three stamps of the respective values of 1d., 2d., and 2½d., which will supersede the stamps of corresponding denominations now current. The design is to consist of a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in profile, enclosed in a frame of artistic but simple construction, without any unnecessary elaboration of ornament. In another column an announcement is made, inviting competitive designs, for which a premium is offered. Designs must be sent in by noon on the 22nd inst., and as soon as a suitable one has been selected, the utmost expedition will be employed to prepare the dies and plates, so as to provide for the issue of the stamps on the 22nd June, the day of celebration.

The following is the Government advertisement referred to:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.
GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
10th April, 1897.

DESIGN FOR NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

Competitive designs will be received at this Office until noon on Thursday, the 22nd instant, for three new postage stamps of One Penny, Twopence, and Twopence Halfpenny denominations, intended to be commemorative of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign.

The designs must be drawn in black and white to a scale twice the diameter of the present penny postage stamp, and should contain a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in profile, enclosed in a frame of artistic but simple construction, and without any unnecessary elaboration of ornament.

The value must be expressed in fairly prominent figures, and the inscriptions must be "New South Wales," "Postage."

A premium of £10 10s. will be given for the best design, and £3 3s. for the second best.

The designs for which premiums are given to become the property of the Government; those that have not obtained prizes will be returned to the owners.

The designs are to be addressed to the Acting Deputy Postmaster-General, General Post Office, Sydney, from whom any further information can be obtained.

Each design to be marked on the right-hand lower corner with some distinctive sign or motto, and the name and address of the Tenderer enclosed in a sealed cover marked with the same sign or motto, to accompany the design, which cover will not be opened until the selections have been made. JOSEPH COOK.

A correspondent sends the *London Philatelist* the 9d. and 10d. adhesives, both with the watermark Crown and N S W (Type II.); these were issued on February 10th. The surcharge on the former is in smaller type, measuring 13½ mm. in length, in place of 14½ mm., while the perforation is 12, in place of 11×10. The 10d. is of a bright lilac colour, and perforated 11×12 in place of 11×10.

Adhesives.

9d., red-brown.
10d., lilac.

Mr. A. F. Basset Hull writes the *London Philatelist*:—

I find now that the old plate (De La Rue's) has been used for these printings. The superior appearance and clear printing at first led me to believe that a new electro had been made.

North Borneo.—We illustrate the new series chronicled by us last month.

















Seychelles.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following in the new type :—

Adhesives.

18 cents, blue. | 36 cents, brown and red. | 1 r., mauve and red.

Foreign Countries.

Brazil.—According to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* the blue portion of the current 10 reis stamp has been re-engraved. The *Weekly* says the most important changes are in the label containing the value. The "1" (of "10") is shorter and has a more pronounced serif, the "0" is shorter and rounder, the figures are farther apart, and the horizontal lines of the background are continued between them, the circle is heavier and is shaded by fewer lines (counting around to the right of the "10" there are but 23 instead of 32 as before), and the word "reis" is repeated to the left of the circle in place of the word "dez." The picture in the centre is also redrawn, the fine lines giving place to coarser and farther apart.



Adhesive.

10 reis, rose and blue, re-engraved.

Egypt.—*Soudan.*—We illustrate the new issue for the Soudan referred to in our last number. They are, as will be seen, the current stamps surcharged with the word "Soudan" and the equivalent in Arabic, and are, as stated in the *Journal Officiel*, for use between Wadi-Halfa and the Egyptian frontier, now under the control of the English authorities. The *Monthly Journal* gives the values surcharged as follows :—



Adhesives.

1 mil., brown | 5 mil., carmine.
3 ,, yellow. | 1 pias., ultramarine.

Hawaii.—We are indebted to Mr. M. Brasch, of Honolulu, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., for copies of stamps issued for Foreign Office use. Our illustration shows the design. They are the work of the American Bank Note Company, which Company, with a keen

eye on the value of an advertisement, engraves its name at base of each stamp, instead of on the margin paper, as formerly.



Adhesives.
Foreign Office Labels.
2 c., yellow-green.
5 c., deep brown.
6 c., deep ultramarine.
10 c., rose.
12 c., orange.
25 c., deep violet.

Italy.—We illustrate the new 5 cent stamp, which, it will be seen, differs only from the former type in the omission of the figures from the upper corners.



Adhesive.
5 cents, green.

Monaco.—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles the following new shades :—

Adhesives.
1 c., pale bronze-green.
50 c., bistre on *yellow*.
5 fr., bright rose on *greenish*.

Persia.—*Le Timbre-Poste* states that the profile of the new Shah, Muzaffer-Eddin, will appear on a new series of stamps. The values are to be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 16 shahi, and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, and 50 krans.

Peru.—We illustrate the surcharge chronicled by us last month.



San Marino.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that a series of Unpaid Letter stamps have been issued. They



are bicoloured and are watermarked with a Crown, placed sideways, and are perf. 14. We illustrate the design.

Adhesives.
5 cents, green and chocolate.
10 ,, ,, ,,
30 ,, ,, ,,
50 ,, ,, ,,
60 ,, ,, ,,
1 lira, dull rose and chocolate.
5 ,, ,, ,,
10 ,, ,, ,,

Sweden.—Mr. F. S. Warburg sends us the 5 öre in a new shade—yellow-green.

Turkey.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two varieties, one with overprint in black on 10 paras, green, and the other in red. The latter is a special stamp for newspapers posted in quantities. There is an error in each sheet of 150, viz., "CNIQ" instead of "CINQ."



Adhesives.
5 paras, in black, on 10 paras, green.
5 paras, in red, on 10 paras, green.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The June packet contains—

NINE VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED; viz., China provisionals, 1 c. on 1 cand., vermilion, large type ; 2 c. on 2 cand., green, large type ; 4 c. on 4 cand., scarlet ; New Borneo, 1 c., 2 c., and 3 c.; New Labuan, 1 c., 2 c., and 3 c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra). The June packet contains—

SIXTEEN VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED; viz., China provisionals, ½ c. on 3 cand., yellow, large type ; 10 c. on 9 cand., green, large type ; set of eight Fez Marquenez, 1897 ; New Borneo 5 c., 6 c., and 8 c.; New Labuan 5 c., 6 c., and 8 c.

These packets are on sale until June 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free ; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.



The Postal Changes.

WE have set out in detail in our Philatelic Gossip pages the alterations announced in the last Budget.

The *English Specialists' Journal* thinks these alterations in the postal rates may possibly be accompanied by the withdrawal from issue of some of the current postage stamps, and the issue of new values. The *E. S. J.* gives the following table, showing the changes that will occur in the usefulness of stamps of certain values :—

Present Uses.	*Future Uses.*
1½d. is used largely for letters over 1 oz. and under 2 oz., for book packets weighing between 4 and 6 oz., and for parcels.	1½d. will in future be used principally for book packets weighing between 5 and 6 oz., and not at all for parcels.
2d. is used principally in prepayment of the registration fee.	2d. This value will, under the new regulations, again become (after a period of 15 years) one of the most important. Besides prepaying the registration fee, almost the entire duties of the 2½d. stamp will devolve upon it. If the foreign and colonial rate is reduced to the 2d., the 2½d. value may possibly be withdrawn from issue.
2½d. This value is chiefly required for prepayment of foreign or colonial rates, and next to the ½d. and 1d. values is probably at present more largely used than any other value.	2½d. This value can be but little used under the new regulations.
3d. is used largely for parcels and registered letters.	3d. The uses of this value will be but little disturbed.
4d. This value is not much used at present.	4d. This value will gain much in importance, and will take upon itself all the duties which called into existence the 4½d. stamp.
4½d. The majority of parcels weigh between 1 and 2 lbs., and thus at present cost 4½d.; and the foreign rate, plus registration fee, equals 4½d.	4½d. This value will be but little required and may possibly be withdrawn.
5d. This value represents the postage on foreign letters weighing over ½ oz.	5d. This value, so far as parcels are concerned, will take the place of the present 6d. stamp, but otherwise will not be greatly used.
6d. This value is largely used for telegrams and parcels.	6d. This value will be required principally for telegrams. As heretofore, it will also be employed in making up 6½d., 7d., and 7½d. rates. Amongst other uses, it will perform the duties of the present 7½d. foreign rate, those of the 6½d. registered parcel rate, and last but not least, those of the 7d. rate for foreign registered letters over ½ oz.
9d. and 10d. The former value is used chiefly for parcels, and the latter for foreign letters under 2 oz.	9d. and 10d. The 9d. stamp will be but little required, but the 10d. will be useful as a multiple of the foreign rate. Perhaps the 9d. stamp may be replaced by one of 8d., which would be of much greater service.
1s. This value will, if anything, gain in importance; but no change in the uses of the higher values, which are required principally for telegrams, may be expected.	

If the reduction of the foreign rate from 2½d. to 2d. ever becomes *un fait accompli*, and the other alterations announced above take place, it is quite possible, even probable, that certain values will be withdrawn from circulation and others substituted. As we have endeavoured to show, those to be withdrawn will most likely be the 4½d. and 9d., and possibly 2½d., whilst an 8d. value would be most required.

Dies of Naples, 1858.

DR. DIENA informs the *London Philatelist* that the Postal Museum of Italy has just obtained the steel dies of the postage stamps of the kingdom of Naples (1858), except the 2 grana, which latter, with the ½ tornese (cross), unfortunately has not been found. He adds :—

At the same time the plates, likewise in steel, of the 10 and 50 grana have been received by the Museum; they are constituted in two groups of 100 stamps, each composed of ten rows of ten specimens, with a space between the two groups of 7 mm. on the 10 grana, and 9 mm. on the 50 grana. The plates measure 452 × 256 mm. without counting the margins, and are 15 mm. in thickness. They show in several places hollows formed by rust, or projections caused by friction with some kind of metal. The plate of the 10 grana is more worn than that of the 50, which latter presents a very interesting particular; the reproduced die situate at the right lower angle shows that the Bourbon Arms had been partially effaced, and the cross of Savoy substituted in a rough manner, without alteration of the value or legend. This clearly indicates that the well-known modification that had been effected on the plate of the ½ grano had been temporarily considered practicable as regards another denomination. The interesting fact has remained unknown until the present day.

Australian Federation and the Postal Issues.

THE proposal to federate the Australian Colonies is one that may yet have far-reaching results from a philatelic point of view. Commenting on the progress of federation, the *Australian Philatelist* says :—

During the past month the Federation movement has advanced at a rapid pace; the delegates to the convention have been elected by the provinces of New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia, and the first meeting of the convention took place at Adelaide on the 22nd instant.

Should the constitution to be drawn up by the delegates meet with the acceptance of the people, the Federated States of Australia will, in the course of a year or so, become one stamp-issuing body, instead of five as at present. So far Queensland has stood out from the movement, but there is no reason to doubt that, if the constitution be adopted by the five States now engaged in its preparation, the last of the mainland States will join the Federation.

One of the first matters to be taken into consideration under the new *régime* will naturally be the postal and telegraph system, and with uniformity of tariff, and one administration guiding the operations of the system, there must necessarily be but one series of postage stamps for all the States of the Federation.

The history of the postal systems of the world is full of precedents for the adoption of a federal postal issue. The North German Confederation which, in 1868, absorbed the stamp-issuing States and towns of Prussia, Hanover, Hamburg, Lubeck, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, Oldenburg, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, and Saxony; the Dominion of Canada, into which were merged the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Vancouver; and the Swiss Confederation, which caused the supersession of the various cantonal emissions, are the chief instances, while there are others of less importance.

The saving of cost in the production of the stamps alone will be no inconsiderable economy to be taken into account. At present New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia separately maintain a large number of workmen and extensive plant for the purpose. With very slight additions one of these establishments would be capable of producing all the stamps required, and although the separate institutions would be still maintained for the production of Revenue stamps required for local use, the federal postal establishment would be relieved of a large item of expense now charged to each administration.

Demand for Rare Stamps.

MR. CASTLE, in an Occasional Note in the *London Philatelist*, contributes the following interesting remarks in reply to the outcry from Berlin against the high price of certain rare stamps :—

The ordinary shades of the first issue of Schleswig-Holstein can, *e.g.*, be purchased everywhere, medium Swiss Cantonals are overpriced, and late issues of Leeward Islands are as "leaves in Vallombrosa"; but let any collector, whether in faint-hearted Berlin, temporarily inactive Paris, or sanguine London, step outside the area before alluded to, and he will discover that for stamps which *are really rare and fine* the demand is enormously in advance of the supply. The German metropolis is the centre of pessimism, but in our experience the prices demanded for rarities sent from Berlin, Leipsic, Frankfort, Cologne, Baden, Vienna, Bohemia, and many other centres, far transcend in magnitude those dreamt of in this country, where everything is supposed to be overpriced. We have seen £100 asked for a stamp that—though rare—would not command £40 in London, and we have seen stamps of the German States for which—in brilliant condition—many times the prices of the Grey Senf are demanded. We feel convinced that if a small travelling committee, sent from our friends in Berlin, were to personally inspect the auctions and the stocks of a few leading Continental dealers during a course of a few weeks the scales would fall from their eyes.



Postal and Telegraph Changes.

With a view to prevent any misapprehension we are authorised by the Postmaster-General to give the following detailed statement of the reforms announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech :—

1. The free delivery of letters will be extended to every hamlet, and, as far as possible, to every house in the kingdom. In remote places the delivery will not necessarily be every day; but it will be on regular days, and free. This reform, involving a revision of the walks of thousands of rural postmen, will take a considerable time to carry out; but no time shall be lost, and an endeavour will be made to deal first with the most urgent cases.

2. A more liberal policy will be adopted in establishing post offices in remote villages, and placing letter boxes in localities where it is impossible to provide post offices.

3. The rate of postage for inland letters to be 1d. for the first 4 oz., and ½d. for each succeeding 2 oz. The effect of this reform will be, not merely to increase the weight which may be sent for 1d. in the letter post, but to sweep away entirely the harassing regulations which govern the inland sample post. There will, in fact, be no distinction between an inland sample and letter.

The regulations regarding the book post will still have to be maintained for book packets whose weight does not exceed 2 oz., because it is not proposed to withdraw the privilege of sending such packets for ½d. But for book packets weighing more than 2 oz., the regulations in question will to all intents and purposes be abolished, seeing that to these packets the new rates of postage for letters will apply.

4. In the case of parcels, the present rate of 3d. for the first pound will be maintained; but for every pound above the first, the charge will be 1d. instead of 1½d.; and the maximum charge will be 1s. The scale will progress by regular steps up to 9 lb., which will go for 11d.; and, for the next 1d. 2 lb. will be carried, making the maximum charge 1s. for a parcel of 11 lb. The scale will therefore be as follows:—

Not exceeding 1 lb.			3d.
Over 1 lb. and not exceeding		2 lb.	4d.
,, 2 lb.	,,	3 lb.	5d.
,, 3 lb.	,,	4 lb.	6d.
,, 4 lb.	,,	5 lb.	7d.
,, 5 lb.	,,	6 lb.	8d.
,, 6 lb.	,,	7 lb.	9d.
,, 7 lb.	,,	8 lb.	10d.
,, 8 lb.	,,	9 lb.	11d.
,, 9 lb.	,,	11 lb.	1s.

5. Subject to the arrangements that may be made at the Postal Union Congress now meeting at Washington, the rate of postage for foreign and colonial letters will be reduced from 2½d. to 2d. This change cannot in any case come into operation before the first of January, 1898.

6. All telegrams for delivery within three miles will be delivered free. For distances beyond three miles, the charge will be 3d. per mile, reckoned from the office of delivery.

7. In the case of telegrams delivered in London, all porterage charges will be abolished. There is no intention to harass the public by delivering unimportant telegrams at unreasonable hours. No change will be made in the existing practice in this respect, but what will happen is this: if a person lives near a telegraph office which closes at, say, eight o'clock, and a telegram is delivered to him from a distant office, at say, ten o'clock, he will get it free instead of having to pay porterage from the distant office.

8. The loss which guarantors of telegraph offices incur under the existing system of guarantees will be reduced by one-half. For example, if a guarantee is given for £30 a year, and the annual revenue turns out to be £20, the guarantors, instead of having to pay the whole deficiency of £10 in each year, will only have to pay £5. The concession will apply to existing guarantees as well as to those in the future. At the same time, the practice of calling for a renewal of a guarantee at the end of the first period of seven years will be abandoned, and the office will be maintained at the expense of the Department if it serves a useful purpose.

The alterations in the rates of inland postage, the reduction in the charges for porterage on telegrams, and the concessions in regard to telegraph guarantees will, it is hoped, come into operation on Commemoration Day.

Our Cartoon.



THE PHILATELIC PAVEMENT ARTIST.

GENTLEMAN: What do you call those?

PAVEMENT ARTIST: These 'ere picters represent the Tapling Collection of postage stamps, sir.

GENTLEMAN: Don't think much of the show.

PAVEMENT ARTIST (gruffly): It's a jolly sight more than you'll see of 'em inside, anyway. These 'ere are all taken from life, by the special permission of the Trustees and the British Museum, and the big wigs of the Philatelic Society, and this 'ere show will be continuerd regular till sich time as the Museum people can brick up a hextrey room to show the riginels, all proper like.



Transvaal 5d. and 5s. Stamps.

DEAR SIR,—There are a few errors in your notes on Transvaal stamps (page 108 of April number), viz.: There is NO 5D. value in the bicoloured or any other series, and is never likely to be. I have this on the best Johannesburg authority. And the 5s. value of the 1895 type—pole to wagon—has NOT YET made its appearance. There appears to be some doubt as to whether there will be any issue of the 5s. and 10s. values as *bicoloured* stamps; but any way, there will not be for a very long time.

Yours truly,

F. J. BEEMAN.

KIMBERLEY, *1st May*, 1897.

[We chronicled these stamps on the strength of very definite statements in our contemporaries.—EDITOR *P.R.*]

Seychelles 36 c. on 45 c.

DEAR SIR,—The paragraph you quote from the *American Journal of Philately* (p. 85) is utter nonsense. We have about eight correspondents in Seychelles, several of whom are collectors, and all have written us the same account of the 36 c. on 45 c. stamps. The entire issue was bought up by one man, a Chinaman, on the day of issue—so early, that five minutes after the Post Office opened applicants were told that the stamps were all sold. All these stamps are still in the hands of this Chinaman, who has expressed his intention not to part with a single stamp until he can get an offer of not less than Rs. 1.50 each for the entire 11,000. We hope he will have to keep them a long while. None have been used for postage yet, and the story about the manilla shipments is a fabrication.

A naval officer stationed at Seychelles went to the Chinaman and asked him for one specimen for his collection, for which he offered two rupees, but was refused, as also was a local philatelist, who has actually written to us asking us to get him three of them when they are put on the market.

Yours faithfully,

WHITFIELD KING & CO.

IPSWICH, *24th March*, 1897.

Rhodesia or British South Africa.

DEAR SIR,—I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the official name of this country is now "Rhodesia," under which name should be placed all references to the stamps of the British South Africa Company, instead of placing them under the latter name. This of course also applies equally to list prices and catalogues.

Trusting you will see your way to make the above alteration in all your future publications,

Yours faithfully,

D. MONTAGUE JACOBS.

[When the Company engrave "Rhodesia" in place of "British South Africa" on their stamps we will adopt "Rhodesia." Don't see how we can do so before.—EDITOR *P.R.*]

Tobago 1s. Error.

DEAR SIR,—We note that you have devoted a page to the Commission which was sent out. (See p. 78.) We wrote to our agent, who is in no way connected with official circles, asking for information about this Inquiry, and enclose a copy of his reply which we received by last mail. Our agent is at any rate an impartial and unprejudiced witness in this matter, as he had no hand in any speculation and never expected to get any profit on the stamps beyond his usual commission on new issues. On the contrary, one can easily see through the motives of those who have made all the fuss; it is just a case of sour grapes, nothing else.

Yours faithfully,

WHITFIELD KING & CO.

IPSWICH, *24th March*, 1897.

ENCLOSURE.

TOBAGO, *March 3rd*, 1897.

MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & CO.

DEAR SIRS,—In reply to what you read in a New York paper respecting the recent 1s. error stamps, it is quite true that a gentleman from Trinidad was sent here to inquire into the sale of the misprint 1s. stamps, but I imagine that he retired disgusted at the silly errand on which he had been sent.

The real grievance was the disappointment of some Trinidad speculators and others, who had got information that a telegram had been sent by the Crown agents asking the Tobago Government to return the stamps to England for sale there, and an envoy was sent by the same mail which brought the telegram to Tobago to purchase 1800. Failing to get them, he and his friends appear to have had influence to obtain the despatch of the Commissioner.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JULY, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

ON another page we give the latest phase of the crusade upon which the Post Office authorities have entered against the practice of illustrating postage stamps. Those who are interested in the question—and what philatelist is not?—will now clearly understand that they must fight it out with the Post Office if they wish to preserve for their use and enlightenment the simple and harmless practice of illustrating postage stamps.

Illustration of Postage Stamps.

That practice, as we have before pointed out, has grown up with stamp collecting, and has never been abused, and it is a *sine qua non* of the very existence of stamp collecting.

We find that some good folks are labouring under the delusion that reduced or enlarged illustrations may be done without fear of prosecution; but we beg to assure those folks that they are wrong, and that the Post Office authorities are determined, if they may, to put a stop to the illustration of postage stamps in this country *in every shape and form*. They intend to ask Parliament to extend the powers they now claim that they possess.

The matter is in a nutshell. Will philatelists submit? Will dealers combine to protect their trade interests? Will collectors help dealers with the necessary backing of money and influence to fight this question out?

As we have stated elsewhere, one of the most eminent legal authorities of the day has given his written opinion that the Post Office has no legal right to interfere. That being so, it will be wise to force an issue that will be fought out to its proper conclusion. The danger is that an attack may be made upon those who do not care to face a prosecution and all its attendant expenses single-handed, and a judgment entered that may form another misleading precedent.

In our opinion dealers and collectors should without delay take steps to protect themselves from this action of the Post Office, and so place their case before Parliament and the public that this petty and utterly unnecessary action of the Post Office, and its results upon a considerable trade, may be properly exposed and arrested before it goes too far.

* * *

How to Protect Illustrations from Abuse.

Over thirty years' continuous harmless use of illustration one would imagine should be sufficient to insure the undisturbed enjoyment of the right of illustration by the philatelic press and by dealers in this country. But we are all willing to do everything that may be considered rational and satisfactory to protect the interests of the Post Office. It is as much to the interest of the stamp-collecting

fraternity as that of the Post Office to render forgery impossible. Of course stamp collectors know perfectly well that forgers are not such fools as to work with such crude materials as blocks that are used by dealers to illustrate postage stamps; they require something which cannot be so easily detected. Nevertheless, all responsible parties in this country would willingly enter into an arrangement for a licence of the right to illustrate being granted to responsible firms in such a manner that the Post Office would be able to protect itself from the present indiscriminate use of illustrations. This, and this only, we contend is all that is necessary.

We repeat that stamp collecting is the greatest aid that the Post Office has, or can have, to protect its revenue from being milked by the forger. The stamp collector is continually on the watch, and swiftly detects even the cleverest forgeries; many of these in all probability would be passed by the Post Office without a murmur. Therefore, even setting aside the enormous trading interests which are jeopardized, it must be apparent to all rational beings that the stamp collector has everything to gain and nothing to lose by the prevention of forgery, and that the Post Office has everything to lose and nothing to gain by its senseless and idiotic crusade against the illustration of postage stamps.

* * *

The Postal Union Congress.

We know little yet of the recent deliberations of the Postal Union Congress that met at Washington last May, but it seems to be taken for granted that it has pronounced against a 2d. universal rate, and also against anything in the shape of a universal postage stamp.

The 2d. rate was proposed by this country, and its rejection is probably a blessing in disguise, for if it had been granted it would have helped to postpone the inevitable Imperial Penny Postage.

The concession of a 2d. rate having been trumpeted forth as one of the Jubilee Postal Reforms, its rejection leaves us the alternative of introducing a 2d. Imperial rate, or going a very little further, and at one stroke introducing the much-desired Imperial Penny Postage.

* * *

Don't forget Stall No. 5.

Don't forget Stall No. 5 at the London Philatelic Exhibition. There you will find the publishers of the *Record*, and obtain any back volumes or back numbers that you may require, and any copies of the special Exhibition Number of the *Philatelic Record* that you may need for distribution amongst your friends. There our publishers will sit at the receipt of custom, for the enrolling of new subscribers to the *Record*, or the booking of any number of orders for advertisements.

The Stamps of Greece.

By W. DORNING BECKTON,

President of the Manchester Philatelic Society

(In collaboration with G. B. Duerst).

(*Continued from page* 157.)

2 Lepta.

Subdivision α.

PRINTING.

A. Dec. 1861. Yellow-brown, on cream-tinted paper; execution fine; clear impression, on highly-finished glazed paper, resembling the Paris—in fact it was, I believe, the remnant of the Paris paper; lines of shading on the neck thin and distinct.

Subdivision β.

B. 1863. Yellowish brown, on cream-tinted paper; execution good; impression fair, on highly-finished but unglazed paper, which gives the impression a more sober appearance than in A. There is less yellow in the colour than in A. This I have emphasized by calling it yellowish brown and not yellow-brown, consequently the stamps are darker.

C. 1864. Bistre to deep bistre and deep tinted paper; fair execution; impression heavy; good paper, but not glazed.

D. 1866. Very deep yellowish brown on cream-tinted paper; impression not so good as before; execution showing deterioration of the plate, and that it required attention; paper slightly thinner than in C.

The colour of this printing is characteristic, it being the deepest of all the printings. The stamps of this printing are scarce.

E. 1869. Yellowish bistre, on deep cream paper; execution and impression clearly showing the plate required renovating; paper as in D.

The characteristic of this issue is the blotchy appearance, a distinct blotch being often visible on the cheek-bone.

Subdivision γ.

F. 1870. Bistre on cream-tinted paper; execution good, showing superior workmanship; impression clear and distinct, on good paper, but not glazed. The good execution and general appearance of this printing would lead one at first to place it amongst the earliest printings of the Athens.

G. Deep stone, on buff paper; execution not so good as F, but impression still clear.

PRINTING.

H. 1872. Light stone, on dark cream paper; execution fair; light impression, on very thin transparent paper, resembling *pelure.*

Whether owing to the colour or the paper these stamps are very unevenly printed, some specimens having a corner or both corners almost invisible, certain portions of such corners only appearing as in a mist, many other specimens on either side of such stamps being quite complete and clear. This printing is easily distinguished by the colour and paper.

I. 1878. Ochre-yellow, on deep cream paper; well executed; clear impression, bearing in mind the unsuitable colour.

The colour as a guide is the best, and it is of a warmer tone of yellow than any other printing, which I have therefore termed ochre-yellow.

J. 1880 to 1886. Bistre-yellow, on light buff paper; heavy impression, especially in the later printings—caused through more pressure having to be applied in getting a sufficiently satisfactory impression from the plate, which was now quite worn out.

The specimens, as a rule, present a blurred appearance, and the paper is decidedly deeper than that hitherto employed.

The specimens of this printing are very common.

5 Lepta.

Subdivision α.

A. 1862. Blue-green, varying but slightly in shade, on paper tinted greenish; good execution; fine impression; highly-finished glazed paper, presumably the remainder of the French stock, with figures of value measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in height on the back. This issue is known by the figure on the back, which is Type I. (see illustration), and differs materially from all the subsequent printings (except B), which have the figure Type II. (see illustration) on the back.

B. 1862. Yellowish green, varying slightly in shade, on paper tinted greenish; fair execution; impression heavier, and not so clear. This is accounted for by the colour not being as suitable, with figures of value, as in A, on the back. The stamps of this printing are much scarcer than A.

Subdivision β.

C. 1863. Blue-green, on paper similar to A; execution and impression good, but not so clear as in A, with figure of value $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in height on the back. This figure is quite different from A, and is generally known as the second type of numeral (see illustration Type II.). This is a scarce printing.

All the subsequent printings of the value have the numerals on the back as Type II.

D. 1863. Light green, on paper tinted greenish; execution, impression, and paper similar to B; the colour is very different from B, being much lighter, and is not blue-green.

E. 1864 to 1870. Green, varying in shade, on paper tinted greenish; execution and impression varying, the later printings showing signs of decay in the plate. This printing is the common one, the great majority of the unused specimens found belonging to it.

Subdivision γ.

PRINTING.

F. 1870. Light green, on paper tinted green, but not glazed; good execution and clear impression from the cleaned plates.

It is very difficult to distinguish this printing from C, the colour being practically the same; but in C the tone is softer.

G. 1872. Deep green, on paper tinted greenish; fairly well executed; impression varying medium to very heavy; transparent thin paper, resembling *pelure*. There is an oily appearance on the majority of the specimens of this printing, due to the ink and paper employed; in fact, I find M. Moens describes them as "huileux."

This printing can easily be told by the paper, and likewise by the colour, which is much deeper than in any other printing.

H. 1876. Pale sage-green, on paper tinted greenish; execution and impression showing the plate was in a very bad condition; paper resembling E.

The specimens of this printing have a "washed-out" appearance, and in some cases the inscriptions and spandrels can hardly be distinguished.

10 Lepta.

Subdivision α.

A. Nov. 1861. Yellow-ochre, on paper tinted bluish; well executed, on glazed, well-finished paper; clear impression, bearing in mind the colour was unsuitable for printing; without numerals on the back. The rarity of the stamps of this printing shows that very few can have been issued.

B. Nov. 1861. Yellow-ochre, on paper tinted bluish; identical in all respects with A, but with figures of value measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. on the back, in orange. The stamps of this printing are scarce, especially unused.

Subdivision β.

C. 1862. Orange, varying in shade, on well-finished greenish paper; well executed; clear impression; figure of value on the back in orange. This is the printing most usually found.

D. 1865. Dull orange, on blue paper; execution, impression, and paper inferior to last; the colour of the paper is a distinguishing feature in this printing; figures of value on the back. The shades vary from light to very dark, the dark specimens being heavier printed and presenting a more blotched appearance.

E. 1866. Reddish orange (light to dark), on blue paper; execution and impression scarcely as clear as in D; paper dull; figures of value on back. The colour of the impression is a good guide to this printing, being a deep, rich colour.

F. 1869. Orange-yellow, on greenish paper; figure of value on the back as before; light impression. The best test for this printing is the colour, which is lighter and nearer approaching yellow than any other printing.

Subdivision γ.

PRINTING.

G. 1870. Bright orange, on finished greenish paper; well executed; clear impression from the cleaned plate; figure of value on the back as before. This printing must not be confounded with C, the only one to which it bears any resemblance. It can be distinguished from C, however, by the heavier lines of shading on the cheek and neck. The tone of colour is slightly different.

H. 1872. Bright orange-red, on highly-finished azure paper, of very fine texture, almost *pelure;* well executed; impression not so clear, especially in the spandrels; figure of value on the back as before. This printing can be easily distinguished by the paper, which I describe as *demi-pelure.*

I. 1874. Deep orange, on greenish paper; inferior execution; heavy and blurred impression, especially in the spandrels, and often in the lettering; figures of value on the back. This printing can be distinguished by the decided greenish tone of the paper; by the colour, which is a full orange; by the impression, which is the worst executed of all the printings of this value; and also by the paper, which is very thin, but not quite so thin or transparent as G.

J. 1875. Dull orange, on greenish paper; better executed than H, caused, doubtless, by the less heavy printing and greater care exercised in the manufacture; light impression; figure of value on the back as before.

20 Lepta.

Subdivision α.

A. Nov. 1861. Dark blue, on thin bluish tinted paper, slightly glazed; fairly executed; lines of shading on the neck and cheek slightly heavier than Paris, but still showing dots and short dashes; worn spandrels; without figure of value on the back. The remarks as to rarity made under the 10 lepta A apply in a minor degree.

B. Dec. 1861. Dark blue, on thick bluish tinted paper, slightly glazed; identical with last, but with figure of value measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. on the back, in blue. This is also a scarce printing.

To prevent repetition I may here say that all the following printings of this value have the numerals of value on the back as described in B.

C. Dec. 1861. Steel-blue, on bluish paper, which is yellowish on the face. This is a somewhat extraordinary incident, but the stamp is a well-known one, and easily distinguished by the yellowish appearance on the surface of the stamp; well executed; lines of shading on the face and neck clear, but much heavier than in B.

Subdivision β.

D. 1862. Pale milky blue, on tinted paper; well executed; lines of shading on the face as in C.*

* This is the printing in which the error with numerals "80" on the back hereafter chronicled appears.

PRINTING.

E. 1863. Bright blue, on tinted paper; identical with last, except the colour. This is a very common printing.

F. 1865. Blue, varying in shade from light to deep, on greenish paper; execution and impression varies very much, some specimens being extremely clear, and others quite blurred. This printing can be easily distinguished by the coloured paper.

G. 1866. Full blue, on tinted paper; fair even impression; fairly executed. There is no characteristic in this printing; it can be distinguished from E by the colour, which in this printing is much duller and deeper, and from C by the paper not being tinged yellow, although the colour of the stamp is somewhat similar, but by no means identical.

H. 1867. Black-blue, on tinted paper; heavy impression, showing signs that the plate required renovating. Specimens are to be found very blotchy. The heavy impression and the colour, which is very much darker and deeper than any other of the blues, and therefore termed by me "black-blue," are the easy guides to this printing.

Subdivision γ.

I. 1870. Pale blue and blue, on tinted paper; well executed; clear impression; lines of shading on the face and neck clear, although light; worn spandrels. The latter is the distinguishing feature of this printing. They are called by M. Moens, *Exceptionnellement plus soignée;* they are also known to English collectors as *Bien soignée*, "The worn spandrel issue," or "The issue from the Paris plate."

Various theories have been advanced to account for the vagaries of this printing.

This is the printing at which all writers hitherto have stumbled (I do not say I am not going to do the same), owing to their having believed in the retouch of the Paris plate in 1862, by the strengthening of the lines of shading on the neck and face, which, as you have seen, I consider a myth. To get out of their difficulty, they have suggested that the stamps were printed from the plates they call the Paris ones, before they were retouched in 1862. This would mean accordingly that the stamps were printed in 1861, and kept in stock for nine years. Recognizing the unlikelihood of the first printing at Athens (which this would be, according to this version) being overlooked, it has been suggested that the stamps were not issued at the time owing to their unsatisfactory appearance.

Now I may say at once that I do not agree with any of these reasons or suggestions. Obviously it was the "retouch in 1862" which has got my friends into the difficulty, and, as is often the case, in trying to get out of it they get deeper into the mire.

I have several objections to make against the stamps having been printed in 1861; one of these, however, I think will be sufficient. The stamp exists with the numerals on the back inverted, and bearing in mind that this error (inverted numerals) exists on other printings subsequent to 1870, and not before 1870, I think it shows conclusively that the stamps cannot have been ready for issuing in 1861.

Having dealt shortly with what has been said up to the present on this printing, I feel, owing to its particular interest, I cannot leave it without giving my views as to how it is accounted for.

The stamps were admittedly issued in 1870, and I believe were printed then. This was the time at which the plates were cleaned, *and this is the first printing from the cleaned plates.*

It must also be borne in mind that a fresh printing press was being experimented with at this time, which may have something to do with the curious printing, and the colours employed may also contribute a little. A careful examination of this printing shows that either very little pressure was applied in the printing, or the conditions of printing were in some other way abnormal, the background almost invariably being spotted through want of sufficient pressure in printing; this would also militate against the spandrels being defined. You will bear in mind likewise that the first printing of the 1 lepton in 1870 bears as strong a contrast to the other 1 lepton as this 20 lepta does to its fellows. Whether it is the result of accident owing to cleaned plates and a *fresh press* being employed, or whether it is due to design—the German printer endeavouring to produce stamps having the fineness of the Paris prints—it is, of course, impossible to say. Possibly it is the combination of the two.

PRINTING.

J. 1872. Indigo, on tinted paper, very thin, resembling *pelure;* well executed; heavy impression. The characteristic of this printing is the paper, which I describe as *demi-pelure.*

J. 1872. Grey-blue, on greyish paper, not quite so thin as in J, otherwise identical.

K. 1876. Deep blue, on blue paper; execution fair; heavy impression. The paper is an easy guide to this printing. Some of the specimens are very blotchy.

L. 1877. Blue, on tinted paper; imperfect impression, showing spandrels more or less blurred. The gum of this printing presents a dirty brown appearance. The characteristic is the coarse printing. I have seen specimens described as with black background; they are not really so, but are the blurred spandrels, above mentioned, which have become oxidized.

40 Lepta.

With figures of value $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in height on the back, in the colour of the stamp.

Subdivision α.

A. 1862. Bright violet, on blue paper; good execution; clear impression; paper glazed and well finished. The whole design stands well out.

B. 1863. Violet, on blue paper; good execution; clear impression, though hardly as good as A; paper as in A. The design seems flatter and the colour is duller, although still rich in tone.

Subdivision β.

C. 1864. Pale violet, on blue paper; execution and impression inferior; paper not glazed.

This printing can be told by the colour, which is the lightest of all the violets, and very faded in appearance.

D. 1865. Rosy violet, varying in shade, on blue paper; impression not so distinct; paper as in C; the spandrels showing the plate was becoming in a bad state.

PRINTING.

E. 1865. Lake, varying much in shade from light to dark, on azure paper; impression varies much, according to the quantity of colour used in printing; heavy impression, some stamps having a very blotched appearance—these are mostly from the edges of the sheet. The colour is the distinctive feature of this printing. It is called "lie de vin" by M. Moens, and claret by English writers; watered claret would, perhaps, meet the mark. A large number must have been printed, as they were generally in use up to 1868.

F. 1868. Lake-violet, varying in shade, on blue paper; paper as in D. This printing resembles D, but is very much deeper in colour, and therefore described as lake-violet.

We have now arrived at the period when the plates were cleaned.

Subdivision γ.

G. 1870. Pale violet on blue paper; good execution; clear impression from the cleaned plate. This printing can be distinguished from C by the paper, which is much thinner and more transparent. This printing is scarce.

H. Pale violet, on blue paper. Same as G, but inferior printing.

I. Jan. 1871. Dark violet, on blue paper; heavy impression, causing a blotchy appearance; paper as in F and G, but more transparent. I find in the *S.C.M.* for December, 1871, a note that "the 40 l. is changed again to a rich mauve tinge." This richness of colour is the characteristic of this printing, and after the pale colour of the two previous printings, I do not wonder at the Editor of the *S.C.M.* making the note in question. I have a dated specimen, January, 1871, which is eleven months before the *S.C.M.* chronicled it.

J. April, 1872. Solferino, on greenish paper; good execution; clear impression; the paper is thicker in texture than before; the numerals of value on the back are not in the colour of the stamp, but in reddish violet. The stamps vary very much, from deep to very pale; the latter shades can scarcely be called solferino, being more a dirty salmon. I am of opinion that this is accounted for by the fugitive nature of the ink, as the dark shades used are very much the scarcest, and I have never seen an unused specimen O.G. in the light shade.

K. 1872. Green, on greenish paper; dull impression, caused through the colour and the paper, which is very thin, brittle, and transparent, resembling *pelure*, and called by me *demi-pelure*. The stamps have a very oily appearance. I have given the colour as green, as it best describes their appearance, although I do not for a moment believe a green colour was used—probably it was really a violet-bistre. This printing is rare, ranking second only after the solferino, whilst used it is much rarer than the solferino in like condition.

L. 1873. Bistre-violet, on blue. The colour we have here was most likely intended for the last printing, but in this printing the colour is clearly recognized through a more suitable paper being employed. The paper is thicker in texture than in K, and the stamps do not present the same oily appearance. A peculiarity of this printing is the faded appearance of the stamps even in mint condition.

*

PRINTING.

M. 1872. Brown-violet, on blue paper, which is thin in texture and transparent. The shades vary from a rusty violet shade to brown-violet; heavy impression. Very extraordinary shades are found in the used specimens of this printing, the colouring matter employed being very susceptible to atmospheric or other extraneous conditions.*

Minor varieties of the 40 *lepta.*

There are two minor varieties of the 40 lepta. The most pronounced one shows the right-hand top corner of the stamp missing. This variety is the nineteenth stamp in the sheet, being the ninth stamp in the second row. The other variety consists in the line which forms the nostril; this in the ordinary specimens is curved, whereas in the variety it is straight and extends almost to the point of the nostril, giving the nose a pointed appearance. (See illustration.) This variety is the 107th on the sheet, being the seventh stamp in the eleventh row. I have not discovered either of these varieties on any printing prior to 1870. I believe they exist on all printings in the γ Period, although as yet I have not got them in all the printings. They are due to the same cause as the varieties already dealt with in the 1 lepton.

80 Lepta.

Subdivision α.

A. May, 1862. Rose, bright rose to carmine; well executed; lines of shading on the neck pronounced; on glazed paper, slightly tinted rose; clear impression, with numerals of value measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. at the back, in vermilion. This latter fact is the distinguishing feature of this printing.

Subdivision β.

B. 1863. Rose, bright rose to deep rose and carmine; well executed; lines of shading as before; on glazed paper, slightly tinted rose; clear impression, with numerals of value as before on the back, *but in carmine.*

C. Carmine; well executed; clear impression, on paper tinted rose; with numerals of value as before on the back, in carmine.

D. Jan. 1866. Rose; poor execution; showing signs of dirt on the plate, causing the impression to be inferior; paper not glazed, but tinted rose as before; figures on the back, as last.

E. 1866. Deep rose to carmine, similar to last, but execution and impression inferior; paper and numerals as in C. Some specimens are very smudgy, caused in part, doubtless, by the paper being too damp when the stamps were printed.

F. 1867. Deep rose; the execution shows that although care seems to have been taken in the printing, the state of the plate was such as to render it extremely difficult to print from; there is a blotch of colour varying in size and intensity on the cheek-bone, caused through a dirty plate; paper and numerals as in D.

* The figures of value at the back of some of the stamps of all the printings from K are hardly visible. Sometimes specimens from these printings are described as without numerals, but I have always as yet been able, although at times I admit not without trouble, to discover a part of the numerals which were said to be wanting.

We have now arrived at the period when the plates were cleaned by the German printers. This is clearly shown by the better impressions in the following printing :—

PRINTING. *Subdivision* γ.

G. 1869-70. Dark rose and carmine; execution good; clear impression, on paper slightly tinted rose; numerals on the back as in B.

H. 1872? Deep rose; execution good; heavy impression; numerals as in B, but printed more heavily, and therefore appearing thicker. The tinted paper, resembling *pelure* (*demi-pelure*), is the characteristic of this printing.

NOTE.—When the stock (which owing to the scarcity of the specimens must have been small) was done the printers reverted to the paper used in G, and such later printings cannot be distinguished from G. This value was withdrawn in December, 1881, by official decree as follows :—

ROYAL DECREE.

December 31, 1881.

A. Refers to other values.
B. The postage stamp of 80 lepta is cancelled.

ROYAL DECREE.

April 29, 1882.

The 80 lepta, red, must not be used at all; but can be exchanged at the Treasurer's offices up to May 31st for the stamps of the last issue in new colours, agreeably to the 1st Article of our decree dated December 31, 1881.

In the opinion of the writer no printings (except the special one hereafter referred to) of these values took place after 1874–75, the stock in hand being sufficient for postal requirements up to the date of their withdrawal in 1880. It has been said that a few sheets were ordered towards the end of 1878, and were consequently on yellowish paper. I have been fortunate in acquiring several specimens of this printing, which is the rarest of the 80 lepta, and described below.

I. 1878. (end.) Pale rose; fair execution; numerals on the back as before. The paper is medium thick and yellowish white. The stamps of this printing cannot possibly be confused with any of the other printings.

Illustration of Postage Stamps.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

POST OFFICE ATTEMPT TO DRIVE TRADE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

WE take the very earliest opportunity of calling the serious attention of the stamp trade to the following notice :—

Notice to Stamp Dealers and the Public.

IMITATIONS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Postmaster-General and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue direct attention to the case of Dickens *v.* Gill, reported in the Law Reports (1896), 2 Q.B. 311. This was a special case stated by Sir John Bridge, Chief Magistrate of the Metropolis, by way of Appeal from a Judgment given by him upon a prosecution for recovery of the penalty imposed by Section 7 of the Post Office Protection Act, 1884 (47 & 48 Vict. c. 76).

The Section is as follows :—

"A person shall not—

"(*a*) Make, knowingly utter, deal in or sell any fictitious stamp, or knowingly "use for any postal purpose any fictitious stamp ; or

"(*b*) Have in his possession, unless he shows a lawful excuse, any fictitious "stamp ; or

"(*c*) Make, or, unless he shows a lawful excuse, have in his possession, any "die, plate, instrument, or materials for making any fictitious stamp.

"Any person who acts in contravention of this section shall be liable on summary conviction on a prosecution, by order of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, to "a fine not exceeding 20*l.*, subject to the like right of appeal as in the case of a "penalty under the Acts relating to the Excise.

"Any stamp, die, plate, instrument, or materials found in the possession of any "person in contravention of this section may be seized and shall be forfeited.

"For the purposes of this section 'fictitious stamp' means any *fac-simile* or "imitation or representation, whether on paper or otherwise, of any stamp for "denoting any rate of postage, including any stamp for denoting a rate of postage "of any of Her Majesty's colonies, or of any foreign country."

The facts relating to the prosecution were as under :—

The proprietor of a newspaper circulating among stamp collectors and others caused a die to be made for him abroad, from which imitations or representations of a current colonial postage stamp could be produced. The only purpose for which the die was ordered by him, and was subsequently kept in his possession, was for making upon the pages of an illustrated stamp catalogue, called "The Philatelist's Supplement," illustrations in black and white and not in colours of the colonial stamp in question, this special supplement being intended for sale as part of his newspaper.

The Court held that the possession of a die for making a false stamp, known to be such to its possessor, was, however innocent the use that he intended to make of it, a possession without lawful excuse within the meaning of the above section.

It is obvious, therefore, that the possession of dies from which representations of postage stamps can be produced and the issue of representations of stamps produced from dies of this description are contraventions of the section above mentioned, and all persons are cautioned accordingly.

May, 1897.

It will be observed that the authorities only claim the power of interfering with the possession of dies of postage stamps ; that is to say, they claim the power of putting an end to the making of dies for the purpose of illustration, but have no power to interfere with the publication of illustrations. Therefore, in future, although illustrated albums and catalogues may be published and sold

with impunity, *they must not be manufactured in this country*. They may be manufactured abroad, and imported in any quantity.

Those dealers who are content to sell only foreign-made goods may perhaps ask, Why should we bother about the matter? We reply that this is only the thin end of the wedge; that it is no secret that the authorities want to put an end altogether to the illustration of postage stamps in every shape and form.

This is a matter in which dealers and collectors should act together, and act as promptly as possible. A public meeting of those interested should be called in London at an early date, and a public protest should be entered against this attempt of the Post Office to seriously harass a flourishing trade and drive it out of the country. Such a meeting would have the public on its side, for the public is in no mood to stand a deliberate attempt of a Government Department to drive a flourishing trade out of the country in such a barefaced, scandalous, and utterly unnecessary manner.

Other trades are also interested. The printing trade would suffer seriously. One firm of philatelic printers alone would lose thousands a year over printing which would have to be done in future in Germany. We are, in fact, now making arrangements for the printing of plates abroad for the *Record*, as we are not allowed to print them at home. Engravers who have been making thousands of dies for the harmless illustration of postage stamps will find that portion of their trade diverted by this action of the Post Office to their foreign competitors.

We are more than surprised that a Government Department, already sufficiently notorious as a serious stumbling-block to the English trader, should thus deliberately publish a notice publicly intimating to a trade successfully competing with the foreigner, that in future it must cease to manufacture its own goods, and must buy and sell only the goods that are manufactured by its foreign rivals. It is a new departure which surely will not commend itself to those who are desirous of removing handicaps from our trade with the world. It may suit a Government Department to furbish up baseless charges against the stamp trade. Those charges can be easily met and disproved. Indeed the stamp trade can show up to the hilt that it is one of the greatest safeguards that the postal authorities can provide against the forger. It may also suit the ignorant to sneer at our hobby. But it will remain a fact that the pursuit of stamp collecting is part and parcel of a flourishing industry with hundreds of thousands of capital at stake, and probably millions seriously invested; that it has its ramifications in every village of the country, and that it permeates every class of the community, from prince to peasant.

We have everything in our favour in a public fight with the Post Office. We can point to thirty years of harmless and undisturbed use of illustrations, to the wide interests that are needlessly assailed, to our constant watchfulness to protect the postal authorities of our own and other countries from the depredations of the forger, and we can challenge the Post Office to produce a single serious case of our illustrations being used for improper purposes. Besides, it is no secret that the highest legal authority in the country has given a well-considered opinion that the Post Office has no case.

The fact is, there is a rabid little clique of highly-placed and much overpaid officials at St. Martin's-le-Grand, who, without rhyme or reason, are intensely anti-Philatelic, and who are determined to do all they can to undermine the interests of stamp collecting. It is to the feverish antipathy of this rabid clique that we owe the present interference with the right of illustration. This clique declares that it will move heaven and earth, and hell itself if necessary, to put an "end to this Philatelic craze." That being so, we imagine there will be few Philatelists—collectors or dealers—who will not rouse themselves in this matter. It is ridiculous that a few highly-paid servants of a public Department, who cannot find enough to occupy their few hours of public servitude, should be permitted to plot against and jeopardize the business interests of any portion of the community.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

ON the 22nd of this month (July) the great London Exhibition of philatelic treasures will be opened at the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours in Piccadilly. It will be an event to be remembered by philatelists for many a year to come. From far and near visitors will be flocking to the show, and from far and near are coming those splendid displays of hidden treasures which cannot fail to delight both the specialist and the general collector alike.

For months past the Executive Committee have been quietly but industriously arranging all the many details that go to ensure the success of such an Exhibition, and it is no secret that there has not been a hitch in the whole of the proceedings from start to finish since the Institute of Water Colours was finally decided on as the most suitable place in which to hold the Exhibition. Unanimity has characterized the proceedings of the Committee throughout.

When an Executive Committee work together with such good will success is certain to attend their efforts, and that success will undoubtedly be theirs when the doors are opened, and the arrangements are allowed to bear evidence of the accomplished task.

The latest announcement that we have to make as to the official arrangements is the following official circular:—

NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS AT THE FORTHCOMING PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, AND TO COLLECTORS GENERALLY.

The following arrangement has been made with the sanction of the Executive Committee for an Entertainment during the Exhibition.

An Evening Instrumental and Vocal Concert and Conversazione will be held at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross Road, W.C., on Thursday, the 29th day of July, 1897, at 8.30 p.m.

Full particulars can be obtained at the Exhibition.

Mr. Thomas Ridpath has kindly offered to give a Philatelic Lantern Exhibition during the evening.

Tea, Coffee, and Light Refreshments will be provided. Evening Dress.

Tickets can be obtained at the Exhibition, or on application to the Secretary, J. A. Tilleard, Esq., 4, Lombard Court, E.C., by letter, which should be marked "Entertainment Committee."

Gentlemen's Tickets, 3s. 6d.; Ladies', 2s. 6d.

Note.—Subscribers to the Exhibition Fund will receive Tickets for this Concert free of charge, in accordance with the circular already issued.

"The Philatelic Record" Exhibition Number.

Of course we shall publish a *Special Exhibition Number* of the *Philatelic Record*. It will not be an extra number, but will be the August number so enlarged as to take in a full account of the show.. It will be published on the 27th of July, and in addition to the ordinary contents will include a Report of the Opening Ceremony, which is to be performed by H.R.H. the Duke of York, President of the Philatelic Society, and a full account of the principal Exhibits, with other interesting matter concerning the Exhibition. No expense will be spared to make it a notable souvenir of a notable philatelic event. An edition of 5000 copies will be printed. After satisfying our subscribers and our general sale, the surplus copies will be given away at our publishers' stall (No. 5) in the Exhibition. Collectors requiring copies of this Souvenir Exhibition Number of the *Philatelic Record* will do well to order at once. The price will be 6d.; post-free, 8d.

The Jubilee Postal Reforms.

From "The Times."

THE Postal Reforms, which were a prominent feature of this year's Budget, will, so far as they can be effected by a stroke of the pen, come into force, it has been stated, to-day (June 22nd, 1897).

In the forefront stands the promised great reduction in the letter rates. Hitherto a letter weighing an ounce has been sent for a penny, two ounces for three-halfpence, four ounces for twopence. For every two ounces after the first ounce the charge has been a halfpenny, so that the rate at any point above a penny may be expressed by the formula—a halfpenny for every two ounces, *plus* a penny. In future the extra penny will be got rid of, and the rate will be a halfpenny for two ounces throughout, subject to the condition that no letter will be charged less than a penny. Thus a letter of four ounces may be sent for a penny, six ounces for three-halfpence, and so on. This change, at first sight, looks like a piece of somewhat unnecessary generosity on the part of the Post Office. Most people do not particularly want to send more than an ounce for a penny, and the higher letter rates are by no means burdensome. But the reason of the change appears when we consider the present book post. The rate for that post has hitherto been the same as the future rate for letters, namely, a halfpenny for every two ounces. Thus, four ounces of papers, not including any letter, could be sent by letter post for 2d., by book post for 1d. And for all weights the letter post has been just a penny dearer than the book post. The sample post, again, has the same scale as the book post, with the difference that there has been no halfpenny rate, and that the post has stopped at eight ounces.

The three varying scales are best shown in a tabular form, as follows :—

	Letter Post.	Book Post.	Sample Post.
1 oz. ...	1d. ...	½d. ...	1d.
2 oz. ...	1½d. ...	½d. ...	1d.
4 oz. ...	2d. ...	1d. ...	1d.
6 oz. ...	2½d. ...	1½d. ...	1½d.
8 oz. ...	3d. ...	2d. ...	2d.
10 oz. ...	3½d. ...	2½d. ...	Post stops.

Thus we have had three posts existing side by side with minute differences of rate, two of them continuing up to 5 lb. with only a difference of a penny at each point. Moreover, the book post and the sample post have been hedged round with the most minute conditions. For these the public have themselves to thank, since it is the endeavour to widen the posts from time to time, and to gain what may be called preferential rates for certain articles, that has necessitated the troublesome regulations hitherto obtaining. The book post was originally intended for books and printed matter. But in a weak moment someone admitted an invoice to the book rate, and from that day it has been impossible to say with any certainty what was or was not a book in the eyes of the Post Office. The sample post has been borrowed from the International Postal Union, but is indefensible on its merits. Why a pair of gloves or a packet of seeds should be allowed to travel more cheaply when sent as a sample than when sold outright, or why a trader should be entitled to send such things at a cheaper rate than a private person, it passes the mind of the ordinary man to conceive. Posts so illogical and ill-defined must necessarily give trouble, and the complaints which have from time to time appeared in the Press, and the ingenious conundrums propounded by Mr. Henniker Heaton in the House, are sufficient evidence of the fact. The new letter rate will not wholly abolish the difficulties of the present system, but it will go a long way on the road. By the striking off of the extra penny which at present differentiates the letter scale, the rates for letters, books, and samples become the same. The sample post thus wholly disappears, and the book post continues to exist only at one point, the first two ounces. There will still be a halfpenny rate for books and all that the Post Office calls a book, while there is no halfpenny rate for letters ; but this will be the only distinction. All printed matter, circulars, and other documents exceeding two ounces in weight will fall into the letter post, and may be sent at their present rates in closed covers and accompanied by a letter. That there will be a great gain in convenience there can be no doubt. But more important, perhaps, than the actual reduction in rate will be

the minimizing of the perpetual and vexatious questions concerning what may or may not go by the preferential posts, and the diminution in the number of open wrappers, which too often act as traps to postcards and thin letters and take them where they would not go.

There are two other great reductions in rates, those touching the parcel post and the porterage of telegrams. The parcel post rate has hitherto been 3d. for the first pound and 1½d. for each subsequent pound, the *maximum* weight of 11 pounds being thus carried for 1s. 6d. The new rate is 3d. for the first pound and 1d. for each subsequent pound, with this modification—that the 10th and 11th pounds are carried together for 1d. Thus 2lb. will be carried for 4d., 3lb. for 5d., and so on to 9lb., which will be carried for 11d., and 10lb. and 11lb. will be carried for 1s. The parcels carried by the Post Office increase steadily from year to year, and have nearly doubled during the last decade. While in 1886–87 less than 33 millions passed by post, in 1895–96 the number rose to more than 60 millions. It is noticeable, however, that while in the first five years the percentage of increase varied from 8 to 24, during the last five the average annual increase has been only about 5½ per cent. The position of the Post Office in respect to parcels is, it is well known, exceptional. The railway companies receive more than half (55 per cent.) of the postage on every parcel carried by rail for any distance, however short. This payment, applied to small parcels on which 3d. only is paid, is very heavy, obliging the Post Office to perform all the work of collecting, sorting, packing for the rail, carriage to and from stations, and final delivery to the addressee—perhaps at a place ten miles from the nearest post office—for a sum of three-halfpence. As the postage rises, however, the margin left for the Post Office becomes greater, while the expense of the work, though not unaffected by the weight of the parcel, does not rise in proportion. For this reason, perhaps, the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not propose to alter the postage on a pound parcel, but only on the higher weights. In future, while a pound of postal matter will go for 4d. by letter post, it will pass for 3d. by parcel post—not an unreasonable difference, considering the greater speed of the letter post and its more frequent and convenient collections and deliveries. Above a pound the parcel post rapidly becomes much cheaper, and may be expected to carry all but very exceptional packets. It is to be hoped that the reduced scale now introduced will be found of use in the transmission of small consignments of agricultural produce, and thus satisfy, without offending against all sound principles of postal administration, the demand which has sometimes been made for an exceptionally cheap post for such consignments.

The reduction of the porterage on telegrams is perhaps the most popular of all the changes. Many a country house has groaned under the charge of 4s. for horse porterage, paid, perhaps, for the information that an expected guest has lost his train, and will arrive an hour late. Even the 6d. and 1s. paid on shorter distances have been a trial to the flesh, while for poor people in retired spots porterage charges have practically amounted to a denial of telegraphic communication. In future there will be no charge at all within three miles of the post office, and for longer distances the charge, commencing at 1s., will proceed by 3d. only for each mile. This great reduction would probably have been impossible had not the cycle provided, for the first time in England, a means of rapid and cheap transit across rural districts.

The other changes announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer do not strike the imagination, and some of them can only gradually be brought about; but they are all sound in principle, and their effect cannot fail to be signally beneficial. They aim at extending the benefits of the post and telegraphs, as far as possible, equally to all parts of the United Kingdom. Sir Rowland Hill's great invention, the uniform penny post, is based on the principle of making the great centres of population defray the loss of carrying on a cheap post in remote and sparsely-peopled districts. The principle, however, has never yet been drastically carried out. There are at this day many villages, not to speak of isolated houses, which never see the postman, and still more where there is no means of sending a telegram. An endeavour is now to be made to extend free deliveries of letters to every hamlet, and to make even the isolated cottage which has no letters a rare exception. It is impossible to deal quite similarly with the telegraph. There is a capital expenditure involved in the opening of every telegraph office, and the best guide to the real need of such an office seems to be the willingness of the inhabitants to guarantee some part at least of this expense. But whereas hitherto they have been asked to guarantee the whole, in future their risk will be limited to one-half. It is significant of the value of the telegraph that parish councils are forward to assist in the opening of new offices—probably the last thing which was expected of them.



British Empire.

Bechuanaland Protectorate.—*Errata.* In our reference last month to the reissue of these stamps, the words "but in Bechuanaland" were accidentally omitted after the words "British Bechuanaland Protectorate." The second sentence should therefore read, "They have now been brought again into use, not in British Bechuanaland Protectorate, *but in Bechuanaland*, which is the country to the north of Bechuanaland."

British Central Africa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that a new issue for this Protectorate came out last month, when all the remainders of the nigger type on CA and CC watermarked paper were destroyed by order of the Government. The remainders of the unwatermarked issue were burnt last December. The new stamps have been designed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., but no particulars as to design or colours are yet to hand.

Canada.—We regret to hear that the Canadian Postal Authorities have decided to jubilate "on the cheap" at the expense of stamp collectors. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following full list of Jubilee stamps, which were to be issued on the 19th of June. They also send us the total number to be printed of each value, and inform us that when this number has been printed the plates will be destroyed. The numbers, they add, are calculated on a three months' supply of the ordinary stamps.

½ c. . .	150,000	20 c. . .	100,000
1 c. . .	8,000,000	50 c. . .	100,000
2 c. . .	2,000,000	$1 . .	25,000
3 c. . .	20,000,000	$2 . .	25,000
5 c. . .	750,000	$3 . .	25,000
6 c. . .	750,000	$4 . .	25,000
8 c. . .	200,000	$5 . .	25,000
10 c. . .	150,000	Cards, 1 c.	7,000,000
15 c. . .	100,000		

We take the following further particulars from the Canadian correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:—

To-day I received information that the design was finally decided on, which will represent Her Majesty at two important eras in her life, namely, at her accession to the throne in 1837, and within a few weeks of her Jubilee in 1897. The first vignette, showing her on her coronation day, is from a well-known portrait of that period. It is a full-faced portrait, similar to the one on the Canada 12½ c. green stamps of 1859. To the right is a picture of Her Majesty as she appears to-day; the face is profile, looking towards the vignette of 1837. The profile of to-day represents Her Majesty wearing the Empress crown. Between and above the two photographs is an illustration of the Imperial crown of England, and under it the letter "V" with the letters "R. I." in the fork of the "V." In the semicircle or upper part of the vignette are the words, "Canada Postage," and underneath them are respectively the dates 1837–1897, and between the two photographs an ornamentation of maple leaves, while in the lower corners of the stamp are also maple leaves, and between these and at the base of the stamp is its denomination in black letters on a white ground.

There will be fifteen different denominations of the new stamp, consisting of the following: ½c., 1c., 2c., 3c., 5c., 6c., 8c., 10c., 15c., 20c., 50c., $1, $2, $3, and $5. Besides these there will also be a Jubilee card. The issue will be limited.

A Reuter's telegram, dated Ottawa, June 19th, says:—

The Canadian Jubilee postage stamps were issued to the public to-day. There was an extraordinary demand for them from dealers all over the world. Within three hours the half-cent stamps were selling for fifty cents each. Speculators tried to "corner" the issue of certain denominations, but were not successful.

Fiji.—The *Monthly Journal* is indebted to two correspondents for notes upon some unchronicled varieties which it sets out as follows:—

The 1d. of the 1876 issue has been seen with the fancy "*V.R.*," Type 8, inverted, but whether on wove paper or laid our correspondent cannot say. The 1d. of the 1879 type, and the 1s. in *pale brown*, are sent us perf. 11×10. We are shown two very distinct shades of the 4d. stamp, the earlier of the two being a *reddish lilac*, and the current issue (the specimen of which is perf. 11×10), a *lilac* with much less *red* in it. Just three years ago, in April, 1894, we noted the fact that there had been two editions of the

"FIVE PENCE" on 6d., one issued on November 30th, 1892, and the other on December 31st of the same year. We are now informed that the first printing consisted of the variety with the narrow space between the words, No. 77 in the new Catalogue, and the second of that with the wider space, Nos. 74 and 75. The 1d. of the 1879 type, perf. 10, has been found by one of our correspondents in *black;* but we think this must be an oxidised specimen, or a chemical changeling.

Jamaica.—The higher values are now watermarked CA. We have received copies of the 1s., 2s., and 5s. with the new watermark from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives.

1s., brown, *wmk. CA.*
2s., red-brown ,, ,,
5s., lilac ,, ,,

Mauritius.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that two stamped envelopes have been issued, both on brown paper. The stamp is of the same arms type.

Envelopes.

18 c., blue, on brown paper.
36 c., brown ,, ,,

Niger Coast.—The watermarking of these stamps has commenced. We have the 1d. value from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. watermarked Crown and CA, perf. 15, as before.

Adhesive.

1d., vermilion, *wmk. CA.*

Queensland.—We are indebted to M. Moens for a copy of a wrapper with stamp of the current type of numerals of value in each corner.

Wrapper.

½d., red on buff.

Uganda.—We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*:—

We have received specimens of another issue for this territory, the postal arrangements in which have met with such success that the missionaries' type-writer has been supplanted by the Government Printing Press as a means of producing the stamps. They are now type-set, and have the name "UGANDA" at the top and "PROTECTORATE" at foot; large letters "V R" in the centre, separated by an asterisk or a dagger, and with an asterisk at each side of them; with "POSTAGE" above the "V R," and the value (1 ANNA, 2, 3, 4 or 8 ANNAS, or ONE RUPEE) below. The 1 a. has a dagger, thus "†," between the letters, the 2 a. and 3 a. an inverted dagger, "⊥," the 4 a. and 8 a. a double dagger, "‡," and the 1 rupee an asterisk at the foot of the letters. The asterisks at the sides are also ingeniously varied in position, being at the foot of the letters in the 1 a., 3 a., and 1 rupee, at the top in the 2 a., at the upper right and lower left in the 4 a., and at the upper left and lower right in the 8 a.

Adhesives.

1 a., black on *white wove.*
2 a. ,, ,,
3 a. ,, ,,
4 a. ,, ,,
8 a. ,, } *on thin yellowish wove,*
1 r. ,, } *ruled with faint lines.*

The specimens we have seen have a large letter "L" struck upon them, in *black*, indicating local use; but we understand that there are also stamps without the "L," for use on letters to the coast.

Foreign Countries.

Argentine Republic.—We are indebted to Mr. Abel Fontaine, of Buenos Ayres, for a new value, viz., 1 p. 20 c. The stamp is of the same design as the current 1 peso. The corner labels of value have the figures "1^{20}" in each lower corner, and between the word "Pesos," which we presume should have been "peso"; but it is getting somewhat fashionable for stamp designers to be somewhat shaky in their grammar. This new value, Mr. Fontaine informs us, was issued on the 25th of May last, and is intended for the convenience of the Inland Parcel Post of 2 to 5 kilos, but is, of course, available for ordinary postage when such a value may be needed.

Adhesive.

1 p. 20 c., black.

Bolivia.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles and illustrates a new issue, which it describes as the ugliest ever issued by this country. They are large, upright rectangular in shape, and are badly lithographed. The 2 c. contains in the centre a portrait of José Maria Linores, who was President of the Republic in 1857; the 10 c. has a portrait of one Monteguado, who is unknown to us; and the 20 c. has a portrait of José Ballivian, the President of 1847, who was deposed by the revolutionist Balzu and exiled. The stamps may be ugly, but philatelists will value the historical association of national portraiture in postage stamps, so long as they are not of the speculative commemorative taint.

Adhesives.

2 c., red.
10 c., brown-violet.
20 c., lake, vignette black.

Egypt. — *Soudan.* — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. draw our attention to an omission from our list of these stamps in our last number, and send us a full set up to date, including a 2 milliemes. We give the revised list.

Adhesives.

1 mil., brown.
2 ,, green.
3 ,, yellow.
5 ,, carmine.
1 pias., ultramarine.

Madagascar.—We have five new values of the current type from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives.

1 c., black on blue ;	name in	red.
2 c., pale mauve on straw	,,	blue.
4 c., mauve on grey	,,	blue.
20 c., red-brown on green	,,	blue.
30 c., brown on flesh	,,	blue.

Portugal. — *Angola.* — The *Monthly Journal* says the 100, 150, and 300 reis have been printed on papers of slightly different shades from those used previously. The 100 reis is on *pale fawn* instead of *yellow-buff*, the 150 reis on a *redder* shade of *rose*, and the 300 reis on *salmon* instead of *orange-buff*.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The July packet contains—

FOUR VARIETIES; viz., Borneo State, 1894, 25 c.; Paraguay, 1897, 10 c., blue; Mauritius, 4 c., new type; China, 2 cents (in two lines) on 3 c., scarlet.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra). The July packet contains—

Borneo State, 1894, 25 c. and 50 c., &c.

These packets are on sale until July 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.



Great Britain: Marginal Plate Numbers.

MR. DENDY MARSHALL, in some notes on English issues in the *English Specialists' Journal*, asks if anyone has ever taken into account the official numbers on the margins of the plates apart from the actual plate numbers, and says :—

A study of these, though difficult, as it could only be made by obtaining information from a great number of sources, might be useful in determining the dates and order in which plates were issued, and would certainly be of interest to specialists.

If all readers of the *E. S. J.* were to send details of any of these numbers they happen to possess, a start might be made towards tabulating them. I can only contribute one—plate 5 of the halfpenny is No. 175.

Great Britain: Shades.

SHADES have a great attraction for specialists. That being so, we are a little surprised that we do not hear more of shades in our own current stamps. We are aware that Messrs. De La Rue keep as near as possible to the approved shade, but when years separate the different printings the specialist should not watch in vain for distinct variations. Mr. Dendy Marshall, in the *English Specialists' Journal*, notes a variation in the current 4½d. He writes :—

Next to the above (the 3d., orange) perhaps the most decided variety of shade that can be found in the present issue exists in the 4½d. Those now in use are quite different from the early ones, the red being much more rosy, those first issued being perhaps best described as carmine.

Dies of Parma, 1852 and 1854.

DR. DIENA announces in the *London Philatelist* that the Postal Museum of Italy has secured some of the steel dies of the stamps of Parma. He says :—

The Museum has also at the same time been fortunate enough to recover from the same source the steel die of the Parma stamps of the 1852 and 1854 type (bearing the value 25 centes.); the matrix (without value indicated) of the same type, in very bad state; and the steel die of the Newspaper Tax stamps of 1853-57, utilized in 1859 during the Provisional Government of the Parmense Province.

These several objects had all been sold in 1875, with other articles of an obsolete nature, by the Bureau of the Mint at Turin as old metal, to a private person who had, it is said, vainly endeavoured to dispose of them. Persuaded of their interest, he could not, however, bring himself to destroy them, and he has hence had them for a number of years in his possession. It was only recently that, having endeavoured to dispose of them to a stamp dealer, he at length disposed of them to an amateur at Turin, from whom the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been enabled to procure them.

South Australian "O.S."

THE *London Philatelist* has received two curiosities from Mr. George Blockey, consisting of the 2d. in a *deep* orange-red colour, perf. 10, with surcharge "O.S." in the thin capitals. Mr. Blockey has only seen three copies of this stamp, which bore postmarks Nov. '93, Dec. '93, Jan. '94. Also a pair of the 1s., brown, 1874, first star watermark, with *double* surcharge "O.S." in the block capitals. The stamps have every appearance of being genuine, the surcharges agreeing in every respect.

Destruction of Hawaiian Remainders.

IN April (p. 110) we gave an account of the official destruction of Hawaiian Remainders. We now append a few further particulars from the *Honolulu Evening Bulletin* :—

Ever since the burning of the old issues of Hawaiian stamps on the morning of January 28 last, under authority of a joint resolution of the Legislature, local speculators have been particularly anxious to find out exactly how many stamps were destroyed and their particular denomination. In the issue of the *Bulletin* of the date mentioned a tabulated statement of the number and value of the stamps on hand and authorized to be destroyed by the Legislature, if not sold prior to January 1, 1897, was printed. It will be noticed that in the report given below the total value of the stamps destroyed is not given. The *Bulletin* has made repeated efforts to obtain the exact value and denomination of the stamps sold between the date of the passage of the resolution by the Legislature and January 1, 1897, but for some reason best known to the authorities the figures were not obtainable. However, to those who are interested enough to do a little figuring they can be easily got at by computing the values of the stamps mentioned in the following report, and subtracting them from the figures given in the table printed on January 28. The difference will show what stamps were sold at the Post Office, and as they mostly went to speculators, will give a pretty general idea of the number of stamps of each denomination now owned in this city, and held for speculative purposes.

Following is the report made to President Dole :—

HONOLULU, *February* 1, 1897.

SIR,—We, your Committee, duly commissioned on the 5th day of January, A.D. 1897, under and by virtue of a Joint Resolution of the Legislature, approved May 27, A.D. 1896, to supervise, with the Minister of Finance and Postmaster-General, the Enumeration and Destruction of all Postal Cards and Postage Stamps and Envelopes issued prior to the present issue, beg leave to report that: On the 27th day of January, A.D. 1897, your Committee enumerated the Postage Stamps and Envelopes, as given in the Inventory annexed hereto, and which was found to correspond with the list furnished by the Postmaster-General and Registrar of Accounts; that the said Postage Stamps and Envelopes were then placed in mail bags, sealed with the private seals of your Committee, as well as that of the Government, and then deposited in the time vault of the Finance Department until the morning of the 28th, when they were transported to the furnaces of the Hawaiian Electric Company, and there burned in the presence of the Minister of Finance, the Postmaster-General, and of the several members of your Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. SOPER,
W. M. GIFFARD,
F. L. STOLTZ,
} Committee.

To SANFORD B. DOLE,
President of the Republic of Hawaii.

Inventory of Hawaiian Postage Stamps and Envelopes issued previous to the present issues of the Republic of Hawaii, and which remained on hand at the Post Office and Treasury, December 31, A.D. 1896.

SURCHARGED "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. 1893."

2 cent, violet, 4182 35-50 sheets, 209,135 stamps.
5 cent, light blue, 5790 36-50 sheets, 289,536 stamps.
10 cent, chocolate, 1625 sheets, 81,250 stamps.
12 cent, black, 1978 19-50 sheets, 98,919 stamps.
18 cent, red, 1257 29-50 sheets, 62,879 stamps.
50 cent, red, 423 01-50 sheets, 21,151 stamps.
$1.00, red, 838 01-50 sheets, 41,901 stamps.
5 cent envelopes, 7932.
10 cent envelopes, 10,293.

OBSOLETE ISSUES.

2 cent, red, Kamehameha IV., imperf., overprinted "Reprint," 924 13-15 sheets, 13,873 stamps.
2 cent, blue, Kamehameha III., *fac-simile* of 1853 issue, overprinted "Reprint," 318 05-20 sheets, 6365 stamps.
13 cent, red, Kamehameha III., *fac-simile* of 1853 issue, overprinted "Reprint," 415 04-20 sheets, 8304 stamps.
5 cent, blue, Kamehameha III., 1853 issue, overprinted "Specimen," 363 16-20 sheets, 7276 stamps.
13 cent, red, Kamehameha III., 1853 issue, overprinted "Specimen," 812 17-20 sheets, 16,257 stamps.

In addition to the above Inventory of Stamps your Committee also destroyed 10,000 Reply Postal Cards of the denomination of 2 cent, blue, issue of 1881. These postal cards, however, were not included in the official inventory of the Postal Bureau, but were a consignment sent a few years ago in error by the New York engravers, and had never been accepted by the Hawaiian Government.

Australian Federation.

IF anything will cheer the drooping spirits of collectors of Australians, the latest news concerning the progress of the movement in favour of federation should bring that most substantial comfort of all—a rising market. For if the Australian Colonies should ever settle their differences and agree to federate, and retire all the current issues in favour of one series common to all, then the "slump" will give place to a "boom," and Mr. Castle will wish that he had not parted with his gems for such a mere trifle as £10,000. Anyway, here is what the *Australian Philatelist* says about the chances of Federation :—

The delegates have practically finished their deliberations, and the Convention Bill will be ready for presentation to the Parliaments of the respective States during the ensuing sessions. It has been definitely decided to place the entire control of the postal and telegraph systems in the hands of the Commonwealth, and Sir Philip Fysh (Tasmania) stated that a uniform series of postage stamps for the United States would be a necessary result of the union. One of the South Australian delegates wished to retain the administration of the local postal matters within the States, leaving the International Branch to the Federal Government, but the proposal was rejected by a large majority.

Brazilian Remainders.

THE Brazilian postal authorities offer the following remainders for sale. Offers will be received for any amount, and the various denominations will be supplied in proportion (at face value) according to the quantities on hand at the time. Not only so, but the stamps may be had "obliterated or not, at the pleasure of the purchaser." We append the full list with number of each value as published in the *Revista Philatelica do Brasil*, as it is well that collectors should make a note of those issues which reappear in such remainder lists.

Regular Postage Stamp.

10 reis,	orange	1883-85	3,929
10 ,,	red & light blue,	1894	
20 ,,	olive	1883-85	128,101
20 ,,	orange & blue	1894	
50 ,,	green	1890-92	331,026
80 ,,	lake	1878-79	582
100 ,,	rose	1893	1,746
100 ,,	red & black	1894	
200 ,,	purple	1890-92	84,360
300 ,,	violet	1890-92	194,641
500 ,,	olive-green	1890-92	236,442
700 ,,	violet	1888	293,249
700 ,,	chocolate	1890-92	
1000 ,,	bistre	1890-92	749,806

Newspaper Stamps.

10 reis,	blue	1891	379,476
20 ,,	emerald-green	1890	505,965
20 ,,	green	1891-92	
50 ,,	yellow	1889	181,666
50 ,,	pale brown	1890	
50 ,,	green	1893	
100 ,,	yellow	1889	1,204,269
100 ,,	violet	1890	
100 ,,	violet	1891	
200 ,,	yellow	1889	498,034
200 ,,	black	1890	
300 ,,	yellow	1889	282,099
300 ,,	carmine	1890	
500 ,,	yellow	1889	265,868
500 ,,	green	1890	
700 ,,	yellow	1889	183,927
700 ,,	blue	1890	
1000 ,,	yellow	1889	185,774
1000 ,,	brown	1890	

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

10 reis,	carmine	1889	1,314
20 ,,	ultramarine	1890	791

Tolima: 1 c., grey, 1887.

MR. ANDREINI, writing in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, says :—

I found lately a copy of the imperforate 1 cent, grey, Tolima, 1887, which is not catalogued as yet. It is Mr. Curtis' (the Colombian expert) opinion, that all the lithographed series of Tolima 1887 are a great deal rarer than catalogue prices would seem to indicate. Some very peculiar errors are found in stamps of this set. The lower label with a legend of value is evidently printed from a separate stone, for this label has been seen in a reversed position.

Uruguay Commemoratives.

CROAKERS may say what they please about the S.S.S.S., but there is abundant and ever-recurring evidence that the revolt which culminated in the formation of the S.S.S.S., has had a far-reaching effect.

The following translation of an official decree (published in the *American Journal of Philately*) authorizing the surcharging of last year's Commemoration Stamps of Uruguay, shows that another attempt to draw upon stamp collectors has failed in its purpose :—

NOTICE.

The stock of the present postage stamps of 1 c., 5 c., and 10 c., being very limited, the Directory, authorized by the Government, have resolved to put in circulation on the 1st March next, a provisional emission of the said values, putting again in use the excess of stamps of the same value emitted specially on account of the inauguration of the monument erected to the memory of the great citizen, Joaquin Suarez, on the 18th July last year, with the inscription stamped in red ink PROVISORIO 1897.

Until further notice these can be used along with those already in use.

MONTEVIDEO, *24th February*, 1897.



Sale of Transvaal Stamps in 1896.

THE Postmaster of the South African Republic in his report for the year 1896, just received, gives the sales of postage stamps for that year as follows :—

½d. . . .	5,134,602
1d. . . .	11,096,699
2d. . . .	2,252,175
2½d. . . .	793.340
3d. . . .	301,998
4d. . . .	295,942
6d. . . .	1,116.305
1s. . . .	1,032,292
2s. 6d. . .	49,051
5s. . . .	11,490
10s. . . .	9,346
£5 . . .	2,025

The ½d., 1d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 5s., 10s., and £5 all show increased sales, but there are decreases in the sales of the 2d., 4d., and 2s. 6d. The largest increase is in the sales of the ½d. value, and the greatest decrease is in the sales of the 2s. 6d., proportionately. The 2s. 6d. has had a very fluctuating sale since its introduction in 1885. In 1889 it reached a sale of 46,320, then it suddenly dropped in the next year to 24,602, and steadily declined in popularity to 23,223 in 1894, but rose in 1895 to its largest sale of 78,221, but dropped back in 1895 to 49,051. It was thought that on the introduction of the 2½d. value the 3d. would quietly drop out of sight, and ultimately be discontinued. The facts in the report before us point in the opposite direction. The year before the introduction of the 2½d. stamp, *i.e.* in 1892, the sales of the 3d. amounted to 92,893, and next year the sales of the new 2½d. value seem to have occasioned a drop to 72,280 ; but in the following year the sales of the 3d. value rose to the extraordinary total of 304,322, and, as will be seen from the above list, the sales for 1896 show that the 3d. stamp maintains its place.

The Hospital Stamps.

THE issue of these stamps seems to have given no end of trouble to the postal authorities. Despite the fact that it was, at the time of their issue, publicly announced that they had no sort of connection with the postal system of the country, and were merely receipts for money subscribed for the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, and despite the following notice sent out to postmasters:—

It is probable that many of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund Stamps will be affixed to letters, &c. Care must be taken in no case to obliterate them. It is known that stamp collectors are anxious to get these stamps with Post Office obliterations.

a number of cranks have been most industrious in endeavouring to get them postmarked under the impression that the postmark would convert them into used postage stamps—a sort of delusion very much akin to the "Colonial English" absurdity. One of these peculiar parties writes to the *Daily Mail* as follows :—

I sent a letter through the Finsbury Park Post Office, having, in addition to the regular postage, a Hospital Stamp also affixed, hoping that it might come back to me postmarked ; but it did not do so, the two halfpenny postage stamps being carefully obliterated with black ink, but the Hospital Stamp between them carefully preserved untouched. I wrote to the Postmaster-General, suggesting that it would not entail any extra expense or trouble to the officials to include the Hospital Stamp in the postmarking operation, and have received the accompanying in reply, in which you will observe that far from offering any encouragement to would-be purchasers of these stamps, who might naturally wish to preserve them postmarked, and would not have grudged an extra penny stamp for this purpose, it is pointed out that "the placing of such labels upon letters is contrary to regulations."

J. R.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,
June 11th, 1897.

SIR,—I am directed by the Postmaster-General to return herewith the envelope which accompanied your letter of the 7th inst., and to point out that the "Hospital Stamps" are not "postage stamps," and cannot be used for prepayment of postage ; and that they should in no case, therefore, be affixed to the covers of letters sent through the post. The placing of such labels upon letters is contrary to regulations.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

L. BRIDGER.

Illustrations of Postage Stamps.

THE question of the illustration of postage stamps has cropped up in an acute form, first in the House of Commons, on the 17th May last, in a series of questions by Mr. Henniker Heaton, and subsequently in an official notice to stamp dealers and the public. The official notice we print and comment on elsewhere. Mr. Henniker Heaton's entrapping questions and the curious reply of Mr. Hanbury are as follows. Mr. Hanbury's reply as a sample of official twaddle would be hard to beat. It was a shame of Mr. Henniker Heaton to so deliberately land Mr. Hanbury into such a hopeless muddle about a Mulready stamp. Mr. Hanbury was evidently delightfully ignorant of the fact, known to most people, that there never was such a thing as a Mulready stamp.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether the Mulready stamp, the black penny stamp, and other postage stamps of the old issues are still available for postage purposes:

Whether, for some months past, the Postmaster-General and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue have insisted that stamp dealers and others shall desist from publishing miniature and other sized illustrations of these stamps, in black or otherwise, in their catalogues:

Whether it is within the knowledge of the authorities that an illustration of the Mulready stamp is being largely distributed by the promoters of the Philatelic Exhibition, of which the Postmaster-General is one of the patrons:

Whether such imitation or illustration is contrary to the regulations specifically laid down by the Post Office permanent officials and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue; and, if so, why a special exception has been made in this particular case, whilst stringent regulations are made against illustrations brought out by English stamp dealers:

Whether he is aware that vast numbers of catalogues containing illustrations of English stamps, made in Germany, come by post to this country, the sale of which is not, and cannot be, interfered with:

And whether the Post Office officials can point to any case in which fraud against the Post Office has arisen out of black illustrations of stamps which have appeared in the catalogues of English stamp dealers; and, if not, what is the reason of the present action of the Post Office?

Mr. HANBURY (Preston): The answers to the first two paragraphs of the question are in the affirmative. It became known to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue within the last few days that an illustration of the Mulready stamp was being distributed as stated in the question. The Postmaster-General is a patron of the Philatelic Exhibition, but he was not consulted as to the issue of this imitation, and was not aware of its issue until informed of it by the Commissioners. He has informed them that he hopes no special exception will be made in favour of the Philatelic Exhibition. In preventing, as far as they can, the imitation of any postage stamps, whether of the United Kingdom or of any colony or foreign country, the Postmaster-General and the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue (with whom the enforcement of the law rests) are governed by the reasons which led Parliament to pass the 7th Section of the Post Office Protection Act, 1884, and which led Her Majesty's Government to enter into Article XVIII. of the Universal Postal Union Convention of Vienna, 1891. Nothing but certain legal doubts, removed by the decision of the High Court in "Dickens *v.* Gill" a year ago, have prevented a stricter enforcement of the law, of which warning was given to all known stamp dealers in November, 1885. In the opinion of the Postmaster-General and Commissioners of Inland Revenue there is grave risk if dies capable of producing exact imitations of postage stamps in black and white are allowed to be used by unauthorized persons, and a foreign Government has more than once pressed this view upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government. It is the case that fictitious stamps and materials for making them are imported into this country. The judges commented upon this in "Dickens *v.* Gill," and nothing but the want of a convenient opportunity for legislation has prevented the introduction of a clause to deal with the matter by amending the Customs Consolidation Act.

Forged Zululands.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News warns collectors and dealers against sets of counterfeit Zululands, which are being sent out by a party in St. Louis, U.S. It says:—

The outfit consists of twelve varieties with forged surcharge "ZULULAND" over genuine used and unused Great Britain and Natal stamps.

We have seen one of the sheets, made up as follows: Great Britain, 1d., unused, ½d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., 1s. and 5s., used; Natal, ½d. and 6d., used, the latter penmarked. The stamps are all marked at catalogue value, amounting to $35.52. and offered for the lump price of $14.50, this extraordinary cheap figure being in itself sufficient to arouse suspicion.

The surcharges, however, would not deceive anyone who had ever seen a genuine specimen. The letters are all too large and too close together, the "L" and "A" frequently touching each other. The height exceeds that of the genuine by over ½ mm., and the length over all by 2 mm. Most of the postmarks are indistinct, but that on the 5s. can be made out very readily, and is the ordinary circular hand-stamp with P.O. name, date, and district.



The Stamps of Egypt.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the articles on "Egypt" which have recently appeared in the *Philatelic Record*, I see that, in dealing with the third issue, Mr. Duerst says:—

"Towards the end of 1874 the stock of the 5 para stamps got very low, and a fresh supply was needed. They were printed at the Government offices by native printers, and the result has been exceedingly curious. Not a single stamp on the sheet is correct—centres and labels are all mixed up, and the stamps are all over the sheet in a glorious confusion."

I think it may interest your readers to know the exact positions of these stamps on the sheet. It will be seen that the stamps are not so much mixed up as Mr. Duerst would imagine, the last fourteen rows being arranged on the *tête-bêche* principle; in fact, if the sixth row were Type B instead of Type A, the whole sheet would be symmetrical, with the exception of two *clichés*, viz., those for the tenth and fiftieth stamps, which are obviously wrong. In one of these latter cases I observe Mr. Duerst was fortunately able to give an illustration.

From an entire sheet in my collection I have compiled the following table:—

Type A is the stamp with the numerals at the corners upright, and the centre inverted.

Type B is the stamp with the numerals at the corners inverted, and the centre upright. (This is, of course, Type A reversed on the sheet.)

A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B

I am, yours faithfully,
W. DORNING BECKTON.

SWINTON PARK,
May 29th, 1897.

Notices.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post-free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 5s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

AUGUST, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

THE great Philatelic Exhibition which London has promised to the stamp-collecting community is now open in the handsome galleries of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours. By common consent it is pronounced a grand success. The galleries are lit from lofty-vaulted roofs with a splendid profusion of light, yet excluding any direct sun rays that might be injurious to delicate rarities. There is absolutely no glare. The light is softened, but so excellently dispersed that there is not a dull corner in the whole range of galleries. What effect will this show have? is the question asked by many an anxious dealer; and as one looks round on the gay scene, thronged with well-dressed visitors, it is impossible to be otherwise than sanguine for the future of philately. Excellently planned, excellently arranged, and excellently carried out in every detail, how can it do otherwise than still further popularize the charming pursuit of stamp collecting? The Exhibition will remain open until the 5th of August, and it is to be hoped that every stamp collector who can manage to visit it will do so, for it may be many a long day before such a grand display can be gathered together again for public view in this country.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

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THE attempt of the Post Office to put a stop to the harmless illustration of postage stamps is likely to bring a veritable hornets' nest around the ears of the authorities, for the matter has now been taken up by the printing trade. There are few trades in this country which suffer more severely from the competition of the foreigner than the printing trade. Therefore, the Post Office Jacks-in-office are not likely to meet with much mercy at the hands of the powerful associations which watch over the interest of the printing trades in this country. A report on another page of this issue of the *Philatelic Record* will perhaps convince them in time that it is possible to go a step too far in their traditional but miserable policy of hampering English trading interests. It is preposterous that a Government Department should be allowed to devote its resources to the worrying of any English trade in the interest of the foreign competitor. As we have stated over and over again, the harmless pictorial illustration of postage stamps has been enjoyed by us for over thirty years. During all those years that privilege has never once been abused. On the contrary, side by side with their study of postal matters philatelists have kept a sleepless watch on the production of forgeries, have exposed them without mercy, and have, at very considerable cost to themselves, frequently brought the forgers to punishment.

Illustration of Postage Stamps.

It is said that the Post Office authorities complain that they have been

asked by foreign Governments to inaugurate this crusade against the illustration of postage stamps. Very likely. No doubt there are very many foreign Governments that would be glad to enlist the services of many of our more stupid Government officials in the sweet little game of undermining British trading interests. But when we look abroad, we note that even despotic Germany allows the free use of pictorial representation, not only of foreign postage stamps, but even of its own current postal issues.

* * *

Agitate! Agitate! Agitate!

Not an hour should be lost in organizing a powerful combination of the trading interests involved in the Post Office senseless crusade against the pictorial illustration of postage stamps. We have the best of reasons for stating that the authorities have begun in grim earnest to push this matter to extremes, and that if there is any hesitation on the part of stamp dealers and collectors in combining to protect philately from this threatened action of the Post Office, they will have cause to sincerely regret their extraordinary apathy. It is true that only one or two firms are, at present, directly involved in serious consequences, but as surely as they are left to bear the brunt of the attack, so surely will every man who makes a halfpenny profit out of stamp dealing rue the day when he held back from sharing in the risks of the conflict, which will assuredly jeopardize trading interests in every direction. Whatever the issue, every dealer will have to stand or fall by it. His future freedom of action will entirely depend upon the result. Therefore, it behoves every dealer to make his voice heard, and even to open his purse-strings for the protection of his liberty to continue to earn his living by stamp dealing. It is true that the stamp-dealing trade may survive the successful persecution of the Post Office, but if it does, it will be in such a cramped and emasculated form, that the more free and unfettered competition of the foreign dealer will soon tell heavily in the scale. Hence we say, Agitate! Agitate! Agitate! and without delay. We are not speaking out of book in this matter. We have seen enough documentary proof to justify every word we have written. Until some energetic soul has been appointed to take up the work of organization, offers of help may be addressed to the Editor of this journal.

* * *

Agitate by Public Meeting.

There is no better way of facing the persecution of the Post Office than by public meeting. And there certainly could be no better time for laying the facts before the public than during the holding of the present Philatelic Exhibition. In the St. James' Hall, on the opposite side of the same street, a meeting might be conveniently held to publicly protest against the senseless action of the authorities. That meeting should be made up of representatives of all the interests that are threatened by the Post Office. The interests of the printing trade are very large, and are certain to enlist the support of the printers' associations. Engravers of pictorial illustrations are also involved in the issue; stamp dealers in their hundreds, sprinkled all over the country, will suffer seriously, and collectors cannot possibly separate themselves from the conflict; and we are perfectly certain that they would never stand idly by in a time of peril to interests so closely associated with the unfettered pursuit of the hobby that yields them so much pleasure.

A public meeting will have the great advantage that it will most effectually expose the plausible misrepresentations of the Post Office authorities, for we can then publicly demonstrate the fact that we are not abettors of forgery—that what we do is in no shape or form a menace to the interests of the Post Office. Not only that, we can carry the war into the enemy's camp, and show that philately provides every year the only efficient detectives of forgery that our own or any postal authority can rely upon to protect it from serious depredations by the forger.

Our Articles. Mr. Beckton's splendid articles on the stamps of Greece are now drawing to a close. A further contribution dealing with the Unpaids will complete his excellent history of the postal issues of Greece. The series commenced in our issue for April last, and we venture to say that there have been few more interesting or more important contributions from a philatelic point of view in any philatelic periodical for many years.

We have recently received from our friend Mr. Harrison the first portion of a similarly exhaustive history of the postal issues of Norway which he has written in collaboration with Mr. Henry Buckley, of Christiania. Both writers are prominent and well-known specialists of Norwegian issues, and in the production of their history they have had the kindly assistance of other specialists in Scandinavian stamps. Our readers may, therefore, look forward to another rare treat. The first instalment will appear in our next issue, and the series will probably run to the end of the present year.

Illustration of Postage Stamps.

ACTION BY THE PRINTING TRADE.

On Saturday, July 17th, the fourth annual Conference of the Southern and South-Western Branches of the Typographical Association was held at Plymouth. Representatives from Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Frome, Newport, Portsmouth, Southampton, and Plymouth were present, and the Organizer represented the Executive Council. The London Society of Compositors and the London Machine Managers' Society were also represented by their respective secretaries, Mr. C. W. Bowerman and Mr. J. Dewar. The agenda having been disposed of, the delegates kindly consented to allow the question of the recent notice of the Post Office authorities respecting the illustration of philatelic literature to be discussed.

In introducing the question Mr. Wood pointed out the serious effect that would result were the order of the Post Office strictly adhered to. He stated that the whole of the illustrated literature would have to be printed abroad, and then could be sold in England with impunity; and pointed out that philately had reached that stage when the study of it would be almost useless without illustrations. One firm alone in Plymouth would suffer very considerably, and it would probably mean the discharge of ten workmen, which would be a serious matter to the Plymouth Branch.

Mr. Reynolds pointed out that it was a most extraordinary position for a Government body to take up, to compel work to be sent out of this country, after having been carried on so successfully for so many years. He moved the following resolution: "That this Conference views with dismay the recent decision of the Post Office Department regarding the printing of pictures of postage stamps in philatelic literature, and pledges itself to do its utmost to get the decision set aside."

Mr. Allen seconded, and a number of questions by delegates were answered mainly by quotations from the July issue of the *Philatelic Record*.

Many speakers expressed regret that it should be necessary to combat an attempt to injure a business after so much has been said against the introduction of foreign-made goods into this country.

The delegates will bring the matter before their respective branches, which doubtless will make representation to the M.P.'s for their districts.

The Stamps of Greece.

By W. DORNING BECKTON,

President of the Manchester Philatelic Society

(In collaboration with G. B. Duerst).

(*Continued from page* 191.)

Third Period.

COMING to this period we find the following decree authorising the 30 lepta and 60 lepta:—

Royal Decree.

September 13, 1875.

Two more stamps have been added to the existing list, viz.:—

A. 30 lepta, grey or dust-colour.
60 ,, dark green.

B. Also post cards to be stamped on the right top corner same as the postage stamps, only above the central circle to have the word Greece (ΕΛΛΑΣ), and below the 15, its fixed value—all in blue.

C. The post card is of a rectangular form twelve centimetres long and nine wide, and on the face of it are printed the words, "Epistolicon deltarion (post card)," and at the bottom the words, "This side only the address."

D. Post cards are treated under the same regulations as the rest of the stamps.

Concerning the other values in this period no decree appears to exist.

Paris Prints.

30 lepta, olive-brown (varying little in shade), on cream-tinted paper.
30 ,, brown (varying in shade), on cream-tinted paper.
60 ,, green (varying little in shade), on greenish tinted paper.

The latter two stamps are sometimes found having heavier shading on the neck, the line of shading being continuous. Such specimens are treated by some authorities as being Athens prints on Paris paper. It is doubtful whether this is so; at the same time two distinct sets can be collected, showing marked differences in the shading of the neck.

The 30 lepta, brown, exists double printed.

Athens Prints.

September, 1876.

30 Lepta.

PRINTING.	
A. Sept. 1876.	Brown, varying in shade, on cream-tinted paper.
B. 1878.	Yellow-brown, varying little in shade, on buff paper.
C. 1879.	Reddish brown, varying from light to dark, on cream-tinted paper.

60 Lepta.

PRINTING.

A. Green, varying little in shade, on buff paper.

The 30 lepta exists in olive-brown.

This variety is very clearly printed, and in my opinion is a proof.

The 30 lepta was withdrawn from circulation by Royal Decree of April 29, 1882, being superseded by the 30 lepta, blue.

The stamps we are about to consider, namely, those of 1876, are so different, from a collector's point of view, from those which preceded them in the Second Period, that it is difficult at first to account for the absence of any decree authorising their use. On second thoughts, however, it will be seen that the difference is more a collector's than an official one, for the colours of the stamps remained as before, the paper only being made uniform for all the values, instead of being tinted as heretofore.

The old plates were cleaned and used for printing the stamps of this period.

THIRD PERIOD—*continued.*

5 Lepta.

With numerals of value $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in height on the back.

A. Jan. 1876. Dark green, on buff paper.

B. March, 1876. Green, very much lighter in tone than A, on buff paper, which is scarcely so deep.

C. 1877. Light yellowish green, on cream-tinted paper; well executed; fine, clear impression.

D. 1878. Yellowish green, on cream-tinted paper. The stamps are darker than C, and not so well executed.

10 Lepta.

With numerals of value $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in height on the back.

A. Bright orange-red, on deep cream-tinted paper.

B. Orange, on cream-tinted paper.

C. Yellowish orange, on yellow paper.

20 Lepta.

With numerals of value $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. in height on the back.

A. 1876. Blue, on cream-tinted paper.

B. 1877. Deep blue (very much darker than A), on cream-tinted paper.

C. 1877. Bright blue (quite different from either of the above), on cream-tinted paper.

D. 1878. Dull ultramarine, on cream-tinted paper.

E. 1878. Bright ultramarine, on cream-tinted paper.

F. 1878. Ultramarine, on buff paper. The paper is the distinguishing feature of this printing.

40 Lepta.

PRINTING. With numerals of value measuring $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. on the back.

A. 1876. Flesh, on cream-tinted paper.

B. 1878. Bright flesh (deeper in tone than A), on cream-tinted paper.

C. 1879. Pale flesh (very much lighter than either A or B, and in some specimens resembling the 2 lepta, Printing J), on cream-tinted paper.

The old plate being used for printing the above stamps, the varieties already mentioned of the 40 lepta, as a matter of necessity, occur on each of the above printings. These varieties, it will be remembered, are as follows:

Minor Varieties.

Broken right-hand top corner. Printing A, B, and C.
Straight nostril. Printing A, B, and C.

FOURTH PERIOD.

The distinguishing feature of this period is that the stamps are all without the numerals of value on the back. The paper similar to that used for the Third Period was employed. There is no decree to be found concerning this issue.

5 Lepta.

A. Oct. 1879. Yellow-green, on cream-tinted paper; highly finished, the paper being glazed; fine impression.

B. 1880. Yellow-green, on cream-tinted paper, which is not glazed. The impression is not so clear and fine as in A.

C. Yellow-green, on buff paper. The paper is the distinguishing feature of this printing.

D. Bright yellow-green, on cream very thin transparent tinted paper, which is glazed and resembles *pelure*. This printing is easily distinguished by the paper.

E. Dark green, on cream-tinted paper. A minor variety exists in this printing printed on thick paper.

F. Dark green, on buff paper.

Minor Varieties.

With lines of shading on the neck dotted (Printing B).
On bluish tinted paper.

The first minor variety is probably due to the printing. Mr. Duerst has a pair—one of which is this variety—in his collection, and I observe that it is also given in Collins and Calman's *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors.*

The second minor variety, of which I possess two pairs, is not given anywhere, but Collins and Calman give the 20 lepta of this issue on the same paper; they are both, in my opinion, proofs.

Specimens are occasionally found in which the numerals in the lower label are so imperfectly printed as to make them APPEAR to be without numerals altogether, white blotches taking their place. As a matter of fact, however, these are not errors at all, but are only due to careless printing. I do not consider them of any great interest, and only mention them here owing to their having been offered to me as *errors without numerals.* Blocks are found in which one or two of these varieties exist, the other stamps being normal.

PRINTING.

10 Lepta.

A. Oct. 1879. Orange-yellow, on cream-tinted paper.

B. 1880. Yellow-orange, on cream-tinted paper.

C. 1881. Reddish orange, on cream-tinted paper.

Minor Variety.

On ribbed paper.

20 Lepta.

A. Dark ultramarine, on cream-tinted paper.

B. Dark ultramarine, on buff paper.

40 Lepta.

A. Pale mauve, on cream-tinted paper.

B. Dark mauve, on cream-tinted paper.

Minor Varieties.

With broken right-hand top corner. Printings A and B.
With straight nostril. Printings A and B.

The above varieties show that the same plate was used for printing these stamps as that employed in 1870, and for the subsequent printings.

A Royal Decree, published on December 31, 1881 (which would be January, 13, 1882, according to our Table), reads as follows:—

ROYAL DECREE.

December 31, 1881.

The colours of the following stamps have been altered, viz.:—
A. 20 lepta to red.
30 ,, ,, blue.
B. The postage stamps of 80 lepta are cancelled.

20 Lepta.

A. Jany. 1882. Dark carmine, on deep cream-tinted paper.

B. Pale rose (varying in shade), on cream-tinted paper.

C. Deep rose (varying in shade), on cream-tinted paper.

30 Lepta.

A. Jany. 1882. Deep ultramarine (varying in shade), on cream-tinted paper.

B. Milky blue (varying but little in shade), on cream-tinted paper.

ROYAL DECREE.

April 29, 1882.

The following stamps, viz.:—
20 lepta, blue,
30 ,, dust-colour,
80 ,, red,
must not be used at all, but can be exchanged at the Treasurer's offices up to 31st May for the latest issue in new colours agreeably to the 1st Article of our Decree, dated December 31, 1881.

We have now concluded the consideration of the stamps of the first type of head. These were gradually superseded by the new type, of which the first values to appear were the 25 l., 50 l., and the 1 dr. As, however, I collect only those of the first type, I must leave those of the second type to someone better able than I am to deal with them.

THE ERRORS.

In the later printings of the Second Period and those of the Third Period are to be found a number of errors in the numerals on the back of the stamps. These errors may be divided primarily into two classes, the first class being marked errors, for instance, where the wrong numerals were printed on the back; such, for example, as the 20 lepta with "80," and 40 lepta with "20," subsequently corrected and overprinted "40." In these cases undoubtedly the whole of the stamps on the sheet would be errors. The second class are those where only one stamp on the sheet was an error; for example, "0" instead of "10," "00" instead of "10," etc.

In addition to these marked errors there are a number of specimens which have varieties in the numerals themselves, or in the printing of the numerals. Such varieties, although differing from the normal type, are not sufficiently marked to be classified as errors; at the same time, because a collection would not be complete without representative specimens of them, I have enumerated those I have found, and have called them minor varieties.

It will be observed that in dealing with the errors I have followed the same arrangement as adopted for the stamps themselves; namely, the different values are taken in turn, and the whole of the errors found on that value in its different printings and periods are described before dealing with the next.

5 Lepta.

Three errors are usually notified of this value; namely, one with inverted numeral; another with numeral impressed twice (once inverted); and the third with numeral impressed twice, reading "55." I am of opinion that all these errors are bogus. I therefore refrain from cataloguing any. I have the 5 lepta of the Second Period, Printing G, with the numeral partly impressed twice. I think this is caused only through the sheet slipping when under the printing press, and at the most can only be recorded as a minor variety, and not an error.

Dr. Socolis, in an interesting article which appeared in the *Dresden Philatelist*, is of the same opinion.

10 Lepta.

SECOND PERIOD.

"0" instead of "10." (*See illustration.*) Printings E, H, and I. This error is found several times on the sheet on Printing I.

"01" instead of "10." (*See illustration.*) Printings E, G, H, and I. This error exists several times on the sheet in Printings H and I. Printings E and G are very much scarcer.

"1" instead of "10." Printing H. This is found several times on the sheet.

"01" on the face instead of "10" on the back. (*See illustration.*) Printing D. This error was due to the sheet being put through the press the wrong way up. It is a scarce error, and probably only one or two sheets were thus printed.

"01" on the face and on the back. Printing D. Without numerals on the back. Printing G.

"10" printed twice. (*See illustration.*)

Minor Varieties.

"110" instead of "10." (*See illustration.*) This variety is found on several printings, and is caused through the dropping of the "bit." It is usually placed amongst the errors, but I scarcely consider it one, and prefer therefore to give it under the above heading.

Curiously-shaped "0." (*See illustration.*) This is found in several printings in subdivision γ.

"0 1," being the "0" at one edge and the "1" on the other edge of the stamp, caused through misplacing the sheet when printing. This is found on Printing I.

THIRD PERIOD.

"00" instead of "10" on the back. (*See illustration.*) Printing A.
"0" instead of "10" on the back. (*See illustration.*) Printing B.
"110" instead of "10" on the back. (*See illustration.*) Printing A.

The extra numeral "1" on this stamp is higher, and 2 mm. from the other "1." It is a distinct numeral "1," and not the minor variety previously chronicled.

"1" instead of "10" on the back. Printing A.
"01" instead of "10." (*See illustration.*) Printing A.

Minor Varieties.

With numerals on the back slipped and thus appearing as impressed twice.

"110" instead of "10." (*See illustration.*) This is caused, as previously mentioned, through the "bit" connecting the numerals getting misplaced.

"0 1," sometimes called "01" spaced; caused through the sheets being improperly placed, and thus causing the numerals to fall between the stamps.

Forgeries.

"000" instead of "10."
"1100" instead of "10."

20 Lepta.

SECOND PERIOD.

"80" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*) Printing B. This error was evidently caused through one entire sheet at least having the wrong numerals put on the back. All the stamps of this error were put into circulation from one post office.

"2" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*) Printing L.
"0" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*)
"02" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*) Printings L and D (?).
"0z" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*) Printings B and I.
"20" twice. (*See illustration.*) Printing D. This is a distinct double print, and not caused through the sheet slipping when passing through the press. [This is another error.] Without figures on the back. Printing C.

Minor Varieties.

With numerals of value slipped and appearing as a blurred double print, sometimes appearing as "220," and at others as "200."

"0 2" spaced. Caused as previously explained.

THIRD PERIOD.

"0" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*)
"02" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*) Printing D.
"0z" instead of "20." Printing A.

*

"20" twice. (*See illustration.*) Printing A. Clear double print.
"ɀo" instead of "20." (*See illustration.*) Printing D. All these errors I have seen have the "2" with a broken top loop. I scarcely think it exists otherwise.
"2 0" spaced (*see illustration*), the numerals being almost 4 mm. apart, and are in the centre of the stamp. Printing A. This is quite different from the spaced numerals hitherto chronicled under the head of minor varieties.

Minor Varieties.

With numerals of value slipped and appearing as a blurred double print; also sometimes as "220."
"0 2" spaced, the numerals falling at different sides of the stamp, caused as previously explained.
"20," the numeral "0" being higher than the "2."
"20." Curiously shaped "0." This exists on all the printings. (*See illustration* of the "10," the last numeral of which is similar.)
Ditto "0" inverted. (*See illustration* of the "10," the last numeral of which is similar.)
"20." The first numeral with broken top loop. (*See illustration.*) Printing E. This figure "2" is the same as the numeral in the "ɀo" error, and appearing as it does on a subsequent printing, in which that error is not found, it seems that the error was rectified.
"0" smaller than the "2." (*See illustration.*)
"0" broken, only one side showing.

Forgeries.

"000" instead of "20."

40 Lepta.

Second Period.

"20" instead of "40." Printing D.
Ditto ,, ,, "40," and with the "2" overprinted "4." (*See illustration.*) Printing D. This error is doubtless a correction of the first error.
"4" instead of "40."
"0" ,, ,, "40."
"04" ,, ,, "40."
"0ɾ" ,, ,, "40."

Minor Variety.

Numerals of value slipped. (See previous observations.)
With numerals of value on the back in olive-green, on Printings G and I.

Forgeries.

"0400" instead of "40."

80 Lepta.

Second Period.

"8" instead of "80." (*See illustration.*)
"80" with "8" inverted. (*See illustration.*) Printings D, E, and F.
"0" instead of "8."
"08" ,, ,, "80." Printing D.

Minor Variety.

With numerals slipped. (See previous observations.)

Forgeries.

"000" instead of "80."
"008" ,, ,, "80."

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE great Exhibition is now open. It is an accomplished fact. After months of self-sacrificing labour on the part of an industrious Executive Committee, the pick and cream of all available philatelic treasures have been housed, arranged, and thrown open to public view.

The history of its inception and of its progress has been told in our pages from time to time continuously for months past, and we need not go over the story. Suffice it to say that from the day of the appointment of the Executive Committee on September 24th, 1896, until the opening, the work of preparation has gone on continuously and most harmoniously. The Executive at once proceeded to split up the business into sectional sub-committees, and those sub-committees have shouldered their work in such a way that, although there were frequent reportings of progress, and consultations with the Executive as a whole, there has scarcely been at any time sufficient difference of opinion to require even a formal vote to settle it. Such harmonious working ensured success, and that success rewards their efforts in its most substantial form in the unrivalled Exhibition now open in the galleries of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours in Piccadilly.

The actual work of arranging and placing the exhibits in the Exhibition rooms was begun on the Saturday previous to the day of opening. And probably those who visit the rooms will find it somewhat difficult to credit the fact that all the display was arranged and placed in position in less than four days. From early morning till even unto midnight on each day a self-sacrificing few slaved away like Jubilee carpenters at three shillings an hour. Stripped of jacket and waistcoat they tackled frame after frame, arranged them, and closed them up one after another in the most business-like style, and then handed them over to the member for Hendon, who sealed each frame with the seal of the Exhibition. From his hands they were taken to their final resting-place on the Exhibition stands. And there they now repose in all their grandeur, ready for the admiring gaze of the covetous outsider.

Need we go back still further and tell of the weary tramping of London in search of the ideal Exhibition rooms before the tireless Secretary happened upon the beautiful galleries which were finally chosen? Every possible location was visited and critically inspected.

The opening ceremony was performed by H.R.H. the Duke of York, on Thursday, the 22nd July, 1897, at three o'clock to the minute. But early in the morning busy committeemen and stallholders got to business, and the omni-present Secretary, in veritable *déshabillé*, was tumbling over letters and tickets in conflicting number. The stallholders soon got to work on their shelving, and began tearing coloured stuff into strips to cover and decorate the woodwork. The hammer went tap tap in all directions, bare shelves were rapidly covered with albums and other philatelic literature, piles of back numbers were countered with an intimation that you might take one without fee or reward—sprats to catch a passing herring or eventual mackerel or two. Counter-cases were filled with tempting arrays of rare stamps to be had for the asking—and a good fat cheque. In fact, everybody was as busy as bees up to the hour of opening, except the lady visitors who waited the coming of the royal party. But the hammer and

tin-tack never ceased their labours till there was a hustle and a bustle on the stairs, and then all stole quietly into the central gallery. It was a gay scene, with its stands of exhibits, with the gangways filled in with fashionably-dressed ladies and gentlemen gloved and frock-coated. As the Duke entered there was a hush in the conversation. The Duke was accompanied by the Duchess, and as they stepped into the central gallery Mr. Tilleard as the Secretary individually introduced the members of the Executive, who formed the Reception Committee. As each one was presented to H.R.H. there was a cordial hand-shake, and then when the hand-shaking was over, the Duke stepped forward and delivered the following eloquent oration :—

"I have much pleasure in declaring this Exhibition open."

Having opened the Exhibition, H.R.H. turned to the nearest case and began his inspection of the exhibits. Mr. M. P. Castle was introduced to the Duchess by Mr. Tilleard, and told off to explain the mysteries of stamp collecting and bloating to H.R.H. The Duke was accompanied round by Mr. Tilleard, but of course he needed no explanations. He is a keen collector, and knows as well as most of us what to admire and what to sigh for amongst the unattainables. Mr. J. T. Purcell, C.B., the ever-welcome Controller of Stamps, was also of the party, and displayed as much interest in the business as if he were a real live competitor for the prime gold medal of the show. For a solid hour the royal party passed slowly round the cases, looking into almost every exhibit. Ultimately they reached the dealers' room, when the stall attendants woke up into soldier-like attention, each and every one ready to do an unlimited amount of business at special exhibition rates. But the royal procession went slowly by, casting here and there a weather eye upon the treasures displayed. As they reached what an Irishman would call the entrance out, Mr. Castle introduced his daughter, Miss Castle, to the Duchess, that she might present H.R.H. with an exquisite bouquet of orchids. The Duke had made a stop at the entrance to examine some plates of Leeward Islands stamps which Mr. Thompson had deftly arranged on his stall to catch the royal eye. The Duke was particularly interested in the method of defacing by diagonal lines across each stamp, and wished that the Hospital Stamps had been done in the same manner, instead of being filed out of existence.

THE EXHIBITS.

And now let us return to the Exhibition and note its principal features. To begin, one cannot fail to be struck with the marked preponderance of unused stamps throughout, and the fondness displayed for the inclusion of complete sheets, even though they show no varieties of type. Of course the great collectors are pre-eminently great in what they show. Mr. Avery's frames are replete with unattainables, so also are those of Mr. Castle, Mr. Duveen, Mr. Blest, Mr. Ehrenbach, and Baron de Worms.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The great feature of the exhibits is unquestionably the magnificent specialist collection of English shown by Mr. H. J. White. Here is a list of a few of the gems, as per catalogue :—In the ½d., rose-red, there are—a pair of Plate 9 and several blocks showing numbers in the margin ; 1d., black, V.R., block of four, with margin showing "A" ; 1d., black, six blocks, showing plate numbers ; ditto red, blocks, many with plate numbers, the perforated series being also fully represented by blocks and specimens of all shades and varieties ; ditto, with letters in all angles, forty-nine blocks, with margins showing the plate number ; 1½d., Plate 1, error of lettering, in lilac-rose and in rose-red ; 2d., without lines, including two pairs and a strip of three ; ditto Small Crown, perf. 14, blocks of six and ten, and six single specimens ; ditto Large Crown, perf. 16,

two of Plate 5 and one of Plate 6. Octagonals: 6d., thirty-one, includiug four pairs and a block of six; 10d., twenty-six, including one without die number, two pairs and two blocks of four; 1s., twenty, including a block of eight and a pair; 2½d., pairs or larger blocks of all plates in lilac-rose (except No. 9), and ditto blue, all plates; 3d., small letters, blocks of nine and four, and two pairs; large letters, pairs or larger blocks of all plates (except 7 and 8); Plate 4, spray, a complete pane of twenty, also panes of Plates 5, 6, 11, 18, 19, and 20; 4d., Small Garter, a pair and two singles; Medium Garter on blue, three, and on white, two strips of three; Large Garter, two blocks of four and one of eight; 4d., small letters, blocks and pairs of each plate, including a pair of Plate 3 with marginal number; large letters, pairs or larger blocks of all plates except No. 8, and many with marginal number; 6d., pairs or blocks of all plates (including Plate 6, spray), and complete panes of Plates 5, 9, and 12 (grey); 9d., pairs of both small and large letter varieties, and also a specimen of Plate 5; 10d., pairs and block and a copy of Plate 2; 1s., no letters, block of six and three pairs, and all later plates in pairs or blocks, panes of Plates 4 (both watermarks), 7, 11, 12 in green, 13 (both watermarks) and 14 in brown; 2s., blue, many shades in pairs and blocks, and brown, a complete pane of twenty; 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s., blue, large number of shades; 10s., Maltese Cross, a pair and two singles, and anchor, two; £1, Maltese Cross, three, and anchor, two, and the oblong stamps in both watermarks, and the £5 on blue paper. All later values amply displayed. In addition to the regular issues is a complete set of all values and plates from the *imprimatur* sheets, many colour trials and imperforate varieties, die proofs (in black), besides many interesting varieties of surcharged stamps which were proposed but never adopted. The official issues of Government Parcels, I. R. Official, etc., are also completely represented. Postal Fiscals include some of the scarcer varieties of the 3d. and the embossed series, a pair of the 1s., pink (with border), imperf., *tête-bêche.*

Such an exhibit is a show in itself, and it is deservedly well placed and displayed in row after row of cases overflowing into side cases as well. If the blue ribbon of the Exhibition falls to any other exhibit, we shall certainly have backed the wrong party.

Mr. Willett shows also some fine things in English, but he is entirely eclipsed by Mr. White.

Mr. Morley, true to his love of Fiscals, shows some of his favourites, which in the matter of design certainly tempt one to stop and inspect.

Mr. Fred West leads the way in used English with a very excellent lot, showing Plate 12 in the 6d. dark brown, Plate 13 in brown, and Plate 2 of the 2½, error of lettering.

Mr. W. Matthews displays private companies' stamps in great profusion.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

In this section Mr. Avery's display is seen to greatest advantage. He considerately follows the lead of the late Mr. Tapling, and marks his exhibits "Not for competition." If he did not do so the judges would have little to do but to put "Ditto, ditto," in their award book.

British Guiana.—Mr. Avery's lot is confined to the issues of 1850, 1852, 1853, 1856, and 1862. There are thirteen specimens of the first issue, including the rare 2 c. and one of the 4 c on *pelure* paper.

Mr. H. J. Duveen, however, shows the sensational stamp, to wit, a pair of the 2 cent, rose, circular, on original letter; also a 4 c. and 8 c. together, and a 4 c. *pelure*, both on original letters.

New South Wales.—Mr. Avery shows several reconstructed plates of Sydney Views, a strip of ten of the 2d. laureated, Plate 1, unused, a block of six of the 3d. unused, and a block of ten and two singles of the 6d. coarse background.

Mr. Blest has a partiality for unused Sydneys, and he shows thirty-six in all. It is needless to say that no one else is so blessed with unused Sydneys. Mr. Luff, who happened to catch sight of the display, at once entered an energetic protest against such bloating, but the probability is that Mr. Luff has quietly made a note of Mr. Blest's partiality in case he should come across any bargains in those self-same unused Sydneys.

Mauritius.—Mr. Avery has monopolized Mauritius. He is the recognized "first" always in Mauritius, for has he not, in addition to all his beautiful "Post Paids" and "Large Fillets," an unused copy of the 1d. and 2d. "Post Office"? And here they are. Naturally, no one else has had the temerity to show Mauritius.

Victoria.—Here also Mr. Avery covers all the needful.

Canada.—Mr. H. J. Duveen monopolizes Canada, British Columbia, and Prince Edward Island. His most notable unused stamps are 1857 (laid paper), 3d. pair, 6d. pair, and four singles, and the 12d. used. Wove paper, pairs of the ½d., 6d., and 10d., and ribbed paper, ½d. and 3d. (pair). Perforated 6d. (two), and ½d. on ribbed paper. The used specimens of the "pence" issues include 12d., laid, and wove, 7½d. (pair), 10d. (strip of three), and 6d. on thick paper (strip of three). In the "cents" issue are to be found the 10 c. in many shades, including the black-brown, and the 5 c. with double frame. In British Columbia and Vancouver Island are exhibited specimens of the 5 c. (Vancouver) imperf. unused and used, and in the last set the 10 c. and 1 dollar perf. 14, also unused. In Prince Edward Island may be noticed halves of the 2d. perf. 9, and the 6d. perf. 11 used, on parts of the original covers.

Ceylon.—Baron A. de Worms' beautiful early issues of Ceylon are deservedly given a choice spot just inside the main entrance. They are certainly a grand lot. Amongst the unused are the following:—First issue 1d., block of 12, 5d., 10d., and 1s. 9d. pair of each, several 6d., 1s., and 2s., and two each of the 4d., 8d., and 9d. Perforated (watermark star), a pair each of the 4d. (two shades), 8d. (brown and mustard), and 6d., a block of 4 of the 1s., and 2 copies of the 9d. lilac; (no watermark) pairs of the 1d., 5d., 6d., and 1s. Watermark CC, three copies of the 2d. in the colour of the "star" issue, and a large number of pairs and blocks of the other values. Watermark CA, 16 c. (2), 24 c. plum (1), and 32 c. perf. 14 by 12½, and the 2 r. 50 c. perf. 12½. Amongst the used are pairs of the 4d., 1s. 9d., and 2s. imperf., as well as a large number of pairs of the other values.

India.—Mr. H. J. Hynes shows a complete uncut sheet of the ½ anna red with 9½ arches, three sheets of the ½ anna blue with different dates of printing, 2 sheets of the 1 anna, 2 sheets of the 2 annas, proof sheets in black and in red of the ½ anna with 8 arches, and reprints of two of the 4 anna sheets, one with twelve and the other with twenty-four stamps.

H.R.H. the Duke of York displays a very fine lot of imperforate copies of the De la Rue series from each plate registered on being put to press. But the most notable stamp of the lot for the general visitor will be a copy of the new 6 anna stamp prepared many years ago, but not yet issued.

New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia.—Mr. Avery and Mr. H. J. Duveen cover these colonies. Mr. Avery shows three unused "Connells" and a complete sheet of the 12½ c. blue; also Newfoundland vermilions used and unused. Mr. Duveen's exhibit is rich in bisected copies.

New Zealand.—Mr. Blest shows a grand lot of the rarest in picked unused copies.

QUEENSLAND.—Here again, of course, Mr. Blest is pre-eminent, showing four imperf. 1d. first issue, one and a strip of three of the 2d., and three of the 6d. of the same issue.

Mr. Hadlow shows in the first issue imperf. two pairs of the 1d., a strip of three of the 2d., and two singles of the 6d.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—As author of the *Gibbons' Handbook*, of course Mr. Gordon Smith shows this colony to perfection in all its ranges of compound perfs. and roulettes and shades.

TRINIDAD.—Mr. A. W. Chambers and Mr. F. Ransom are again side by side the representatives of the rarities of this colony.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Mr. Avery confines his exhibit to the triangulars. Of the first issues there are numerous unused blocks of the 1d., 4d., and 6d., and an unused pair of the 1s. dark green. The provisional or so-called wood block stamps are strongly represented in pairs and blocks, and the unused specimens include one of the 4d. in the dark blue colour. The variety of the 4d. with straight lines in the right corner is shown in a pair, and the 1d. error blue *se tenant* with a 4d., as well as a single specimen, and there are two used copies of the 4d. error red.

NEVIS.—Mr. Willett and Baron A. de Reuterskiöld exhibit grand lots of this section of West Indians. Baron de Reuterskiöld shows reconstructed plates of the 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. used and unused of Issue I. The 1867 issue engraved has the 1d., 4d., and 1s. used and unused, and the 1s. in yellow-green complete used, and ten varieties of the types unused. The lithographed issue of 1874 includes the 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. complete unused, the 1d. and 4d. complete used, nine varieties of the 6d., ten of the 1s. light green, and seven of the 1s. dark green. The 1d. perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ is also present used and unused, and the same stamp imperforate in eight varieties of type, besides two copies used. The later issues include all the varieties, and many bisected specimens.

In Mr. Willett's exhibit, we note in the first issue (*bleuté*) two copies of the 1s. and reconstructed plates and shades of each value unused. The lithographed issue (perf. 15) includes an entire sheet of the 1d. (showing Type 1 retouched), an entire sheet of the 4d., a reconstructed sheet of the 6d., and entire sheets of the 1s. in light and dark shades, all unused.

ST. VINCENT AND ST. LUCIA.—Mr. Vernon Roberts, who has been reported as, philatelically, deceased, blossoms out with a fine lot of St. Lucia, which includes blocks of the first issue unused.

TURKS ISLANDS.—As the acknowledged authority on the surcharges of this colony, Baron Reuterskiöld's exhibit is very fine. We note the 1s. value in prune and shades of the unsurcharged series. The different settings and types of the surcharges of the $\frac{1}{2}$d., $2\frac{1}{2}$d., and 4d. values are shown, including copies of the $2\frac{1}{2}$d. on the 6d. black, with small fraction, and also with the large square-based "2" in the three types, ten varieties of the $2\frac{1}{2}$d on the 1s. blue, a block of thirteen $2\frac{1}{2}$d. on the 1d. red, and fifteen of the $2\frac{1}{2}$d. on the 1s. prune, a block of six of the 4d. on 6d. black, and the $\frac{1}{2}$d. on the higher values in blocks of six and fifteen.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

We have left ourselves very little space to refer to the exhibits that fall outside the British Empire, but the list of awards which we are enabled to append will more effectually point the moral of the story we would tell if we had a few more pages at our disposal. Of course there are gems galore in all directions. Mr. Castle sprinkles here and there a few grand samples from his hundred-guinea safe; Mr. Ehrenbach shows an imposing fleet of ships from Buenos Ayres; Mr. Beckton has an overpowering display of Greece, in pairs and blocks and gigantic sheets; Mr. Buckley and Mr. Harrison show what can be done by earnest specialists in the beautiful and interesting issues of Norway; Mr. Pearce has a grand show of Transvaal all to himself; Mr. Nankivell's collection, which is catalogued, having arrived too late to be included in the show. Section A of Division 4, America, is a very notable competition amongst veritable giants. Any one of the five competitors would have been easily first in an ordinary exhibition. Mr. Frentzel may therefore console himself for his lack of a medal in the fact that his grand collection of Mexicans was only too heavily handicapped to win. Mr. Oldfield's five sheets of Bolivia amply prove the advantage in occasional bloating.

Was there ever such a lot grouped together as there is to be found in the collections of rare stamps of 50 to 100 in each exhibit? There are no less than fifteen competitors, including the Dukes of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and York. The medal fell to Mr. Thorne, a New York member of the Philatelic Society of London.

Mr. Thorne's lot was made up of the following: Vancouver Island, 5 c., rose, imperf.; British Guiana, 1850, 4 c., pale yellow on *pelure* paper, 1856, 4 c., crimson, 4 c., blue, on paper coloured on surface only, and 4 c., indigo, paper coloured on both sides; Canada, 12d., black; Reunion, 15 c. and 30 c., black on blue, the former unused also; Dominica, 1d. on 6d., green; Ceylon, 4d. and 8d., imperf.; Great Britain, £1, watermark Anchor, unused, ditto, watermark Cross; Hawaii, 13 c., Type 2; Indian, 4 a., red and blue, with head inverted; Moldavia, 27 p., black on rose, unused; Newfoundland, 1s., carmine-vermilion, unused; Straits Settlements issue, 12 c., green, with double surcharge; Tuscany, 3 lire; U.S., the Brattleboro' local stamp (with engraver's inscription at base), 1869, the series with inverted centre, including a block of four of the 24 c.; Virgin Islands, 1s., with figure omitted; Spain, 12 c., rose and blue, imperf., a pair, one with frame inverted, and other rarities in European, United States, and Colonial issues.

THE SOUL OF THE EXHIBITION.

We must not close our somewhat hasty account of this grand Exhibition without adding our meed of sincere congratulation to Mr. J. A. Tilleard on the splendid success of his efforts, for there is no disguising the fact that he has been the soul of the Exhibition from start to finish. Always resourceful, always courteous, never once, in all the whirl and excitement and pressure of work, curt or hasty, the Executive Committee of the London Philatelic Exhibition may well thank its good fortune that its choice for Secretary fell upon J. A. Tilleard. He has worked like a navvy, early and late, and all came natural to him, whether it was receiving Royalty or unpacking parcels. There is one award yet to be made, to wit—a medal for special services. His services have simply dwarfed all others, and the manner in which the guests at the Dinner of the London Society thundered out "For he is a jolly good fellow," gave clear evidence that the general voice has already awarded the one unallotted special medal of the Exhibition to J. A. Tilleard.

THE AWARDS.

Judges:

E. D. Bacon . .	London	Major Evans . .	London
H. Breitfuss .	St. Petersburg	Dr. A. Fraenkel .	Berlin
M. P. Castle . .	Brighton	Pierre Mahé . .	Paris
	Lieut. Napier . .	London	

A Special Gold Medal, being the Grand Prize of the Exhibition, for the most meritorious Exhibit of Adhesive Postage Stamps shown in Classes I. or II.

Mr. H. J. White for his magnificent collections of the stamps of Great Britain.

Class I.

Special Collections of Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain.

Division 1.—Adhesive Postage Stamps (including fiscals available for Postage), *unused* only.

Gold Medal . . .	H. J. White.
Silver Medal . . .	W. T. Willett.
Bronze Medal . . .	E. H. Selby.

Division 2.—Adhesive Postage Stamps (including fiscals available for Postage), *used* only.

Silver Medal . . .	F. West.
Bronze Medal . . .	.....

Division 3.—Telegraph Stamps.

Silver Medal . . .	Gordon Smith.
Bronze Medal . . .	W. Matthews.

Class II.

Special Collections of Postal Adhesive Stamps of any one of the Countries or combinations of Countries named below:

Division 1.—British Empire, including Protectorates, etc.

Group A.—British Guiana. Cashmere and Native States of India. New South Wales. Mauritius. Victoria.

Gold Medal . . .	W. W. Blest.
Silver Medal . . .	H. J. Duveen.
Bronze Medal . . .	Dr. F. Bowers.

Group B.—Canada, British Columbia (including Vancouver), and Prince Edward Island. Ceylon. India. Natal. New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. New Zealand. Queensland. South Australia. South Australia (Departmental Stamps). Tasmania. Trinidad. Western Australia.

Gold Medal . . .	A. de Worms.
Silver Medal . . .	W. W. Blest.
Do. Do. . . .	Gordon Smith.
Do. Do. . . .	F. Ransom.
Bronze Medal . .	W. Hadlow.
Do. Do. . . .	.....
Do. Do. . . .	.....

GROUP C.—Bahamas and Bermuda. Barbados. Cape of Good Hope. Fiji Islands. Grenada and Jamaica. Griqualand. Nevis. St. Vincent, and St. Lucia. Straits Settlements and Dependencies. Turks Islands.

Silver Medal	W. F. WILLETT.
Do. Do.	A. DE REUTERSKIOLD.
Bronze Medal	L. L. R. HAUSBURG.
Do. Do.	Dr. R. STANLEY TAYLOR.
Extra Bronze Medal	VERNON ROBERTS.

GROUP D.—Any three or more of the following, or any other British possessions or protectorates not enumerated, viz.:—Antigua, British Bechuanaland, British East Africa, British South Africa and British Central Africa, Cyprus, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gold Coast, Hong Kong, Ionian Islands, Labuan, Lagos, Leeward Islands, Malta, Montserrat, North Borneo, Oil Rivers and Niger Coast, St. Christopher, St. Helena, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tobago, Virgin Islands, Zanzibar, Zululand.

Silver Medal	A. DE WORMS.
Bronze Medal	J. N. MARSDEN.
Do. Do.	ELIOT LEVY.
Do. Do.	

DIVISION 2.—Europe.

GROUP A.—Austria, Austrian Italy, and Hungary.

Germany (any three of the following).—Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire (including Alsace and Lorraine), Hamburg, Hanover, Heligoland, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemberg.

Italy (any three of the following).—Italy, Modena, Naples, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany.

Roumania and Moldo-Wallachia.—Russia, Finland, Russian Levant, and Poland. Russian Locals, Livonia, and Wenden. Spain. Switzerland. Turkey.

Gold Medal	R. EHRENBACH.
Silver Medal	A. ROSENBERG.
Do. Do.	G. F. JACKSON.
Do. Do.	I. DREYFUS.
Bronze Medal	J. LOSSAU.
Do. Do.	E. PETRIE.
Do. Do.	Dr. YERSIN.

GROUP B.—Belgium. Bulgaria, Roumelia, Servia, and Montenegro. France and Monaco. Greece. Holland and Luxemburg. Norway, Denmark, and Iceland. Portugal. Sweden.

Gold Medal	W. DORNING BECKTON.
Silver Medal	H. BUCKLEY.
Do. Do.	R. EHRENBACH.
Bronze Medal	A. H. HARRISON.
Do. Do.	J. N. MARSDEN.

DIVISION 3.—Asia and Africa.

GROUP A.—Afghanistan. Azores and Madeira. French Colonies and Possessions. Japan. Philippine Islands. Portuguese India. Other Portuguese Colonies. Transvaal.

Gold Medal	T. WICKHAM JONES.
Silver Medal	Captain F. H. HANCOCK.
Do. Do.	R. PEARCE.
Bronze Medal	Major DAY.
Do. Do.	A. DE REUTERSKIOLD.
Do. Do.	

GROUP B.—Egypt and Suez Canal. New Republic. Persia. Shanghai and China. And any two of the following, or of others not enumerated, viz.: Congo, Dutch Indies, Liberia, Orange Free State, Sarawak, Siam.

Silver Medal	H. CANTEL.
Do. Do.	T. W. JONES.
Bronze Medal	J. H. WILSON.
Do. Do.	C. P. L. VAN KINSCHOT.

DIVISION 4.—America.

GROUP A.—Colombian Republic (including the various States). Confederate States of America (including postmasters' stamps). Hawaii. Mexico (including locals). United States of America (including postmasters' stamps). United States Locals.

Gold Medal	H. J. DUVEEN.
Silver Medal	T. W. HALL.
Do. Do.	F. R. GINN.
Bronze Medal	Dr. G. MICHELSEN.

GROUP B.—Argentine Confederation and Republic, Corrientes, and Cordoba. Bolivia. Brazil. Buenos Ayres. Peru and Pacific Steam Navigation Company. San Domingo. Uruguay.

Gold Medal	H. R. OLDFIELD.
Silver Medal	A. BRUCK.
Bronze Medal	T. W. HALL.

GROUP C.—Chili. Cuba and Porto Rico, and Fernando Poo. Guatemala. Paraguay. Venezuela and La Guaira, and any two of the following, viz.:—Costa Rica, Curaçao and Surinam, Danish West Indies, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, San Salvador.

Silver Medal	R. MEYER.
Do. Do.	
Bronze Medal	E. S. DAVIDSON.
Do. Do.	

Class III.

Collections of Rare Stamps. Each Exhibit to consist of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred stamps.

Gold Medal	W. THORNE.
Silver Medal	M. GIWELB.
Bronze Medal	H. R. OLDFIELD.

Class IV.

Entire Collections of Postal Adhesives, with or without Envelopes, Post Cards, &c., in albums or volumes.

DIVISION I.—Special or General Collection, without limit as to number.

Gold Medal	W. D. BECKTON.
Silver Medal	Mrs. HETLEY.
Bronze Medal	W. COWLAND.
Do. Do.	H. L. HAYMAN.

DIVISION 2.—Collections not exceeding 4000.

Silver Medal	E. T. LEVY.
Do. Do.	F. BANG.
Do. Do.	S. M. CASTLE.
Bronze Medal	Mrs. POTTS.
Do. Do.	

DIVISION 3.—Collections not exceeding 2000.

Silver Medal	L. H. WALTER.
Bronze Medal	G. J. HYNES
Extra Bronze Medal	G. B. DUERST.
Do. Do.	B. P. RODD.

Class V.

Collections of Entire Envelopes and Wrappers.

DIVISION 1.—One or more of the following countries: Austria, Hungary and Lombardy. Germany, and all States. Great Britain. Mauritius. Russia, Finland, and Poland. United States of America.

Gold Medal	.....
Silver Medal	F. RANSOM.
Do. Do.	J. R. HESKETH.

DIVISION 2.—Any four countries not named in Division 1.

Silver Medal	B. P. RODD.
Bronze Medal	.....
Do. Do.	.....

Class VI.

Collections of Entire Post Cards and Letter Cards.

DIVISION 1.—One or more of the following countries: Finland. Germany, and all States. Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad. Japan. Luxemburg. Mexico. Roumania.

Silver Medal	T. RIDPATH & CO.
Bronze Medal	S. C. SKIPTON and W. BROWN.

DIVISION 2.—Any six countries other than those named in Division 1.

Silver Medal	B. P. RODD.
Bronze Medal	R. MEYER.

Class VII.

Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers of Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps of their own work.

Gold Medal	PERKINS, BACON, & CO.
Silver Medal	DE LA RUE.
Do. Do.	WATERLOW.
Do. Do.	BRADBURY.

Class VIII.

Philatelic Literature and Works.

DIVISION 1.—Current Philatelic Journals, exhibited by the Publishers.

Silver Medal	BUHL & CO., *Philatelic Record.*
Do. Do	STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED, *Monthly Journal.*
Bronze Medal	WM. BROWN, *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*
Do. Do	.....

Division 2.—Philatelic Works published since October 31st, 1890, and shown by the Publishers.

Silver Medal	Dr. E. Diena.
Do. *Do.*	H. Krotzsch.
Bronze Medal	L. U. Gild.
Do. *Do.*	Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd.
Do. *Do.*	V. Suppantschitsch.

Division 3.—Collections of Philatelic Literature, published prior to 1880.

Silver Medal	E. D. Bacon.
Do. *Do.*	F. H. Napier.

Class IX.

Albums, &c.

Division 1.—The most suitable Album or Book for a special collection.

Silver Medal	.....
Bronze Medal	H. L. Ewen.
Do. *Do.*	W. Brown.

Division 2.—The most suitable Album or Book for a general collection.

Silver Medal	.....
Bronze Medal	Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd.
Do. *Do.*	R. W. Stevens.
Do. *Do.*	Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.
Do. *Do.*	Dr. Diena.
Do. *Do.*	W. King & Co.
Do. *Do.*	C. F. Lucke.
Do. *Do.*	Hugo Krotzsch.
Do. *Do.*	W. S. Lincoln.

Division 3.—The best Book, Method, or System for arranging and showing Envelopes and Post Cards.

Silver Medal	.....
Bronze Medal	.....

Class X.

Philatelic Accessories and Appliances for use by Collectors.

Bronze Medal	Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.
Do. *Do.*	Hugo Krotzsch.

Class XI.

Special arrangements of Stamps, Stamps on Original Letter Sheets or Envelopes, Telegraph Stamps (except those of Great Britain), Proofs, Essays, Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service.

Silver Medal	J. R. F. Turner.
Do. *Do.*	W. Morley.
Bronze Medal	S. C. Skipton and W. Brown.
Do. *Do.*	H. J. White.
Do. *Do.*	C. F. Dendy Marshall.
Do. *Do.*	W. Rutley.
Extra Bronze Medal	F. C. Smith.

London Philatelic Society.

ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Annual Dinner of the Philatelic Society of London was held at the Cafe Monico on Tuesday, 26th July, 1897.

Members and their invited friends gathered at 6.30 in the Reception Room at the stentorian invitation of an attendant—"This way for the Philanthropic Society," which caused much merriment. Such a gathering has never before been known in the records of the Society. Over ninety members and friends had taken tickets, and when they were finally seated there were very few vacant chairs. The holding of the dinner during the Exhibition week was a wise decision, for it secured the attendance of many distinguished foreign collectors.

Mr. M. P. Castle occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Mr. H. Breitfuss from St. Petersburg, Dr. A. Fraenkel from Berlin, M. Pierre Mahé from Paris, Mr. J. T. Purcell, C.B. (Controller-General of Stamps), Mr. John N. Luff from New York, Mr. Saunderson from Boston, U.S.

Mr. Castle had barely got under way with the loyal toasts when a photographer invaded the room, and announced that he had been desired to take a photo of the company. He proceeded to erect his camera on a lofty pair of steps, and to extend along the room telegraph-like poles with sailor-like crows' nests on top of each. These were connected by rods of piping with the gas, and in a few minutes flash-lights blazed out from each crows' nest. The photographer, having had three shots, departed, and the toasts were continued.

Coming to the toast of the evening—"Success to the Philatelic Society of London"—the Chairman briefly referred to the events of the year, and the hopes of the Society in the matter of publications in the press. The event of the year would of course be the Exhibition now open, which in a remarkable way marked the great stride which Philately had made since the last great exhibition in Baker Street. Mr. H. J. White had deservedly earned the highest prize that could be offered him, and it was cause for congratulation that that highest prize had fallen to the stamps of our own country.

Then we had, by way of relieving the heavy gunnery of the speeches, a spoken sensational novel, which seems to be coming into vogue as a means of public entertainment. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Hall Caine, a lesser light ascended the nearest chair and held forth. Fears of infringing some possible copyright preclude any reference to details.

Mr. J. A. Tilleard, on rising to respond for the Society, received quite an ovation of cheering. After congratulating the Society on its good fortune in various directions, especially in having secured H.R.H. the Duke of York as active President, he read a telegram, just received from the Duke from Goodwood, showing that H.R.H. had not forgotten them even in the pleasures of Goodwood. The telegram was addressed to the Secretary of the Society, and said, "Best wishes for a pleasant dinner.—GEORGE." Again there was a roar of cheering, and a filling and a tilting of glasses.

Mr. Maitland Burnett, one of the first secretaries of the Society, was next called upon in imperative tones, by a terrorizing official toast-master, for a toast, and he proposed "The Officers and Council of the Philatelic Society of London" in a kindly speech, full of pithy reminiscences of the old days

of struggle. He felt especially grateful to Mr. Philbrick that he had, at a critical period of the Society's life, done much to save it from extinction.

A ventriloquist now stalked into the room carrying a life-like effigy of a red-nosed old man, and between them they managed to keep the company in good humour with itself and everyone else, barring only certain evil-minded postal officials. The red-nosed party indulged in sundry very personal allusions to persons present. Winking his eye in the direction of the Chairman, he remarked that Mr. Castle had a good-sized bottle before him. In the midst of this conviviality it was thought wise to put up someone to sober down any undue levity, and accordingly Mr. R. Pearce was called upon to respond for the officers. The transition was magical. Mr. Gordon Smith also backed up his fellow-officer.

Then came Mr. Oldfield to propose the Visitors.

Mr. J. T. Purcell in responding very delicately referred to the pending trouble about the right to use illustrations of postage stamps, and hinted that he hoped ere long that a *modus vivendi* would be found, at which, catching at straws, the company cheered to the echo.

M. Pierre Mahé also returned thanks. He was very glad to note the very cordial relations which existed between those who sold and those who bought stamps. It was a sign that there was something akin to freemasonry in philately. He also wished to thank his English friends for the privilege which he had had of seeing so many beautiful collections, and for being given a share in awarding the medals, all of which were adjudged strictly in accordance with merit and without favour.

Mr. Beckton followed with the toast of the Philatelic Press in kind and appreciative words, to which Major Evans humorously responded.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. Avery, and feelingly acknowledged by Mr. Castle, terminated the proceedings.

Editorial Interviews.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

MESSRS. BUHL & Co.

WE had hoped to have had an interview with another firm of auctioneers for this issue, but our friends are somewhat backward in coming forward with their portraits, a *sine qua non* to these articles; consequently we have had to fall back upon our own publishers, who have been kept in reserve to fill up some such blank.

Few of our stamp auctioneers made more of a plunge in the business than Mr. Theodor Buhl. He had never wielded the hammer before, but though he was naturally a little nervous at first he quickly tumbled to the work as though to the manner born. His wide knowledge of stamps is probably unequalled amongst stamp auctioneers. Instead of an individual portrait, we have had a photograph taken of an actual sale with Mr. Buhl in the rostrum.

We cornered Mr. Theodor Buhl in his stall at the London Philatelic Exhibition the day after the opening. Our conversation was frequently interrupted by callers, for unfortunately just then he was looking after his stall single-handed. But by the exercise of a specially-laid-in stock of patience we pulled through, despite the frequent interruptions. One minute it was a French visitor, the next a German, and so on. But all languages came alike to the glib president of the stall. The only visitor that came near causing

an explosion was a persistent Frenchman, who wanted to sell a flattering notice in his journal of the stall and its proprietors. He could not believe that such things were not bought and sold in the stamp trade in this country. "Biziness is biziness," he protested, with a shrug of the shoulders. But he was at last got rid of, and our interview proceeded.

"You are both dealer and auctioneer. Now speaking as a dealer, how, in your opinion, do auctions affect stamp dealers?"

"Auctions undoubtedly affect the stamp dealer, or did so at one time, because the money that was formerly spent with the dealer went through the auctioneer's hands; but, on the other hand, the auction sales have tended so largely to the increase in the number of collectors, and confidence in the value of stamps as an investment, that there is now plenty of room for both auctioneer and dealer."

"What made you take up the auction business in addition to dealing?" "I saw that auctions had 'come to stay,' and that it would be a profitable and necessary addition to our business as dealers desirous of catering for every requirement of philatelists."

"Do you find customers drop your approval stock and wait for what they want to turn up cheaper at your auctions?" "To a certain extent that is the case, but it is not general; no collector has the time to wait, 'Micawber fashion,' at auction after auction, on the chance of saving a few shillings. Besides, in a good dealer's stock he has a choice of specimens and shades which he cannot have at the auction sale, where the medium stamps are usually sold in mixed lots."

"Then what class of collectors do you imagine benefit most from auctions?" "The smaller and medium collectors with limited means, who lay out a few pounds, probably benefit most; but everyone, even the largest collector, can benefit considerably at times."

"When stamps go cheaply?" "Of course, but also in many cases where stamps are put up for auction which cannot readily be purchased from dealers, and when private collections are broken up."

"How do you find prices range—high at the commencement of the season, and low at the end, or how?" "Personally I find hardly any difference. There is supposed to be one, but, if so, it is very unimportant."

"After all, does not the chief value of the auction lie in the fact that it affords a safe means of sale for those collections that were formerly hawked round, and not unfrequently fell a prey to a certain class of dealers who do not scruple to offer £5 for a £100 lot?" "Certainly, and that is one of the chief reasons why auctions have become so popular."

"What is the highest price you have had for a single lot?" "Last season we sold a collection of unused stamps, received from Switzerland, in one lot. It was knocked down to a city merchant for £725. That is by far the largest price ever paid for one lot at auction."

"And for a single stamp?" "£41 for a mended copy of the 2d. Post Paid Mauritius, unused."

"As a dealer, I suppose, you have beaten both those records?" "Oh, yes! I bought another blue Mauritius at £140 and sold it at a profit. Transactions in hundreds of pounds are common with us, and we frequently buy a collection for £1000 or £2000."



AUCTION ROOM OF MESSRS. BUHL & CO., AT ANDERTON'S HOTEL, LONDON. MR. THEODOR BUHL IN THE ROSTRUM.

From a photograph by the London Stereoscopic Co.



British Empire.

British Honduras. — The *American Journal of Philately* has seen an uncatalogued variety of the 2 c. on 6 p., rose. In the variety in question the "2" is slanting and has the bottom part curved (2) instead of straight (2). The general appearance of the surcharge is as if it had been hand-stamped instead of printed on a press. This stamp was purchased some time ago from Messrs. Winch Bros., who state that "it was received when they were first issued and obtained by them direct from the officials at face value."

Adhesive.

2 c. on 6 p., rose; black surcharge; CC; perf. 14.

Canada.—We now give the colours of the Jubilee series chronicled last month. It is stated that the 8 c. has been recalled because of its similarity in colour to the 10 cents.

Adhesives.

Jubilee issue; perf. 12.
½ c., black.
1 c., orange.
2 c., green.
3 c., bright rose.
5 c., deep blue.
6 c., rich brown.
8 c., violet.
10 c., brown-violet.
15 c., steel-blue.
20 c., vermilion.
50 c., ultramarine.
$1.00, red.
$2.00, dark purple.
$3.00, yellow-brown.
$4.00, purple.
$5.00, olive.

Post Card.

1 c., black, *buff*.

Indian Native States.—*Las Bela.*—The *Monthly Journal* says:—

We have since received an adhesive label of square shape, inscribed "LAS BELA" at top and "STATE" at foot, with native inscriptions at each side and in a lozenge in the centre, and with the value in Hindostani in the upper, and in English in the lower triangular spaces left between the lozenge and the square outer frame. The stamps are lithographed in sheets of 20 (4 horizontal rows of 5) on white wove paper, badly perforated; but we are thankful to say that there are *no* varieties of type!

Adhesive.

½ a., black.

Sirmoor.—The *Monthly Journal* also announces a set of stamps of Gibbons' Type 2 with the "On S.S.S." surcharge in a fresh variety of type, the word "On" in particular being in considerably larger letters than before.

Adhesive Service Stamps.

3 pies, orange; black *surcharge*.
6 ,, green ,, ,,
1 a., dull blue ,, ,,
2 a., rose ,, ,,

Liberia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new design of 3 c. for Inland Postage. It is a curious-looking stamp, printed in red on a background printed in pale green. Inside a key-pattern border are the words "Republic Liberia" in a curved label, then in centre "3" with word "cents" under, and a curved label "Inland Postage."

Adhesive.

3 c., red and pale green.

Malta.—Sr. Gustavus Pulis, of Malta, calls our attention to the fact that the 4d., brown, *imperforate*, has never been chronicled, and informs us that a sheet of these stamps was sold to the public about a year ago, and that a pair is in his collection.

Adhesive.

4d., brown; imperforate.

Mauritius.—This Colony evidently intends to change all its stamps to the Arms type. Up to date the 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., and 18 c. adhesives have appeared and envelopes 18 c. and 36 c., and post cards of 2 c. and 8 c., single and reply. The adhesives are watermarked Crown and C A, and perforated 14.

Adhesives.

1 c., lilac and ultramarine.
2 c., lilac and orange.
4 c., lilac and green.
18 c., grey-green and ultramarine.

Envelopes.

White laid paper. Size, 140×78 mm.
18 c., blue.
36 c., brown.
Size, 133×106 mm.
18 c., blue.
36 c., brown.

Postal Cards.

2 c., brown, *buff*.
8 c., carmine, *buff*.
8×8 c., carmine, *buff*.

Newfoundland.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the promised new series for this Colony. It is a very handsome set, and is evidently designed to advertise the Colony. We understand the series is intended to be a permanent one. In a later issue we hope to illustrate the set. For the present we must confine ourselves to a brief description of each stamp.

One Cent.—Portrait of the Queen in widow's weeds in a circle with the dates below, 1497–1897, and the inscription in a label below, "Our Queen. Sixtieth year of her reign." Colour, dark green; shape, rect.

Two Cents.—Portrait of John Cabot, the Italian navigator, who is credited with having discovered Newfoundland. The portrait is enclosed in a rectangular frame, with a figure "2" on each side, and underneath a label inscribed "Cabot, Hym that found the New Isle." Colour, carmine; shape, rect.

Three Cents.—A pretty little picture of Cape Bonavista, inscribed "Cape Bonavista. The land fall of Cabot." Colour, blue; shape, oblong.

Four Cents.—A hunter with a dead caribou stretched out on the ground before him. Inscription, "Caribou hunting. Newfoundland sport." Colour, pale green; shape, rect.

Five Cents.—Two miners at work. Inscription, "Mining — one of the Colony's resources." Colour, purple; shape, oblong.

Six Cents.—Woodland scene with cattle hauling logs. Inscription, "Logging —one of the Colony's resources." Colour, brown; shape, oblong.

Eight Cents.—Two fishing boats. Inscription, "Fishing—one of the Colony's resources." Colour, red-brown; shape, oblong.

Ten Cents.—An ancient ship in full sail. Inscription, "Cabot's ship, the *Matthew*, leaving the Avon." Colour, black-brown; shape, rect.

Twelve Cents.—Birds feeding. Inscription, "Ptarmigan — Newfoundland sport." Colour, dark blue; shape, rect.

Fifteen Cents.—Seals disporting themselves on the seashore. Inscription, "One of the Colony's resources." Colour, vermilion; shape, oblong.

Twenty-four Cents.—Two men in a boat fishing in a river. Inscription, "Salmon fishing—one of the Colony's resources." Colour, dark lilac; shape, oblong.

Thirty Cents.—A representation of the official seal of the Colony, Britannia and fishermen. Inscription, "Fishermen bringing gifts to Britannia." Colour, slate-blue; shape, rect.

Thirty-five Cents. Coast scenery with an iceberg in the foreground. Inscription, "Coast scenery. An iceberg off St. Johns." Colour, red; shape, oblong.

Sixty Cents.—Portrait of Henry VII. Inscription, "Henry VII. who granted Charter to Cabot to discover new lands." Colour, black; shape, rect.

Adhesives.

1 c., green; rect.
2 c., carmine ,,
3 c., blue; oblong.
4 c., olive; rect.
5 c., purple; oblong.
6 c., brown ,,
8 c., red-brown ,,
10 c., black-brown; oblong.
12 c., blue; rect.
15 c., vermilion; oblong.
24 c., dark lilac ,,
30 c., slate-blue; rect.
35 c, red; oblong.
60 c., black; rect.

Sierra Leone.—The *Monthly Journal* says that 240 copies of the 2s. fiscal have been converted into 2½d. postage stamps, presumably of the same types as already applied to the surcharged fiscals already chronicled.

Adhesive.

2½d. on 2s., lilac, fiscal; surcharge black.

Foreign Countries.

Austria.—The *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift* says a few sheets of the current 5 kr. have been printed, in error, on *bluish* paper. *Adhesive.* 5 kr., red on *bluish*; error.

Belgium.—The current 50 c. is reported in grey instead of bistre-brown.

Adhesive. 50 c., grey.

Colombia.—A Bogota correspondent sends the *Monthly Journal* the following varieties:—

The 2 c. of current type in a *blue-green* shade and perf. 12; the new Bogota stamp, which has not only had its design considerably redrawn, but is also printed upon a much thicker paper; and two varieties of the envelopes for the *Railway Postal Service*, one (to which he assigns the date 1895) being in *vermilion* on white *wove*, and the other (1896) in *rose* on white *laid*. We have an idea that these may be Nos. 702 and 703 in the last Catalogue, and wrongly described there, but unfortunately it is too late to alter the description in the new edition; the envelope was, however, chronicled in *red* on *laid* in 1894.

We have further received the current 10 c., perf. 12 × 13½.

Adhesives.

2 c., blue-green ; *perf.* 12.
10 c., brown on *rose* ; *perf.* 12 × 13½.

Envelopes.

5 c., vermilion on *white wove.*
5 c., rose on *white laid.*

Peru.—According to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, the opening of a new Post Office at Lima will be marked by the issue of a set of three stamps, with various designs in the centre, as follows :—

Adhesives.

1 c., blue (view of the bridge of Pancartambo).
2 c., green (view of the Post Office buildings).
5 c., red (portrait of the President).

Portugal.—The next flood from this philatelically industrious country, it is said, will be a set of postage due stamps for each of the Colonies.

Spain.—Sr. Gustavus Pulis, of Malta, writes to us as follows :—

Amongst a lot of common stamps of Spain I have found a curious error, which I believe has never been chronicled in the *Philatelic Record*. It is a 25 centimos of 1879, printed in a very light shade of *lilac-blue*, overprinted upside down by the 10 centimos, *dull rose*, and evidently used as such, being duly postmarked. The *rose* impression veils completely the *blue* one ; but the sheet having slightly shifted, the stamp shows at the top, half of the blue inscription, 25 centimos, inverted.

Cuba.—*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* chronicles the following in the current type :—

Adhesives. 40 c., red.
80 c., bistre.

Fernando Po.—The 2 c. has been surcharged "5"—"Cen" in an oval.

Adhesive.

5 c., in blue, on 2 c., rose.

Philippines.—The colour of the 1 c. has been changed, and two new values have appeared.

Adhesives.

1 c., carmine.
40 c., violet.
80 c., carmine.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The August packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES, USED AND UNUSED.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra). The August packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES, USED AND UNUSED.

These packets are on sale until August 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free ; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.



London Philatelic Society, Annual Report, 1896-97.

THE following Report of the Philatelic Society, London, on the work of the season 1896–97, drawn up by Mr. J. A. Tilleard, Hon. Secretary, and read at the Annual General Meeting of the Society on Friday, 21st May, is published in the June number of the *London Philatelist* :—

At the conclusion of that period of the year devoted to the Society's business, it is once more my duty to summarize the result of the work and events of the season 1896–97, a season which has, I venture to think, been characterized by sound and steady progress.

The year has been specially distinguished in the history of the Society from those which have gone before by the fact that the Duke of York was graciously pleased, on the occasion of the last Annual General Meeting, to accept the position of President, and thus to associate himself more closely with us as the *actual* head of the Society, and I am sure that you will all be pleased to know that H.R.H. has intimated his consent to continue to serve in the same capacity, should it be your desire that he should do so.

Since the date of my last report I regret to have to record the fact that four of our members have been taken from us by the hand of death.

Mr. Gilbert Lockyer had been a member of our body for many years, and through his contributions to philatelic literature he was well known outside the Society. An earnest and conscientious student of philately, ever ready to give the benefit of his great experience to his fellow-workers, his loss will be widely felt.

Mr. T. K. Tiffany had also been associated with the Society for a number of years. Although as a foreign member we were not privileged to see him at our meetings, his name is a household word wherever our pursuit is followed, and the reputation he had justly gained as a philatelist of the highest order is such that we are proud to have been able to number him amongst our members. In his own country he held the foremost position amongst philatelists, and his loss is universally deplored.

Major Adam Smith, owing to his duties calling for his residence in India for some years past, was possibly known personally to a few only of his fellow-members; but those of us who had the pleasure of his acquaintance will agree with me that by his death the Society has lost a member whom we could ill afford to spare.

Mr. Bolland was one of our younger members. Having recently completed his university career, he was looking forward to a closer connection with the Society, and his untimely death has robbed us of one of our most promising recruits.

By resignation the number of members has been further reduced, Mrs. Curteis, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Browse, Mr. C. Harrison, Mr Lumley Cator, Mr. Rubeck, and Mr. Woodman having all retired from the Society. Three names have also been removed from the list, making a total reduction in our numbers for the year of fourteen members.

The new members elected were: Mr. A. Odell, Mr. G. J. Bailey, Mr. B. Loewy, Mr. A. Rosenburg, Mr. R. Frentzel, Mr. N. H. Withee, Mr. J. S. O'Meara, Prince Doria Pamphilij, Mr. A. H. Stamford, Mr. E. H. Selby, Mr. W. R. Palmer, M. H. J. White, Major A. B. Maxwell, and Mr. F. E. Owen—fourteen in all—so that the full number of members at the present time is 296, being the same as at the end of the previous year.

In the course of the season twenty-seven meetings have been held, and the average number of members attending has been sixteen, showing a small increase on the average of the preceding season.

Papers have been read at nine of the meetings, viz., by the Vice-President, on "The 1858 and 1859 Issues of Austria and Lombardy"; by Major Evans, on "The Stamps of Mauritius" (the paper being divided into two portions, read on separate occasions); by Mr. E. D. Bacon, on "The New Zealand Local Posts of 1856"; a paper communicated by Mr. Mottram; by Mr. Meyer, on "The Stamps of Lagos"; by Mr. Nankivell, on "The Status of the First Printing of the Transvaal Stamps"; by Mr. Oldfield, on the Advantages of Stamp Collecting," as well as an important paper on "The Stamps of Bolivia"; by Mr. Gordon Smith, "Notes on the Later Issues of the Transvaal"; and by Dr. R. Stanley Taylor, on "The Stamps of Grenada."

Five evenings have been devoted to discussions, Mr. Ehrenbach undertaking the opening of the consideration of the question of "Minor Varieties in Stamps"; Mr. Meyer raising the questions of "Stamps Cancelled to Order," and the "Position of Reprints Available for Postage"; Mr. Silk dealing with "The Best Method of Arranging a Collection"; and Mr. Routledge discussing "The Early Stamps of the Dutch Colonies."

The members introducing the discussions have, as a rule, read carefully-prepared notes on the subjects dealt with, which, although unpublished, are practically additions to the papers read during the season.

A special feature of the year has been the large number of displays of stamps of various countries, and these have proved a great attraction. In most cases notes were prepared and read by the member giving the display, many of these attaining to the importance of a paper on the issues of the countries under consideration, and the discussions which have followed the displays have been of the greatest interest and value in eliciting information on many doubtful points in the history of the stamps shown.

At these displays Mr. Ehrenbach has shown his collection of the stamps of "Russia, Poland, and Russian Levant," as well as those of "Brazil"; Mr. Hall has taken "Peru," "Venezuela," and the "Type-set Stamps of Tolima"; Mr. Gordon Smith, the stamps of "South Australia"; Mr. F. W. Ayer, the "St. Louis Stamps": Mr. Frentzel, those of "Mexico"; Mr. Crowle, the issues of "Hawaii" between 1853 and 1865, including the interisland stamps; and Mr. Oldfield, the envelopes and wrappers, as well as the Cantonal and first Federal issues of Switzerland.

If to these are added the collections of the stamps of "Bolivia," shown by Mr. Oldfield in illustration of his paper; those of "Austria," shown by the Vice-President on the reading of his paper; the stamps of "Curaçao, Surinam, and the Dutch Indies," produced by Mr. Routledge for the purposes of his discussion; and the "Transvaal" second republic stamps, and those of "Lagos," shown by Mr. Gordon Smith and Mr. Meyer respectively on the reading of their papers, it will be seen that on no occasion of late years have the members had such opportunities of inspecting the collections of their fellow-members as at the meetings of this season.

The degree of excellence attained by one and all in the collections shown, and the evidences they contain of careful, earnest, and intelligent work, are convincing proofs of the high standard which the collector of the present day sets before him in the studies which he undertakes, and the great advance which has been made in recent years in "specializing."

Where all take such high rank, it is perhaps invidious to single out any one collection for special mention, but I am sure I shall be excused for referring to that of the stamps of "St. Louis," which we were privileged to see by the kindness of Mr. F. W. Ayer, as it is probable that we may never have the opportunity of again inspecting so absolutely complete and perfect a collection of these most interesting stamps.

In dealing with the meetings I must not omit to mention the very excellent magic lantern display of stamps which Mr. Ridpath so kindly arranged for us early in the season. This proved an unqualified success in every respect, and I trust that in the coming season it may be found possible to organize further displays of a similar nature.

I regret that owing to an exceptionally busy year the Publication Committee have not been able to arrange for the completion of the Society's work on the stamps of the African Colonies. It is intended to proceed with the remainder of the book during the recess, and I trust that it may be possible to place it in the hands of members before our meetings are resumed.

It was also hoped that the long-promised book on the stamps of Great Britain would have been published during the season. The authors appear to have encountered considerable difficulties in completing the MSS. in a manner satisfactory to themselves; but the Publication Committee are using every endeavour to ensure the early issue of the work, which is so anxiously awaited by the ever-increasing number of specialists in the stamps of our own country.

Our thanks are again due to the members of the Expert Committee for their labours during the past year. The excellence of that work is attested by the confidence shown by philatelists in the decisions of the Committee, and the continued applications made for certificates in cases involving any doubt or difficulty.

The accounts and balance-sheet for the year have been audited and will be laid before you this evening, with the Auditors' Report. The improvement shown last year has been maintained, and I think it will appear that the Society is in a sound financial position.

The Council has taken into consideration the question of "commuted subscriptions," to which attention has on more than one occasion been called by the auditors of previous accounts. The whole subject has been carefully reconsidered, and it will be my duty to submit to you presently a series of resolutions in regard to the commutation of subscriptions, in pursuance of notice given in accordance with the statutes.

I have also ventured to suggest an increase being made in the number of the Council, a proposal which I trust may meet with approval.

At this meeting the Council for the ensuing year has to be elected, and the several members of the present Council are willing to take office again should it be your pleasure that they should serve.

It has been suggested on several occasions that, while the Society is not occupied with the revision of reference lists of stamps, it might be advisable to revert to the former practice of holding fortnightly meetings. This is a matter which is worthy of consideration in view of the numerous calls upon the time

of many of those who are most regular in their attendance at our meetings, and I have proposed a resolution for an alteration of the statutes to enable the meetings in each season to be regulated by resolution, to be passed at the first meeting in such season.

In my last Report I referred to the prospects of an International Philatelic Exhibition being held in London, or the neighbourhood, in the present year. This, as you know, will be held in the month of July next, at the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours in Piccadilly, under the auspices of a thoroughly representative Committee, and with the patronage of the Royal Dukes, our Honorary President and the President of the Council, and of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General. The scheme has met with general approval, and the support received will, I am certain, ensure complete success.

A large share of the work has fallen on our members, and the Society, in addition to joining in the Guarantee Fund formed for providing for the expenses, has contributed six medals for competition by exhibitors in several of the classes under which exhibits will be shown.

An exhibition on such a scale as has been arranged cannot fail to prove of the highest interest, and to be of great assistance in bringing before the notice of the public the many attractions and advantages of philately, and in so far as concerns the Society I anticipate, as one of the results of the Exhibition, a large accession to our ranks.

The Annual Dinner of the Society has not yet been held. It is suggested that it should take place during the period of the Exhibition, thus affording an opportunity for renewing acquaintance with our numerous country members, most of whom will no doubt visit the Exhibition and will be able to attend on the occasion of the dinner.

In conclusion, I desire once again to acknowledge with thanks the courtesy extended to me on all hands, and the great assistance afforded to me by my fellow-members in carrying out my duties as your Honorary Secretary.

Niger Coast Surcharges.

MR. A. G. GRIFFITH, in a letter to the *London Philatelist* on Niger coast stamps, makes the following note concerning the surcharge

"ONE—HALF-PENNY":—

Of the surcharge "ONE—HALF-PENNY," in black, on 2½d., blue (only 960 of which were issued, *i.e.*, twenty sheets—forty-eight stamps in each sheet), I have before me, besides a number of used copies, an entire unsevered sheet of forty-eight stamps, unused of course, and with original gum. The sheet consists of six rows of eight stamps, and it is the last stamp of each row in which the word "ONE" reads "OIE."

And then Mr. Griffith goes on to explain that owing to the extreme dampness of the climate only small quantities of any of the stamps were sent out at a time to the Niger coast, and adds:—

As it was not thought to be a value likely to be much required, *very* few ½d. stamps were sent out; and when they were bought up, as they were very quickly, by people out there, who—collectively—sent thousands home to their friends (many stamping their letters with *five* ½d. stamps instead of one at 2½d.), and by dealers, it took over three months before a fresh stock could be got out from England. Meanwhile there was of course a continual demand for them *in the Protectorate* for postal purposes, to meet which stamps *had* to be surcharged in a hand-to-mouth sort of way—one sheet or so at a time.

Argentine Varieties.

MR. ANDREINI, who has been dipping into the question of the varieties in the interesting lithographic series of the Argentine Republic, has found a few varieties, which he describes in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. He says:—

The principal one is a lithographic transfer of the $20 engraved stamp (No. 99 in the Scott Catalogue). It is very strange that this difference has not been remarked before. The engraved stamp was issued in February, 1891. There are two distinct varieties of surcharge in stamps Nos. 42 and 41, the former issued on February 10th, 1882, the latter on March 27th, 1882, though chronologically reversed in Catalogue. The difference is not only in the figures, but in the letters of the surcharge. Quite a number of shifted dies can be found in the series engraved in Buenos Ayres. I have only seen a few in No. 80, but Mr. Morgenthau informs me that he has seen shifts on other and later stamps. He has shown me a very decided shift on the $1 1892, and altogether a student of Argentine stamps can have a regular picnic in the way of varieties of type, shades, etc., at a very small cost.

Bisected Mexicans.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News announces that

Mr. C. H. Mekeel has just discovered, in a large lot of old Mexican correspondence purchased this month, two split provisionals that are not included in Messrs. Collin and Calman's Catalogue for Advanced Collectors. The first is half of the "un real" (1 r.), yellow, of 1856. It is surcharged "Zacatecas," and carried a printed circular. The second is half of the 100 centavos, *brown* on brown, of 1868, with rounded saw-tooth perforations; this carried a regular letter from Monterey to Zacatecas.



Destruction of the Plates of the Hospital Stamps.

THE Duke and Duchess of York, who were attended by Sir Charles Cust and Lady Mary Lygon, visited the Bank of England recently, to witness the destruction of the plates from which the Hospital Fund Stamps were printed.

After passing through the machine-room, where all the account books of the Bank are printed, and where may be seen the first machine from which the postal orders were printed, and also a fine Middleton gripper machine, which prints both sides of the paper at once, their Royal Highnesses reached the die-sinking department, where the destruction of the plates, etc., was to take place.

At the benches in the room there were stationed three expert workmen, each of whom was provided with a massive 2 in. file or "rubber," weighing 16 lb. The plates—three in number, on each of which eighty stamps were impressed—had previously been brought from the strong rooms under the charge of the Bank officials, and as soon as the seals had been broken by the Governor, the plates were fixed into position on the benches, and, after about twelve minutes' vigorous filing, every line of the delicate tracery, constituting the design of the plates, was effectually obliterated. The destruction of the steel plates having been accomplished, the workmen operated with the same object on the original matrix and die, the raised surface of the designs upon which, being too hard to be appreciably affected by the powerful files so effectually employed upon the printing plates, were applied to a grindstone, when the designs were speedily ground level with the surface of the matrix and die. The defaced plates and dies were then consigned to the charge of the Bank officials again.

Their Royal Highnesses were afterwards conducted to the Governor's room, where they signed the following paper:

"Bank of England.

"Certificate of the destruction of the dies and plates employed in the production of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund Stamps. We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the whole of the dies and plates used in the production of these stamps were this day destroyed in our presence."

The certificate was also signed by the Governor of the Bank, Mr. Purcell, Lord Rothschild, Lord Rowton, Mr. Stuart Wortley, Sir Savile Crossley, Sir H. Burdett, and Mr. J. G. Craggs.

The Governor, on behalf of the Committee, thanked their Royal Highnesses for attending the destruction of the plates, and asked the Duke of York to certify to the audience present if his Royal Highness was quite satisfied that no stamps could be printed from the plates.

The Duke of York, in reply, said: It has interested both the Duchess and myself to come here and see the destruction of the dies and plates of the stamps which were issued in connexion with the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund. I trust that the remainder of the stamps will soon be sold, as I think there can be no more appropriate souvenir of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee than these stamps. (Hear, hear.) His Royal Highness, who is President of the London Philatelic Society, afterwards remarked that it might be interesting to send the plates to the Philatelic Exhibition which he was going to open on the 22nd July.

Their Royal Highnesses subsequently made a tour of the printing department of the Bank.

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

SEPTEMBER, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

WHAT may be termed the Jubilee Postal epidemic has set in with considerable virulence. Canada has issued a Jubilee set, including utterly unnecessary values, for the purpose of paying the expenses of her patriotic display at the London Jubilee out of the pockets of stamp collectors; and Leeward Islands are reported to have done some Jubilee surcharging on their own account. But New South Wales leads the way in downright speculation. After the New South Wales "O. S." swindle stamp collectors will not expect the postal authorities of New South Wales to be over-nice. Consequently they will not be surprised at the unadulterated cant that announces an issue of two values of 1d. and 2½d. to be sold at 1s. and 2s. 6d. respectively, the amount realized in excess of the postal value being devoted to the Hospital Fund. This issue, we are told, is designed to commemorate the Record Reign, and to enable charitably disposed persons to contribute small sums to the Fund for establishing a Hospital for Consumptives. But in order that the charitably disposed may not be subjected to too great a strain the issue, or opportunity, will be limited to about two months, and only 40,000 of the 1s. and 10,000 of the 2s. 6d. will be issued.

Another Jubilee Postal Epidemic.

The *Australian Philatelist* thinks the investing of these stamps with a postal value is a step in advance of the English Hospital idea, and should tend to interest stamp collectors in them to a large extent!

Is it possible that stamp collectors are really such absolute flats as to be caught with such twaddle?

It seems to be considered by certain postal authorities that so long as they admit some charitable institution to a share of the plunder they ought to be allowed to escape the ban of the S. S. S. S. But we would remind them that that Society was established to warn collectors and dealers not only against speculative, but also against unnecessary issues; and a more unnecessary issue than the Canadian Jubilee Stamps or the New South Wales Hospital Stamps it would be impossible to conceive.

The latest news to hand tells us that the plates of the Cabot issue of Newfoundland have been destroyed, thus showing that issue to be a speculative Jubilee business.

Brazil also being anxious to do a little jubilizing, but being short of funds, thinks no better way could be devised than by preying upon stamp collectors with the usual bait of an issue to commemorate the discovery of Brazil; and so the fleecing of stamp collectors proceeds merrily—and profitably to all concerned but the stamp collector.

It is about time that new issue dealers realized the fact that sensible stamp collectors will soon sicken with disgust at these Jubilee issues, and will be forced into giving up collecting altogether, or to the adoption of the more rational course of limiting their collecting to a year which will effectually exclude the collecting of such contemptible trash.

New issue dealers have the matter in their own hands. If they decline to act as conduit-pipes for the distribution of this refuse, it will soon cease to afflict us. It may sell like hot cakes for a time, but it certainly will, sooner or later, undermine the collection of new issues. And it is because our sympathies are strongly wedded to the collection and study of new issues that we venture to beg our friends to reconsider their position.

* * *

Erythrea's Future. THE long-expected reconsideration of Italy's position in her heroic attempt to found an African Colony cannot fail to interest stamp collectors, for if Italy abandons her costly colonial experiment altogether there will be an end to an interesting issue of postage stamps. The latest news indicates a desire to hand over Erythrea to a company under the protection of some other European state, possibly England or Belgium, but to retain Massowah. If this course be adopted—though Italy may still issue a Colonial stamp for Massowah—it will scarcely be a continuation of the surcharge "Colonia Eritrea." And, further, the passing of the territory into other hands will probably mean an additional set of Colonials. May a kindly providence protect us from more of the Congo class of speculations in so-called postal issues, with all its attendant jobbery and Belgian postal chicanery.

* * *

The De La Rue Tonga Revelation. THE grandiloquent series of postage stamps which constitute the new issue for Tonga, as detailed in our chronicle of new issues, is little short of a revelation of the latent designing and engraving power of the firm of Messrs De La Rue. Hitherto the name of De La Rue has been, philatelically, somewhat scoffed at for the poverty and monotonousness and stereotyped character of its designs for our Colonial postage stamps.

But the new Tongan stamps prove beyond all doubt that the fault does not lie with the designers and engravers, but with the customer. When the firm has a free hand from a wealthy state like Tonga, it is evident that it can produce a series excellent in design and execution. It is impossible to examine these beautiful stamps without learning something of Tonga itself from the pretty views of Vavu and Haabai, its enticing breadfruit, and its specimens of coral. A poverty-stricken country like our own can never hope to be able to afford such a gorgeous series of postage stamps.

* * *

The Royal Philatelic Society. THE *Daily Mail*, in announcing the presentation of a set of the Canadian Jubilee Postage Stamps to the Duke of York, referred to His Royal Highness as "President of the Royal Philatelic Society" instead of "Philatelic Society of London." The slip is a very natural and a very suggestive one. Why not "Royal Philatelic Society"? We have the Royal Historical Society, Royal Society of Literature, etc. As a matter of fact the Philatelic Society of London enjoys to the full all the advantages of a most gracious and kindly Royal patronage, except in its title. It would not be a far cry to that surely, under the circumstances. It is not the first time that it has been suggested by any means, and it most certainly would give the study of philately, of which the Premier Society is the head and front, an immense impetus of encouragement.

The study of the history of postal development in the various countries of the world is full of opportunities of fruitful and profitable research, and is worthy of all the generous recognition it receives from devotees in high places.

The Stamps of Norway.

BY ARTHUR H. HARRISON,

Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society

(IN COLLABORATION WITH HUBERT BUCKLEY, CHRISTIANIA).

THE Stamps of Norway have been comparatively neglected by philatelists. It is only recently that they have begun to come to the front, though as regards rarity they are upon an equal footing with most of their contemporaries, especially the early issues in unused condition.

I am not aware that anything has been published in English on "Norwegians." Reliable information has been difficult to obtain, and I am greatly indebted to my friend Mr. Buckley for his untiring energy in obtaining information for me.

It appears that about the year 1850 the Norwegian Upper House (Storthing), which is elected from the Lower House, were called together to transact business once only every three years, consequently certain parts of their legislature were greatly in arrear, and it appears that some laws were actually in force before they received final sanction. Thus the first issue of stamps was probably sold during 1854, whilst the decree for their use did not become law until January 1st, 1855.

Before official stamps were used the cost of conveying single letters was 4 sk. for a distance of twenty Norwegian miles = (140 English), and 8 sk. for any greater distance; the law fixing these charges coming into force August 12th, 1848. Before this date the cost was 40 sk. for single letters.

CURRENCY.

Up to December 31st, 1876, 1 rix-daler = 120 sk. = about 4s. 7d.

From January 1st, 1877, 1 krona = 100 öre = about 1s. 1½d. (based upon 18 kr. = £1).

Issue I. January 1st, 1855.

4 skil., blue (shades).

July 7th, 1854, it was decreed that stamps should be used. The following are extracts from the law:

Article 1. For forwarding a single letter, namely, one not weighing more than 1 lod, shall be charged, irrespective of distance, a postage fee of (*a*) 4 sk. if prepaid, (*b*) 5 sk. if unpaid.

Article 2. The fee may be paid in advance by affixing stamps made by the postal authorities, cost 4 sk. each stamp, or 3 speciedalers 24 sk. per 100 (a discount of 4 per cent.).

Article 3. For forwarding letters weighing over 1 lod the fee increases in proportion to the weight, so that letters weighing over 1 l. up to 2 l. require double fee, or two stamps. From 2 l. up to 3 l. three stamps, etc. etc.

Article 7. This to become law on January 1st next year, 1855, from which time the law of August 12th, 1848, becomes null and void.

The design is the Norwegian Arms (without the wheat-ears beneath) in a circle. There are thirty-nine horizontal lines forming the background upon

which the Arms rest, and twenty-four vertical lines in the shield. At the top "FRIMAERKE." At the bottom the value in a figure and letters. At each corner there is an ornamental scroll, and the whole of the outer part of the design has a solid background of colour.

Lithographed in Christiania by Mechanic Zarbell for a payment of 18 sk. (60 öre) per 1000, in sheets of 200, probably twenty rows of ten.

Article 1a of the decree of 29th September, 1854, states:

"The stamps will be delivered to post offices from the Department's cashier in sheets, each of which contains 200 stamps."

The paper is rather hard, yellowish white wove, hand-made, probably of local manufacture, coarse in texture, and varying very considerably in thickness, and watermarked.

The watermark is difficult to discern; benzine is no great help; but if an unused specimen be photographed the result shows a lion with axe, very similar in appearance to the one forming part of the Norwegian Arms.

The size of each stamp is $18\frac{1}{4} \times 22$ mm., imperforate, and the space between each is 3 mm.

Varieties.—The only varieties are: Firstly, that so-called "two feet on the right hind leg," due in all probability to a faulty transfer. I do not know how often this may occur upon a sheet—probably, from its rarity, only once. A strip of three (in the writer's collection) from the right side of a sheet shows the variety to be on the stamp next to the margin.

Secondly, "unofficially rouletted," given on the authority of Moens. I have never seen a specimen or heard of it from any other source.

The impressions are for the most part clear and well defined, but now and again slight imperfections appear.

The decree of September 29th, 1854, states that letters for foreign parts shall be prepaid as hitherto, stamps not being allowed to be used.

In consequence, however, of the arrangements made between the postal authorities and France, a decree of February 21st, 1855, states that stamps may be used on letters to that country and Algiers, and from March 5th to Corsica, and *vice versa;* later again, a decree of April 25th, 1855, states that letters for Denmark, or for transit over Denmark, may be paid with affixed stamps—four stamps for single letters to Danish States, Hamburg, and Lubeck; six stamps for Prussia, and nine for Great Britain and Ireland.

A decree of January 15th, 1855, states that the stamps shall be cancelled by use of a fluted stamp and black colour.

By a decree of January 26th, 1856, post offices were ordered to send in their cancelling stamps, these to be replaced by stamps having the number of the post office in the centre, and until they were received the postmaster to use the date stamp to cancel the adhesive stamps. Up to now the date stamp, struck in blue, had not been used to obliterate the adhesive stamps, but were impressed upon the address side of a letter to show the date when forwarded.

Issue II. 4 values.

The last issue proving unsatisfactory, owing to their common appearance when compared with stamps of other countries in use at this time, also to the want of perforation and to the bad, uneven gumming, the Norwegian Postal Department decided to apply to Sweden; and the result was, that from 1855 to 1860 the new issue emanated from Stockholm.

A decree, dated November 7th, 1856, authorises the issue of the 4 sk., blue, and 8 sk., rose, and at the same time states that the former issue shall be used up first.

About the end of 1856 the inland (town) post law necessitated the use of the other values 2 and 3 sk.; these were issued without legal authority, the postal authorities, however, not getting into any trouble over the matter.

Generally known as the Head issue (the design was changed in March, 1856). The design is the head of King Oscar I. of Norway and Sweden, to left, in a circle surrounded by eighty pearls, on a solid background of colour. Above, "NORGE"; below, numerals of value both before and after the value in letters; at each side, "FRIMAERKE," all on a solid background. The spaces between the border, bearing the inscriptions and the circle, are filled in with vertical lines of shading. There is a star at each of the top corners, and the corresponding ones at the base hold the figure of value.

Lithographed at Stockholm in the Swedish Government offices (for the payment of 1 kr. per 1000) in sheets of 100 stamps, ten rows of ten.

The paper is white, or yellowish white wove, hand-made. It varies very greatly, both in thickness and texture, sometimes of a hard nature, slightly glazed, and sometimes soft with dull appearance; watermarked.

The watermark, which surrounds the sheet, not touching the impressions, is composed of two parallel wavy lines on all sides, and a small lion in each corner. The Swedish sheets at this date bore a similar watermark.

N.B.—"Small portions of the lion are now and again found upon some few stamps, owing to the paper when printing being out of centre; these are of necessity corner stamps."

The size of each stamp is 19 × 22 mm., perforated 13 very regularly, and the space between each measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Gum—white or yellowish—somewhat uneven, and often very thick.

The impressions are generally clear and well executed.

It is most probable that the plates for all the four values were produced from one die, the required value being engraved afterwards. Certain small imperfections which appear on the 4 sk. stamps are to be found on each of the three other values, viz., the break in the outline of the right-hand top corner of the lower lines of shading, almost opposite the "F" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

4 sk., blue, dark blue (shades) to light blue, March, 1856.

Varieties.—(*a*) This value is known imperforate in single specimens; the writer has never seen or heard of "a pair" imperf.

(*b*) Also cut in two for use as 2 sk. (?)

(*c*) With apostrophe after "Fire" (in the writer's collection).

(*d*) Minute variations may be traced in the lettering, viz., no top on the up stroke of "N" in "SKILLING," and other small differences, due most probably to the printing.

8 sk., rose (shades), 1856.

(*a*) "FRIMAERKE" on right without "I."

2 sk., orange, orange-yellow (shades), February, 1857.
3 sk., lilac (shades) and grey, February, 1857.

This issue remained in general use till August 31st, 1863, but copies are known used much after this date. As the wish had been expressed that stamps should be printed at home (with which the Norwegian Postal Department quite concurred) experiments were made in 1862, the result being that Schwenzen's Lithographic Works got the contract for a new issue, printing them for 30 sk. (kr. 1.00) per 1000.

All the proofs of Issue II., viz., 3 sk., blue, yellow, lilac, are on laid paper, and perforated 13. The 2 sk., black or brown, is a chemical changeling; the 3 sk., green (for which some albums find a space), is simply due to exposure to sunlight.

The round postmark often to be found on the early issues must not be confounded with that of Denmark; it is still in use in very small post offices in Norway, and on board local steamers.

Specimens are in the writer's collection, postmarked in Hull (383).

Issue III. 5 values.

On August 31st, 1863, a new issue appeared, the design again undergoing a complete change.

The Arms of Norway in the centre; above, "NORGE"; below, the value in a figure, and "SKILL." in large capitals; on each side, "FRIMAERKE" on a tablet. There is a small ornament in the two top corners, and the inscriptions rest upon a background composed of a network of vertically-crossed fine lines. The whole design is surrounded by single lines.

Lithographed at Schwenzen's Works in Christiania (for 1 kr. per 1000), in sheets of 100 stamps, ten rows of ten.

The paper is again hand-made, wove, white or slightly tinted; it again varies greatly in thickness, but not to the same extent as in the last issue, excepting the 4 sk. value. It is to be found in some cases more glazed than in others, and is watermarked round the margin of each sheet, similar to Issue II.

The size of the stamps is $16\frac{1}{2} \times 21$ mm., and they are perforated for the most part regularly $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. A perforation machine being required for this issue, one was ordered in Christiania. It turned out useless, and subsequently one was procured from England.

The gum is yellow, or yellowish white.

The impressions, with the exception of that of the 24 sk. value, are on the whole unsatisfactory, due more to the colours used than to the execution.

Four types are found in each value; these types are most probably the reproduction of four original dies (there being separate matrices for each value). The dies being clamped together were transferred to a stone—twenty-five impressions of *the die so clamped* being taken to form a sheet.

On each value the different types (with which we deal later) can be distinguished; this is most easily done on the 24 sk. value. Owing to the colour (brown) the impression stands out in relief, whereas in the 2 sk., yellow, and the 8 sk., rose, for the same reason, the task is not one to be lightly undertaken.

Before proceeding to deal with the types, I would point out that each block of four (which of necessity will bear all the types) may be divided into two groups. Nos. 1 and 3 (so far as the shield is concerned) are very similar to one another, and Nos. 2 and 4 also have great similarities.

A decree, dated February 7th, 1864, fixed the maximum value at 24 sk., leaving it in the hands of the postal authorities to determine the other values required.

In chronicling the types let us proceed in their order of value, not of issue:

The	1st	stamp,	on	the	left	of	the	top row of a sheet, I call Type I.
,,	2nd	,,	,,		,,	,,	,,	II.
,,	1st	,,	,,	2nd	,,	,,	,,	III.
,,	2nd	,,	,,	2nd	,,	,,	,,	IV.

2 sk., yellow (shades), January, 1865.

2 sk., orange-yellow (shades), January, 1865.

TYPE I.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the base or outer frame line, and the top reaches opposite the centre stroke of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm., and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown is indistinct, but in fine copies it appears to lean to the right and to be pushed over by a diamond-shaped white figure, which leans on its left side.

(*d*) *Thirty perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield;* the thirtieth line passes into the frame about half-way up the right side of the shield.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg and the outline of the lower bend of the tail; the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot, and the ninth passes under the toe point; the tenth and eleventh pass clear of either leg; the twelfth passes into the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the seventh line at the top (really the eighth) touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and the upper bend of the tail; the tuft of the lion's tail commences at the fifth line, and the fifth and sixth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend and the tuft of the tail.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth between the axe and snout; the tenth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; *the fifteenth, rising from the centre of the point of the shield, passes into the heel;* the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, and the fifteenth touches the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*g*) All the letters of "FRIMAERKE" on the left are connected at the top, and the top stroke of the last "E" is short and joins the centre stroke.

(*h*) The up stroke of the "K" of "SKILL." is thick, and the main stroke is curved inwards.

(*i*) The heel of the figure "2" is curved and appears almost a sharp point at the end.

TYPE II.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre of the "A" of the diphthong "Æ" on the right.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10½ mm., and the top reaches the middle of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown cannot be traced.

(*d*) *Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.*

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg, and passes under the lower bend of the tail; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth touches the toe point; the tenth passes clear, and the eleventh touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth line at the top passes through the lower corner of the lion's crown, and outlines the back of the head and mane; the seventh passes under the upper bend of the tail; the tuft of the lion's tail commences at the fourth line, and the fourth and fifth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend and the tuft of the tail.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The seventh line and a suspicion of the eighth appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth strikes the heel; *the fifteenth, rising from the centre of the point of the shield, passes into the ankle;* the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, and the fourteenth and fifteenth pass into the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*g*) All the letters of "FRIMAERKE" on the left are connected at the top; the head stroke of the last "E" is long, and does not touch the centre stroke.

(*h*) The up stroke of the letter "K" of "SKILL." is very thin, and has a large head.

(*i*) The head of the figure "2" is square, and the foot is short and straight.

(*k*) The leaf at the base of the wreath on the right is long, and resembles a spear-head.

TYPE III.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 11 mm. from the base, and the top reaches almost the end of the "E" of "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10½ mm., and the top reaches the centre of the diphthong "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the crown is upright, and the pearls on the left half of the crown are larger than in any of the other types.

(*d*) *Thirty perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.*

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line does *not* touch the back of the joint of the left hind leg; the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth touches the toe point, and the eleventh touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth line at the top, which does *not* touch the lion's crown, joins the outline of the upper bend of the tail; the tuft of the lion's tail commences at the fourth line; the fifth and a trace of the sixth line can be seen between the inside of the upper bend and the tuft of the tail.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The seventh and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the eleventh and twelfth between the axe and snout; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; *the fourteenth, rising very slightly to the left of the point of the shield, strikes the heel;* the fifteenth rises to the right of the point of the shield; the fourteenth and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, and the fifteenth passes into the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*g*) The head stroke of the last "E" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left is slightly curved inwards.

(*h*) The figure 2 is upright, and the foot is larger and longer than in any of the other types.

(*i*) The right-hand bottom corner of the frame of the shield is broken to the third line of shading.

TYPE IV.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 11¼ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the end of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the crown is very indistinct, but on very fine copies appears to lean towards the left.

(*d*) *Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.*

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg, passes under the lower bend of the tail; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth touches the toe point, and the tenth touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth line at the top passes through the lower corner of the lion's crown, and outlines the head and mane; the seventh touches the outline of the upper bend of the tail; the tuft of the lion's tail commences at the third line; the fourth and fifth are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend and the tuft of the tail.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; *the fourteenth, rising slightly to the left of the point of the shield, strikes the heel;* the fifteenth rises to the right of the point of the shield; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body; the fifteenth passes into the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*g*) The head stroke of the last "E" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left is slightly curved outwards, and is not quite so long as the bottom stroke.

(*h*) The figure "2" leans towards the left.

(*i*) The up stroke of the letter "K" of "SKILL." is long, and is extended beyond the level of the main stroke.

(*k*) The right-hand bottom corner of the frame of the shield is broken to the second line of shading.

Variety.—The only variety of the 2 skill. value known to the writer is as under:

2 skill., orange, perforated 14½ on three sides, 13½ on the fourth.

(*To be continued.*)

The First Persian Postage Stamps.

By JULES BOUVÈZ.

From the "American Journal of Philately."

IN Persia, as in most other countries, the post, in very early times, was an institution whose management was confided by the Shah to a lord of his kingdom. We find here a sort of Persian "Prince of Thurn and Taxis," possessor of a great privilege, from which he derived the greatest possible benefit, without the least idea of applying any portion of the profits to the improvement or development of the institution.

It was in 1870 (and not in 1868, as has often been supposed) that the first Persian postage stamp was created, on the proposition of a khan, who was at that time the controller of the postal department, and also chief of a cavalry brigade of the royal guard, and proprietor of the horses of the Tschaparchenée at Teheran. These stamps, quite primitive in form, imperforate, and bearing no indication of value, were manufactured at Teheran, by means of a hand-press, from rather rudely cut dies. They represented the arms of Persia, composed of the Lion of the Ivan, on a verdant field, holding in its right paw a sabre of the Khorassan, and half surrounding with its tail the sun of Darnis, shining in the rear.

There were printed 22,000 of these stamps in four colours. They appeared, however, in various shades, owing to imperfections, or to carelessness in the inking of the press. There were

3000 pale violet and dark violet,
5000 yellow-green, dark green, and light green,
8000 light blue and dark blue,
6000 carmine and vermilion.

At first, yellowish white ribbed and rough paper was used for the impression; afterwards, a grey-white paper, slightly ribbed, and also rough, and finally, bluish wove paper. It is said that this last quality of paper was employed exclusively for the printing of the light blue and dark blue stamps; but we also find stamps of other colours printed on this paper.

Of these 22,000 stamps hardly one quarter were used, as it was soon discovered that they would not be cancelled, and consequently could be used several times. On the other hand, the existing postal administration did not permit these stamps to control the taxes. Indeed, although communications were transmitted by government carriers, the proceeds of the taxes were divided in different ways. On the principal road, that from Tauris to Teheran, the Tschapar Beshi of Teheran and his colleague of Tauris shared the receipts equally. On the less important roads, the goulanes had the right to collect and distribute the letters, and they exacted payment in advance from the senders, without applying the stamps to the letters. As the controller usually rented all the large roads for this purpose to the Najales, who, in their turn, had others working under them, it was realized how useless the postage stamps were, and they were therefore withdrawn in 1871.

The foregoing considerations, with which the majority of philatelists are not familiar, have given rise to the supposition (an erroneous one) that this first issue of stamps was but a trial. Maury, the great French philatelist, was one of the first to consider it as such in his catalogue. At the time of the withdrawal of these stamps, a traveller, who had journeyed through Persia, brought back with him to Europe a supply of these values, which came into the possession of some collectors. These stamps, it is affirmed, were made use of in the reproduction of a plate, from which other stamps were carefully printed. These, however, differ essentially from the originals, which it is difficult to obtain at the present day.

It was not until the month of August, 1875, when Mr. Riederer, adviser of the Austrian Postal Department, aided by many officials of the Austro-Hungarian service,

*

was entrusted with the organization in Persia of the European postal system, that the Persian stamps reappeared.

As a result of a note of Mr. Riederer, which was translated into Persian and read by the Minister of Requests (a young man of from twenty-five to twenty-eight years of age, who was destined to become, later on, the omnipotent general of the post of the Persian Empire), the Minister confided to him the rude cuts manufactured at Teheran, which had been used for the printing of the first stamps, and then showed him the quantities of these stamps which had been produced by means of these cuts, and which had subsequently been withdrawn from service. The Austrian adviser was then requested to manufacture, in the shortest possible time, new stamps by means of these cuts, and to issue them as soon as possible. Mr. Riederer went to work with a will, and on the 16th of August, 1875, issued 120,000 stamps, the value of which, for the purpose of facilitating changes, he had printed in Arabic figures under the lion's belly.

These were, like the preceding, at first printed in four values, in the following colours and quantities :

40,000	stamps,	1	shahi,	black,
30,000	,,	2	,,	blue,
20,000	,,	4	,,	vermilion,
20,000	,,	8	,,	green.

A yellowish brown thick wove paper was used for the printing of these four values, but, as in the former case, this left much to be desired, although it continued to be used for the entire payment of the service tax from the time this service was inaugurated, in August, 1875, until the latter part of 1876, when the second issue of postage stamps, proceeding from the National Press of Austria, made its appearance.

Immediately after the manufacture of these postage stamps, Mr. Riederer occupied himself with the organization of the service. In six weeks' time a small number of Persian students, able, when necessary, to spell out an address written in French, were selected for the postal service. In a short time this service operated with entire success between Teheran and the villages of Schamiran, situated, as is well known, at a height of from five to six thousand feet above the level of the sea.

There was also established at the same time a distribution service, which was conducted by a carrier on horseback, who left Teheran at the rising of the sun. His first destination was the residence of the Shah, situated one league from the town, after which he made a further round of three leagues. At noon, after remaining for two hours in the village of Djajer Abad, he returned to Teheran by the same road. He distributed the letters at all houses on his way, and at the same time collected those for Teheran and the other localities situated within his district.

This carrier was supplied with postage stamps for sale, although postage stamp stores, owned by merchants, were to be found on the road.

On the first of October, 1875, regular carrier services were established as far as the Russian frontier at Rescht and Djulfa, and then as far as the Turkish frontier at Bagadziz.

The first post office was established in a caravansary at Sultaned Abad, not far from the residence of the Shah. A second office, in charge of a Persian telegraph operator, was established in December, 1875, in the military camp, this also being not far distant from Sultaned Abad, and in February, 1876, the offices of Rescht, Tauris, Kasoin, and Zudjan went into operation. The management of the first of these was given to a European agent of the Ziegler firm, and the others were in charge of natives able to speak and write French. From that time forward, Persian letters destined for Europe, were franked at the five above-mentioned offices, by means of Persian postage stamps. They were transmitted thence to Djulfa by carriers who were employed for the purpose of bearing the despatches to the other side of the Araxe, as far as the Russian office, the latter then taking charge of the re-forwarding.

The high tax of 5 shahi (3¾ cents), which was at first imposed upon letters circulating in the small region lying between Teheran and the villages of the Shamiram, was reduced to a fixed rate of 2 shahi, such reduction going into effect after the month of June, 1876, at which time the rural service around Teheran was completely organized.

The first stamped envelopes, and the new issue of postage stamps which were printed at the National Press of Austria, appeared at this time. These values were used until the month of September, 1877, the date of the admission of Persia into the Postal Union, which event, so to speak, was a suitable crowning of the work undertaken by Mr. Riederer.



Morley's English Catalogue.

Walter Morley's Catalogue and Price List of the Stamps of Great Britain. Second Edition. 1897. *Walter Morley*, 186, *West Green Road, Tottenham, N. Price* 2/6. 186 *pp. fcap.* 8*vo.*

We are indebted to Mr. Walter Morley for a very well got-up and handy-size Catalogue of English Stamps. In size it conforms to Gibbons' popular Catalogue, but in pricing it makes a new departure. Mr. Morley tells us that the pricing of his former Catalogue for unused copies with gum and very fine used copies only led to a good deal of misunderstanding regarding prices, especially as to used copies. Therefore he has in this new edition gone more into detail. If a collector wants mint condition in unused he must be prepared to pay for the pick of the market, but if he will be content with a copy without gum he may get it much cheaper. The same gradation of prices applies to used; for as it is calculated that 80 per cent. of used English stamps are heavily cancelled, a lightly cancelled copy means again the pick of the market. Consequently, we have four instead of two columns of prices, viz., (1) unused, with gum; (2) unused, no gum; (3) fine used copies; and (4) fair used copies. All this is the natural result of the demand for fine copies, and as we grow more fastidious so will the price of fine copies increase, unless Dr. Moschkau, or some other avowed enemy of high prices, opens business for the supply of the needful fine copies at lower prices. According to Mr. Morley's pricing, unused, with gum, range from double to three or four, five, and even six times that of copies minus the much-prized gum.

A considerable amount of attention is devoted to the listing of envelopes with firms' names. Amongst these figure several stamp-dealing firms and one philatelic journal.

The book extends to 186 pages. Of these some sixty pages are devoted to fiscals, to the collection of which Mr. Morley has given much attention. He is, indeed, our chief authority on fiscals.

From beginning to end this excellently got-up work, though confessedly only a Dealers' Catalogue and Price List, is replete with interesting and valuable information.

The scoffing outsider might glean some bits of curious information from Mr. Morley's pages that would probably be new to him. He may, for instance, learn that there were "Ocean Penny Postage Envelopes" as long ago as 1850; that one was decorated with the motto "Britain, bestow this boon, and be in blessing blest"; another, "The world awaits Great Britain's greatest gift"; another, "The world's want," and so on. He will also find a list of "Suppressed Fenian papers," one of which lived for five days, self-branded with the name of *The Irish Felon.*

Published cleverly at a very appropriate time so as to catch visitors to the Exhibition, it is nevertheless written close up to date, and includes the Hospital Stamps.

We note that certificates of posting are also included, which would seem to indicate that few things that can be directly connected with postal matters come amiss to the dealer who caters specially for the specialist.

London Philatelic Exhibition, 1897.

SPECIAL AWARDS.

LAST month we gave a full list of the awards of the Official Medals. We now append a full list of the Special Awards.

Class I.

For Unused Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain.
Presented by W. H. PECKITT, Esq.
Gold Medal . . . H. J. WHITE.
Silver ,, . . . E. H. SELBY.

For the best Exhibit by an amateur not a member of the Philatelic Society, London.
Presented by THE SOCIETY.
Gold Medal . . . W. T. WILLETT.

Class II.

For Collections of Used British Colonial Stamps.
Presented by the CITY OF LONDON PHILATELIC CLUB.
Gold Medal . BARON A. DE WORMS.
Silver ,, . BARON A. DE REUTERSKIÖLD.
Bronze ,, . W. W. BLEST.

For Collections of "Sydney Views," New South Wales.
Presented by Messrs. G. CALLF & CO.
Silver Medal . . . Dr. F. BOWERS.

For the most complete Collection of Queensland.
Presented by W. HADLOW, Esq.
Silver Medal . . . W. W. BLEST.

For Departmental Stamps of South Australia.
Presented by GORDON SMITH, Esq.
Silver Medal . . . W. HARRISON.

For Collection of Straits Settlements (including Native States).
Presented by W. BROWN, Esq., and S. C. SKIPTON, Esq.
Silver Medal . W. DORNING BECKTON.

For Exhibits of European Stamps.
Presented by M. P. CASTLE, Esq.
Gold Medal . . R. EHRENBACH.
Silver ,, . . W. DORNING BECKTON.

For Exhibits by Continental Collectors.
Presented by R. EHRENBACH, Esq.
Silver Medal . ADOLF ROSENBURG.
Bronze ,, . . R. DREYFUS.

For Collection of Transvaal.
Presented by W. S. LINCOLN, Esq.
Gold Medal . . R. PEARCE.

For Collection of Shanghai.
Presented by DAVID BENJAMIN, Esq.
Gold Medal . . T. WICKHAM JONES.

For Collection of Colombia and States.
Presented by M. GIWELB, Esq.
Gold Medal . . . T. W. HALL.

For Collection of Mexico.
Presented by W. T. WILSON, Esq.
Gold Medal . . . R. FRENTZEL.

For Collection of Peru.
Presented by BUHL & CO., LIMITED.
Gold Medal . . . T. W. HALL.

Class IV.

For Collections exhibited by Ladies.
Presented by H.R.H. DUKE OF YORK.
Gold Medal . . Mrs. HETLEY.
Silver ,, . . Mrs. BAYNES.

For Collections not exceeding 2000 varieties, exhibited in Albums of English manufacture, by collectors under 16 years of age.
Presented by Messrs. BUTLER BROS.
Bronze Medal . . C. STEELE-PERKINS.

For Collections in Albums of British manufacture.
Presented by STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED.
(*a*) Containing over 8000 varieties.
Gold Medal . . H. L. HAYMAN.
Silver ,, . . Mrs. H. L. HAYMAN.
(*b*) Containing less than 8000 varieties.
Gold Medal . F. REICHENHEIM.
Silver ,, . MRS. DAVIDSON OF TULLOCH.

Class XI.

For Exhibits by Members of the Manchester Philatelic Society.
Presented by W. DORNING BECKTON, Esq.
Silver Medal . . G. B. DUERST.
Bronze ,, . . VERNON ROBERTS.



British Empire.

British Bechuanaland.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. call our attention to a new setting of the surcharge on the ½d., green, Cape stamp. The type is the same, but in the later setting the word "British" is 3¼ mm. closer to the word "Bechuanaland" than in the first setting.

Adhesive.

½d., black, on green; sur. closer.

British Honduras. — The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles a variety of the 2 c. on 6d., rose. The "2" is slanting, and has a curved tail. It was purchased from Messrs. Winch Bros., who state that it was received when they were first issued, and obtained by them direct from the officials at face value.

Adhesive.

2 c., black, on 6d., rose, CC; perf. 14, variety.

British South Africa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have just found in their stock a sheet of the 3d. first type, black and green, on thick wove paper, perf. 14, and without watermark; also a small block of the 8d., rose-lake and ultramarine, on the same thick wove paper, and without watermark. These are evidently a different printing, for in the 3d. the lettering of value is much darker than in the ordinary, and the 8d. is a much paler shade of rose-lake.

Cape of Good Hope.—*Alfred Smith's Monthly* chronicles the current 1½d. Post Card surcharged "ONE PENNY" in block capitals, and with two or three curved bars over the original value.

Post Card.

1d., in black, on 1½d., grey, two varieties.

Great Britain.—Our publishers send us the current 1d. overprinted "**GOVT PARCELS.**"

Adhesive.

Government Parcels.

1d., lilac; sur. black.

India.—*Bhopal.*—Major Evans, having been shown the stamp chronicled by us in June (p. 173), says in the *Monthly Journal:*

It is not of the same type either as the scarce stamp of 1884, or as that of similar design which appeared in 1895, though it resembles both of these in having curved lines in the spandrels. We gather that it is a genuine issue, probably of recent date. Cannot some of our Indian readers send us some certain information on the subject, and if possible an entire sheet of the stamps?

Charkari. — The *Monthly Journal*, having obtained specimens of the stamps (chronicled by us in June last), says they are apparently printed singly with an indiarubber stamp, and describes them as follows:

They are of oblong shape; in the centre is the value, in one line, expressed as ¼, ½, 1, 2, or 4 "ANNA," the figures being probably movable, and changed as required. Above, in two arched lines, is the inscription "CHARKARI STATE P.O."—"B. C. INDIA," with the letters "P." and "O." in the upper corners. Below the value is a rough representation of a sword, placed horizontally, and at the foot the words "POSTAGE STAMP," the whole being enclosed in a single-line frame. The set sent us is on *white tissue* paper, and imperforate.

Leeward Islands. — *The American Journal of Philately* is informed that on the 22nd of June the current series was surcharged "V.R." in a circle as a Jubilee issue for one week, and only in limited quantities.

Newfoundland.—So the Cabot issue, chronicled by us last month, is, after all, a speculative Jubilee issue of the limited class. Here is the official circular:

The following is published for public information:

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY,
78 to 86, TRINITY PLACE,
NEW YORK, *June* 23, 1897.

It is hereby certified that from the plates of the Cabot Series of Postage Stamps engraved by this Company in the months of April and May, 1897, there have been printed as follows:

400,000	stamps of 1 c.;	200,000	stamps of 10 c.;
400,000	,, of 2 c.;	200,000	,, of 12 c.;
1,000,000	,, of 3 c.;	200,000	,, of 15 c.;
400,000	,, of 4 c.;	100,000	,, of 24 c.;
400,000	,, of 5 c.;	100,000	,, of 30 c.;
400,000	,, of 6 c.;	100,000	,, of 35 c.;
200,000	,, of 8 c.;	100,000	,, of 60 c..

And in addition, one hundred (100) sets of the above stamps, being one stamp of each value; all of which have been delivered to the Post Office Department of Newfoundland.

It is also further certified hereby that on this date, and in the establishment of this Company in the city of New York, in the presence of

JOSEPH OUTERBRIDGE,
JOHN M. GREATA.

There have been destroyed the fourteen (14) steel plates from which the above stamps were printed; together with 7 rolls and 14 original dies or engravings from which such plates were laid down. No other good impressions of stamps from the said plates have been taken; and the bad impressions therefrom, made in course of printing, have been destroyed by burning.

JOHN E. CURRIER, Asst. Secy.

We hereby certify that on the twenty-third day of June, 1897, we saw the above-mentioned 14 steel plates, 7 rolls, and 14 original dies or engravings destroyed by the American Bank Note Company, New York.

J. M. GREATA.
J. OUTERBRIDGE.

New South Wales.—The *Australian Philatelist* says the series of three stamps issued in commemoration of Her Majesty's Record Reign, and the resuscitated 5s., were placed on sale to the public on the 22nd instant. They are to supersede the Centennial stamps of corresponding values. The lower value stamps are wmkd. NSW and Crown (Type II.), and are perf. 11×11½; and the 5s. is on the old paper, watermarked 5/-, and perf. 11. The new stamps are thus officially described:—

POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
14*th June*, 1897.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, in accordance with the provisions of the 16th section of the Postage Act, 31 Vic. No. 4, been pleased to approve of the issue, on the 22nd instant, in commemoration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's Reign, of three new Postage Stamps of the respective values of One Penny, Two Pence, and Two Pence Halfpenny, and the reissue of the Five Shilling Postage Stamp of 1861, such stamps to be substituted for the stamps of similar denominations now current.

A description of the new stamps is given below, and in connection with their issue it is hereby notified that the stamps to be superseded will only be recognised as valid for the prepayment of postage up to the 31st December, 1897, and that from the 1st January, 1898, any of such stamps still remaining in the hands of the public may be exchanged at face value for stamps of the new design.

Description of One Penny Stamp.

The central device is a shield bearing a cross charged with four stars, one on each arm, and a lion *passant regardant* in the centre. A Royal Crown is placed above the shield, and the name of the Colony and "Postage" below. A figure denoting the value, enclosed in an oval, is in each angle formed by the base of the shield and the inscription. Ornamental scroll work completes the design. Colour, carmine.

Description of Two Penny Stamp.

A profile portrait of Her Majesty the Queen is enclosed in a rectangular frame, resting upon a waratah flower, and sprays of native rose spring up at each side. The name of the Colony and "Postage" are placed above the portrait, and a figure representing the value is placed upon the waratah flower. These details are enclosed in an ornamental frame superimposed upon a cross, the end of each arm, charged with a star, projecting beyond the frame. The whole is enclosed in a triple-lined rectangular frame. Colour, blue.

Description of Two Pence Halfpenny Stamp.

Upon a transverse oblong, enclosed in a double-lined frame, is a large profile portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in outline, occupying the right-hand half of the stamp. On the left is placed the name of the Colony and "Postage," in four lines in white on a background of solid colour, and the value in figures is beneath the inscription. The Stars of the Southern Cross are disposed about the profile. Colour, royal purple.

JOSEPH COOK.

The stamps on the one penny post card, envelope, and wrapper, and the 2d. envelope, will be changed to the types of the new stamps as soon as the stock in hand at present is exhausted, which will probably be in about three months.

Adhesives.

1d., carmine.
2d., deep blue.
2½d., royal purple.
5s., dark purple.

New Zealand.—The *Monthly Journal* makes the following additions to the perforations of the current issue:

8d.; *perf.* 10.
1d., 6d.; *perf.* 11.
½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 6d., 1s.; *perf.* 10×11.

The Railway Newspaper Stamps are now perforated 11.

Seychelles.—The *Nederlandsch Tidschrift* announces more values of the new issue.

Adhesives.

2 c., yellow and green.
3 c., violet and orange.
4 c., pale green.
8 c., carmine and green.
10 c., blue and black.
12 c., olive-brown and green.
16 c, red-brown and blue.

Sierra Leone. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have received a letter from the Sierra Leone G.P.O. regarding the 1s. stamp, surcharged "5s.," about which there has been some doubt for years past. It appears that they were issued in May, 1884. Few, probably, were ever used, and the remainders were cancelled. One pane of 60 had the surcharge inverted.

The following values of the new issue are announced:

Adhesives.

½d., lilac and green.
4d., lilac and crimson.
6d., lilac.

South Australia.—The 3d. stamp of the current series was issued, perforated 13, on the 31st May.

Adhesive.

3d., deep grey-green; perf. 13.

Straits Settlements.—*Pahang.*—The 5 c. has been added to the current series.

Adhesive.

5 c., lilac and ochre.

St. Vincent.—Mr. W. C. Proudfoot, of St. Vincent, informs us that on the 13th July last two new stamps—2½d., blue, and 5d., brown—of the type of the 1d., carmine, were issued in place of the 2½ surcharged in black on 1d., blue, and 5d., in black, on 6d., carmine. Wmk. Cr. CA; perf. 14.

Adhesives.

2½d., blue.
5d., brown.

Tasmania.—Contemporaries announce the issue of the 5s. and £1 values on the current type.

Adhesives.

5s., violet and red.
£1, green and yellow.

Western Australia.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* states that a Local Bicycle Service was started in April between Coolgardie and Lake Lefroy. A stamp was issued with a swan in centre in an oval inscribed "CYCLE MAIL" above and "WESTERN AUSTRALIA" below; above the oval is "LAKE LEFROY—GOLD-FIELD," and below "6d. POSTAGE 6d." The stamp is perforated 12.

Adhesive.

6d., red on pale green.

Foreign Countries.

Japan.—Mr. E. Stanley Gibbons says he has seen the following:

Adhesives.

1874. 1 c., blue, on wove paper, plate 15.
20 s., violet, on laid paper, plate 1.

Madagascar.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says a Postal Service has been organised by the Norwegian missionaries in some part of the island, and they have issued two type-set stamps—"N.M.S.'s" at top, "post" at bottom, and value in centre, all in a plain frame of printers' ornaments.

Adhesives.

5 v., black on yellowish.
1 l. 5 v., black on white.

Peru.—Mr. Douglas Mackenzie informs us that the American Bank Note Company has received an order from the Peruvian Government for one million 5 c. postage stamps, and that two millions of other values are to be ordered from the same company.

Servia.—According to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* the 1 p. exists perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and perf. $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Spain.—*Porto Rico.*—Messrs. Baixet & Co., of San Juan, send us a copy of a 3 c. of the current type issued on the 7th of May last.

Adhesive.

3 c., pale brown.

Uruguay.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us three new issues, viz.—1 c., slate-blue, same design as 1 c., olive, of previous issue; 2 c., claret, same design as 2 c., blue, of previous issue; and 5 c., green, same as 5 c., red, of previous issue. These stamps were issued on the 21st June. Perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesives.

1 c, slate-blue.
2 c., claret.
5 c., green.

Tonga.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the long-talked-of new series. It is most gorgeous. The stamps are all beyond the ordinary size. The 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$d., 5d., $7\frac{1}{2}$d., 10d., and 1s., all have a medallion portrait of King George II., printed in black in a floral framework varying in colour for each value. All the other values are of different designs. The paper is watermarked with turtles swimming in different directions.

Adhesives.

½d. (Vaeua-oe-Peni), dark blue. Arms.
1d. (Peni-e-Taha), red and black. Tree.
2d. (Peni-e-ua), bistre and black. Portrait of King George II.
$2\frac{1}{2}$d. (Peni-e-ua mo koga), blue and black. Portrait of King George II.
3d. (Peni-e-tolu), emerald and black. Prehistoric monument.
4d. (Peni-e-fa), lilac and green. Breadfruit.
5d. (Peni-e-nima), orange and black. Portrait of King George II.
6d. (Peni-e-ono), vermilion. Coral.
$7\frac{1}{2}$d. (Peni-e-fitu mo koga), green and black. Portrait of King George II.
10d. (Peni-e-hogofulu), carmine and black. Portrait of King George II.
1s. (Silini-e-taha), brown and black. Portrait of King George II.
2s (Silini-e-ua), blue and black. View of Haabai and yacht.
2s. 6d. (Silini-e-ua Peni-e-ono), purple. Parrot and foliage.
5s. (Silini-e-nima), orange-red and black. View of Vavau.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).
The September packet contains—
SEVERAL VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED, including Newfoundland 1 c. and 2 c., new issue, etc.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).
The September packet contains—
SEVERAL VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED, including Newfoundland new issue, etc.

These packets are on sale until September 30th (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.



Canadian Jubilee Stamps.

THE issue of the Canadian Jubilee series does not seem to be quite as creditable a transaction as it might be. The details that are coming to hand are not pleasant reading. The New York correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly* says:

While the understanding was that some of every value were to be put on sale at every Post Office in the Dominion, the postmasters of at least twenty-five places state that they received no ½ cent stamps, and many also received no 6 cents. One Canadian official states that orders have been issued not to sell more than ten of either of these values to one person, and that no mail orders should be filled. The ½ cent is said to be held at $1.00 to $2.00 per copy by parties having any for sale. As to the other values, the majority of dealers here think they will be obtainable for some time to come at a slight advance over face. Up to and including the 8 cents the stamps are printed in sheets of 100, the 10 cents are printed in sheets of 50, and it is probable that all the higher values are. The plate numbers on such sheets as we have seen are 1 cent, No. 15; 3 cents, No. 1; 10 cents, No. 19.

On the other hand, the Boston correspondent of the same journal reports that general indications seem to point to a revival in philatelic interest arising from the issuance of these stamps, and a local dealer who displayed some of the lower values a day or two ago, said that he sold out all he had within a few hours to the general, non-stamp-collecting public, who bought them as souvenirs and as art photographs of Her Majesty the Queen at the modest rate of double face.

If the Post Office could have been persuaded to refrain from petty jobbery and speculation in the matter, there is no doubt the series, as a permanent issue, would have been most popular, as it has mainly served to convince the philatelic world that there are some shady characters in office in the Postal Department of the Dominion.

Death of a Colombian Specialist.

WE regret to hear of the death of Mr. W. T. Curtis, the well-known and able United States specialist of Colombian issues. His friend, Mr. Andreini, writes of him as follows in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News:*

William Theodore Curtis is no more. The Colombian enthusiast, who dwelt lovingly on Granadine Confederation and Antioquia rarities, the philatelist who could expatiate for long hours on the scarcity of Tolima issues, and who could look with unfeigned pleasure upon any collection of Colombia stamps, lies silently in the grave. During his long last illness he often turned to the subject of philately with apparent relief and satisfaction. Seven days before he breathed his last he wrote to me about the recent exhibition of Colombias here: "I wish I could have seen the collections. I would have gone on purpose and have taken some stamps, but I am still confined to an invalid's bed."

All who knew him admired his untiring energy in unearthing new and interesting things in Colombias, and we all give him credit for very many discoveries in his special field of research. His great regret during his philatelic career has always been the fact, also too true, that so very few collectors appreciated the value and scarcity of Colombias. One of his common expressions when he was exhibiting his Caucas was: "I will guarantee that my prices are one-half what the stamps are worth, if you find me the party who really knows what they are worth"; and the challenge was never accepted, as far as I am aware, and the party who knows what Colombias are worth has not yet been found.

Seizure of U.S. Periodical Stamps.

THE administration of the Post Office in the United States seems to be as liable to peculiar eccentricities as our own. Here is a sample from the last issue of the *Philatelic Monthly* and *World:*

Rather a high-handed outrage took place in New York on the 25th of May. This was the seizure of a number of lots of Periodical Stamps in the Walter S. Scott Co.'s Auction Sale. Notwithstanding the Government has openly sold these stamps to anyone desiring to purchase them, through the Postmaster-General and at New York, and presumably other Post Offices, and given written receipts for money paid for same, it now has the impudence to claim that all such stamps in the possession of dealers and collectors are "stolen and embezzled."

It thus appears that several hundred thousands of honest and law-abiding citizens of this country have suddenly become "thieves" and "embezzlers," and are liable to have their property, for which they have paid many thousands of dollars, seized on the ground that it is the property of the Government.

The National Philatelical Society at its meeting of May 25th, the same day this absurd proceeding occurred, adopted resolutions of protest, which were ordered to be sent to the Postmaster-General, District Attorney, Chairman of Post Office Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, and to the Philatelic and Public Press.

The *Philatelic Monthly* also gives an extract from a circular issued by the Government, actually offering these very stamps for sale which it has now seized.

We do not think we could beat this, even by the most cranky samples from St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Mexican 3 c., 1864.

WE quote the following from *The American Journal of Philately:*

Among the stamps sent us this month for examination, we have met with a very clever forgery of the 3 centavos, brown, of the 1864 issue; our first impression when we saw it was to take it for a reprint, but comparison showed the following differences between it and a genuine copy:

Genuine.

Size $19\frac{3}{4} \times 24\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; colour, yellow-brown on white paper.

The "O" of "MEXICO" is oval.

The first wavy line below the left talon of the eagle slants a trifle upwards, and does not touch the frame at its right.

The upper part of the eagle's right wing is shaded by a large number (over thirty) of small dashes.

In the space between the head and neck of the eagle and the serpent there are nine horizontal lines.

In the space below the eagle's right wing, above the tail of the serpent, there are eight horizontal lines.

The upper and lower halves of the "X" of "MEXICO" are almost of the same size.

The "I" of "MEXICO" is quite thick.

Forgery.

Size $19\frac{1}{4} \times 25$ mm.; colour, bistre-brown on toned paper.

The "O" of "MEXICO" is flat at bottom.

The first wavy line below the left talon of the eagle is perfectly level, and touches the frame at its right.

The upper part of the eagle's wing is shaded by a few (about ten) small dashes.

In the space between the head and neck of the eagle and the serpent there are eight horizontal lines.

In the space below the eagle's right wing, above the tail of the serpent, there are nine horizontal lines.

The upper half of the "X" of "MEXICO" is larger than the lower half.

The "I" of "MEXICO" is rather thin.

The ornaments in the corners also show some pronounced differences.

Niger Coast Issues.

THE *London Philatelist* is indebted to Mr. W. Morley for the following inclusive, if not exhaustive, list of the Niger Coast perforations:—

1893 Issue.

Perf. 14.

½d., vermilion.
2d., green.
2½d., carmine.
5d., grey-lilac.
1/-, black, thin paper.

Perf. 15.

½d., vermilion.
1d., pale blue.
1d., dark blue.
2d., green.
2½d., carmine.
5d., grey-lilac.
5d., bright lilac.
1/-, black, thick white paper.
1/-, black, thin paper.

Perf. 12×14.

1d., pale blue.
2d., green.
1/-, black, thin paper.

Perf. 12×15.

1/-, black, thick paper.

Perf. 12½×13×14.

1d., pale blue.

Perf. 12×12½.

2d., green.

Perf. 12 *on one side; perf.* 14 *other three sides.*

1/-, black, thin paper.

Perf. 12.

2d., green.

Perf. 12½.

2½d., carmine.

Perf. 14½.

1d., pale blue.
1d., dark blue.
2½d., carmine.
5d., bright lilac.
1/-, black, thin paper.
1/-, black, thick white paper.

Perf. 14½×15.

½d., vermilion.
1d., pale blue.
1d., dark blue.
2½d., carmine.
1/-, black, thick paper.
1/-, black, thin paper.

Perf. 12½×14.

1d., pale blue.
1d., dark blue.
2d., green.
2½d., carmine.
1/-, black, thin paper.

1894 Issue.

Perf. 14.

½d., green, white paper.
1d., vermilion ,,
2d., lake ,,
1/-, black ,,

Perf. 15.

½d., pale green, white paper.
½d., dark green, on grey paper.
1d., vermilion, white paper.
1d., vermilion, greyish paper.
2d., pale lake, white paper.
2d., deep lake, greyish paper.
2½d., deep blue, white paper.
2½d., pale blue, white paper.
2½d., blue, greyish paper.
5d., bright purple, white paper.
5d., deep purple, white paper.
5d., purple, greyish paper.
1/-, black, white paper.

Perf. 14½.

½d., green.
1d., vermilion.
2d., pale lake
2d., dark lake.
2½d., dark blue.
2½d., pale blue.
5d., bright purple.
5d., dark purple.
1/-, black.

Perf. 14½.

½d., green.

Perf. 14×15.

½d., green.

Perf. 13×14.

½d., green.
1/-, black.

Perf. 14½×15.

½d., pale green.
1d., vermilion.
1d., carmine.
2d., pale lake.
2d., deep lake.
2½d., dark blue.
2½d., pale blue.
5d., bright purple.
5d., dark purple.
1/-, black.

Perf. 12×14.

½d., green.
1d., vermilion.
1/-, black.

Perf. 12½×14.

½d , green.
1/-, black.

Perf. 12½ *top and sides;* 14 *at bottom.*

½d., green.

Mr. Morley informs us that in his measurements he quotes the side measurements first, then the top and bottom.



Plymouth Philatelic Society.

Exhibition and Prizes.

ALTHOUGH somewhat late in the season, the Plymouth Philatelic Society wound up their season on Saturday, June 12th, with a fine exhibition of stamps, this being the second held this year. As on previous occasions, the exhibition was held at the Society's Rooms, No. 9a, Princess Square (kindly lent by Mr. W. Earl), and attracted a goodly number of visitors both during the afternoon and evening. A novel feature was introduced on this occasion in the shape of three prizes — presented by the president, Major G. H. W. Stockdale, R.E.; the vice-president, Mr. R. Tyeth Stevens; and Mr. H. W. Mayne, who is one of the original founders of the Society—for collections of any country exhibited by members, points being awarded for (*a*) the completeness of the collection, (*b*) the condition of the stamps, (*c*) the philatelic knowledge displayed, and (*d*) the neatness and skill shown in the mounting and arrangement of the stamps. The judges consisted of the three prize donors before mentioned and Colonel A. Ely, A.S.C., and they commenced their work directly after the opening of the exhibition. Each judge (neither of whom, of course, competed) recorded his own ideas of the merits of the exhibits; these were afterwards combined, the result being that the hon. secretary (Mr. W. J. Miller) obtained the first place with 92¾ per cent. of the points for his very fine and skilfully arranged collection of the stamps of Greece; the Rev. E. A. Donaldson second, with 67½ points for a collection of Spanish stamps that comprised most of the rarities of the earlier issues, and included several used copies of the Don Carlos stamps, one of them being an unrecorded variety; and the Rev. E. R. Hudson third place, with 64¾ points for his fine show of the stamps of Newfoundland, which comprised, among others, good copies of the early 6½d. and 1s. stamps. The other exhibitors were the president, Major Stockdale, who showed a magnificent array of stamps of the following countries:— Spain, complete with the exception of the 1851 2 reales, and including a copy of the 12 cuartos of 1865 with inverted frame, the City of Madrid three cuartos, &c., all issues subsequent to 1860 being in an unused condition; France, almost all unused, and including many shades and rarities in pairs; Thurn and Taxis, unused; German Empire, unused; Oldenburg, mostly unused; Lubeck, complete, including the scarce error "Zwei ein halb" on 2 sch.; Schleswig-Holstein, complete, unused; Turkey, including all the 25 piastres, unused; Luxembourg and Holland, both nearly complete, unused; Norway, a fair show, unused; Iceland and Sweden, good unused collections, the first issue of the latter country complete; Sicily and Naples, complete; Malta, complete, unused; Gibraltar, complete, unused, with the exception of the errors of the 1889 issue; Lagos, complete, with the exception of the 5s. and 10s. 1885; and a magnificent collection of the stamps of Ceylon, complete with the exception of one or two varieties of perforation, and inclusive of unused copies of the imperforate 9d., 10d., and ½d. on bluish paper. The vice-president's display consisted of the stamps of St. Vincent, being a good representative collection, and included scarce surcharges of 1880 and 1881. The stamps of Seychelles and Zululand were shown by Mr. H. W. Mayne, as well as those of Cook Islands complete. In addition to the prize-winning collection, the Rev. E. A. Donaldson had a fine display of the Swiss cantonal stamps, including single and double copies of the rare Geneva, and a complete little collection of the stamps of Russia, among them being all the early watermarked stamps. The Rev. E. R. Hudson also displayed collections of the stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the 1s. value of both countries being shown. British South African stamps, including the Buluwayo provisionals, were shown by Mr. W. A. Walker; a fine collection of the stamps of Shanghai by Mrs. D. A. Livingstone; and a collection of Victorian stamps, including the rare 5s., blue, on yellow paper, by Mr. W. A. E. Ussher. The smallest collection exhibited was Mr. F. E. Renfry's Scinde Dawk stamps, which

was complete, although it only numbered three varieties. These stamps were issued in 1851 for use in the Scinde District by authority of Sir Bartle Frere, and were the first postage stamps of India. They were suppressed in 1854 when the regular issues for British India came into use. The annual meeting of the Society takes place on Wednesday next, when the prizes will be presented, officers and committee for the coming year elected, and the business of the session generally wound up. The past session has been a most successful one, many interesting and instructive papers having been given upon philatelic subjects, and the membership having increased over fifty per cent. The hon. secretary's address is 5, Athenæum Terrace, Plymouth, from whom all particulars may be obtained by collectors in the West of England who may be desirous of joining the Society.

International Postage.

In the House of Commons on the 13th July last Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury) asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether, at the Postal Union Congress held at Washington, Great Britain proposed or announced her intention to reduce the postage to all parts of the world (foreign and colonial) from 2½d. to 2d. per letter; whether he was aware that about 53,000,000 letters were despatched annually to Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia, and of this number of letters only 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 went to our colonies and India; whether, in consequence of the refusal of the foreign Governments to permit England to reduce her postage rates from 2½d. to 2d., he had called the Chancellor of the Exchequer's attention to the fact that a saving of 53,000,000 halfpennies would be effected, and that the cost of establishing Imperial penny postage would only amount to 30,000,000 halfpennies; and whether he would propose to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the saving through the rejection of Great Britain's proposal should be devoted to establishing penny postage to all parts of the empire; and also whether he would consent to establish ocean penny postage to our colonies if he received the written consent of the Prime Ministers and Governments concerned.

Mr. Hanbury (Preston) replied: It is the fact that, in accordance with the instructions which they received, the British delegates, at the recent Postal Congress, announced the intention of Her Majesty's Government to fix the English equivalent of 25 centimes at 2d. instead of 2½d. The Postmaster-General is aware that about 53,000,000 letters (including post cards) are despatched annually abroad, and that about 12,000,000 of this number go to our colonies and India. The last two paragraphs of the question relate to matters of policy, of a kind which would require the attention of the Government, and could not in any case be conveniently answered within the limits of a reply to a question. This must also be my answer to the hon. member's other question.

Great Britain 3d., Orange Paper.

We have never yet seen any explanation of the variety of the paper of the current 3d. that appeared some time ago. The date of issue, or of its first appearance, does not seem to have yet been satisfactorily settled. Gibbons' Catalogue lists:

3d., pale brown on yellow.
3d., deep brown on yellow.
3d., deep brown on orange.

But we venture to suggest that lemon for the current 3d. paper, and yellow for the variety, would be nearer the mark. However, the variety is most marked, and it would be most interesting to know something more about it.

Canadian Jubilee Stamps for the Duke of York.

On behalf of the Dominion Government a presentation was made on August 16th last to H.R.H. the Duke of York, President of the Philatelic Society of London, of a superbly bound volume of the Canadian Jubilee stamp issue. The volume, which was placed in the Duke's hands by Captain H. Bate, *aide-de-camp* to Sir Wilfred Laurier, is entirely the product of Canadian workmanship, and is suitably inscribed with the names of leading Government officials.

Forthcoming Auctions.

Mr. Hadlow's announcements for the autumn auction season include a very fine specialist's collection of Great Britain, which will be auctioned on the 19th October. It comprises many rarities unused, including a V. R.; the 10s. and 20s. values; shades and pairs of the 2s., red-brown, and a good lot of octangulars.

Universal African Penny Postage.

A Reuter's Cape Town telegram, dated August 13th, 1897, states that the Transvaal Rand has agreed to join the African Postal Convention, and a Universal South African Penny Postage will consequently come into force on January 1st, 1898.



Pony Express Reprints.

Filatelic Facts and Fallacies makes the following important announcement :

Just as we were about ready to go to press we learned of a very interesting fact—the recent discovery of the original working plates of the old Pony Express stamps It is reported the plates were found in the old established printing-house of Britton and Rey, and a series of reprints of these interesting stamps were at once made. As far as we can find out, only a limited number of reprints have been produced.

The reprints, a set of which we have seen, differ from the originals in various respects. On all of them the colour is not quite the same as on the old ones, and the background differs materially from the originals, being, in the cent values, composed of straight lines, without the slight ornaments in the upper corners ; the hoof of the right forefoot of the horse is nearly separated from the foot ; the mouth of the horse is cut into about half way up to the eye ; the shading in front of the horse's head is missing ; the hat of the rider is too little shaded and appears therefore too white ; and after the word "dollars," in the two and four dollar stamps, the reprints have a period which the originals have not.

From this it is quite evident the plates have been touched up, or perhaps transfers have been made. It follows there will not be the slightest difficulty in distinguishing the reprints from the originals made from the same plates many years ago. Not content with reproducing the entire set in normal colours, the promoters of the work have struck *all* the values in *all* the colours. Every value can *now* be had (as a reprint) in red, (two shades) blue, green, black, and brown ; all of which does not affect the status of the originals or lessen their rarity.

Rusbridge Ceylons.

THE greatest publicity should be given to a letter from Mr. Wilmot Corfield, editor of the *Philatelic World*, Calcutta, which is published in the *London Philatelist*. Mr. Corfield writes :

DEAR SIR,—I recently received from a Mr. E. G. Rusbridge, the Fort, Colombo (whose original circular I enclose), two books of "surcharged" Ceylon stamps of various issues, which he offered me for 50 rupees per book. I have had the whole of the "surcharged" stamps in *one* of the books photographed, and send you copies of them on two sheets. The book *not* photographed contained a further considerable assortment of "surcharged" stamps differing from, and in addition to, those in the photographs. In fact, the two books together held a most magnificent collection (nearly 200 in all) of Ceylon "surcharged" and unsurcharged issues, and all, including many not catalogued, for 100 rupees. I have heard of several other similar books having turned up in this city lately, and Mr. Rusbridge himself has been good enough to inform me that the demand for them is very great. Some of us out here are now minutely examining our surcharged Ceylons, and comparing them with specimens from the Rusbridge crop. In the meantime I take the liberty of sending you the accompanying photos, in the hope that you may be able to assist the many collectors who touch at Colombo to fully appreciate Mr. Rusbridge's philanthropic endeavours on their behalf.

Yours faithfully,

WILMOT CORFIELD.

The circular reads :

CEYLON STAMPS.

The Ceylon Government having destroyed all the Ceylon surcharged stamps, cards, and envelopes, collectors must kindly bear in mind that Ceylon stamps are considered the best investment one could make nowadays, and therefore apply without delay to the undersigned before prices rise higher.

E. G. RUSBRIDGE,
Colombo Library, Fort Ceylon.

Mr. Castle adds the following note :

From the photograph kindly sent by Mr. W. Corfield it is at once evident that the vast majority of his specimens are provided with forged surcharges, and it is well therefore that collectors should be on their guard.

Perhaps Mr. Rusbridge will explain his share of this business, and if not, perhaps someone else will explain Mr. Rusbridge.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

OCTOBER, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

MR. CASTLE in the *London Philatelist* does some timely plain speaking on the question of the suppression of speculative stamps. The recent flood of Jubilee Issues and Disease Stamps will not have been an unmixed evil if it leads to a renewed and more effective revolt of stamp collectors. Mr. Castle says:—

Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

"The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps was expressly founded to combat these issues, and it is high time that it vindicated its title, or else made room for some other body who will judicially weigh all new issues and give their opinions thereon to the Philatelic body in general. Mr. E. J. Nankivell in the *American Journal of Philately* of this month has some vigorous and sensible remarks hereon, which we cordially endorse, especially when he states that the movement must not be allowed to collapse because some dealers have fallen away. A general meeting of all the members must be called as soon as the season commences—say in October—when an enunciation should be made of the principles on which the Society is henceforward to be conducted, and the resignation accepted of all those who cannot subscribe thereto. The position of those members of the trade who have been loyal to the movement is a very hard and invidious one, and it seems to us better that the Society should be composed of collectors only."

So that we are compelled to face the fact that we have reluctantly arrived at the parting of the ways. It was hoped at the initiation of the movement for the Suppression of Speculative and Unnecessary Stamps that collectors and dealers would be able to work together for a common object. It was admitted on all hands that the undoubted tendency of speculative issues was to undermine the best and most permanent interests of stamp collecting, and it was agreed that the protest would be most effective if it was the united voice of collectors and dealers. Collectors were of opinion that it would be next to useless to black list stamps that might still be included in catalogues and albums, and as dealers controlled the publication of catalogues and albums their co-operation was regarded as absolutely necessary. That co-operation was at once given by the leading firms, and those leading firms have loyally stood by the Society which was established for the suppression of speculative stamps. But some others have fallen away for various reasons, which perhaps at this stage it is not well to probe too closely.

Such a revolt as that which has been raised against stamps made for fleecing collectors could not be expected to settle down into smooth running without treading upon some tender corns. Consequently we must not be surprised at the courteous consideration for others' interests which has for months past dictated the inaction of the S.S.S.S. But a consideration that is all "give" and no "take" cannot be expected to continue as a permanent arrangement.

Hence the admission forced from Mr. Castle that collectors will have

to shoulder single-handed the unpleasant work of compiling and publishing the necessary black list.

That collectors can do the work efficiently, and that they can also do it effectively, will soon be apparent if it be taken in hand by the members of the Philatelic Society of London. And probably no dealers will have more cause to regret the change, from the naturally tender action of a trade committee to the decisions of an independent committee of collectors, than the few who have withdrawn from the ranks of the S.S.S.S. A collectors' committee will be responsible to collectors, and collectors will naturally expect their committee to deal in a drastic and independent manner with the speculative rubbish that crops up from month to month for its consideration.

Swindling postal administrations, that make a business of the prostitution of the use of postage stamps for the fraudulent collection of revenue from stamp collectors, are alarmingly on the increase. But happily for the permanence of stamp collecting there is a quiet determination abroad amongst stamp collectors to put an end to the profit-producing character of the prostitution of the use of the postage stamp. Stamp collectors exist for the collection and study of genuine postal issues, not for the idiotic collection of more or less pretty little labels. They have, it is true, neither the right nor the desire to dictate to any Government what labels it shall issue, but they have the inalienable and undisputed right to say, We will not be fleeced, we will not buy stamps that are not the result of postal requirements and that are obviously only made for sale to collectors. You may make what stamps you please; we shall exercise our right as to what we will collect, and our knowledge of the postal requirements of the various countries of the world is now sufficiently comprehensive to enable us to discriminate between disease labels, that answer no postal requirement, and the genuine postage stamp. We will reject the one and collect the other, and when this revolt has got into proper working order you will find that by simply and efficiently attending solely to our own business and interests we have checkmated the swindling intention of your disease labels and your so-called "commemorative" issues.

Let us see to it that as collectors we are true to ourselves and our hobby in this matter, and we shall not fail then to prove in the long run that we are also doing our level best to conserve those interests which yield the most permanent profit to the honest stamp dealer.

* * *

Illustration of Postage Stamps.

SINCE our last issue Mr. C. J. Phillips has started a crusade against the endeavour of the Post Office to put an end to the pictorial illustration of postage stamps. He wrote a very able letter, which was inserted in several daily papers, and he invoked the aid of those interested. But he might as well have started an outdoor display of fireworks in a downpour of rain as try to start the crusade when he did. The Exhibition was over, and collectors had dispersed to holiday retreats.

Why the Exhibition was allowed to go by without inviting the collectors and dealers who were then drawn to the Metropolis to publicly protest in public meeting is more than we can fathom. There seems to have been plenty of time for drinking and dining, but none for the protection of those interests which are so seriously threatened. If dealers are so apathetic in times when they may effectively do something, they will scarcely be pitied when the real crisis comes.

Much might have been done at the Exhibition. The position might have been publicly explained in a public meeting which would have been reported in all the leading papers in the country, and if a deputation from that Exhibition meeting of exhibitors, collectors and dealers had been appointed to wait upon the Postmaster-General a great deal would have been done to

arouse and to enlighten public and official interest. But the opportunity has been lost, and badly lost.

Still, it is no use crying over spilt milk, and once more we urge those interested to take some action before it is too late. We hear of friendly actions to test the power of the Post Office to wreak its stupid will upon stamp collectors. But why wait for that? If a friendly action decides against the Post Office it will only compel the Post Office to seek from Parliament the power for which it thirsts, and if we twiddle our thumbs in contented apathy while the Post Office gathers its forces for the destruction of stamp collecting, then we shall have only ourselves to thank for the inevitable end.

Stamp dealers have almost everything in their favour in the fight that will have to be made sooner or later. They have arrayed against them a most unpopular department, a clear case of injuring serious trading interests, and a knowledge that there is an absolute and utter lack of evidence to justify the official crusade against the pictorial illustration of postage stamps.

* * *

Postal Union Congress, 1897, Resolutions.

THE Postal Union Congress has done all it had the power to do and all it was expected to do in the direction of putting its ban upon commemorative rubbish. It has decided that no kind of commemorative stamps shall be used on international correspondence. On domestic matters it is left to the discretion of the various Governments. So that commemoratives are relegated to the class of local stamps. After all, though we may be thankful for this partial ban, it is only small help in the work that has to be done in the elimination of postal weeds. They will still be free to flourish in their restricted areas, and there can be no peace for the Philatelic soul till they are robbed of their productive value, local as well as international.

The announcement that an international or universal colour is to be adopted for postage stamps is a most interesting piece of news for the Philatelic fraternity. We presume it means that the same value will be issued in the same colour in all countries of the Postal Union. Amongst other blessings which will follow in the train of this decision will be the fact that it will help us on to that happy time when colours will cease to vex the weary, puzzled chronicler of new issues. When we get the universal series in the universal colours we shall simply have to chronicle each stamp in its Postal Union colour regardless of the eccentricities of colour manufacturers and stamp printers.

* * *

Opening Sessions of Societies.

WHAT will the coming winter session be from the Philatelic point of view? Who can say? Only the energetic Secretary can answer for his own society, and there is no shadow of doubt that the energetic Secretary can answer for a great deal. The success of the London Philatelic Exhibition is a very fair illustration of what an efficient Secretary can do when he puts his back into the work. It may not always be true, but in the general run of things success and failure are alike largely due to the Secretary of a society. Of course it is possible that even a good Secretary may be handicapped by a committee of woodenheads, and find it next to impossible to ensure a successful session. Already the active spirits of Manchester have opened the ball with a semi-exhibition evening, to which they freely invited friends from far and near. Birmingham may be relied upon to be not far behind; but what will the premier society do? Will it confess that it has not enough life in it to continue its meetings weekly, and that it must fall back upon the old fortnightly arrangement? It will be a sorry confession for such a grand society to make, and we trust, for its own good name and fame, it will not be driven to it.

The Stamps of Norway.

By ARTHUR H. HARRISON,

Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society

(In collaboration with Hubert Buckley, Christiania).

(*Continued from page* 244.)

3 skilling, grey-lilac (shades).

TYPE I.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 11 mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre of the "E" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the end of "M" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

(*c*) The right-hand side of the large crown appears higher than the left, and some of the pearls on the left are often covered by network of the background; the cross above the crown is indistinct, but on very fine copies appears to lean over to the right.

(*d*) Counting from the right.

The second line runs into the left hind leg.

The eighth line touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and the upper bend of the tail; only small portions of the ninth can be traced; the tenth touches the toe point of the left hind foot; and the eleventh touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg.

(*e*) Counting from the left.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth lines can be seen on the space between the fore legs, and on some copies traces of the tenth may be found; the tenth touches the toe point of the right hind foot; *the fifteenth, rising from the point of the shield, strikes the heel of the right hind foot;* the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth meet the outline of the lion's body, and the twelfth passes into the fore leg; the tip of the lion's tongue touches the eleventh line, and the twelfth line touches the snout.

(*f*) Instead of coming to a point in the centre, the upper and lower parts of the figure "3" are joined by a loop, and there is ¾ to 1 mm. space between it and the word "SKILL."

TYPE II.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre line of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¼ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre of the "A" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown is more distinct than on Type I., and the pearls are more regular.

(*d*) Counting from the right.

The second line does not quite touch the left hind leg of the lion; the ninth line is distinct, and partly outlines the mane; the eleventh line passes clear of the hind legs; and the twelfth touches the back of the knee joint of the right.

(*e*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines can be seen on the space between the fore legs, and occasionally traces of the ninth may be found; the eighth touches the toe point of the right hind foot; *the fourteenth, rising just to the left of the point of the shield, strikes the heel of the right hind foot;* the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth meet the outline of the lion's body, and the twelfth joins just at the angle of the fore leg and body; the tip of the lion's tongue touches the tenth line.

(*f*) The space between the figure "3" and "SKILL." measures $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

(*g*) The upper corner of the lion's crown does not touch the top of the shield.

TYPE III.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the end of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches quite to the beginning of the "A" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

(*c*) On the right half of the crown the pearls on the outer bend are close together, and in most copies the cross above the crown is replaced by a white, almost round spot.

(*d*) On the left the leaves of the wreath appear of equal size.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the tuft of the lower bend of the lion's tail; the eighth line touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and the upper bend of the tail; the ninth can only be seen in fragments; the tenth touches the toe point of the left hind foot; and the eleventh touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The eighth line touches the toe point, *and the fifteenth the heel of the right hind foot;* the tenth and eleventh lines appear on the space between the handle of the axe and the lion's snout, and the twelfth touches the snout.

(*g*) The right hind foot rests between eight of the shade lines, touching the first and the eighth, and is longer than the left hind foot; the left hind foot rests between eight of the shade lines, but does not touch either the first or the eighth.

(*h*) The lion's tongue is very long, and extends to the handle of the axe.

(*i*) The upper bend of the tail commences at the beginning of the tuft on the level of the fifth line from the right.

(*j*) The centre point of the lion's crown and the outline of the large crown join.

(*k*) The "F" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left stands apart.

TYPE IV.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures $11\frac{1}{4}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches almost the end of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches almost to the beginning of the "A" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

(*c*) On the right half of the crown there is a space between the second and third pearl on the outer bend. The cross above the crown is generally plainly defined, and it appears to lean slightly to the left.

(*d*) On the left the leaves of the wreath are irregular.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line joins the frame in places, and quite disappears opposite the

knee joint of the lion's left hind leg; the second line touches the lower bend of the tail; the eighth line does not touch the lower corner of the lion's crown, but the ninth passes through it, and being traced downwards touches the back of the head, and then passes between the mane and tail; the eleventh line runs up between the hind legs without touching either.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The eighth line touches the toe point, and the fourteenth the heel of the right hind foot; the tenth and eleventh lines appear on the space between the handle of the axe and the lion's snout, the eleventh touching the snout.

(*g*) The part of the handle of the axe lying between the fourth and sixth lines is shaded.

(*h*) The lion's tongue extends just over the tenth line.

(*i*) The upper portion of the tail is finely curved, and the tuft commences on the level of the fourth line from the right.

(*j*) The centre point of the lion's crown meets the top of the shield to the left of the outline of the large crown.

(*k*) The "F" and "R" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left joined at the top.

(*l*) A short vertical line connects the fourteenth and fifteenth, forming a diamond in the point of the shield.

4 skilling. 1863-1866.

Blue, light blue, dark blue, milky blue, greenish blue, ultramarine.

Having examined large quantities of this value, it seems to me that two different plates were in use. The first plate I have found used in 1863, the early months of 1864, and a few specimens dated even as late as 1870. The second plate appears first about the middle of 1864, and I have found specimens from this plate in a very worn condition, bearing date 1870.

The chief characteristics of Plate 1 are:

(1) The dots or lines by which the different types may easily be distinguished.

(2) The slight variation in the length of the wreath on the left.

(3) The softness of the paper and the cloudy impressions.

(4) The number of perpendicular lines in the shield being the same in each type.

The chief characteristics of Plate 2 are:

(1) The great variation of the length of the wreath on the left.

(2) The number of perpendicular lines in the shield—twenty-nine in two types and thirty in the other two.

(3) The size of the lettering—more particularly noticeable perhaps in the word "SKILL."

(4) The variety of papers.

N.B.—I have never had the fortune to obtain or even to see a corner block of Plate 1, and consequently the arrangement of the types may be slightly out of order.

4 skilling. 1863.

PLATE I.

TYPE I.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches beyond the centre of the "A" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown leans slightly to the right, and the head lies between the foot and tail of the "R" of "NORGE."

(*d*) The support of the outer row of pearls is of equal length with the other supports.

(*e*) Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.

(*f*) Six lines lie between the hind legs.

(*g*) The letters of "SKILL." are not quite 2 mm. high.

(*h*) Counting from the right.

The first line passes under the lower bend of the tail, through the outer curl of the tuft, but does not touch the left hind leg; the second passes under the back of the joint of the left hind leg; the heel of the left hind foot comes between the fourth and fifth line; the ninth touches the toe point; the tenth passes clear, and the eleventh touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth at the top passes under the lower corner of the lion's crown and outlines the mane; the seventh passes under the upper bend of the tail; The tuft, which is divided at the end into two curls, commences at the fourth line; the fourth and fifth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft; the lion's crown touches the top of the shield.

(*i*) About a millimetre below the top of the shield, and between the first line of shading and the frame, there is a small dot of colour on the right.

(*j*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout; the toe point of the right hind foot nearly touches the eighth line (and in heavily-printed copies it does); the fourteenth line, rising from the left of the point of the shield, passes into the heel of the right hind foot; the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body.

(*k*) There is a space between the tops of each of the letters of "FRIMAERKE" on left.

TYPE II.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches beyond the centre of the "A" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown leans slightly to the right, and the three pearls which support it are placed on the right side of the centre ornament.

(*d*) Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield, and five lines lie between the hind legs.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line passes under the lower bend of the tail, touches the outer curl of the tuft, and touches the background of the joint of the left hind leg; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth touches the toe point; the tenth touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg, and the eleventh passes into the joint; the eighth at the top passes under the lower corner of the lion's crown and outlines the back of the head; the seventh passes through the upper bend of the tail; the tuft, which is divided into two curls at the end, commences at the fourth line, and the fourth and fifth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*f*) About 4 mm. from the lower frame of the shield, and between the eighth and ninth line (counting from the left), there is a small dot.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and muzzle, and a very small bit of the twelfth under the jaw; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the

fifteenth passes into the heel of the right hind foot, and the fourteenth, rising from the centre of the point of the shield, runs into the foot; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, and the twelfth passes into the fore leg.

(*h*) All the letters of "FRIMAERKE" on the left are connected at top and bottom.

(*i*) The lion's nose has an almost human appearance, and protrudes so far as to nearly touch the back of the axe-head.

TYPE III.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches beyond the centre stroke of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The pearls which support the cross above the large crown are very small, and in most specimens very indistinct.

(*d*) Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield, and five lines lie between the hind legs.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line passes under the lower bend of the tail and the outer curl of the tuft, but does not touch the left hind leg; the second passes through the back of the joint of the left hind leg; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth touches the toe point, and the tenth touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth at the top touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and outlines the back of the head and mane; the seventh passes under the upper bend of the tail; the tuft, which is divided into two curls at the end, commences at the fourth line; the fourth and fifth lines, which are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft, pass through the upper part of the bend.

(*f*) About 1¼ mm. below the upper frame on the right side a hair line passes into the shield as far as the second line of shading.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout, and a very small bit of the twelfth under the jaw; the toe point of the right foot nearly touches the eighth line; the fourteenth, rising from the left of the point of the shield, passes into the heel of the right hind foot; the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, and the eleventh passes into the fore leg.

(*h*) The right hind leg is heavily shaded.

TYPE IV.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches almost the middle of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the crown is upright and distinct, and the pearls which support it are slightly to the right of the centre ornament.

(*d*) Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield, and five lines lie between the hind legs.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line passes under the lower bend of the tail, under the tuft, and touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth touches the toe point; the tenth touches

the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg, and the eleventh passes into the joint; the eighth at the top touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and passes under the mane; the seventh touches the upper bend of the tail; the tuft is bushy, and commences at the fourth line; and the fifth line only is to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft; the fifth and sixth lines pass through the upper part of the bend.

(*f*) About 1 mm. below the upper frame on the right there is a minute dot.

(*g*) The top corner of the lion's crown touches the frame.

(*h*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout, and a small bit of the twelfth under the jaw; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth line, rising slightly to the right of the point of the shield, passes into the heel, and the thirteenth and fourteenth lines are connected with a small line right in the point of the shield; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, and the twelfth passes into the fore leg.

4 skilling. 1864.

PLATE II.

TYPE I.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre stroke of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown is indistinct, but even on fine specimens it is small, and does not extend to the "R" of "NORGE."

(*d*) The ornament supporting the outer row of pearls on the left is shorter than any of the others, and the centre ornament leans to the right.

(*e*) Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.

(*g*) The letters of "SKILLING" are 2 mm. fully in height.

(*h*) Counting from the right.

The first line passes under the lower bend of the tail, under the outer curl of the tuft, and touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg; the lower bend of the tail and the tuft touch the frame; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth touches the toe point; the tenth passes clear, and the eleventh passes into the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth at the top passes under the lower corner of the lion's crown, under the back of the head, and outlines the lower part of the mane; the seventh touches the upper bend of the tail; the tuft, which is divided into two curls at the end, commences at the third line; and the fourth and fifth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft; the lion's crown does not touch the top of the shield.

(*i*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout, and small portions of the twelfth and thirteenth under the jaw; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth, rising from the left of the point of the shield, passes into the heel of the right hind foot; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, the twelfth passing into the fore leg.

(*k*) There is a space between the tops of each of the letters of "FRIMAERKE" on the left. From the cross bar upwards the upper part of the "A" of "Æ" is missing; the lower part is joined to the base of the "M," giving it the appear-

ance of "L." The down stroke of the "K" of "SKILL." is very thin; the space between it and the main stroke is filled in with dark shading, almost round in appearance.

TYPE II.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the middle of the "A" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the middle of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown leans very slightly to the left, and the pearls which support it rest on the top of the centre ornament.

(*d*) The centre ornament of the large crown leans to the left.

(*e*) Thirty perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield; the thirtieth (on the right) often runs into the frame, and in some specimens the lower half cannot be perceived.

(*f*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the tuft of the tail; the second line touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg, passes under the lower bend of the tail, and through the tuft; the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth touches the toe point; the eleventh passes clear; and the twelfth passes into the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth line at the top touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and the upper bend of the tail; the ninth passes through the lower corner of the crown and under the back of the lion's head; the tuft commences at the fourth line; and the fifth and sixth lines, and a suspicion of the fourth, are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout; below the lion's jaw is heavy shading; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth, rising from the left of the point of the shield, passes into the heel of the right hind foot; the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body, and the eleventh passes into the fore leg.

(*h*) The right hind leg is heavily shaded.

(*i*) The last three letters "RKE" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left are connected at the top and bottom.

(*k*) A short line runs partly across the foot of the main stroke of "K" of "SKILL.".

(*To be continued.*)

Imperial Penny Post.

THE chances of the early adoption of Imperial Penny Postage are undoubtedly increasing from month to month. Mr. Chamberlain's conferences with the Colonial Premiers, and the official report of his expressed view of the project, have raised it prominently into the region of practical politics.

Mr. Chamberlain said :—

"I also should mention the desire which is widely felt, and which I share, for an improved postal communication with the Colonies. I believe that that matter rests entirely with the Colonies themselves, and that they have revenue difficulties in the matter which have hitherto prevented us coming to any conclusion. But I confess that I think that one of the very first things to bind together the sister nations is to have the readiest and the easiest possible communication between their several units, and as far as this country is concerned, I believe we should be quite ready to make any sacrifice of revenue that may be required in order to secure a Universal Penny Post throughout the Empire."

Again, the Associated Chambers of Commerce recently discussed the matter.

Mr. C. J. Wilson, on behalf of the South of Scotland Chambers, moved that a deputation should wait on the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Postmaster-General to lay before them the earnest wish of the Chambers for the establishment of Imperial Penny Postage, and to urge the appointment, if necessary, of an independent committee to ascertain what obstacles, if any, exist to carrying out the desired object.

The Chambers, he said, had a good many times expressed their opinion that an Imperial Penny Postage ought to be established. It was now a matter of history that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did provide a large sum for postal reforms, in which, however, he did not include an Imperial Penny Post. He did, though, propose a reduction in the "all the world" rate of from twopence-halfpenny to twopence. This reduction would have been in force now except that at the Washington Postal Conference the United States raised an objection, and consent was withheld by the Postal Union. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had still at his disposal this sum of money, and they were now asking the Postmaster-General to apply the money to the establishment of an Imperial Penny Postage. The question would be asked how, if the Postmaster could not overcome the opposition to a reduction of postage from twopence-halfpenny to twopence, he could possibly give a Penny Imperial Postage? To that query the answer was supplied in the prevailing practice of the United States. Many years ago the States formed an American-Canadian postal sub-union, by which the Americans, believing that cheap postal communication would be advantageous to their commerce, agreed that they would transmit letters to Canada for two cents, while the Canadian Post Office, on the ground of poverty, said they must charge three cents for letters sent by them into the States. He contended that we ought to follow that example and form in conjunction with our Colonies and dependencies a purely British union, under which letters might be sent to every British Colony, and to any and every part of the Empire, for a penny, while the Colonies might charge whatever they liked for the return postage.

Mr. Perry (Bristol), who seconded the motion, said a question of the expenditure of between £60,000 and £70,000 ought not to stand between the Department and the establishment of an Imperial postage rate.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

It is becoming evident that the mother country will, at an early date, have to lead the way and leave the Colonies to follow her lead in the matter of return postage as their circumstances will admit. If the adoption of the project by the mother country results in such an increase of correspondence as to convert the anticipated loss of revenue into a profit, the Colonies would soon follow suit.

Stamps of the Ionian Islands.

Translated from the "Moniteur du Collectionneur" by the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain."

THE Ionian Islands, which were placed under British Protectorate by the Treaty of Paris, on the 5th of November, 1815, formed a Republic, and consisted of seven islands: Corfu, Paxo, Leucade, Ithaka, Cephalonia, Zante, and Cerigo. These islands belonged to the Republic of Venice from the fourteenth century until the time when they became the property of France by the Treaty of Campo Formio, in 1797. From 1814–1863 they formed a Republican Confederation under the name of the United States of the Ionian Islands.

Following the example of Greece and other countries of Europe that had adopted the franking of letters by means of postage stamps, the Ionian Parliament decreed by a law passed on the 27th of July, 1857, the employment of stamps. This law came into force in the Republic of the seven islands on the 1st of May, 1859; and as the money used at this time was still the Spanish piaster—equal 100 oboli, or 50 pence—an issue of three different values was ordered. These three values served to frank letters in each island, from one island to another, and from the seven islands to foreign parts; and, in order to give the inhabitants an incentive to use the stamps, it was decided that letters addressed to any place in the islands, and not weighing more than ½ ounce, should only have to pay half the rate if prepaid. This concession, however, did not lead to any considerable increase during the first few years. According to official information, the total numbers of letters despatched by the Ionian Post Offices were as follows:—

In 1859 .	112,000	In 1860 .	134,000	In 1861 .	154,000
„ 1862 .	171,000	„ 1863 .	192,000	„ 1864 .	104,000

The stamp, which does not bear any inscription of value, is rectangular in shape, and measures 25 × 19 mm. They are one of the best examples of stamps printed in 1859, and produced by *taille douce* engraving on steel.

Three plates were made, each consisting of 150 stamps, and all the Ionian stamps were printed from these plates. The stamps bear the likeness of Queen Victoria, who was the Protectress of the Republic at the time. The head of the Queen is to the left in an oval formed by a garter, with the Greek inscription at the top—"Ionikon Kratos." The first printing reached a total of 300,000 stamps, as follows:—

180,000	stamps of	½d. = 1 obole, orange.
75,000	„	1d. = 2 oboli, light blue.
45,000	„	2d. = 4 oboli, carmine.

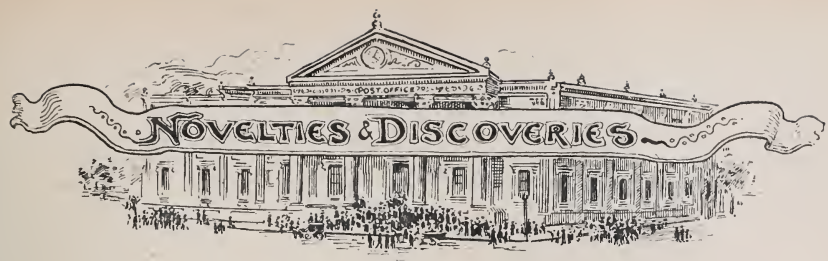
These stamps were used from the beginning of the postal service on the 15th May, 1859, until the end of 1861, at which time a second printing was made with the same plates. This second printing can be distinguished by the paper and the change in the colours of the two higher values. The second printing on the 15th of October, 1861, reached a total of 600,000 stamps, as follows:—

450,000	stamps of	1 obole, orange.
120,000	„	2 oboli, dark blue.
30,000	„	4 oboli, vermilion.

Another point to distinguish the two printings is that the 1 obole of the first printing is printed on yellowish white paper without watermark, and the 1 obole of the second printing on bluish paper like the 2 oboli value. It is also to be noted that in both printings the 1 obole was printed on paper without watermark, with the exception of about 150–200 sheets, or about 25,000 stamps, which were printed on the paper of the 2 oboli value, having as watermark a large "2." The 4 oboli value was printed on greyish white paper, watermarked "1" in the second printing.

All the values ceased to be used on the 1st of May, 1864, on account of the British Protectorate being abolished, and the Ionian Islands being united with the Kingdom of Greece, by the Treaty of London, on the 24th of March, 1864.

Nowadays the stamps of the Ionian Islands are found unused, penmarked, and obliterated with dies. Amongst the two former exist a good many reprints, but these can be easily detected by the shades, which are dull in the reprints, and the 1 obole is pale yellow instead of orange. The stamps with postal obliterations must be considered as rarities, especially those of 1 and 2 oboli of the first printing, very few of which seem to have been saved.



British Empire.

British North Borneo.—We hear that the 18 c. and 24 c. of the current series have been withdrawn on account of mistakes in the engraving. The 18 c. bears the inscription "POSTAL REVENUE" instead of "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," and in the 24 c. the words "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" are omitted.

The stamps, we understand, are being re-engraved with words "POSTAGE AND REVENUE."

British South Africa.—Our contemporaries have rather readily published a somewhat plausible account of a proposed Buluwayo Railway Commemorative issue. The same information was sent to us for publication, but as we did not believe the British South Africa Company would lend itself to such a shady bit of speculation, we referred the matter to headquarters, and are officially authorised to say that there will be no jubilee issue.

We further note that the re-engraved series is chronicled as having been put into circulation. As a matter of fact the whole stock of the re-engraved series, with the solitary exception of the £1 value, remains in the safes of the Company in London, and may not be issued for some time yet. The £1 value alone of the re-engraved series has been put into circulation.

Adhesive. £1, blue; *re-engraved.*

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that in 1894 a small quantity of the type of the first issue was printed on unwatermarked paper, thicker and whiter than the 1891 issue, and were all sent out to Rhodesia and issued just previous to the current type. Hitherto only the 1d. and 6d. values have been known, but they have recently discovered several other values, as per following list:—

Adhesives (*thicker paper*).

½d., blue and vermilion.	8d., rose and blue.
2d., green and vermilion.	3s., brown and green.
3d., grey and green.	4s., grey and vermilion.
4d., brown and black.	5s., yellow.

Leeward Islands.—Mr. Edward Mercier, writing from Antigua, informs us that by the authority of an order of the Governor and the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands, dated 8th July, 1897, a certain number of Leeward Island postage stamps were overprinted in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. The overprint consists of a circular garter with buckle inscribed "SEXAGENARY—1897," and in the inner circle the letters "V.R.I." in a monogram. The total issue was as follows:

½d.	15,600.
1d.	15,600.
2½d.	15,600.
4d.	6000.
6d.	3480.
7d.	3480.
1s.	1800.
5s.	900.

The issue, according to the *Antigua Standard,* was distributed, in sheets of 120 stamps to each sheet, amongst the various islands as follows:—

	Antigua.	St. Kitts, Nevis.	Dominica.	Mont-serrat.	Virginia Islands.
½d. sheets	35 ..	50 ..	20 ..	15 ..	10
1d. ,,	35 ..	50 ..	20 ..	15 ..	10
2½d. ,,	30 ..	50 ..	20 ..	15 ..	10
4d. ,,	18 ..	20 ..	5 ..	5 ..	2
6d. ,,	12 ..	13 ..	2 ..	1 ..	1
7d. ,,	12 ..	13 ..	2 ..	1 ..	1
1s. ,,	6.60 ..	6.60 ..	1 ..	—60	—60
5s. ,,	2.80 ..	4.20 ..	—50 ..	—20	—10

The following is the official order referred to:—

"It is hereby notified for general information that it is proposed to issue a *certain* number of Leeward Island postage stamps in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

"The stamps will be overprinted with a circle bearing the word 'Sexagenary,' and the figures '1897,' and in the centre of the circle the letters 'V.R.I.'

"The stamps will be for sale at the several Post Offices throughout the Leeward Islands from Thursday the 22nd instant, and the sales will continue for *one week* from that date,

"LESLIE JARVIS,
"*Clerk Executive Council.*"

The stamps were on sale from Thursday, July 22nd to Thursday, July 29th, but Mr. Mercier informs us that before the expiration of the week they were all bought

out of the several post offices in the colony. Comment is unnecessary.

Mauritius.—Our publishers have received two more values of the new arms type, viz., 2 cents, mauve, value in yellow; and 18 cents, green, value in blue.

Adhesives.

2 c., mauve, value in yellow.
18 c., green, value in blue.

Niger Coast Protectorate.—We have two more values from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. of the current series printed on Crown and CA paper, viz., ½d. and 2d. The ½d. is perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$, and the 2d. is perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$ all round. Up to date the watermarked series is as follows :—

Adhesives.

½d., green, Cr. CA; perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$.
1d., vermilion, Cr. CA; perf. 15.
2d., lake, Cr. CA; perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$.

The *Monthly Circular* states that the watermarked series is now printed by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. But on inquiry at Messrs. Waterlow's we find the statement to be incorrect. The stamps are printed by them as before, the watermarked paper being supplied by the Crown agents.

Queensland.—The *Australian Philatelist* says the following alterations have been approved and decided on :—

2½d., present issue to be printed in violet-brown.

3d., same design as 1d. (1897), with figures in each corner, colour medium brown.

4d., same as 3d., colour orange-yellow.

6d., same as 4d., colour green, as used in last issue.

The 1s. will also be issued shortly of the same design and in same colour as at present.

It is contemplated to alter the colour of the 2s. red-brown, as it was often mistaken for the 3d. of same issue. All stamps will have the white background.

Victoria.—We regret to note that this colony has decided to follow the pernicious example of New South Wales in issuing a speculative lot of Disease stamps. The Melbourne *Australasian* announces that

The Cabinet has decided to try the experiment of making a special issue of stamps to tempt the speculative instincts of Philatelists, with a view of devoting the proceeds to charity. The issue is to comprise 40,000 1d. stamps, to be sold at 1s. each, and 10,000 2½d. stamps, to be disposed of at 2s. 6d. Of the receipts the Postal Department will only retain the face value of the stamps, and the balance of the money raised is to be allotted to some charitable object to be decided upon by the Governor in Council.

On this matter, Mr. D. T. Abraham, Hon. Sec. of the Victoria Philatelic Society, writes :—

The Acting Postmaster-General of Victoria has decided to issue 20,000 1d. stamps to be sold at 1s. each, and 10,000 2½d. stamps to be sold at 2s. 6d. each. The stamps are to do postal service, and will thus have a Philatelic value, and the balance of the proceeds arising from the issue is to be devoted to a charitable object to be approved by the Governor in Council, the precise application of the proceeds not having yet been decided, although the request was made by representatives of two charitable institutions, and they desired that the proceeds should be divided between them, or the whole given to one. It is feared, however, if one institution derived the benefit, every other institution would be asking for special issues; then Philatelists would require to collect hospital stamps, at the same time assisting charity, but it is extremely unlikely that the Government will ever entertain such a proposal. If such were the case, the Philatelic Society of Victoria would enter its strong protest, which they have not done in this case, owing to its being connected with charity. These stamps will vary from the English hospital stamps, which bear no postal value; but the issue in New South Wales is identical with the above. Designs are now being made by the Government printer, and further information will be given in due course.

Victoria.—According to the *Australian Philatelist* the authorities are considering the advisability of issuing a new value for postage purposes, viz., 1½d.

Foreign Countries.

China.—Now that the new issue is daily expected we may venture to chronicle the complete list of stamps surcharged up to date. We are indebted to Mr. Benjamin, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and Messrs. Butler Bros. for specimens. Of the 4 c. on 3 cents of the first series only 200 are said to have been printed, and of the 1 c. on 1 cand., 2 c. on 3 cand., and 5 c. on 5 cand. of the second series only 1000 of each were printed, and these are said to have been issued only at the port of Pakhoi.

Adhesives.

First Printing, small figures of value.

½ c. on 3 cand., yellow.
1 c. ,, 1 ,, vermilion.
2 c. ,, 2 ,, green.
4 c. ,, 4 ,, rose.
4 c. ,, 3 cents, scarlet.
5 c. ,, 5 cand., yellow.
8 c. ,, 6 ,, brown.
10 c. ,, 6 ,, brown.
10 c. ,, 9 ,, green.
10 c. ,, 12 ,, orange.
30 c. ,, 24 ,, red.
1 c. ,, 1 ,, green, 1885.
2 c. ,, 3 ,, lilac ,,
5 c. ,, 5 ,, lemon ,,

Second Printing, large figures of value.

½ c. on 3 cand., yellow.
1 c. ,, 1 ,, vermilion.
1 c. ,, 3 cents, scarlet.
2 c. ,, 2 cand., green.
2 c. ,, 3 cents, scarlet.
4 c. ,, 3 ,, ,,
4 c. ,, 4 cand., rose.
5 c. ,, 5 ,, yellow.
8 c. ,, 6 ,, brown.
10 c. ,, 9 ,, green.
10 c. ,, 12 ,, orange.
30 c. ,, 24 ,, red.
1 dollar on 3 cents, scarlet.
1 c. on 1 cand, green, 1885.
2 c. ,, 3 ,, lilac ,,
5 c. ,, 5 ,, lemon ,,

Colombian Republic.—The 20 cents. of the current issue has been changed from brown on blue paper to pale brown on green paper.

Adhesive. 20 c., pale brown on green paper.

Dominican Republic.—*The American Journal of Philately* says the 2 c., stamp of the current issue has appeared in a new shade, being a distinct vermilion instead of a rose.

Adhesive. 2 c., vermilion.

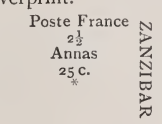
France.—*Zanzibar.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that a new set of stamps has been issued for the French Post Office of this place. The values are the same as the old issues, and are overprinted on the same values as the current French stamps, differing from the old issues in having the word "Zanzibar" as well as the value overprinted.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. add: "The announcement of this new issue was made some time before its appearance, the result of which was that a rush was made for the old issue. By July 16th, the only stamps left in the Post Office were the ½, 1, 1½, 3, and 4 annas, and of these only 200 francs worth in all. Stamps of 2½ and 5 annas were required to pay the single and double rate of postage on letters for Europe, and there were not enough of the other values to allow of their being used together, so a provisional issue was authorized, and so low had the stock got that even the gummed edges of the sheets were utilized. The provisionals were issued on July 25th until July 29th, when the new stamps arrived, and were not sold to the public; they were only affixed to letters in the Post Office, the public paying the postage in cash."

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* sets out a number of minor varieties.

So far we have seen "ZANZIBAR" all letters same size. "ZANZIBAR," 1st "Z" larger than other letters. 2½, 2 with curly tail; 2½, 2 with straight tail; and probably others exist.

Not only were the stamps surcharged, but the spaces between the panes and the top and bottom margins of the sheets were used, having the overprint.



There are also varieties of the setting up of this surcharge. We have seen

2½, 2 with curly tail.
2½, 2 with straight tail.
25 c. in thin figures.
25 c. in thick figures.

The 1st and 4th, and 2nd and 3rd, being together.

Students of minute varieties can make the following differences:

1st on white with pale colour at bottom, from top of sheet; imperf. at top.
2nd ditto with colour at top, from bottom of sheet; imperf. at bottom.
3rd pale colour above and below, with a band of deeper colour in centre; perforated all round.

Messrs. Whitfield King give 1600 as the total number printed, but the *Collectionneur* gives the following as the numbers of each:—

2½ on 5 c. 700
2½ on 10 c. 150
2½ on 15 c. 200
5 on 30 c. 200
5 on 40 c. 150
1400

The other 200 are possibly the stamps formed by the margins.

The reason for the surcharge was the breakdown of a vessel conveying a fresh supply of stamps, and the consequent running short of the stock in hand. None of the stamps were sold over the counter, but only placed on letters.

Adhesives.

2½ a. or 25 c. in black on ½ a. in red on 5 c., green.
2½ a. ,, 25 c. ,, 1 a. in blue on 10 c., black.
2½ a. ,, 25 c. ,, 1½ a. in red on 15 c., blue.
5 a. ,, 50 c. ,, 3 a. in black on 30 c., brown.
5 a. ,, 50 c. ,, 4 a. in black on 40 c., red.
2½ a. ,, 25 c. in black on margins of 5 c., greenish, or green and greenish.
2½ a. ,, 25 c. ,, ,, 10 c., lilac, or black and lilac.
2½ a. ,, 25 c. ,, ,, 15 c., bluish, or blue and bluish.
5 a. ,, 50 c. ,, ,, 30 c., brownish, or brown and brownish.
5 a. ,, 50 c. ,, ,, 40 c., yellowish on red and yellowish.

The new issue, which will be made up of current French stamps surcharged with the value and the word "Zanzibar" in three lines, will be as follows:—

Adhesives.

½ anna, red surcharge, on 5 c., green.
1 ,, blue ,, ,, 10 c., black on *rose-lilac.*
1½ annas, red surcharge, on 15 c., blue.
2 ,, black ,, ,, 20 c., brick on *green.*
2½ ,, blue ,, ,, 25 c., black on *pale rose.*
3 ,, black ,, ,, 30 c., brown.
4 ,, ,, ,, ,, 40 c., vermilion on *straw.*
5 ,, blue ,, ,, 50 c., carmine on *pale rose.*
7½ ,, ,, ,, ,, 75 c., black on *orange.*
10 ,, red ,, ,, 1 franc, pale sage-green.
50 ,, black ,, ,, 5 francs, reddish lilac on *pale lilac.*

German Colonies. — *Cameroons.* — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write: "Several journals have chronicled a separate issue for each colony, but it will be a considerable time before anyone can obtain complete sets. We have recently heard from every one of the places named, and the only colony which has yet issued the new stamps is Cameroons; we send you the only three values issued there as yet. The other German colonies will only issue the new stamps by degrees, as their stock of the unsurcharged German stamps is exhausted."

The stamps sent are surcharged diagonally from left to right with the word "KAMERUN" in black.

Adhesives. 10 pf., red.
20 pf., blue.
25 pf., yellow.

Japan.—*Filatelic Facts and Fancies* says that the 1 sen stamp has been changed from a bright clear green colour to a yellowish olive-green.

Philippines.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says, sundry values having run out, some of the old issues have been brought into use, being surcharged in a rectangle "HABILITADO" at left, "PARA" at top, "CORREOS" at right, "1897" at bottom, and value in centre.

Adhesives.

5 c.? 1894.
15 c., rose ,,
20 c., violet ,,
15 c., red-brown, 1892.
20 c., brown ,,
20 c. on 25 c., yellow-brown, 1890.

Spain.—A Spanish journal recently received by us was franked with a "war tax" stamp of a new design. There was no other stamp. In a straight label at the top are the words "IMPTO DE GUERRA," and in a straight label at the bottom is the inscription "1897 A 1898." In the centre is a large oval of solid colour, on which in white is a large figure "5", and underneath in block letters the abbreviated word "CENT."

Adhesive.
War Tax Stamp.
5 c., green.

United States. — According to the *American Journal of Philately* the current 8 cents stamp has been changed from a puce shade to a brown violet.

Our American contemporaries chronicle some stamps of the current 2 c. printed on experimental papers. In one case the paper is double, and in the other a blue safety paper.

Adhesives.

2 c., pink, on double paper, wmk.
2 c., crimson, on safety paper, no wmk.
8 c., brown-violet.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).
The October packet contains—
EIGHT VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED, including Newfoundland 3 c., new issue; Liberia 3 c., new; Niger Coast 1d., CA; Madagascar 1 c., 2 c., and 4 c., etc.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).
The October packet contains—
SEVERAL VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED, including Shanghai 10 c. on 6 c., brown (error), etc.

These packets are on sale until October 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL,
28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.



Illustration of Postage Stamps.

THOSE who may think that we have been harping too much upon the question of the right to illustrate postage stamps will do well to ponder over the following from an editorial by Major Evans in the *Monthly Journal* :—

Let us now say a few words as to the consequences that will ensue if, first, the law is interpreted as forbidding the illustration of philatelic publications; and, secondly, it is decided to put the law in force. The immediate consequences will be great inconvenience to all publishers of philatelic magazines, catalogues, etc., and no small loss to the printing trade of the country. Our publishers will be compelled to transfer all their printing work to the Continent, and that example will, no doubt, be largely followed. We, personally, shall be extremely sorry to terminate the connection with our friends, Messrs. Brendon & Son, of Plymouth, with whose capabilities as philatelic printers we have been acquainted for a number of years, and it will be very inconvenient to any editor to have work carried on at a distance; but the change will be inevitable. Later on, if the authorities decide to go further, and prohibit the importation of illustrated stamp magazines, etc., a blow will be dealt at the stamp trade in this country, from which it will probably never entirely recover, and it may well prove the beginning of the end to philately itself.

Queensland Varieties.

MR. E. D. E. VAN WEENEN, in the *Australian Philatelist*, lists a few varieties that he does not find in any catalogue. He writes :—

The 1s. of the "truncated Star" series of 1868 was issued in greyish green and a kind of soiled light green, whilst there is a decided shade of olive-green 3d., same series. I have also discovered a rosy red 1d. of that series. In Stanley Gibbons & Co.'s Catalogue (1897) of British Colonial stamps they quote a 1s. (No. 82), bright violet, "no watermark"; also a 1s. (No. 83), red-violet, "no watermark, *burélé* band at back in lilac." These stamps are identical, as in most cases the *burélé* has almost entirely disappeared, and in the best is not so clear as that on the 1d. and 2d. of 1879. Again, the shades used for the latter two are very distinct, and not seen in other issues of the same stamp. As regards the error 1d., yellow, I have never seen a satisfactory specimen of the 1879 issue; but a pure error was perpetrated with the 1d. 1882 type, but without "stop" on the thick unwatermarked paper (no *burélé*). A sheet printed in a dull dark yellow escaped the not-very-lynx-eyed official, and went into circulation. Only a few are known. The next error was the same 1d. on Crown and Q paper, colour reddish brown. This, as I was informed by the official best informed on the subject, was due to a new mixture of scarlet, which on exposure to the air after being printed turned that colour. Only a few copies of this are in existence. A more recent error is the 1d., 1895, printed in orange-yellow on unwatermarked paper. This curious error, of which I have a postmarked pair, was due to a proof sheet having got mixed with a lot, and sent away in the interior, where the error was discovered. Having been puzzled for some time by these conundrums in shades, and well aware what alterations in shades could be made from aniline inks by *speculating* collectors, I interviewed the head of the Postal Department, and learned that the mixer of colours had a peculiar tendency to experimenting in shades, and his manipulations did not always result in the desired effect.

Hungary: No Complete Sheets.

Filatelic Facts and Fancies tells what to the specialist must be a harrowing story of the mutilation of sheets of stamps in Hungary :—

For the extremist, who is not satisfied unless he has the stamps of the country in which he specializes in entire sheets in his collection, with full imprint and plate number, Hungary is certainly a poor field. In this country there are no entire sheets to be had for love or money. Two people are employed during the whole year to do nothing else but tear the outer edges from the sheets of stamps; and only in this shaved condition are the stamps sold, and even special endeavours have so far not succeeded to get out any of the sheets of the present issue before the margins have been torn off.

Postal Congress Resolutions.

Filatelic Facts and Fancies gathers that, according to various sources, the main resolutions of the Postal Union

Congress recently held at Washington are as follows:—

The use of any kind of commemorative stamps on international postal matters shall be suppressed; on domestic matter it is left to the discretion of the various Governments. This resolution should be of great benefit to philatelists.

The limit of weight for samples of merchandise shall be raised from 250 to 350 grams (about $\frac{3}{4}$ pound). Objects of natural history, as animals, dried plants, geological specimens, etc., are hereafter to be admitted under this class.

A universal colour of postage stamps is to be adopted, but the proposition to create a universal postage stamp was by a nearly unanimous vote defeated. This result could easily be foreseen. For the present time, and for many years to come, the financial conditions of the various members of the Postal Union will not admit a universal postage stamp. It should not be very hard to work out a scheme with a return envelope, somewhat on the line of the international return postal card, that could do away entirely with the desirability of an international postage stamp, which always will present very important objections.

The fee for money orders from 100 francs ($20.00) and over was reduced about one-half.

Registered letters can be sent C.O.D. up to the amount of $200.00; but this new rule is not compulsory with all countries.

Typewritten circulars are admitted as printed matter if sent in not less quantities than twenty of the same tenor at the same time.

It was agreed that the year on letter cancellations in the coming century shall be expressed as follows—00 to mean 1900; 01, 1901; 02, 1902; etc.

The Orange Free State entered the Postal Union, as did Korea (?), and China is to follow as soon as some contemplated reorganizations in this vast empire permit. This will make every country of any importance a member of the Postal Union.

A very important measure was defeated by the countries using the English-American system of weight—pounds and ounces. This was the motion to increase the limit of a single letter to 20 grams. The present limit is 15 grams in countries with the decimal system, and $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce or about $14\frac{1}{4}$ grams in countries with the old Rip van Winkle pound system; and for these countries it would be somewhat inconvenient to figure out that fraction of an ounce that nearest represents 20 grams, and arrange for weights and scales for this fraction.

The next Postal Congress will convene in Rome in 1903.

Afghanistan's First Stamp.

MAJOR DAV in a paper in the *Philatelic Journal of India* writes:—

On examination of the reference list of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., I find the first illustrated and tabulated stamp of Afghanistan described as a mauve stamp on laid paper, issued in 1868. I have several times examined specimens of this stamp, and its appearance bears out the history I have been given of it, viz., that it was specially manufactured in Kabul in 1888 or 1889 for, and several specimens given to, an Englishman, who was then travelling in that country on a scientific quest. The date on it would lead one to suppose that it had been issued earlier; but the type of stamp, the paper used, and the pigment—an aniline dye—are more modern and correspond with what has been stated to be the real date of manufacture.

Belgium 35 c. Stamp.

A VERY interesting series of articles on the Stamps of Belgium, by Jules Bonvez, is being published in the *American Journal of Philately*. In the latest instalment we get the history of the introduction of the 35 c. stamp for registered and express consignments. A decree dated 20 June, 1891, was as follows: "A new postage stamp of 0.35 c., colour brown-red on chocolate, will be issued on the 1st of July, 1891."

There were at first issued 5000 sheets of this value, or 1,500,000 stamps, colour brown-red on chocolate. Then on the 1st of October, 1892, there was a second supply of the same value, consisting of 3000 sheets, or 900,000 stamps, the shade of which was slightly modified, being changed from brown-red to lilac-brown, and the impression being made on rose-coloured paper.

The first supply did not present anything peculiar, but on many stamps of the first sheets of the second supply defects or irregularities were noticed in the impression, the result either of an incomplete reproduction of the engraving, or of the used condition of the galvano-plate of the first supply, which had to be again resorted to, and which had to undergo repair. About 1600 sheets were printed by means of the old plate, and these were supplied to a certain number of post offices on the 1st of November, 1892. The principal *errors* on these sheets are always reproduced in the same order, but with certain variations. We have deemed it of interest to indicate the places which these errors occupy on each sheet, and to explain the nature of each one in numerical order:—

1. Nos. 5, 25, 91, 114, and 297, we find "BELGIOUF" instead of "BELGIQUE."

2. Nos. 9, 59, 139, 228, and 264, the head of "T" in "POSTES" is cut at the right.

3. Nos. 38, 83, and 164, the white circle surrounding the medallion is stained near the bottom, between the letter "E" of "BELGIE" and the letter "P" of "POSTERIJEN."

4. Nos. 53, 219, and 283, we find "BELGIGUE" instead of "BELGIQUE."

5. Nos. 68 and 173, we find "BELGIOUE" instead of "BELGIQUE."

6. Nos. 147, 194, and 242, the star above the border surrounding the medallion is defective.

7. Nos. 19, 122, and 272, we find "POSTEPIJEN" instead of "POSTERIJEN."

The plate having been inspected and repaired after the supply of the 1600 sheets above mentioned, the sheets which were subsequently printed showed only one error, on the stamp corresponding to No. 122. This error is the same as 7 above.

The first issue of the stamp of 0.35 c. was but of short duration, as the decree of the 15th of March, 1893, creating the Sabbath stamps, gave rise also to a stamp of 0.35 c. with label. The same shade was preserved in this stamp, but it was printed on a white instead of a rose-coloured background.

Uruguay: Change of Colours.

THE *American Journal of Philately* publishes the following decree, authorising the change of colours of the current postage stamps chronicled by us last month :—

By order of the Directory, on the 21st inst., a new emission of postage stamps will be put into circulation—say, of 1 cent, same design as 5th October, 1895, printed in blue ink; of 2 cents, same as 5th December, 1895, but violet; of 5 cents, same as 5th October, 1895, but green.

Ninety days from that date is given to return those of the same value now in use, and these can be exchanged for new ones during the last thirty days. After that time the old stamps will be of no value for franking.

MONTEVIDEO, *19th June*, 1897.

United States: Current Varieties.

VARIETIES of shade and paper seem to be getting somewhat plentiful in the current series of the stamps of the United States. We quote from two issues of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* :—

The latest thing in Bureau issues is the current 2 c. stamp on *double paper*, similar to that experimented with at one time by the Continental Bank Note Co. Both sections are very thin, of course, as the thickness of both together does not exceed that of the ordinary watermarked paper with which we are familiar. The gummed section, however, is quite tough and strongly "wire wove," while the upper side is soft and delicate. The watermark is in the soft portion next to the impression, which would account for its indistinctness when looked for, the outline being obscured by the application of the unwatermarked sheet with the gum. Specimens have been shown us by Mr. C. H. Mekeel and others. We are unable to say how long it has been in use, or whether it has been permanently adopted.

Last week we described the current 2 c. stamp on double paper, which was evidently an experiment similar to those tried by the Continental Bank Note Co. in 1873-5. Since then we have seen another 2 c. stamp of the same type on what appears to be an experimental blue safety paper. The colour of the stamp is tinted by the paper, and appears to be a dark crimson. The paper is of the ordinary thickness, and is highly surfaced, with an irregular network of water-lines on its back. There is no watermark. The only specimen we have seen was sent us by Mr. J. T. Kaemmerlen, and was received by him on a letter from Cleveland, Ohio.

Destruction of U.S. Stamps.

IT is evident that the U.S. Post Office authorities do not intend to further expose their officials to the temptation of stamp dealing, for *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* (Washington correspondent) makes the following announcement :—

After the suspension of Mr. Munce, the former chief of the stamp division, a committee destroyed all of the adhesive stamps left in the Post Office Department. The stamped envelopes left on hand of obsolete issues will shortly be destroyed. It will be a difficult matter in the future to get any proofs or "specimen" envelopes from the Post Office Department, no matter how strong your "pull" or political influence may be.

So much the better, say all of us !

De La Rue Designs.

THE *Australian Philatelist* makes the following versified appeal to Messrs. De La Rue for a little more variety in their designs for Colonial postage stamps :—

Oh ! Thomas De La Rue and Co.,
Why are your stamps so meretricious?
A change to something new, you know,
Philatelists would deem delicious.

'T is not for lack of artists' skill
That each design is like the other;
We think 't is only want of will
To make a stamp less like its brother.

We weary of that female bust
Each stamp and card alike adorning (?),
With nostril curled in proud disgust,
Its constant reproduction scorning.

Oh, give, we pray, your cheap engraver
Instructions for some newer pictures;
Destroy those dies of evil favour,
Deserving our severest strictures.

Our rows of British Empire look
As stereotyped as stencilled dados.
Oh ! make a novel pattern book,
And give us something like Barbados.

Mauritius First Issues.

A RECENT issue of the *Westminster Gazette* contained the following letter from a correspondent :—

Sir,—An explanation of the great rarity of the 1847 postage stamps of Mauritius may interest your philatelist readers.

In that year the heads of departments, civil servants, and members of the Governor's staff agreed to give a ball in return for a like entertainment given by the officers of H.M. 12th Regiment. A consignment of stamps for the postal service in the island had been received some days previous to the issue of the invitations. This was the first time postage stamps were used there, and the Postmaster-General, who was on the ball committee, thought it right to have the envelopes containing the invitation cards stamped by way of introducing the system to the inhabitants. But the Radical element was then strong in the Legislative Council, and the chance of having a slap at Government House was too tempting to let slip. So at the next meeting of Council a resolution was passed declaring that postage stamps for a small island were quite unnecessary, and an order given that they should be destroyed. The only stamps used were those on the invitation cards, between two and three hundred in number.—I am, etc., CERNE.



Great Britain: 3d., Orange Paper.

WE print under the heading of "Correspondence" a letter on this variety from Mr. Morley, and shall be glad of any further light on this orange paper variety.

Mr. Morley sends us, as he states in his letter, a sheet of his ideas of shades of the current 3d., viz. :—

1. Pale brown on yellow paper.
2. Brown on yellow paper.
3. Dark brown on yellow paper.
4. Brown on orange paper.

Disease Stamps.

VICTORIA is about to follow the lead of New South Wales in issuing Disease Stamps. New South Wales favoured consumptives, but, according to the latest news, our Victorian benevolents were looking around for a disease for their Disease Issue. We would suggest a Hospital for the treatment of "moral obliquity."

Scott's Catalogue for 1898.

THE Scott Stamp and Coin Co., New York City, make the following announcement regarding the next edition of their well-known catalogue :—

"We are now actively at work on the 1898, or 58th edition of our catalogue, and unless some unforeseen hindrances should be thrown in our way, we feel certain that we shall be able to distribute the work between the 1st and 15th of November. The general character and get-up will, of course, be like the previous editions, but many improvements will be found, particularly in a more consistent nomenclature of colours and in the addition of all important minor varieties. It has been deemed advisable to omit the postal cards from the regular edition of the catalogue, and these will be published in a separate work at about the same time as the catalogue itself makes its appearance."

St. Helena: Parcel Post.

WE are indebted to Mr. J. H. Roskilly for a copy of the following official notice published in the St. Helena *Guardian* :—

"Government notification. Reduction of postage. Parcel Post. From and after this date, the rate of postage on parcels to the Cape Colony will be reduced to 8d. per lb. By order, H. J. Hands, Postmaster. Post Office, St. Helena, 7th July, 1897."

Stamp Guarantees.

ON the question of the guaranteeing of stamps sold by dealers, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, thus explain their practice, which seems to us eminently fair and honourable :—

"If, as happens perhaps twice in a year on an average, we sell a stamp that is not right in any respect, we are prepared even after a lapse of many years to refund the full amount paid, together with 5 per cent. interest from the date of the payment. Years ago we considered this question very carefully, and came to the conclusion that this was the proper and honest way in which to conduct our business."

A Sensational Rise.

MR. C. J. PHILLIPS tells the history of the sensational rise in value of the rare 2 cents round British Guiana. Says he :—

"Fifteen years ago that stamp was bought by a collector in Paris for £25. Six years later, when the collection was broken up, it was sold for £70. Four years later it came on the market again and fetched £180. After a further interval of two years it was sold at auction for £210, and it is now valued at £350."

Liberia not British.

MAJOR EVANS has laid down the law that the British Colonies are to be separated from Foreign Countries in all respectable Catalogues and Chronicles of the future. We have humbly submitted and endeavoured to carry out the superior orders. But, alas! this military martinet caught us napping in our last issue, for we, or the printers—on mature thought it must have been the printers—pitched the Republic of Liberia into the "British Empire." We apologize, and promise to haul it out the very next time it sends forth a new issue, even though it be a "Disease Stamp."

Herman Decker: German Expert.

AN interesting development of the so-called disappearance of Herman Decker is heralded. It will be remembered that our German friends sent out an invitation to those who had been "done" by Decker to send in their claims. Now it seems Decker is going to turn the tables, and has entered an action for extortion. The development of this business should be interesting.

Death of Don Antonio Fernandez Duro.

THE death is announced of Don Antonio Fernandez Duro of the Spanish Post Office. Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, has the following biographical note :—

"Señor Duro entered the Postal service of Spain in 1864, and after a few years in various offices at home was sent to Cuba, where he became head of the Post Office at Havana in 1870. On his return to Spain, some five years later, the study of Postal History must have occupied a great deal of his attention, for in 1878 he presented to his department an *Index and Summary of the Ordinances, Regulations, etc. etc., issued for the Maritime Posts since their Establishment in* 1764; while in 1881 he published the great work by which he earned the gratitude of all philatelists, the *Reseña Historico-descriptiva de los Sellos de Correos de España*. The present writer had the pleasure of reviewing this book at considerable length in *The Philatelic Record* in 1881 and 1882, and can therefore bear testimony to the value of its contents, which also formed a basis for the postal portion of the larger work produced by Mons. Moens in 1891.

Death of Mr. Henry Gremmel.

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr. Henry Gremmel, a well-known dealer of New York, best known in this country perhaps as the publisher of the *Post Office*, an excellent philatelic journal, edited by Mr. Crawford Capen.

Delay of this Number.

The Editor desires to state that he has had no part or lot in the delay of this issue of the *Philatelic Record.*



Well-known Forgeries.

THE following curious document has come into our possession, and we give it *in extenso*, as it is said to be a complete list of the much-talked-of forgeries that were put into circulation a few years ago:

List of a few Rarities and Scarce provisional stamps on offer, at very low prices.

	£	s.	d.
BAHAMAS.			
Fourpence on 6d., purple		7	6
BARBADOS.			
1d. on 5s., fine pair	2	0	0
BERMUDA. *Fancy capitals.*			
Threepence on 1d., rose		10	0
,, ,, 2d., blue		15	0
,, ,, 1s., green		2	6
Roman capitals.			
Threepence on 1d., rose		15	0
,, ,, 2d., blue	1	0	0
,, ,, 1s., green		5	0
(Set of 3 for £1 5s.)			
CANADA.			
3d., rose, *perforated*		10	0
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE. △			
1d., rose, *rouletted*	1	0	0
CEYLON.			
5 c. on 16 c., lilac, *reversed*		4	0
5 c. ,, 24 c., green		2	0
5 c. ,, 24 c., brown		10	0
10 c. ,, 16 c., lilac		3	0
10 c. ,, 24 c., green		2	6
10 c. ,, 36 c., blue		7	6
10 c. ,, 64 c., brown		4	0
20 c. ,, 32 c., slate		5	0
(Set of 8 for £1 10s.)			
COSTA RICA. U.P.U.			
5 c. on ½ rl., blue		5	0
10 c. ,, 2 rls., red		7	6
20 c. ,, 4 rls., green		15	0
(Set of 3 for £1 5s.)			
DOMINICA REPUBLIC.			
ff. 2 50 on 50 c.		5	0
,, 3 75 ,, 75 c.		7	6
,, 5 75 ,, 1 p.		15	0
(Set of 3 for £1.)			
FIJI, 1874. *V.R. in fancy capitals.*			
*2 c. on 1d., blue		10	0
*6 c. ,, 3d., green		15	0
*12 c. ,, 6d., rose	1	10	0
(Set of 3 for £2 10s.)			
GRENADA.			
1d., surcharged "POSTAGE"		2	0
,, ,, *reversed*		4	0
INDIA, 1868, "SERVICE POSTAGE."			
½ anna, lilac		15	0
2 annas ,,	2	0	0
4 ,, ,,	2	10	0
8 ,, ,,	3	0	0
(Set of £4 for £7.)			
On H. M. S., 1872.			
12 annas, marone		5	0
1 rupee, slate		7	6
(10s. the pair.)			
LABUAN.			
2 cents on 16 c., blue		7	6
MAURITIUS, 1856.			
FOURPENCE on (—), green	5	0	0
EIGHTPENCE,, (—), magenta	8	0	0
(£10 the pair.)			

	£	s.	d.
NATAL, 1877.			
1s., green, POSTAGE in *red*		15	0
1s. ,, *black*		12	0
(£1 2s. 6d. the pair.)			
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1879. O. S. in *red.*			
2d., blue		6	0
3d., green		7	6
5d., green		15	0
8d., yellow		15	0
10d., lilac	1	0	0
O. S. in *black.*			
5s., violet		2	6
(Set of 6 for £3.)			
5s. Stamp Duty, sur. POSTAGE	1	0	0
NORTH BORNEO.			
8 cents on 2 c., brown		5	0
ST. VINCENT, 1881.			
1d. on 6d., green		8	0
4d. ,, 1s., vermilion		16	0
SARAWAK, 1876.			
2 c. on 3 c., brown	1	7	6
SIAM.			
1 tical on 1 lotte		10	0
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1883.			
4 c. on 5 c., *black* on blue		6	0
8 c. ,, 12 c., blue		6	0
8 c. ,, 12 c., purple		4	0
(Set of 3 for 12s.)			
2 c. ,, 8 c., yellow		4	0
TRANSVAAL, 1879.			
1 PENNY on 6d.; black surcharge		6	0
,, ,, red ,,		6	0
1 Penny ,, ,, ,,		8	0
,, ,, black ,,		3	0
1 Penny ,, ,, ,,		6	0
,, ,, red ,,		6	0
(Set of 6 for £1 10s.)			
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.			
½d. on 1d., red on maize, per 100		16	0
1d. ,, 2d., green on yellow ,,	1	0	0
HAWAII (ESSAYS).			
2 dols., rose } 2s. per pair, 12 pairs for £1;			
5 ,, blue } unused, or postmarked.			
PERU. SELLO* 10 c., black on green PROVISORIO PAYTA Ano 1886 ,, red ,,	3	0	0
Those marked thus * are unused.			

Prices of Argentine, B. Guiana, Ecuador, and Uruguay OFFICIALS; Antigua, Cape of Good Hope, Dominica, Gt. Britain, Grenada, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Nevis, New South Wales, New Zealand, Orange Free State, Queensland, St. Christopher, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tasmania, Transvaal, Victoria, and Western Australia, FISCALS USED POSTALLY; and Ecuador, Gold Coast, Montserrat, and Nevis HALVES OF STAMPS, will be sent on application.

TERMS: CASH with order; or references accompanied by a remittance of 25 per cent. on the total amount of order.

	£	s.	d.
GREAT BRITAIN. I.R. OFFICIAL.			
£1, brown	1	10	0
10s., blue		15	0
5s., rose		10	0
2s. 6d., lilac		5	0
GOVT. PARCELS. Obsolete.			
1½d., lilac			0
3d. ,,		1	6
6d., green		1	0
9d. ,,			0
1s. ,,			0
1s., salmon			0

	£	s.	d.
GREAT BRITAIN.—Jubilee Issue (1887).			
1s., green		3	0
9d., blue and lilac		5	0
6d., rose		2	0
3d., brown and yellow		4	0
1½d., green and lilac (£3 per 100)		1	0
£5, orange, Postage	2	0	0
WESTERN AUSTRALIA. I.R.			
1d., bistre		1	0
2d., yellow		1	0
4d., rose		3	0
6d., lilac		3	0

	s.	d.
BRITISH HONDURAS.		
2 c. on 1d., *reversed*	10	0
10 c. „ 4d. „	15	0
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		
O.S. *reversed.*		
1d., green	2	0
2d., red	3	0
ZULULAND.		
5s., rose, *used*	10	0



Surcharged Chinese.

THE following letter has been received by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. from a high official in the Chinese Imperial Post, whose attention they had called to the remarks referred to. In all cases where "the writer" is referred to, the words are intended to refer to the writer of the article in the *English Specialists' Journal*:—

The ill-advised ignoramus who wrote the article in the *English Specialists' Journal*, No. 13, of 23rd March, 1897, seems to be very little acquainted with the position and influence of Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs, and also the chief of the Postal Department, attached to this service now by Imperial Edict created "Imperial Chinese Post." To ascribe mercenary motives to the surcharging of stamps proves that the writer is wholly unacquainted with the purport of the postal service, nor has he any idea of the currency of China, saying, "*Taels and candarins had been good enough*," etc. The Inspector-General nor the Imperial Customs Service—the richest, the best paid and best officered service in the whole world—need not "*cater*" for the so-called philatelists or collectors, especially men of such stamp as the writer proves himself to be.

To remark that the Emperor has placed "*his Postmaster-General upon somewhat trying terms in the matter of remuneration*" shows not only gross want of knowledge, but also a great deal of impudence, to make assertions like the foregoing in the face of the fact that the cosmopolitan European officers in this service are picked men from all parts of the world; and there are yearly 100 applications for admittance to this service, mostly from the writer's country; that this service is the backbone of the Chinese Government, which service's immense funds are applied to repay foreign loans, and whose officers are paid salaries which are possibly beyond the reach of the writer. A man like Sir Robert Hart, whom the writer places on the footing of some ill-paid petty official, is the noble man who, having created the Customs Service, and having ruled it for over forty years to the admiration of the world, declined twice the offered Ambassadorship of Great Britain. The mud-throwing of a philatelic scribbler or two-penny liner is not worth taking notice of, but to elucidate the surcharges and the motives for doing so, the following explanation is given.

There is not such a thing as a tael or a candarin in China.

A candarin is one hundredth part of an ounce of silver (Chinese, a tael), never coined, simply a certain weight of silver, fluctuating continually in value. For the following reasons were the first issues of the Imperial Customs stamps in candarins: as the post was only an adjunct to the Customs, and as separate accounts could not be kept then, candarin stamps were issued. As the Customs Post was the only post then delivering letters in ports of China and interior, no other currency was to be thought of. Letters from Europe and everywhere were, and are now for instance, carried during winter, when the navigation of North China is closed by ice, by courier, from Chinkiang to Peking, taking twenty-three to twenty-four days on horseback, all for 3 candarins or 6 cents. This is done still.

It was found out, long ago, and became worse since the great fluctuation of exchange, that stamp buyers objected to exchange, the tael being one day $1.30 then run up to $1.50 or more or less, and the stamps a/c could therefore never be properly adjusted, or a certain fixed charge made, for a certain reason for that important fact that all payments are not made in taels, but dollars and cents; Mexican, Hongkong, Chinese, &c., dollars and cents. People buying stamps seldom submitted to the quoted exchange, and continual squabbling was the result.

On the opening of the Imperial Post it became therefore a necessity to resort to the dollar and cents values, moreover, as all foreign post offices, British (Hongkong), etc., charge cent rates. Not for speculative purposes, or to "cater" for collectors, etc., such surcharges were made, as the new stamps,

engraved ones, made in Japan could not be got ready before the middle of the year.

For subterfuges, such as surcharging stamps for mercenary reasons, China has no need, and the stock being barely enough for franking purposes, large orders for stamps were forbidden to be executed.

The local post offices had to close; they were not coerced nor forced. The Chinese Government made immediately agreement with all the coast steamer agencies, as well as with the foreign post offices, agreeing to pay heavy subsidies to them, that they one and all undertook to carry only Imperial mails; consequently the local post offices, if they wish to keep on, have to stick to local delivery within the limits of the ports.

To print a sufficient stock of new stamps takes a very long time to execute the order in England—engraving, printing, etc., would have taken eighteen months to two years; in Japan it takes over a year.

The writer seems to be ignorant of all such matters. The pity is that he was not in China; had he been here to advise the Imperial Government or the Inspector-General, he, in his superior wisdom, might have found another way to change the value, *i.e.*, make people buying stamps pay exchange rates in dollar and cents for taels and candarins.

As the Imperial Government had, however, no adviser of such exceptional ability, the "gumpaps" (a good word) had to be surcharged.

Great Britain 3d., Orange Paper.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to your note in the *Record*, *re* 3d. English, on orange paper, I enclose you a sheet of my ideas of the shades of this stamp to see, and am of opinion that of the 3d., orange paper, a very small printing only was made during *1891*. I was postmaster at Bapehill, Kent, at that time, and noticed the difference when they came into stock, which at the time I took for a very deep shade I do not think very many offices had a supply of it even at that time, and the balance of the stock seems to have been issued about two years ago at some few offices only.

I have not seen over many *used* copies, and the earliest date I have seen on any is 1891.

Can no information be had from the printers as to how many were printed, or why printed on this paper? I have always regarded it as an error, as it was not intended to deviate from the colours chosen.

Yours truly,
WALTER MORLEY.

Unappropriated Dies, Perf. 12½.

DEAR SIR,—I have lately discovered that about 1879-80 small printings of some of the Revenue Stamps from the unappropriated dies —both in the pence, shillings, and pound values (all different sizes)—were perforated *12½* instead of *14*, and apparently are very scarce, and not without interest to postage stamp collectors, as they may have got used for the "Postal Surcharge Stamps" of Cyprus (I have found these without surcharge) or Bechuanaland. Yours truly,
W. MORLEY.

Canadian Jubilee Stamps.

In addition to the plate numbers given on page 252, you can add—

2 cents	. . .	Plates 7-8.
3 ,,	. . .	,, 3.
5 ,,	. . .	,, 10.
15 ,,	. . .	,, 18.

HENRY BUCKLEY.

Notices.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post-free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 5s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

NOVEMBER, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

THE Society for the Suppression of Speculative and Unnecessary Issues has been reconstructed. It was initiated to give effect to the revolt of respectable Stamp Dealers and Collectors against the multiplication of commemorative and other unnecessary postal issues, which were made for the sole purpose of fraudulently raising revenue from Stamp Collectors. It included in its membership leading dealers at home and abroad, and for a time all went well. Bogus issues were condemned, and not a few of those issues were rendered non-productive, so far as anticipated profit was concerned. But, despite the fact that the most scrupulous care was taken to condemn only the most obvious weeds, some who had ostensibly joined the ranks found it convenient to withdraw for £ s. d. considerations. So prolific were the objections of a certain few, that the Secretary, for the sake of peace, ultimately let matters slide, and the ban fell into disuse.

The S.S.S.S. Reconstruction.

Naturally this roused the ire of those who had the best interests of philately at heart—who took more account of the future than of the petty profits that are to be made by selling postal refuse. Others who remained honourably loyal to the Society were annoyed to find that their loyalty merely shunted them on to a siding, while the less scrupulous continued to gather in such profits as are to be had from the sale of all sorts and conditions of refuse to stamp flats.

Some, with whom the wish was father to the thought, regarded the Society as dead, and were most desirous to attend its funeral. But, when a general meeting was called a few weeks since, instead of resolving upon its dissolution, it forthwith determined upon its immediate reconstruction, and a renewal of its activities upon an infinitely more secure foundation. It committed the future work of condemnation to the Speculative Issues Committee of the Philatelic Society of London, a committee absolutely independent and free from the trammels of all trade jealousies.

The revolt will therefore continue, and will, we believe, be more effective in its results. It certainly will be more efficient and more drastic. The Committee of the Philatelic Society of London will have no private ends to serve or conserve, no tender trade corns to consider, and no fear of petty threats of resignation to make it pause in the work which it has undertaken. The withdrawal of certain dealers will undoubtedly weaken the movement for a time, but the good sense of Stamp Collectors cannot fail in the long run to recognize and appreciate the absolute necessity of the work. They will also in good time learn to discriminate between dealers in weeds and refuse and dealers who honourably confine their sales to genuine postal issues. Those dealers who

now remain loyal to the S.S.S.S. movement will probably do so at a temporary sacrifice, but we may trust the good sense of collectors not to overlook that fact. Such self-respect should count for something in the eyes of all self-respecting collectors.

* * *

Postage Stamp Illustrations.

THE question of the pictorial illustration of postage stamps hangs fire, and it is to be hoped that it is at last dawning upon the authorities that they are unnecessarily persecuting the members of a successful and helpful industry.

What seems to us to be the ridiculous part of the matter is the admitted fact that all the trouble arises from a protest received from the Government of the United States against the illustration of its stamps in this country, that self-same Government, all the time, permitting the most free and wholesale illustration of current English stamps within its own jurisdiction. This fact alone reduces the action our Post Office to utter imbecility. Without any attempts to inquire properly into the pros and cons of the question, they proceed, at the dictation of a foreign, and by no means friendly, Government (which freely permits the very thing it complains of) to worry a home industry of the most harmless character. So patent is this fact that we hope, when Parliament meets, the harassing of the stamp trade will not only have ceased, but that the tables will be turned into an inquiry into the imbecility that so readily, and at foreign dictation, sets to work to harass an English industry in these days when many English industries find it no easy matter to successfully stem the tide of subsidized foreign competition.

There is yet another side to this question. If the Post Office succeeds in its idiotic crusade against the pictorial illustration of postage stamps, it will admittedly put an end to successful stamp dealing in this country, and also, therefore, to stamp collecting. Now, the great majority of our Stamp Collectors confine their attention to the postal issues of our own Colonies, and they buy those stamps in such immense quantities that they practically contribute a very material portion of the revenue of many of the smaller Colonies. Indeed, we probably should not be wide of the mark if we asserted that more than one of our smaller Colonies, which now pay their way with the help of Stamp Collectors, would, if that help were withdrawn, be plunged into a state of absolute bankruptcy. Only within the last few weeks Newfoundland has admitted that one issue of its postage stamps had been bought up to such an extent by Stamp Collectors that it had paid one half the interest on its public debt.

Here are a few stray extracts from the Colonial Office Reports for 1896, which indicate pretty clearly that the Colonial postal authorities are not so blind as our own to the help derived from Stamp Dealers.

BAHAMAS.—The Post Office revenue showed an increase of £420, caused by "the increased sale of stamps, partly for postal purposes, and partly to meet the demand from dealers and collectors."

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—The value (to the Colony) of the stamps sold amounted to £1043; the total population is under 2000 persons in all.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.—In 1894 the various Presidencies received for obsolete stamps: Antigua, £1825; St. Kitts and Nevis, £1615; Dominica, £639; Montserrat, £296; Virgin Islands, £953.

TURKS ISLANDS.—The Post Office revenue (legitimate) amounted to £230 15*s.* 2*d.*; the stamps bought by dealers and collectors to £947 beyond that sum.

GIBRALTAR.—The exceptional increase of 88,382 pesetas in the Post Office receipts, while partly owing to increase of business, was chiefly caused by the purchase by dealers of large quantities of high value stamps of denominations about to be withdrawn from circulation.

These are only a few instances of the material help afforded to our Colonies by Stamp Dealers, and they are by no means the best instances that may be cited, but they will be sufficient to support our statement that Stamp Collectors contribute a very material portion of Colonial revenues.

We wonder what those Colonies will have to say to the attempt of the home authorities to seriously and unnecessarily jeopardize this important source of revenue. We wonder how long after Parliament meets this senseless and stupid crusade will be permitted to continue.

* * *

Sale of Notable Collections.

SOME notable collections have been sold recently. Last month M. Lemaire announced in our advertising columns that he had purchased Dr. Legrand's treasures, and now we learn that Mr. Blest has sold his New South Wales, New Zealands, and Queenslands to Mr. Peckitt. In referring to Mr. Blest's sale, Mr. Phillips, in the *Monthly Journal*, puts the value at upwards of £6000, and he intimates that Mr. Blest will probably turn his philatelic attention to some other country before long. "Once a collector always a collector," according to Mr. Phillips, is a true saying; so much so that he believes that "those who have once become fascinated with our hobby hardly ever give it up." Instead of giving it up they seem to change from one country, or group, to another. "The fact is," adds Mr. Phillips, "that energetic collectors like Mr. Blest, Mr. Castle, and others we could name, when they attain a certain pitch of completeness in their collections, become rather tired of countries in which they can find nothing else to add to their hoards," and this, according to the Strand authority, is one of the greatest reasons for disposing of collections nowadays.

Still, all this betokens a great deal of unrest in collecting. The possession of a superb collection, once it is attained, evidently has no attraction whatever for some collectors.

Those leading collectors who have figured in the sales department of stamp collecting of late are the fortunate possessors of considerable wealth, and, having decided to go in for a new country, have merely to put a cheque-book into their pockets, hail a cab, drive round to the various dealers, and in a few hours they have acquired and, maybe, are nearly tired of another great collection. At best it is a will-o'-the-wisp style of collecting. Possibly they might settle down to a quiet and orderly philatelic life if they could find a country that would give them a little more trouble, one in which even the long purse will not secure everything that is to be had. If so, we can confidently recommend the early issues of the Transvaal to their attention. In this country patient research counts for more even than a long purse, but, given the two, there is no collection of the country existing which may not be surpassed.

* * *

Postal Union Changes.

IT is stated that the last Postal Union Congress agreed that in future all postage stamps, issued by members of the Union, corresponding in value to 5 centimes, 10 centimes, and 25 centimes, shall be printed respectively in green, red, and blue. If this be so, it will necessitate very extensive changes in English and Colonial stamps, and also in those of the United States. It will affect our ½d., 1d., and 2½d. stamps. The ½d. will have to be changed from vermilion back to its former colour of green, the 1d. will have to be changed from lilac to red, and the 2½d. from purple on blue to blue. Equally radical changes will be required in most of our Colonial issues. A few only will need no change. St. Lucia, Tobago, Gold Coast, Natal, and a few others will need no alteration, but our Australian Colonies will need new colours almost throughout. In order to change the stamps whose colours are to be uniform, it will also be necessary to change other stamps already printed in those colours now reserved for the three Postal Union stamps. In fact it will bring about a regular revolution in the colours of postage stamps throughout the world. And this is all to be effected on the 1st of January, 1898. Truly, 1898 will be a gay time for stamp dealers, stamp collectors, and postal revenues.

British Colonial Jubilee Swindles.

What are nothing more nor less than Colonial Jubilee Swindles seem to be rampant throughout our Colonial postal systems. First and foremost, of course, the notorious N.S.W. Cookery leads the way with disease labels, on the shallow excuse of providing funds for a Hospital for Consumptives; then Victoria decides to follow suit with a disease series, the special disease to be an after-consideration; Canada next puts forth a special jubilee series, the distribution of which has been a public disgrace to the Dominion; then follows the Cabot issue by Newfoundland, which was allowed to be heralded as a permanent series; Leeward Islands daubs its stock with a mongrel surcharge, and now we hear that Mauritius, Barbados, Natal, and other Colonies are about to take up the running; Natal has discovered, *à la* United States, that it has a four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the colony by Vasco da Gama handy, and consequently a series is to be designed to illustrate episodes in Camoen's poem, "The Lusiad," which describes Vasco's voyage. And, forsooth, it is announced that "it is expected that there will be a heavy demand for the stamps, and that the Colonial exchequer will greatly benefit thereby."

As there is not a shadow of postal excuse for a single one of these issues, and as they are productive of the grossest official dealings, it is high time that our Colonial Office put a stop to such scandalous official speculation. It cannot but be obvious that the sole object of these issues is the prostitution of postal departments to petty speculation, and if a searching investigation were made by our home authorities, it would probably be found that they are the result of secret compacts between postal officials and postage stamp speculators.

DEATH OF MR. HASTINGS E. WRIGHT.

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Mr. Hastings Elwin Wright, which took place at his residence, Altyre, Croydon, on Sunday evening, the 26th September, 1897. Mr. Wright was in London on the previous Thursday, when he complained of feeling rather unwell, and believed himself to be suffering from suppressed influenza. On his return home, pneumonia supervened, and on Sunday the bursting of a blood-vessel in the head caused immediate death.

Mr. Wright was born in London on the 25th June, 1861, and had therefore just passed his thirty-sixth birthday. He was a prominent and much respected member of the Philatelic Society of London, and at the time of his death was collaborating with Mr. A. B. Creeke, another well-known member of the London Society, in the production of an exhaustive work on English postal issues, to be published by the Philatelic Society of London. He was an enthusiastic specialist in English stamps, but some two years ago he sold his grand collection for £2700 to Mr. W. H. Peckitt.

He was the son of a distinguished father, the Rev. John Wright, who died a year or two ago, within a few weeks of completing his hundredth year.

One of the most interesting articles contributed to last year's volume of the *Philatelic Record*, entitled "Abnormal Varieties of Great Britain," was the last published article from Mr. Hastings Wright's able philatelic pen.

We may add that the book on English will be completed by Mr. A. B. Creeke.

The Stamps of Norway.

By ARTHUR H. HARRISON,
Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society
(In collaboration with Hubert Buckley, Christiania).

(*Continued from page* 266.)

TYPE III.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 11¼ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the middle of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown is out of shape, and the pearl supporting the outer bow is split.

(*d*) Thirty perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield; the thirtieth line passes into the frame about half-way down.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The second line passes under the lower bend of the tail and touches the back of the left hind leg (the first line cannot be traced at the base); the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth touches the toe point; the eleventh passes clear, and the twelfth touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the ninth line at the top touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and outlines the back of the head and mane; the eighth passes under the upper bend of the tail; the tuft, which is full and heavy and not divided, commences at the fifth line, and the fifth and sixth lines are to be seen between the inside of the bend and the tuft.

(*f*) The top leaf of the wreath on the left has greatly the appearance of a horseshoe.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout, and bits of the twelfth and thirteenth under the jaw; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot, and the fourteenth, rising from the centre of the point of the shield, passes into the heel of the right hind foot; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth lines meet the outline of the lion's body; the fifteenth passes into the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*h*) The second "R" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right has not any cross bar.

(*i*) There is a line across the centre of the "R" of "NORGE."

TYPE IV.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 11 mm. from the base, and the top reaches beyond the centre stroke of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The cross above the large crown is upright and distinct, and the pearls which support it are balanced on the middle of the centre ornament.

(*d*) Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line passes under the lower bend of the tail, under the outer curl of the tuft, and touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth touches the toe point; the tenth passes clear; the eleventh passes into the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the eighth at the top touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and outlines the back of the head and mane; the seventh joins the outline of the upper bend of the tail; the tuft, which is divided into two curls at the end, commences at the second line, and the third, fourth, and fifth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend and the tuft of the tail.

(*f*) Two hair lines run into the shield at the top right-hand corner.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout; the ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth line, rising slightly to the left of the point of the shield, passes into the heel; the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth meet the outline of the lion's body, the fifteenth passing into the thigh.

(*h*) The back of the axe-head and the lion's nose are joined.

(*i*) Many of the vertical lines of the background run into the "R" of "NORGE."

(*k*) The tail of the second "R" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right is separated from the head.

Before leaving this value I would point out that many specimens are to be found having small extra dots and bits of lines. Upon examination of a large block of the second plate I find these to occur on the same sheet, and are evidently due to faulty transfers.

The different papers, too, require study. So far I have found the first plate on soft paper only; but the second one is on soft, medium thick paper, very thin, showing the impression slightly on the back, and again on hard, thick, glazed paper—this latter I have found only on specimens bearing dates from 1868 to 1870, and almost without exception the impression on this paper is clear, and the lines of shading very fine.

Variety.—With double lines of shading on the left side of the shield.

8 skilling, rose, rose-pink, brick-red.

Before proceeding to deal with the types of this value, I would point out that owing to the fugitive nature of the colour there are many small discrepancies in the printing. I have seen copies in which the large crown over the shield is only a blotch of colour, and others in which the pearls appear to run into one another in such a way as to defy description; and again, specimens are fairly common in which the frame lines are broken.

TYPE I.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre stroke of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 11 mm. from the base, and the top reaches the end of the "M" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

(*c*) The "R" of "NORGE" leans heavily to the left.

(*d*) The large crown appears to lean very slightly to the left.

(*e*) Twenty-nine perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The first line touches the back of the joint of the left hind leg, passes under the lower bend of the tail, meets the lower curl of the tuft; the upper curl of

the tuft joins the frame, and there is a space between the curls; the fourth line passes into the heel of the left foot; the ninth touches the toe point; the tenth passes clear; and the eleventh joins the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; five lines appear between the hind legs; the seventh line at the top joins the outline of the upper bend of the tail, and only fragments of the eighth can be seen above the lion's crown and below the mane.

(*g*) The tuft of the tail, which is divided into one long curl (hanging down) and one short curl, commences at the third line, and the fourth and fifth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*h*) Counting from the right.

The ninth line passes under the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth passes into the heel; and the fifteenth rises slightly to the right of the point of the shield; the sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth meet the outline of the body, and the fifteenth and sixteenth join the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*i*) The upper loop of the figure "8" is smaller than the lower loop.

(*k*) The top stroke of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left is short and joins the centre bar; the "I" of "FRIMAERKE" on right is thick, making the letters "RIM" to appear close together.

TYPE II.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the centre stroke of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The "R" of "NORGE" is upright.

(*d*) The outmost support of the large crown on the left is broken; in some specimens it cannot be seen at all.

(*e*) Thirty perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The first line, which does not meet the back of the joint of the left hind leg, touches the lower bend of the tail and the tuft; the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth touches the toe point; the eleventh passes clear; the twelfth touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg, and the thirteenth passes into the joint; six lines appear between the hind legs; the eighth line at the top touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and the outline to the upper bend of the tail; bits of the ninth can be seen above the lion's crown and below the mane.

(*g*) The tuft of the tail, which is divided into two curls of more even length than in Type I., commences at the fourth line, and the fifth and sixth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*h*) Counting from the right.

The ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth passes into the heel, and the fifteenth rises from the centre of the point of the shield; the seventh and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth meet the outline of the body, and the fifteenth and sixteenth join the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*i*) The loops of the figure "8" are about equal in size, but the upper is not quite joined at the top.

TYPE III.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 11¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the end of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 11 mm. from the base, and the top reaches almost the end of the "M" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

(*c*) The "R" of "NORGE" leans slightly to the right.

*

(*d*) The large crown appears to lean to the right; the outmost support on the right is shorter than the one on the left.

(*e*) Thirty perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.

(*f*) Counting from the left.

The first line, which does not meet the back of the joint of the left hind leg, touches the lower bend of the tail and passes underneath the tuft; the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth passes through the toe point; the eleventh passes clear; the twelfth passes into the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; five lines appear between the hind legs; the eighth at the top, which does not touch the crown, joins the outline of the upper bend of the tail, and small bits of the ninth can be seen above the lion's crown, at the back of the head and below the mane.

(*g*) The tuft of the tail, which is bushy and not divided, commences at the fifth line, and the sixth line is to be seen between the inside of the upper bend and the tuft.

(*h*) Counting from the right.

The ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth, rising from the right of the point of the shield, passes into the heel; there is a vertical hair line joining the thirteenth and fourteenth lines immediately above the point of the shield; the sixth, seventh, and a small bit of the eighth line appear between the fore legs; the fourteenth and fifteenth meet the outline of the body, and the fifteenth joins the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*i*) The figure "8" leans to the right.

(*k*) The heel of the left hind foot is square, and the foot is nearer the frame than in any of the other types.

TYPE IV.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures $11\frac{1}{4}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches beyond the middle of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures $11\frac{1}{4}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the end of the "M" of "FRIMAERKE" on the right.

(*c*) The "R" of "NORGE," which is slightly larger than in any of the other types, leans to the left.

(*d*) The large crown is evenly balanced and the pearls distinct (on fine copies).

(*e*) Thirty perpendicular lines compose the background of the shield.

(*f*) Counting from the right.

The first line, which does not meet the back of the joint of the left hind leg, passes under the lower bend of the tail and the tuft; the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth touches the toe point; the eleventh touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the twelfth passes into the joint; five lines appear between the hind legs; the eighth line at the top touches the lower corner of the lion's crown and the outline of the upper bend of the tail; only a small bit of the ninth line can be seen above the lion's crown.

(*g*) The tuft is very curiously shaped; the right side ends abruptly; the left has a long, thin curl hanging downwards—it commences at the fourth line, and the fifth and sixth lines are to be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*h*) Counting from the right.

The ninth line touches the toe point of the right hind foot; the fourteenth passes into the heel; the fifteenth line is broken immediately above the point of the shield, and a short vertical hair line, rising to the right of the point of the shield, joins it and the frame; the sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth meet the outline of the body, and the fifteenth joins the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*i*) The figure "8" is larger than in any of the other types.

(*To be continued.*)

The S. S. S. S. Reconstructed.

A GENERAL Meeting of the members of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps was held in the rooms of the Philatelic Society of London, at Effingham House, on October 15th, 1897. Mr. M. P. Castle presided, and there were also present Major Evans, Messrs. Gordon Smith, H. Hilckes, J. A. Tilleard, R. Ehrenbach, M. Giwelb, E. J. Nankivell, and R. Pearce.

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called to consider the present position of the S.S.S.S., and to decide upon some course of action. The following resolutions, published in the *London Philatelist*, were merely suggestions, and might be acted upon or amended as the meeting thought best :

1. That in order to carry out the objects for which the S.S S.S. was formed, and to actively carry on the crusade against speculative and unnecessary issues, inaugurated by the Society, the time has now arrived when that work can be more effectively promoted by a Committee composed of collectors only.

2. That the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society having expressed their willingness to undertake the consideration of all speculative and unnecessary issues, and to announce their decisions from time to time in the *London Philatelist* (the official organ of the Society) and other philatelic journals,

3. That this Society be dissolved, and all papers, documents, etc., relating to this question be handed over to the Secretary of the London Philatelic Society for this purpose.

Mr. Gordon Smith, as Secretary, explained that those resolutions were drawn up, after consultation with Mr. Castle, so as to bring matters to a head, and decide whether the work which had been inaugurated by the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps should be continued in the future, and, if so, on what basis that work should be carried out. It was for the meeting to say whether those resolutions should stand or not. He then read letters from various members approving of the proposed reconstruction. But Mr. C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.) had sent a message that he wished to be dissociated from the Society, and also from any further work that it may carry out. He did not desire it to be inferred that he wished to revert to the sale of Speculative Stamps, but that he intended to retain his own independence as to those issues. The Secretary then traced the history of the Society and its method of work. He said all went smoothly for eighteen months, though there were objections taken by one or two dealers. As some of the original founders began to resign, expressing their unwillingness to act, a policy of inaction was forced upon the Society. For that policy he was ready to take the blame, but in his opinion it was the wisest course to be followed. Experience had shown that both collectors and dealers resented anything in the shape of dictation. On the other hand, there were many who were only too thankful for a hint respecting the nature of newly-issued stamps. It was doubtful whether a joint committee of collectors and dealers was the most suitable body to carry out the objects of the Society. However, if the Society had not been a success domestically, its influence for good could not be disputed. Unfortunately it had become hampered by its own constitution. As to its financial position, he said the Society was solvent, in spite of the fact that no subscriptions for the current year had been asked for. After all liabilities had been met there would remain a balance of 3s. 4d. to the good. Turning again to the question of the inaction of the Society, he said there were so many original members of the Society who sent in their resigna-

tions because they objected to this or that in the Circular, that in order to avoid a public scandal he preferred that the Society should be dormant than that it should admit that there was dissent in the very body that had been appointed to carry out the objects for which it had been formed. Therefore a policy of inaction was the only safe course open to them. He believed the work would be more efficiently done by collectors with no financial interests to serve as to the condemnation of speculative stamps.

The Chairman absolved Mr. Gordon Smith from all personal responsibility for the adoption of a policy of inaction, which had, in fact, been forced upon him. His difficulties had been enormous. It was obvious that the Society could not continue to exist on its present mixed basis. It could not have a reasonable chance of doing good work, and therefore it was a question of either winding up the Society or starting on a fresh basis with those who could afford to give an independent opinion. Those members who had not backed up the Society as they should have done had been, in his opinion, somewhat shortsighted from a business point of view, for anything that reflected upon the character of stamps in the eyes of the public tended to weaken their position. The work to be done was so important to collectors, that it was imperative that they should carry it on. Collectors were far less able to judge for themselves as to what was a *bonâ fide* issue, or what was merely for the benefit of postmasters, and therefore, in the interests of those who were not able to judge for themselves, it was necessary that some body should be in existence to give friendly advice to collectors. On the proposed lines the Society would be merely an advising board. It would be a great pity if this Society, which was started on sound lines, was allowed to fall to the ground. The speculative issues which they were banded together to combat were an ever-increasing flood, and unless some action was taken the chances were that they would increase even more. It was said that the sales of the Newfoundland Cabot issue covered one-half the interest of the public debt of that colony. Why should collectors put their hands in their pockets to help empty treasuries? He proposed the first resolution.

Mr. Hilckes seconded, but Mr. Pearce thought they would do better to commence by winding up if the management was to be placed in the hands of collectors.

After some discussion the resolution was adopted unanimously.

The second resolution, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Major Evans, was unanimously agreed to in the following amended form: "That the Special Committee of the Philatelic Society of London, for the time being appointed for dealing with speculative and unnecessary stamps, be requested to undertake the consideration of all speculative and unnecessary issues, and to announce their decision from time to time in the *London Philatelist* and other philatelic journals."

The third resolution was dropped as unnecessary.

The Society having thus been reconstructed, the members present proceeded to elect the following officers to carry on the work:

The New Officers.

President—Mr. M. P. Castle.

Vice-President—Major Evans.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. H. R. Oldfield.

Committee of General Management:

Mr. R. Ehrenbach. Mr. J. A. Tilleard.
Mr. E. J. Nankivell. Mr. Gordon Smith.

The reconstructed Society, in order to lose no time, adopted the following resolution: "That the Special Committee of the Philatelic Society of London be requested to take the necessary steps forthwith." It also condemned the following issues as unnecessary and speculative:

Canadian Jubilee stamps,
Newfoundland Cabot stamps,
New South Wales Hospital stamps,
Victoria Hospital stamps,
Leeward Islands Jubilee surcharge.

THE SPECULATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE.

The following well-known collectors and leading members of the Philatelic Society of London form the Speculative Issues Committee appointed by the Premier Society, on whom will now devolve the work of condemnation:

MR. M. P. CASTLE, *Chairman.*
MAJOR EVANS.
MR. R. EHRENBACH.
MR. E. J. NANKIVELL.
MR. GORDON SMITH.
MR. H. R. OLDFIELD, *Hon. Secretary.*

Post Office Report for 1896-7.

From "The Standard."

THE Report of the Postmaster-General, just issued, shows that during the year ending March 31st last the profit on the postal business of the country amounted to £3,893,823. The loss on the Telegraph Department was £140,714, leaving a sum of £3,753,109 to the good. This is higher by over £120,000 than 1895–96, when the General Election and the revival of trade enlarged the volume of business, and enabled the Duke of Norfolk to report unprecedented gains. The continued growth of Post Office prosperity is a significant indication of the briskness of trade during the year under review; and the Postmaster-General naturally expresses gratification at the harvest reaped by his Department. The enhanced profit has, he says, rendered it possible to devote a large portion of the postal surplus to the reduction of rates, and to the improvement of the service in rural districts. These reductions have been in operation since the Jubilee, and their effect upon the revenue will not be known until next year's Report. Similar concessions have not, however, proved disadvantageous in the past, and there appears to be little ground for fear that those now made will result in financial loss. The advantages granted to the staff on the recommendation of the Tweedmouth Committee are more likely to have an adverse effect, and the Postmaster-General warns the public that he cannot anticipate so large a profit in 1897–98.

Number of Letters Delivered.

The estimated number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom in 1896–97 was 1,893,000,000, an increase of 3·2 per cent., and an average of 47·9 to each person; of post cards, 336,500,000, an increase of 7·0 per cent., and average of 8·5; of book packets, circulars, and samples, 697,900,000, an increase of 3·8 per cent., and average of 17·6; of newspapers, 150,600,000, an increase of 1·1 per cent., and average of 3·8; and of parcels, 63,715,000, an increase of 5·2 per cent., and an average of 1·6. Adding the figures, the total is 3,141,715,000 letters, &c., or an increase of 3·6, and an average of 79·4 to each person. The number of letters registered was 13,438,735. The Duke of Norfolk says:

The rate of increase in the number of letters is very slightly less than it was last year, when it was 3·6 per cent.; on the other hand, the rate of increase in post cards is considerably greater than last year, when it was 0·6 per cent., and I assume, therefore, that post cards are to a certain

extent superseding letters. This is chiefly the case, no doubt, with private post cards, which are now estimated to be 44 per cent. of the whole number of post cards passing through the post.

The Newspaper Post.

The agitation for an extension of the newspaper post does not find favour with the Postmaster-General. His view is that to make it a post for periodicals and magazines, like the corresponding post in the United States, "would prove ultimately ruinous to the postal revenue."

The present newspaper post is already conducted at a loss. It has been urged, indeed, that if newsagents can distribute newspapers at a profit, my Department should be able to do the same thing; but it is not always recognized that the Post Office has to undertake a class of business which the newsagents steadily refuse—viz., the distribution of newspapers in the remote rural districts where the postman goes, but where no newsagent would attempt to send his newspapers, and that, while the newsagent receives a commission on the sale of the papers which he distributes, the Post Office is confined by law to charging a halfpenny on every newspaper which it carries, without regard either to its weight or to its price.

The Express Delivery Service.

The express delivery service is, it appears, growing in favour; but only in rural districts do arrangements seem to have been made for delivery by bicycle. Why not also in towns? The service is self-supporting, and even profitable to the State, and in London, for example, would be taken advantage of to a much greater extent were the quickness of delivery proportionate to the charges made. To send a so-called "express" letter by messenger who takes a 'bus, or tram, or cab, is costly, and not always quick. A youth on a bicycle could do the work more expeditiously at a rate less than the fares now charged. Slow as the existing service is, however, the number of ordinary post letters delivered, by arrangement, by special messenger in advance of the postman, reached 151,190 in London last year, as against 142,018 in 1896-97. It is interesting to notice also that a letter can be sent by express messenger to any train, forwarded by that train, and met on its arrival at the station of destination by another messenger ready to deliver it.

Stamps of British East Africa.

From "The London Philatelist."

UNDER date of the 12th August last we have received the following interesting details from Mr. Cyril Hugh Bowden, of the Eastern and S.A. Telegraph Company at Zanzibar. The letters referred to by our correspondent are appended, and some series of figures referring to the numbers of stamps surcharged will probably be found of value, as they have to all appearances been supplied from official sources. The stamp issues of British East Africa have certainly not erred on the side of scantiness, but they represent a transitional period of our African possession, and can hardly fail in the future to have an abiding historical interest.

Reports having been circulated, which have found expression in certain journals connected with Philately, casting doubts on the necessity for the frequent over-printing and surcharging of Zanzibar and British East Africa stamps—and even imputing interested motives on the part of Mr. T. Remington, who holds the dual position of Postmaster-General of Zanzibar and of the British East Africa Protectorate—I, to satisfy myself and other Philatelists, addressed a letter on the subject to the Postmaster-General, a copy of which communication, and Mr. Remington's original reply thereto, I now enclose.

In response to Mr. Remington's most courteous offer, I visited him at his office, and was there shown books and other data bearing on the subject, and afforded all the information one could have possibly desired.

Of Mr. Remington's *bona fides*, and of the strict regularity in the conduct of his department, no vestige of doubt can now remain in my mind, and the explanations which he unhesitatingly gave me concerning the question at issue were both convincing and conclusive, backed up as they were by indisputable documentary evidence.

At the date when the transfer was effected of the Imperial British East Africa territories to the Imperial Government, namely, July 1st, 1895, no arrangements had been made regarding a fresh issue of stamps, etc.; consequently, those of the old Company had to be overprinted. Of these there existed but a limited supply at Mombasa, the directors, for reasons of their own, which have since become abundantly clear to collectors, having refused to despatch a fresh consignment which had been indented for shortly before the transfer.

Not wishing to trespass too much on your valuable space, I beg leave to enclose separately the particulars kindly furnished by Mr. Remington of the stamps at his disposal at the commencement of the new *régime*, and I think you will agree with me that no surprise need be felt that surcharges should have so speedily followed under the Imperial Administration, especially when it is stated that nearly eleven months elapsed before the first instalment of the present regular issue was received at Mombasa. So much delay was there in the execution of the order after it had been given to the engravers, that the emergency had to be met by the importation of Indian adhesives, which were in due course overprinted.

The transfer of the Indian Post Office at Zanzibar to the Sultan's Government took place on the 10th November, 1895, and the Indian stamps then in stock were handed over to the Government printing establishment to be overprinted "Zanzibar"; but, owing to an insufficiency of the requisite type, and to the employment of more or less ignorant native workmen, several small errors resulted during the process. These mistakes have been regarded in some quarters as deliberately intentional, or at least avoidable, whereas the reverse was the case.

To the simple and but partially educated African, there appears little difference between a small *b* and an inverted *q*, and it is not surprising that he should regard the substitution of the one letter for the other as a stroke of ingenuity, in the event of the supply of type representing either character failing. That *d* should in a few instances have been substituted for *b* appears somewhat less pardonable; but doubtless His Highness's subjects reason with regard to letters much as did Juliet, when she asked herself, "What's in a name?"

The Zanzibar Government Post Office having been established, orders were promptly sent to Messrs. De La Rue for a supply of adhesives of the new design now current. The firm in question promised to carry out the order within six months. As a matter of fact, nearly a year elapsed before the delivery of a portion of this order, and, with regard to the remainder, a still further delay ensued, owing to the case containing the stamps having been over-carried. As a result of these delays the issue of fresh provisionals was rendered unavoidable; but I have proofs that in no instances were said provisionals issued on the sole responsibility of the Postmaster-General, who never failed to consult Her Majesty's representative and Sir Lloyd Matthews before acting, and who has throughout proved himself most zealous in maintaining the dignity of his department, and has ever regretted the necessity for a proceeding which was bound to be open to misconstruction and misrepresentation, especially at the hands of certain classes of dealers who affect a virtuous indignation upon occasion when they are unable to satisfy the requirements of their customers, yet, on the other hand, display a sweet and gentle resignation when such demands can be met by shady or even illegitimate methods.

"ZANZIBAR, *July 9th*, 1897.

"The Postmaster-General, Zanzibar.

"DEAR SIR,—Considerable doubts having been aroused in the minds of serious Philatelists and others interested in the pursuit, as to the necessity for the numerous varied surcharges and interchanges in connection with the postage stamps issued by the local and the B.E.A Protectorate Post Offices, both of which administrations you control, I should esteem it a favour if you would kindly afford me some explanation concerning the *raison d'être* of the surcharges, etc., above alluded to, so that I may be in a position to satisfy myself and others that your action in the matter has been induced purely by the exigencies of the Service, and not, as some would seem to imply, by speculative motives.

"I am, dear Sir, your obedient Servant,

"C. H BOWDEN."

"No. 257 of 1897.
"ZANZIBAR POST OFFICE, *July 16th*, 1897.

"From the Postmaster-General,
British East Africa and Zanzibar, Zanzibar.
"To C. H. Bowden, Esq., Zanzibar.

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 9th July, and to inform you that I shall be pleased to afford you any information concerning the stamps of British East Africa and Zanzibar that you may desire. I think, however, it would be more satisfactory if you would make it convenient to call at the Post Office, and then you would be able to refer to the accounts for any details that may be of interest to you.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your most obedient Servant,
"THOS. U. REMINGTON, *Postmaster-General.*"

INDIAN.

Indian stamps supplied to Zanzibar to be overprinted.

	Nov. 10th.	*Dec. 14th.*
½ a. ...	5,457 ...	24,000
1 a. ...	5,014 ...	24,000
1½ a. ...	13,851 ...	12,000
2 a. ...	4,285 ...	18,000
2½ a. ...	3,354 ...	30,000
3 a. ..	7,876 ...	—
4 a. ...	7,381 ...	2,400
6 a. ...	4,321 ...	1,600
8 a. ...	4,546 ...	1,200
12 a. ...	3,073 ...	—
1 r. ...	5,897 ...	—
2 r. ...	942 ...	192
3 r. ...	940 ...	192
5 r. ...	945 ...	192

Stamps transferred from the Zanzibar stock to British East Africa and overprinted.

Nov. 23rd. & Dec. 18th.	*Feb. 17th.*
7,440	3,600
7,680	3,600
9,800	2,400
6,800	2,400
9,600	3,600
1,000	1,560
1,000	2,400
1,000	960
1,000	960
1,000	—
2,000	1,200
200	192
200	192
200	192

INDIAN STAMPS SUPPLIED TO ZANZIBAR.

Indian stamps taken over from the Consulate.

½ a.	29,457
1 a.	29,014
1½ a.	25,851
2 a.	22,285
2½ a.	33,354
3 a.	7,896
4 a.	9,781
6 a.	5,921
8 a.	5,746
12 a.	3,073
1 r.	5,897
2 r.	1,134
3 r.	1,132
5 r.	1,137

TRANSFERRED FROM ZANZIBAR TO BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

Supplied to Mombasa.	Balance used in Zanzibar.
11,040	18,417
11,280	17,734
12,200	13,650
9,200	13,085
13,200	20,154
2,560	5,336
3,400	6,381
1,960	3,961
1,960	3,786
1,000	2,073
3,200	2,697
392	742
392	740
392	745

COMPANY'S STAMPS OVERPRINTED "BRITISH EAST AFRICA."

Balance of stamps on hand on June 30, 1895.

	r.	a.
4980 at ½ anna	155	10
1040 ,, 1 ,, ...	65	0
180 ,, 2 ,, ...	22	8
4020 ,, 2½ ,, ...	628	2
2230 ,, 3 ,, ...	418	2
3240 ,, 4 ,, ...	810	0
3780 ,, 4½ ,, ...	1063	2
780 ,, 5 ,, ...	243	12
1140 ,, 7½ ,, ...	534	6
1900 ,, 8 ,, ...	950	0
2349 ,, 1 R.	2349	0

	r.	a.
520 at 2 Rs.	1040	0
719 ,, 3 ,, ...	2157	0
868 ,, 4 ,, ...	3472	0
568 ,, 5 ,, ...	2840	0
1400 2½ a. Envelopes ...	218	12
200 Large Reg. Envelopes	25	0
125 Small ,, ,,	15	10
1500 ½ a. Post Cards ...	93	12
1200 ½ a. ,, ,, ...	37	8
Total Rs.	17,139	4

The date of receipt of the present issue of B.E.A. stamp was *May 19th*, 1896, and only 5040 of ½ a., 1 a., 2 a., and 5280 of 2½ a. were received.

Chinese Stamps, 1894-97.

From "Le Timbre-Poste."

THE stamps of China are divided as follows:

1st. Stamps issued by the Imperial Maritime Customs.
2nd. Stamps issued by the Imperial Post.

Issue of November, 1894.

(IMPERIAL CUSTOMS.)

This issue was printed on the watermarked paper prepared for the stamps of 1885, in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Dowager Empress. The watermark represents a circle with a curved line in the form of an "S," dividing it into two equal parts, one of which is shaded.

The stamps have been indiscriminately printed on the face or on the back of the sheet with the watermark upright or sideways, thus giving four varieties. The sheets contain 40 stamps in two groups of 20 (in vertical rows of 5), as in the issue of 1885, with values from 1 to 6c., and of 25 stamps (5 rows of 5) on the same paper, which gives several watermarks for the same stamp of the values 9, 12, and 24 candarins. The types are sufficiently known and need no fresh description.

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

VARIETY. *Tête-beche.*

The stamp at the bottom of the sheet on the left hand is inverted.

9 candarins, green.

Issue of January, 1897.

(IMPERIAL POST.)

The stamps of the Customs having been taken over by the Imperial Post, the new tariff being established in Mexican dollars (100 cents), the stamps were surcharged with new value.

1. *Surcharge in small black figures.*

½	cent	on	3	candarins,	pale yellow.
1	,,	,,	1	,,	red.
2	cents	,,	2	,,	olive-green.
4	,,	,,	4	,,	rose.
5	,,	,,	5	,,	yellow-orange.
8	,,	,,	5	,,	yellow-brown.
10	,,	,,	6	,,	red-brown.
10	,,	,,	9	,,	green.
10	,,	,,	12	,,	orange.
30	,,	,,	24	,,	carmine.

On the first sheets the "2" of "½" is wanting or missing on one or more stamps of the first row, an error which was rectified in the second printing.

½ cent on 3 candarins, pale yellow.

Issue of the 2nd February, 1897.

The service nominally began its operations on the first day of the first moon of the 25th year of Kuang-Hsuu (February 2, 1897), and although not forming part of the Imperial Postal Union, made, nevertheless, some special arrangements with the representatives of the Union, which supplies China by their subsidized postal service.

The stamps were, however, issued on January 1st. Since then there have been a number of surcharges, of which no official note has been taken, the stamps having been sent direct to distant offices without, sometimes, a single one coming to Shanghai, though it is the place where the stamps are manufactured, and on which the statistical office of the Customs depends.

We have been assured that in order to save time the task of surcharging certain kinds of stamps has been confided to a private firm at Shanghai.

The stamps of 1894 have been reprinted and surcharged.

The stock of the stamps of 1885, together with the 3,000,000 3 cents fiscals remaining unissued, were also likewise surcharged.

The new administration wished to show the Chinese Government what revenue the postal service was capable of giving, but as the public did not entrust it with its correspondence they have fallen back on collectors and stamp dealers. It appears that the first quarter (January to March) produced a revenue of 1,000,000 francs, Shanghai, for its share, yielding 250,000 francs.

2. *Surcharge in small black figures on stamps of* 1885.

1 cent on 1 cand., green on yellow.
2 cents „ 3 „ mauve on white.
5 „ „ 5 „ yellow ochre.

3. *Various surcharges on the* 3,000,000 3 *cent fiscal stamps.*

1 cent on 3 c., red-brown, surcharge black.
2 cents „ „ „ „ „ (small characters, 1 line).
2 „ „ „ „ „ „ (large „ 2 lines).
4 „ „ „ „ „ „ (small figures, 1 line).
4 „ „ „ „ „ „ (large „ 2 lines).
1 dollar „ „ „ „ „ (small Chinese characters).
1 „ „ „ „ „ „ (large „ „).

The tints are lighter, and the sheets have 80 stamps in 4 rows of 20 (vertical rows of 5) with watermark right and left, upright and sideway.

As in the issue of 1894 the perforation is often missing, either horizontally or vertically.

4. *Surcharge in large figures on the reissue of* 1894.

½ cent on 3 cand., very pale yellow.
1 „ „ 1 „ pale red.
2 cents „ 2 „ „ green.
4 „ „ 4 „ „ rose.
5 „ „ 5 „ pale orange-yellow.
8 „ „ 6 „ „ red-brown.
10 „ „ 9 „ „ green.
10 „ „ 12 „ „ orange.
30 „ „ 24 „ „ carmine.

Issue of 1st May, 1897.

5. *Surcharge in large figures on stamps of* 1894.

½ cent on 3 cand., pale yellow-brown.
1 „ „ 1 „ red rose.

6. *Surcharge in large figures on stamps of* 1885.

1 cent on 1 cand., green, surcharged black.
3 cents „ 3 „ mauve „ „
5 „ „ 5 „ olive „ „



British Empire.

British Bechuanaland.—We are informed that a new series of a permanent type is in course of preparation for this colony.

British North Borneo.—Last month we intimated that the 18 c. and 24 c. of the current series had been withdrawn in consequence of mistakes in the engraving, the 18 c. being inscribed "POSTAL REVENUE" instead of "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," and the 24 c. having this inscription omitted. We are now informed that new stamps of the same design, but inscribed "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," have been issued. In the 18 c. the word "POSTAL" has been altered into "POSTAGE," and in the 24 c. the words "POSTAGE AND" have been added in the open space on the left of the motto in the Arms, and the word "REVENUE" in the corresponding space on the right.

Canada.—The small ½ c. stamp is chronicled on thick paper.

Adhesive.

½ c., black, *thick paper.*

Cape of Good Hope.—The *London Philatelist* has received specimens of two provisional 1d. post cards, issued at the beginning of August, which it describes as follows:—"In both cases the 1½d. card has been surcharged 'ONE PENNY' in two lines of sans-serif capitals, with the original value ruled out. The two varieties consist of A, small surcharge, with two lines defacing original value; B, a large type, with *three* lines defacing original value."

Post Cards.

One Penny on 1½d., grey on *buff;* black surcharge; *first type.*

One Penny on 1½d., grey on *buff;* black surcharge; *second type.*

India.—*Charkhari State.*—In our September number we published a description of the peculiar issue for this State, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now send us specimens of the series. They are evidently printed with a hand-stamp on thin, white wove, ungummed paper.

In addition to the adhesives the *Monthly Journal* chronicles envelopes and wrappers.

Adhesives.

¼ anna, purple.
½ anna ,,
1 annas, green.
2 ,, ,,
4 ,, ,,

Envelopes.

½ annas, purple
1 anna, green
1 annas ,,
} *thin white laid paper;* 140×78 mm.

Post Card.

¼ a., rose-lilac on *buff laid;* 126×78 mm.

Indore.—In the current type we learn there are two new values: 4 a., violet, and 8 a., ultramarine; and the 2 a. is said to have been altered in colour to green, in somewhat the shade of the 1 a.

Adhesives.

2 a., green.
4 a., violet.
8 a., ultramarine.

Labuan.—Our remarks under the head of British North Borneo also apply to the same stamps surcharged for use in Labuan. The new 18 c. with the design redrawn to alter "POSTAL REVENUE," "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," has made its appearance; but has already been withdrawn, as it was found that the surcharge "LABUAN" obliterated the value at the foot instead of being struck over the name of "NORTH BORNEO." For the same reason the 12 c., blue, has been withdrawn.

Natal.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the current 6d. value in a very much redder shade than before, and labels it magenta. Wmk. CA, and perf. 14.

Adhesive.

6d., magenta.

Negri Sembilan. — The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles a 1 c. post card with stamp of the current tiger type, single and reply.

Post Card.

1 c., green on buff; 120×75 mm.
1 c.+1 c. ,, ,, ,,

Newfoundland. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that this colony,

having run short of 1 c. stamps, has been reduced to using a wooden hand-stamp.

New Zealand. — The 4d. value has appeared perf. 10×11; and the ½d., 1d., and 2d. Life Insurance Department Stamps, perf. 10.

Adhesives.

4d., sea-green; perf. 10×11.

Life Insurance Department Stamps.

½d., purple; perf. 10.
1d., blue ,,
2d., red-brown ,,

St. Vincent.—Mr. W. C. Proudfoot, of St. Vincent, informs us that on the 6th October another new value was issued, viz., 3d., in black, on 1d., light lilac, of the same type as the 2½d. This stamp is called for to take the place of the 3d. Revenue Stamp which has been abolished, and to pay postage and registration fee to Grenada and St. Lucia.

Adhesive.

3d., in black, on 1d., light lilac.

Tasmania.—We have the 5s. value in the current bicoloured type from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., wmk. "TAS," and perf. 14.

Adhesive.

5s., lilac, value label in red.

Foreign Countries.

Argentine Republic.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles "under due reserve" a stamp of the value of 25 centavos, inscribed "Correos y Télegrafos," very similar in design to the 5 c. of the issue of 1890; perf. 11½.

The *Revista* announces a variety in the stamp of the current 1 c. newsband. The inscription reads "Repubilca" instead of "Republica."

Adhesive.

25 c., carmine.

Wrapper.

1 c., chocolate; error, *Repubilca.*

Bolivia.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles a new 2 bolivianos. It is badly lithographed in black on a striped groundwork of three colours; viz., dark red on the top strip; centre strip yellow-brown; and bottom strip green. The design has the Arms in the centre, with name above and value below, and figures of value in all four corners.

Adhesives.

2 bolivianos, black on red, yellow, and green.

Chili.—*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says the highest value of the Postage Due Stamps is now inscribed "100 centavos" instead of "1 peso," and that the present is about to be replaced.

China.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. call our attention to errors on the lately surcharged series, and also send us the new set up to 50 c., which will be issued as soon as supplies are received from the printers in Japan.

Mr. David Benjamin writes :—"I have just come across some sheets of China at the Post Office, with a variety of '2' in the 2 can. surcharged '2 cents.' You will notice the '2' is straighter and thicker than on the regular stamps. I do not mean the surcharge, but the original value." And we are indebted to Mr. Benjamin and Messrs. Butler Bros. for specimens. The stamp in question is the 2 cn., light green, of the 1894 issue, which has a large figure of value in the lower left-hand corner. In the ordinary stamp this "2" has a curved foot. In the variety now discovered the figure has a straight foot, and is about ½ mm. wider and ¼ mm. longer. It is evidently a separate engraving of the stamp, and not an occasional variety on a sheet, for Messrs. Butler send us a pair, both stamps having the straight foot.

2 c., in black, on 3 c., red, fiscal; surch. inverted.
4 c. ,, on 4 c., rose; large surch. ,,
10 c. ,, on 9 c., green ,, ,,

New Design, 1897.

½ c., maroon; perf., Dragon in centre.
1 c., yellow ,, ,,
2 c., orange ,, ,,
4 c., brown ,, ,,
5 c., rose ,, ,,
10 c., dark green; perf. ,,
20 c., brownish red; perf., Carp in centre.
30 c., red ,, ,,
50 c., light green ,, ,,

Cuba.—Mr. Morley writes us that he is informed that after this year Spain will cease issuing special stamps for telegraphs for this colony. They were discontinued some years ago in the mother country.

France. — *Comoro Islands.* — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of stamps for these French islands. The Comoro Islands are a small group in the Mozambique Channel. Two of the islands — Anjouan and Mayotte — have already appeared in the Catalogue as issuing stamps. The stamps of Mayotte have been superseded for the stamps of Madagascar, and now we presume all will give place to this new issue for the Comoro group. The stamps are of the current colonial type. In addition to the adhesives Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that there is also the usual postal stationery, the same as for the rest of the French possessions.

Adhesives.

Name in red.

1 c., black on azure.
5 c., green on pale green.
15 c., blue.
25 c., black on rose.
75 c., black on orange.
1 fr., olive-green on toned.

Name in blue.

2 c., brown on buff.
4 c., purple-brown on grey.
10 c., black on lilac.
20 c., red on green.
30 c., cinnamon on drab.
40 c., red on yellow.
50 c., carmine.

Italy. — *Eritrea.* — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 5 c. of Italy surcharged "COLONIA ERITREA."

Adhesive.

5 c., green.

Orange Free State.—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* says the 1s. value has been changed from yellow to brown.

Adhesive.

1s., brown.

Peru.—*Madrid Filatelico* states that new stamps of the values of 1, 2, and 5 c. have appeared, but, the *American Journal of Philately* asserts, this is certainly an error, as it has received information from Lima that their issue is to be delayed until the opening of the new Post Office. From this the *A. J. P.* infers that the issue is to be a speculative one, particularly as a new stamp of the value of 5 centavos, of the current type but printed in green, has just been received.

Messrs. Williams & Co. inform us that the 5 and 10 c. Unpaid Letter Stamps have now been surcharged "Déficit," and send us at the same time a sample of the new provisional postal card made by surcharging the 5 c. card for use as a 2 c. The surcharge is exactly like that on the card issued in 1893, except that the figure "2" in the left-hand upper corner is solid instead of open-faced.

Adhesive.

5 c., green ; perforated 12.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

Perforated 12, surcharged "Déficit."
5 c., vermilion ; black surcharge.
10 c., orange ; black surcharge.

Postal Card.

Provisional Issue.
2 c. on 5 c., *white;* blue surcharge.

Philippines.—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles a series of provisionals made by surcharging certain values of the 1890 type with head of baby king. The surcharge, in a rectangular frame, consists of the figure of value with the word "CENTS" below, surrounded by the inscription, above "CORREOS," below "1897," on the left "HABILITADOS," and on the right "PARA."

Adhesives.

5 c. on 5 c. de pesos, green ; sur. blue.
5 c. ,, ,, ,, sur. red.
5 c. ,, ,, ,, sur. black.
15 c. on 15 c., carmine ; sur. black.
15 c. ,, brown-red ; sur. black.
15 c. ,, ,, sur. blue.
20 c. on 20 c., violet ; sur. black.
20 c. ,, bistre ,,
20 c. ,, ,, sur. blue.
20 c. on 25 c. ,, sur. black.

Sweden.—The 30 öre is chronicled in a new colour.

Adhesive.

30 öre, yellow.

Switzerland.—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* chronicles the 2 c. wrapper altered to the same design as the 5 c.

Wrapper.

2 c., black on yellow, Arms.

Uruguay.—We have already (p. 251) chronicled a change of colour in the three lowest values of the current series, and now Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. add the following altered colours of higher values issued on the 28th September :

Adhesives.

7 c., orange.
10 c., red.
20 c., violet and black.
25 c., rose and blue.
50 c., green and dark chestnut.
1 peso, chestnut and blue.
2 pesos, ochre and carmine.
3 ,, lilac and carmine.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).

The November packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED: St. Vincent 2½d.; Shanghai 2 c. on 2 c., variety; 4 c. on 4 c., rare, large type, etc.

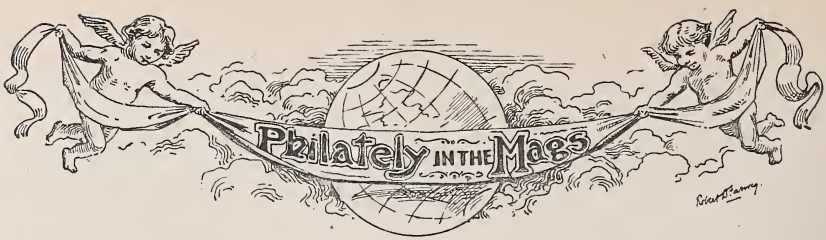
No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).

The November packet contains—

SEVERAL VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED, including St. Vincent 6d., etc. etc.

These packets are on sale until November 30 (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free ; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.



Used and Unused.

MAJOR EVANS, in an editorial in the *Monthly Journal* for September, makes some interesting remarks on the question of the collection of used and unused. It will be seen that he favours the collection of both used and unused, and we fancy all specialists will agree with his interesting dictum; but, unfortunately, it adds materially to the cost of a collection. Still, from the perfection point of view, there is no doubt that where the specialist desires to use his stamps as an aid to the study of the postal history of the country he collects he must take used as well as unused. Indeed, it may be said that it is next to impossible to properly study the early issues of any really interesting country without the aid of used copies. Major Evans writes:—

We have acknowledged in these pages often enough the fact that, *cæteris paribus*, an unused stamp, in what is termed "mint condition," will always be a better specimen than a used copy, and we do not withdraw from that position. But after examining the innumerable unused specimens of stamps, rare and otherwise, that were shown at the Exhibition, we must confess to a feeling that it is a mistake to separate the unused from the used, and that a collection to be really complete should include both. Whilst acknowledging fully the greater attractiveness of the unused, and their superiority as specimens for showing the design and impression of the stamp, we think that a complete collection should also illustrate the object for which these little prints have been made by showing them in a used state; and in the case of a specialist collection, with as many marked varieties of postmark as possible. The study of postmarks is a particularly interesting one, and it seems to us that the specialist, who confines himself entirely to getting together a collection of the stamps of a certain country, without going into the question of their use, not only neglects a branch of his subject which should be of great interest to himself, but also fails to justify his title of specialist.

The 2d. Samoa. First Issue.

THE *Monthly Journal* publishes two pages of correspondence and notes on the vexed question as to the genuineness of the 2d. stamp included in the first issue, and leaves the question practically still in doubt. The correspondence shows that a 2d. value was included in the so-called remainders sold to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., but there is practically no evidence to prove that the value was ever issued, or had any existence, until the remainders were offered for sale; then 13,500 were included in the stock.

Uganda Protectorate.

THE *Monthly Journal* publishes the following official notice:—

Notice giving the rates of postage:

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

Notice is hereby given that from and after 1st May, 1897, the following scale of charges will be made for the conveyance of Postal Matter by the Government Mail:

Between Stations in any two districts in the Protectorate.

Letters . . .	3 annas	each per oz.
Newspapers . .	1 ,, ,,	6 oz.
Books and Parcels .	8 ,,	per lb.

Uganda District Local Mail (to include Lubals for Postal Purposes).

Letters . . .	2 annas	each per oz.
Newspapers . .	1 ,, ,,	8 oz.
Books and Parcels .	3 ,,	per lb.

COAST MAIL.

From Stations in Uganda, Bunyoro, Toro, Usoga, and Kavirondo *to* Kikuyu.

Letters . . .	4 annas	each per oz.
Newspapers . .	1 ,, ,,	4 oz.
Books and Parcels .	1 rupee	per lb.

From Stations in the Mau District *to* Kikuyu.

Letters . . .	3 annas	each per oz.
Newspapers . .	1 ,, ,,	6 oz.
Books and Parcels .	8 ,,	per lb.

In all the above cases similar rates will be charged for the Up-Mails.

No parcel will be taken which exceeds *eleven pounds* in weight.

(Signed) TREVOR TERNAN,
H.M. Acting-Commissioner and Consul-General.

Defacing the Samoa Express Lithographic Stones.

SINCE the remainders of the Samoa Express stamps were sold to them in 1884, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have also been the possessors of the copyright, that is to say, the right of

making reprints from the original lithographic stones, and they have exercised that right. But they some time since decided to let their stock of reprints run out, and then discontinue selling reprints. As a result of this decision they ordered the lithographic stones containing the stamps of Samoa to be defaced. In accordance with that order the impressions on the lithographic stones were, on the 1st of June last, cleaned off at the office of the printers, Messrs. S. P. Leigh & Co., Clarence Street, Sydney, so that there can be no more reprints of the Samoa Express stamps.

Mr. Hagen, now a well-known stamp dealer and publisher of the *Australian Philatelist*, was engaged in the office of Messrs. S. T. Leigh & Co. in 1876, learning the business of a lithographic artist, and actually witnessed and assisted in the production of the original stamps. He publishes the following interesting reminiscences in his stamp journal :—

The sketch, or original design, was made by Mr. H. H. Glover, the principal artist and manager of Messrs. S. T. Leigh and Co., in 1876. It was this gentleman who also designed the now rare Telegraph stamp of New South Wales, the original sketch of which is in my possession. The design, upon being accepted, was placed in the hands of Mr. Bonny, another artist of the above firm, who drew it on stone by the gamboge process. The design being white on a solid background, necessitated, to ensure a sharp outline, that the usual procedure should be reversed, and a solution of gamboge was used for drawing the white portion. When finished the other portion was filled in with grease ink, and then tested in the usual litho printing manner. Thereupon the portions covered by gamboge came up white and sharp.

One label only was drawn, either the 1d. or 6d., I forget which (probably the penny, being most in demand), the additional values being lithographed as above in the small semicircular tablets in the design.

When required for use transfers were taken off the design by Lawson, the head printer, sufficient to make a sheet of 24 of the penny ones, and were made up by affixing the transfers to a ruled piece of paper, attached to a portion of an old window or glass door, this being for the purpose of allowing the light to come through, so that each label could be put in its proper place. When another value was required 12 labels comprised the sheet, as the higher values were not so much required. The alteration of the value was effected in the same manner as fixing up the sheet, viz., by drawing transfers from each little value label, and affixing it on to the transfer over the original value. Then they were transferred to the litho stone and treated in the manner usual to the process by Malone and Twomey. But very often these transfers would turn out defective through various causes, and to prevent the extra expense of cleaning the stone and making fresh transfers we younger artists use to, what was called, "touch up" the designs, and make them perfect. I recollect well that I did this on three different occasions, I having entered the firm in May, 1875, and leaving in September, 1881, for the Islands. The stamps would be made up each time an order was received, and when completed the cliche or design would be destroyed, leaving always the original label for stock purposes, the quantities required each time being only small. These were printed by hand-power, whereas I noticed that the reprints now destroyed were so laid on the stone that they could only be printed by machine, and, besides, came in much larger sheets; and Mr. Scott also informed us that the last printing was also by machine, and in sheets double that size.

Referring again to the manner of making up the sheets, it can be easily seen that each printing will show a different setting up, as shown by the two half sheets in my possession since 1879, the stamps in one being much wider apart than in the other.

Mount Athos Stamps.

THE *American Journal of Philately* publishes the following interesting note at the end of its October instalment of the *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, which deals with the stamps of Turkey :—

Athos (in Italian, Monte Santo—the Holy Mount) is the easternmost of the three spits of land running out into the Ægean Sea from the little peninsula between the Gulf of Salonica and the Gulf of Rendina. It is divided by the Gulf of Monte Santo from its sister headland on the west. Ever since the ninth century it has been the seat of a unique republic of monks. At the present time it embraces twenty large monasteries, ten villages, 250 separate cells, and 150 isolated hermitages, with about 6000 monks and hermits. Their ranks are recruited from many parts of the world, but especially from Russia. The privileges which they enjoy under the Turks they owe in the first instance to Murat II., who in consideration of their voluntary subjection protected them even before Constantinople was taken.

The monks on this mountain of Athos form an independent republic, over which they have control, and pay the Turkish Government a yearly tribute of 250,000 piastres. They, of course, have their own postal system, but up to now they have used Turkish stamps. These are surcharged in blue, with a small triangle 9½ millimetres high, containing in the corners the three Greek letters S-H-P, being the initials of the local postmaster, a Greek, named Sotire Hadji Petropuolo.

This surcharge is merely intended to show the authorities how many stamps are used in the monastic republic itself, and to distinguish them from those bought by the Turkish officials, the latter being invalid in Athos. (*The Postage Stamps of Turkey*, Ed. von Neulinger.)

Proposed Mauritius Jubilees.

THE following report of a meeting of the local governing body, from the *Planters' and Commercial Gazette* of the 7th July, will show which way the postal breezes blow in Mauritius :—

Dr. Edwards laid on the table the Report of the Postal Department Enquiry Committee on the question of the issue of the Jubilee Stamp.

The Committee recommend that design No. 34 be accepted and slightly modified, that 150,000 stamps be printed in England and sold in Mauritius only, that 750 stamps be printed in excess of this number for distribution among the post offices forming part of the Postal Union—and that the stamps be sent here along with the die The hon. member said he would move the adoption of the Report.

Dr. Edwards moved the adoption of the Report of the Postal Committee respecting the Jubilee Stamp.

The Colonial Secretary seconded the motion.

Mr. Sauzier and Dr. Bouchet asked that the consideration of this matter be deferred.

Mr. Newton joined in with them.

Mr. Guibert said that by referring the question to the Postal Committee the Council never intended to transfer their rights to that Committee, they simply asked for an advice, but they are not bound to accept it unreservedly.

The Committee, for example, recommends that design No. 34 be accepted as the best. Some of the members of the Council are of opinion that design No. 35 is the best. It is therefore better that the further consideration of the Report be adjourned, so that the members of Council may have time to examine the different designs sent in.

The motion for the adjournment was agreed to, and the Council adjourned to Tuesday next, the 13th July, 1897.

Rare English at the London Philatelic Exhibition.

ACCORDING to H. L'Estrange Ewen's *Weekly Circular*:—

The three chief collections of British stamps shown at the Exhibition contained in all: 17, 1d., black, V.R.; 103, ordinary 1d., black; 33, 2d., no lines; 28, 2d., S.C., 14; 5, 2d., L.C., 16; 39, 1s., octag.; 57, 10d., octag.; 59, 6d., octag.; 26, 1d., L.C., 16; 11, 4d., S.G.; 5, 4d., M.G., on blue; 12, 4d., M.G., on white; 13, 8d., brown; 25, 5s., Cross; 9, 10s., Cross; 7, £1, Cross; 12, 5s., Anchor; 5, 10s., Anchor; 3, £1, Anchor; and 27, 2s., brown—all *unused*, and nearly all "*mint*"!

B.S.A. First Issue: Varieties.

MR. C. L. NEWMAN, in the *Bazaar* Philatelist Supplement, says:—

If sheets or horizontal rows of all values of the first issue are carefully examined, it will be found that there is a small dot in the left-hand tail in the Coat-of-Arms on each stamp, except those of the last vertical row on the left, and that collectors should, therefore, try and get a pair of each, showing the difference.

We have accordingly examined ½d., 1d., and 2d. sheets of the first printings of the first issue, with the result that we find no such defect in the 1d., a few such dots in various stamps on the ½d., and several in the 2d., but not confined to any row, vertical or horizontal. The presence of the dot is certainly peculiar. In some cases it is very slight, but in a few instances it is as marked as if it were a dot of black ink, and it always occurs only on the left tail as stated.

U.S. 15 c., 1869.

ACCORDING to the Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:—

The 15c. of 1869 is a good stamp for the variety hunter to study. So far I have seen the following four minor varieties which have not yet been chronicled, and others may possibly exist. The difference consists in the periods after "U" in U.S. at top. The most common one has a regular colon, others have a single period, two periods, one of which is below the line, and the scarcest has three periods one above the other.

United States: Current Varieties.

LAST month (p. 275) we quoted from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* particulars of a discovery of varieties of paper being used in the current series, presumably as an experiment; but since then a query, addressed to the Bureau of Printing, has elicited the following reply, which is published in the *Weekly Stamp News*:—

Sept. 9, 1897.

J. M. Bartels, Esq., 359½, Penna. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. enclosing clipping from a stamp journal in regard to two different kinds of two-cent stamps said to be printed on peculiar paper, and asking whether any experiments have been made by this Bureau on such paper. In reply I beg to say that no experiments have been made by this Bureau on any kind of paper. The paper now in use by this Bureau is identical with that which has been used for many years. It was used by the American Bank Note Company prior to the transfer of the preparation of postage stamps of this Bureau, the only difference being the watermarking, and a slight increase of weight, rendered necessary by that change.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) CLAUDE M. JOHNSON,
Director.

A Cancelling Terror.

THE *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* gives us the shivers with a description of a new cancelling machine:—

A Bavarian daily paper speaks of tests with a new cancelling machine, in which a glowing platinum wire is to singe the stamp in such a way that it is impossible ever to use it again. The platinum wire can be bent to represent any desired shape of the cancelling stamp, and the operation is to be performed by pressing a button, which completes the electric circuit, presses the wire against the stamp, and singes it in the fraction of a second too small to estimate.

It is to be hoped that that inventor will himself be cancelled before he succeeds

in getting his machine adopted. Anyway, let us hope that the danger of injuring the contents of the envelope will stand in the way of the adoption of such an infernal arrangement for destroying used stamps.

Tonga.

THE *Australian Philatelist* publishes the following official document, which notifies the new issue and withdraws all former issues:—

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

From the *Tonga Government Gazette*, 27th May, 1897:—

NOTICE.

It is hereby notified that on and after Tuesday, the 1st day of June, 1897, a new series of stamps will be issued by the Tongan Postal Department, viz.:—½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 7½d., 10d., 1s., 2s., 2s. 6d., and 5s., which alone will be available for postal purposes; and on and after the said day, viz., 1st June, 1897, stamps of all former issues will be withdrawn from circulation, and can no longer be used for postal purposes.

By order of the Premier,
WILLIAM CAMPBELL,
Postmaster-General.

CHIEF POST OFFICE,
NUKUALOFA, 27*th May*, 1897.

Queensland Varieties.

THE editor of the *Australian Philatelist*, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, commenting on Mr. van Weenan's list of uncatalogued varieties in Queensland stamps, which we quoted last month (p. 273), differs from his contributor. He writes:—

We thought that it *had* been *definitely* settled that the 1s., large Star, violet, does not exist imperforate as a proper official issue. The 1s., truncated Star, *has* been catalogued, both by ourselves and others, in the greenish grey shade. While the *burélé* 1s. certainly has the band sometimes very indistinct, there is also a stamp of the same value, without watermark, the paper being of a different quality. The "sheet" of the 1d., 1882, printed in error in dull yellow, which went into circulation, must have been a very large one, for we have seen several hundreds of used specimens in shades of yellow exactly resembling that of the 4d. The same may be said of the 1d., in reddish brown. The stamp which Mr. van Weenan describes as an error—the 1d., 1895, on unwatermarked paper—is in all probability one of the "secret mark" stamps with the "secret" washed out.

New Zealand Private Post Cards.

THE *Australian Philatelist* says:—

The postal authorities of this Colony have given the public an extraordinary advantage in the matter of private post cards. We have seen one used by the New Zealand Cyclists' Touring Club, which has the name of the club and address of the secretary in large letters between the inscriptions "Post Card" and "The address only, etc." The stamp is that of the International card, in blue, and the whole printing—name and all—appears to have been effected at the one time. All such additions as name, address, and other advertisements are very properly excluded from the private cards permitted by the other Colonies and Great Britain, and it seems strange that so much should have been allowed in N.Z.

The card itself is a brilliant crimson, cut to the size of the official card.



Scott's Catalogue, 1898.

WE gather from our American contemporaries that some of the advanced sheets of Scott's Catalogue for 1898 are out, and a perfect howl is being made against the multiplication of shades, which is said to be *the* feature of this new edition. There are said to be few changes in pricing, for which most people who have the true interests of stamp collecting at heart will be thankful. There are some stamps that will fall short of the demand; but the wisdom of making the publication of a new edition of a catalogue the occasion of an all-round revision of prices in the direction of a rise, is very much open to question.

Known "Post Office" Mauritius.

THE *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says that eight 1d. and nine 2d. Mauritius "Post Office" are known. As an instance of the partial and uneven manner in which the good things of this

world are distributed we are compelled to admit that we do not possess a single copy of either value.

Sharp Philatelic Eyes.

A SMART specialist in South Americans, when making up his sheets for the recent London Exhibition, found he had a blank where a comparatively common stamp should be. There was no time to hunt up a copy, so he filled up the space with a reprint, as it was a stamp of no consequence and would not be likely to attract the judges' attention. He paid an early visit to the Exhibition, but before he had been in the rooms many minutes he had been told by two or three persons that a bogus stamp had been found in his exhibit. It had been spotted by the judges.

The American Collectors' Company.

THE American Collectors' Company has been formed to take over and carry on the stamp dealing business of the late Mr. Henry Gremmel and Mr. Gremmel's journal, *The Post Office*. In the September number of *The Post Office* they explain matters as follows :—

The originators, who will probably be the Board of Directors for the first year, are H. A. La Paugh, President of the American Promotion Company, a general collector, and well known as a specialist in English stamps; E. H. Fallows, of the firm of Carter & Fallows, Attorneys at Law, 18, Wall Street; F. G. Ross, well known as the personal representative of Lillian Russell, and through his travels with the great singer acquainted with collectors in every large city of the United States; and, finally, the editor of *The Post Office*, who will act as the manager of the new company.

The idea at the foundation of the American Collectors' Company is co-operation. Many new forces will be brought into service in order to carry out this idea.

The first is to interest collectors in every part of the country so that they will become personally desirous of making the plan successful. Thus with a capital of $100,000 the par value is only one dollar a share, which gives all a chance to participate.

Another is the establishment of General Agencies throughout the country, giving to some responsible and active collector the oversight of the work in his territory.

A number of such agencies have been established already.

It is proposed also to do a good work for collectors in the way of giving permanent and known value to their stamps. It is proposed to establish certain prices, and rules in relation to those prices, which will enable a collector to know first what he must pay for stamps, and in the second place somewhere near what he can get for them when he wishes to sell them. There has been a great deal of uncertainty on the above matters, which has been unavoidable under all the circumstances of the stamp business, but the plans adopted by the American Collectors' Company are such that this uncertainty can be done away with to a very great extent.

More Official Anti-Philatelism.

MR. L'ESTRANGE EWEN has blossomed out into a "Weekly Circular" for edification and baiting of specialists in English. No. 1 is dated October 16th, 1897. It is a four-page sheet, measuring $7\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ inches. It is made up mostly of price list, but there are a few notes. In No. 2, as an instance of the dead set that officialdom is making against stamp collecting, in connection with the scarcity of O.W. official stamps, a correspondent writes :—

I believe instructions have been issued forbidding civil servants to supply used official stamps. I am under Government, and our "boss" burns all stamps every morning!

Exhibition in Manchester.

TRULY those Manchester men are most irrepressible. One would have thought that the London show would have exhausted their energies for a few months. Instead of that they simply return to get up a show on their own account, and a very good show it is said to have been. The gold, silver, and bronze medals recently won by the members of the Manchester Society at the London Exhibition were exhibited in a show case.

Sale of Mr. Blest's Collection.

LAST month our advertising pages announced the sale of the famous collection of Dr. Legrand, and this month we have news of the sale of Mr. Blest's grand collection of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Queensland. Mr. W. H. Peckitt, of 440, Strand, London, W.C., was the lucky purchaser, and it is said that the value was upwards of £5000. Mr. Blest was (and we hope still intends to be) one of the most fastidious of all our great specialists. "Mint and perfectly centred" was the order of the day with him, consequently we anticipate that his treasures will soon be snapped up. Our readers will do well to inspect the treasures at 440, Strand, at the earliest moment if they wish to have a pick, for grand copies like Mr. Blest's go like hot cakes.

When a notable collection comes into the market there is generally a big

scramble on the part of less than half a dozen of our wealthiest specialists for first pick. But there is one consolation to those who are further down in the list, they are able to note that "first pick" *did* pay for his privilege, the evidence being left in the shape of initialled blanks with a word or two of description to identify the rarity, headed with a price that is afterwards quoted with bated breath.

Recent Gold Medals.

MANCHESTER is justly proud of the number of gold medals which its collectors carted away from the recent London Philatelic Exhibition. But the London Society, of course, was the greatest devourer, for its members secured no less than seventy gold medals; so many, in fact, that the members are at a loss what to do with them. Some, very wisely, not to say diplomatically, are having their duplicate gold medals made up as brooches for the lady members of their families. A gold medal brooch should help to silence, at least for a time, the objections which some ladies have to the spending of so much money on "those silly old postage stamps."

Illustration of Postage Stamps.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED recently received a letter from the Board of Commissioners of Inland Revenue at Somerset House, practically stating their intention to institute an action against them for possession of dies for illustrating postage stamps. In the September number of the *Monthly Journal* we have the effective reply of the stamp firm, dated August 3rd, as follows:—

GENTLEMEN, — We regret to learn from a letter received by us, and written on behalf of the Board, that the Board are again about to raise questions as to the right of ourselves and others to produce illustrations of stamps in Philatelic publications.

The Board raised the same question with us in May and June, 1895, when we obtained the opinions of Sir Richard E. Webster (the present Attorney-General) and Mr. R. D. Muir, and they advised us that we were not liable under Section 7 of the Post Office Protection Act, 1884, in respect of illustrations similar to those now called in question by the Board. We are aware that the Board have succeeded in obtaining a conviction against Mr. Gill, in respect of a die in his possession for the purpose of making illustrations; but apart from the differences of fact in the two cases, the reasons upon which Sir Richard E. Webster and Mr. E. D. Muir grounded their opinions do not appear to us to have been brought before the Courts in that case, and the trade and the Council of the Philatelic Society are, as we know, strongly of opinion with us that the true grounds of defence were not properly put forward in that case.

The stoppage of these illustrations must so seriously affect the interests of the trade and of the societies that we should feel bound to resist any proceedings taken to the utmost of our power. If the Board are of the opinion that they must raise the whole question of these illustrations for decision, then we would suggest, to avoid the present harassing uncertainty, and obtaining, in the interests of the Inland Revenue as well as of the trade and the societies, a decision which all will feel to be conclusive, the question should by some arrangement be so raised that it can be finally decided by the House of Lords, or at least by the Court of Appeal.

At the same time we venture to submit to the Board, that even if they should be successful no good can accrue to the Government from the proceedings.

The illustrations in respect of which the proceedings are suggested have for thirty years past or more been made by us and the trade generally, as well as by the societies, with (as the Board will, we are sure, readily admit) perfect *bona fides* towards the various Governments issuing the stamps illustrated, and merely (as to the trade) in the carrying on of a legitimate business which gives honest employment in this country to a very considerable number of persons, and (as to the societies) in the production of scientific works on the stamps of the various stamp-issuing countries.

No case of fraud upon the English or any Foreign or Colonial Post Office has arisen from the existence of such illustrations, or from the possession by the dealers of the means of creating them. Indeed, the strongest interest of both the trade and the societies lies in the prevention of forgeries and frauds on such postal authorities, and enquiries will show that the latter authorities have received great assistance from both in this respect. We can give, if desired, details of several cases, where the notice of the authorities has been brought to forgeries which the authorities themselves did not detect, and where great assistance has been rendered in procuring convictions.

Illustrations made and printed abroad by foreigners are sent in numbers into this country, and more especially from America. No Statute apparently prevents these importations, and certainly the Board have made no apparent efforts to stop them. If the Board should be successful in stopping the creation by English dealers of the illustrations in question, they will merely encourage and assist these foreign traders, subjects of the very Governments who it is understood are urging the proceedings, and they will drive the legitimate English traders to expend abroad the capital and wages now employed here in producing Albums, Catalogues, and Philatelic Works, in all of which illustrations are necessary and play a prominent part — work which gives a surprising amount of employment in this country—and the dislocation so caused must necessarily do injury also to so much of the trade's work as could still be carried on in this country.

We venture to request the Board's earnest consideration to the reasons above stated for not raising this question, but should the Board decide to raise it, then we venture to press our suggestion that it should be raised in a form which will enable a decision of the highest authorities to be obtained.

We are, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
(Signed) STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED.

This letter, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons state, was duly acknowledged, and they were practically informed that the authorities would not consent to a case being stated, by which the whole matter might be settled once for all, by carrying the case, if necessary, to the House of Lords. They add—

"However, the matter has now been postponed until October, when full consideration will be given to the case, and probably in our next issue we shall be able to state what course will be taken by the authorities."

Should the matter come to trial, we hope every stamp dealer and every stamp collector in the country will see to it that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Limited are not left to fight it out alone.

Meanwhile the matter has already been brought under the notice of a number of members of Parliament, several of whom

have stated their intention of raising the matter in Parliament as soon as possible after it meets.

Mr. Castle's Favourite Album.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED have published a new blank album for advanced collectors from a design drawn up by Mr. M. P. Castle, and announce that they have supplied him with sixty of these books, and that a number of other leading collectors have also adopted them. To distinguish this new album from others published it is named the "Oriel," and it is thus described :—

Each album contains fifty leaves of the best hand-made paper, faced with Japanese tissue paper, so as to prevent all friction, and is bound in half red morocco with cloth sides, finished in gold. A space on the back of the cover is left plain, so that a collector can have his books lettered or numbered to show the contents. Each album is contained in a cloth drop-in case, lined with lamb's wool. The leaves, unless specially ordered, are supplied perfectly blank, without any lined border or background; but if desired special leaves can be supplied with a fine *quadrillé* background, as supplied to the other philatelic albums of this form. Exact size of leaves from the outside edges, 10 inches by $10\frac{1}{4}$; available for mounting stamps, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $10\frac{1}{4}$.

Gambia's Bicoloured.

SOME months since we were told that Gambia was to be provided with a bicoloured series forthwith, that the embossed stock was being doled out in scrupulously guarded quantities to make them last out the arrival of the new stamps. But the bicoloured have not yet made their appearance, and so far as we can learn the embossed are once more plentiful; from all which we infer that when the expected "bicoloured" series arrived it was found to be a supply of the old embossed favourites. Long may they continue as the neatest of all stamps in circulation!

Sale of Dr. Ellison's Collection.

THE *Australian Philatelist* announces that Mr. Fred Hagen has purchased the late Dr. Ellison's splendid collection of stamps, and estimates that in value it will not fall very far short of the Ayer Collection. The *A. P.* says :—

Dr. Ellison was at the same time an omnivorous collector, and a "bloater," or accumulator of as many copies as possible of each variety. He was not satisfied with the marked variations of paper, watermark, and colour, but every minor shade or *nuance* found a place in his albums. He was not a very methodical collector, as the term is understood in this connection, but was in the habit of acquiring collections and carrying on the work of adding to them from the point where the original owner left off. Hence his treasures are stowed away in a number of more or less shabby albums of the Lallier, Oppen, and Lincoln type; and, of course, there are very many duplicates. In addition to the score or so of albums there are boxes, parcels, and bundles of envelopes full of loose stamps, sufficient to stock a large dealer for years in some lines.

Some idea of the bulk of this accumulation may be gained from the fact that it required four men to bestow the two cases, in which it was contained, in a cart, for conveyance to the vaults of the Safe Deposit.

A Revolution in Colours.

IT is announced that the recent International Postal Union Congress at Washington agreed that from and after the 1st January, 1898, all countries in the International Postal Union shall use the same colours for the ½d., 1d., and 2½d. values as follows :—

½d., green.
1d., red.
2½d., blue.

It is stated that Great Britain was prominent in opposing this proposition, but finally it was adopted.

The Tapling Collection.

MR. E. D. BACON informs us that the remainder of the Transvaal, *i.e.* second South African Republic, Cape of Good Hope, Griqualand and British Bechuanaland, are now on view in the public cases in the British Museum.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

PROGRAMME FOR 1897-8.

† Oct. 7. Annual General Business Meeting.
* ,, 21. Presidential Address MR. W. T. WILSON.
† Nov. 4. Display—Ceylon .
* ,, 18. Display (with Notes) —African Colonies MR. R. HOLLICK.
† Dec. 2. Display—Western Australia . .
* ,, 16. Display — Uruguay and Venezuela .
† Jan. 6. Paper—Hungary . MR. V. LUNDEBLAD.
* ,, 20. Display (with Notes) U.S.A. . . MR. C. A. STEPHENSON.
† Feb. 3. Paper—Mexico ii. . MR. W. T. WILSON.
* ,, 17. Display (with Notes) Belgium . . MR. F. E. WILSON.
† Mar. 3. Display—Argentine and Brazil . .
* ,, 17. Paper—Queensland MR. W. PIMM.
* Ap. 21. Paper—Roumania . MR. H. EDELMULLER.
† May 5. Paper—Egypt . . MR. G. JOHNSON.
* ,, 19. Paper—Persia . . MR. P. T. DEAKIN.

† Meetings to be held at 208, Birchfield Road.
* Great Western Hotel.



The S.S.S.S. Phœnix.

AFTER a short life, and passing through many trials and tribulations, the S.S.S.S. has been reconstructed. The reconstruction is not quite so radical as that which supplied the little boy's penknife with new blades and a new handle, but it has been sufficient to clear out the blank, blank, blank members who played at resignations and objections as though they were having a game of skittles with the Secretary.

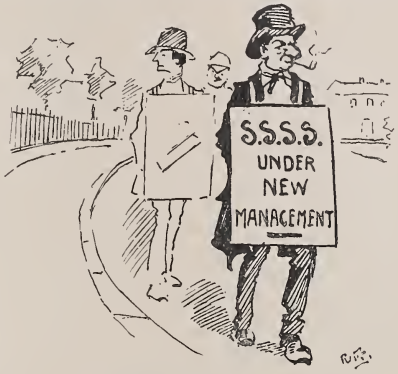
Now we have a happy family of sturdy collectors and such dealers as attach more importance to keeping the business on a firm and self-respecting basis to



making big profits out of the rapid sale of utter rubbish. So that the new S.S.S.S. rises phœnix-like out of the ashes of the old Society. What is best has been conserved. What is blank, blank, blank has been got rid of as useless deck lumber. Some day collectors will learn to distinguish between the blank, blank, blank and the self-respecting members who have stuck to the S.S.S.S. policy of clearing out the rubbish.

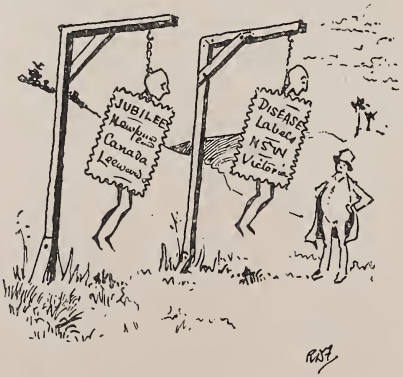
Under New Management.

THEREFORE the S.S.S.S. is now under new management. A Collectors' Committee has undertaken the unpleasant work of sorting out the weeds. These weeds will be regularly placed by the new management in philatelic dustbins, and will doubtless be as regularly cleared out by the usual collectors of refuse.



Issues Condemned.

THE work of black-listing, which has been in abeyance, has been resumed, a number of exceptionally bad weeds being forthwith condemned. It was high time that this rubbish should be gibbeted. It was increasing at such a pace, that if no attempt was made to expose its character and raise a public protest against its sale, the difficulty would before long be to find a country whose issues were not overrun with similar weeds.



Be it noted, as a sign of the times, that the issue of fraudulently speculative stamps is now openly authorized by otherwise respectable Governments for the avowed purpose of collecting revenue from stamp flats. The Disease Labels of New South Wales and Victoria are the worst instances.

Notable Stamps at Auction.

* Unused. † On original.

PUTTICK & SIMPSON,

21st and 22nd September, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Canada, 7½d., green * ..	8	14	0
Montserrat, 2½d., brown, CC, block of 4 * ..	3	10	0
Ditto, 4d., blue, CC, block of 4 *	2	12	0
Natal, 3d., blue, wmk. Star, imperf.* ..	11	0	0
Nevis, 6d., grey, litho.*	8	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve, damaged ..	11	10	0
Queensland, 2d., blue, imperf.	5	7	6
St. Christopher, 4d., blue, CA *	4	10	0
Ditto, 6d., grey, CA ..	2	6	0
St. Vincent, 5s., lake, Star, no gum *	11	15	0
Switzerland, *Geneva*, two halves of double ..	5	10	0
Ditto, *Zurich*, 4 r., hor. lines, type 3	15	0	0
Transvaal, 1893, 2½ pence on 1s. (error)	1	19	0
United States, Justice, 90 c.*	6	0	0
Western Australia, 6d., bronze-black	2	8	0
Zululand, 5s., carmine ..	1	16	0

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER.

30th September and 1st October, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Bahamas, 1s., green, CC, perf. 12½ *	6	0	0
Barbados, 1d. on right half 5s.	6	5	0
Ditto, another straight serif to 1	4	10	0
Bergedorf, 3 sch., blue on rose †	2	8	0
Ditto, 4 sch., black on brown †	3	12	6
Bremen, 7 gr., imperf. †	2	15	0
Ditto, 7 gr., perf. † ..	7	0	0
British Bechuanaland, £5, postally used	3	7	6
British Central Africa, £5, sage-green	4	10	0
British Columbia, 10 c., perf. 12½, with gum †	3	0	0
Ditto, another used ..	2	6	0
Ditto, 81, perf. 12½ ..	2	5	0
British Guiana, first issue, 8 c., green, cut to shape	16	10	0
Ditto, 12 c., blue, cut square	26	0	0
Ditto, (1852) 1 c., magenta	3	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., deep blue, large margins, but creased	10	10	0
British Guiana, (1856) 4 c., magenta	11	0	0
British Honduras, 6d., orange, CA	2	7	6
Ditto, 1s., slate-grey, CA	2	0	0
British South Africa, £10, brown	5	15	0
Brunswick, (1863) ½d., black on green, cut one side and showing blind roulette at bottom	2	17	6
Buenos Ayres, 3 pesos, green	4	4	0
Ditto, 4 pesos, vermilion	16	10	0
Ditto, 5 pesos, orange, very slightly cut into at top, otherwise fine	12	12	0
Canada, 6d., lilac, perf. ..	4	12	6
Cape of Good Hope, *wood block*, 1d., brick red ..	3	7	6
Ditto, 4d., dark blue ..	10	10	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf.	11	10	0
Dominica, 6d., orange, CA	1	3	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve, CA	4	0	0
Dutch Indies, 5 c., yellow, unpaid	2	0	0
Gambia, 1s., green ..	1	7	0
Gold Coast, 20s., green and carmine . ..	2	15	0
Great Britain, 2s., brown, one perf. missing, but fine	1	12	0
Ditto, 10s, wmk. Anchor on *bleuté*	1	4	0
Ditto, £1, ditto ..	2	0	0
Ditto, £5, orange ..	2	0	0
Hamburg, 4 sch., green, imperf.	1	8	0
Ditto, 9 sch., yellow, imperf.	3	12	6
Ditto, 9 sch., yellow, perf.	1	18	0
Hanover, 10 gr., green ..	2	4	0
Heligoland (1873), ¼ sch., green and rose ..	4	0	0
Ditto, ¼ sch., rose and green (error), perfs. cut at bottom ..	2	2	0
Ditto, ¾ sch., rose and green	3	10	0
Ditto, (1875) 1 pf, green and rose	1	2	0
Ditto, ditto, 2 pf., rose and green	1	12	0
Ditto, (1876) 3 pf., orange and green, thinned at back	1	14	0
Ditto, (1879) 5 mk., thinned at top ..	1	1	0
India, (1856–64) 2 as., green, heavy postmark	4	0	0
Lagos, 2s. 6d., olive-black	4	5	0
Ditto, 5s., blue	5	5	0
Ditto, 10s., lilac-brown	12	10	0
Levant, (1865) 2 k., brown and blue	7	10	0
Ditto, (1865) 20 k., blue and red	6	5	0
Livonia (Wenden), 1st issue, 2 k., black and rose	5	0	0
Lubeck, 2½ sch., brown (error)	6	5	0
Mauritius, *Post Paid*, 1d., very early and fine margins, but somewhat heavy postmark	11	10	0
Ditto, ditto, another early on blue ..	4	6	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., medium early	10	10	0
Ditto, *Large fillet*, 2d., blue, slightly cut into on one side, but fine	6	15	0
Mecklenburg Schwerin, ¼ sch., rouletted, blind roulettes two sides, and imperf. at bottom	3	5	0
Ditto, (1866-67) 2 sch., grey-lilac	4	10	0
Mecklenburg Strelitz, ¼ sch., orange-red ..	4	6	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, CA	3	0	0
Naples, 50 gr., lake ..	2	2	0
Ditto, ½ t., blue, Cross	4	0	0
Ditto, ½ t., blue, Arms	16	0	0
Natal, first issue, 9d. on piece, cut very small but clear	9	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s. on piece, a similar specimen ..	3	15	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, fine margins	4	8	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve, no margins	8	8	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, small margins and thinned	7	7	0
Oil Rivers, 1d. in red on half 2d. on piece ..	1	0	0
Oldenburg, (1859) ⅓ gr., black on green, very fine, but slight crease	6	0	0
Saxony, 3 pf.	5	5	0
Switzerland, Geneva, 5+5 c.	16	0	0
Ditto, Zurich, 4 r., black, hor. lines	17	10	0
Spain, (1851) 2 r., red ..	18	0	0
Ditto, (1852) 2 r., red ..	8	0	0
Ditto, (1853) 2 r., red ..	5	15	0
Ditto, *Madrid*, 4 cuartos, bronze †	16	0	0
Ditto, (1855) 2 r., blue (error of colour) ..	15	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 12 cts., rose and blue, frame inverted	9	0	0
St. Vincent, 5s., rose-red	14	0	0
Ditto, ½ on half 6d., pair, one without dividing line in fraction	7	15	0
Ditto, ½ on half 6d., pair, two lines perf. through centre	14	10	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s., vermilion †	13	10	0
Turks Islands, 1s., prune	15	10	0

Notices.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post-free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 5s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

Enquiries connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.

Advertisements must be received not later than the 15th of the month for publication in the next issue.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

DECEMBER, 1897.

Editorial Notes.

THE reconstructed Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps has lost no time in issuing its Circular in continuation of the work of the Society. These circulars will be issued monthly as required, and will be sent to all the leading Philatelic Journals at home and abroad.

S.S.S.S. Circular No. 6.

The enemies of the policy of exposing the nature of the speculative rubbish foisted on collectors as postage stamps endeavour to throw dust in the eyes of collectors by speaking of the reconstruction meeting as the last meeting of the Society, by discounting the work of the Society as ineffective, and by shamelessly declaring that the leading Philatelists, who have been appointed from its membership by the Philatelic Society of London to carry on the work of exposure, have "absolutely no sympathy with the young struggling collector of current issues."

The best reply to all this specious misrepresentation lies in the obvious proof that the work of the Society is being continued under greater safeguards for effective condemnation, freed, for the first time in its history, from the serious drawback of trade jealousies. That it has not been powerless is attested by the signal failure of many swindling postal schemes which, apart from S.S.S.S. exposures, would have fleeced stamp collectors of thousands of pounds. To say that such leading collectors as those who compose the Committee, to whom is entrusted the work of condemnation, have absolutely no sympathy with the struggling young collector of current issues, is clearly an *ex parte* statement that requires only the light of a little explanation to expose its absurdity. Which, we wonder, is the more likely to have genuine sympathy with the young collector: the eminent Philatelists of the Philatelic Society of London, who are wedded by years of experience and devotion to our hobby, or the new issue dealer, who boasts that the rubbish which is condemned sells and sells well?

Circular No. 6, which we publish on another page, covers, up to date, some very necessary condemnations, and it also recognises the altered character of the Olympian series. The exposure and condemnation by the S.S.S.S. of the purely speculative character of this series, and the force of subsequent events, have combined to change the speculative issue into a permanent series. This is the sort of change that the S.S.S.S. was inaugurated to effect. Collectors do not object to Jubilee or Commemorative issues, so long as they are devoted in unlimited supply to purely postal requirements. They are objectionable only when they are manipulated for the non-postal benefit of poverty-stricken exchequers and officials, and new issue speculators, who would naturally prefer that the struggling young collector should be left free to dance to their peculiar music.

The reconstructed Society may not be an immediate success, for it will

have to live down the odium of its arrested progress; but the impact of steady and honest work on the part of eminent, responsible, and experienced philatelists who have no axes of their own to grind, no Commemorative rubbish "to sell and sell well," and no ends to serve but the conservation of the real, true, and lasting interests of stamp collecting, cannot fail in the long-run to convince the great body of stamp collectors that "Codlin's the friend, not Short," and that young and struggling collectors of current issues had far better spend their money upon genuine postal issues than upon ephemeral Commemorative labels that may "sell and sell well" to them to-day, but which will inevitably find their proper place in the waste-paper heap to-morrow.

* * *

Postal Union Changes.

THE information which we quoted in an Editorial Note in our last issue, to the effect that the Postal Union Congress had agreed to uniform colours for the ½d., 1d., and 2½d. postage stamps of countries in the Postal Union, was apparently wrong in putting the date of the change so early as next January. More reliable information says the changes are to be made on or before the 1st January, 1899, thus giving a year's grace to those countries whose stamps do not already conform to the chosen colours. There will thus be a reasonable time to so manipulate the stocks on hand that there will be no need to sell or destroy a lot of obsolete remainders.

So much the better for the stamp collecting world. This year we have the impetus of the recent great London Exhibition. Next year we shall have the probably still greater impetus of wholesale changes in the English and Colonial issues. In all probability many of our Colonies will gradually come into line with the new colours before the final date, as their present stocks are exhausted; but, even so, we may expect a flood of new postage stamps at the end of next year. What changes will follow in the train of this important resolution of the Postal Union Congress it is impossible to forecast, but it is not at all unlikely that many countries will take advantage of the necessity of the change to effect other radical alterations in the matter of design. It should form an excellent excuse for securing a more artistic series for our own postage stamps.

* * *

British East Africa and Zanzibar.

FOR some months past it has been the favourite amusement of some of our contemporaries to gibe at the provisional issues of British East Africa and Zanzibar, and to insinuate the basest reasons for their existence. At last the insinuations culminated in a series of formal charges addressed to the Foreign Office. So far as we can gather those charges were:—1, that Mr. Remington had apparently utilized his position by issuing a vast number of provisional stamps; 2, that he has accumulated a private stock of all the different kinds of surcharges, which is valued at something like £2000, and that this stock will shortly be placed on the market; 3, that Mr. Remington is a leading spirit amongst a privileged few to issue provisional stamps for their benefit.

These are serious charges, and as they seriously affect the career of a public official they certainly should not have been formulated without good and sufficient reason.

But, lo and behold, Mr. Remington scatters them all to the winds, and, forsooth, the charges are withdrawn. There is, however, no apology for the great injustice done, and no exposure of the presumably personal enemy who hides, coward-like, behind the stamp-dealing firm whom he has obviously used as a cat's-paw and vehicle for personal spite.

No one will blame Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for their share in the matter. They have only done their duty to stamp collectors in putting the charges to the test of official inquiry, but it is open to question whether they should not give their correspondent a choice between proving his charges and facing the public exposure of his name.

The Stamps of Norway.

By ARTHUR H. HARRISON,

Hon. Sec. Manchester Philatelic Society

(In collaboration with Hubert Buckley, Christiania).

(*Continued from page* 288.)

24 skilling, brown, dark brown, chestnut-brown.

TYPE I.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top does not quite reach the centre stroke of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10¾ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The "F" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left is 4¾ mm. from the base.

(*d*) The pearls on the right side of the large crown are bunched together.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the lower bend of the tail and passes under the tuft; the fourth passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the ninth passes through the toe point; the tenth nearly touches the toe point (in some specimens it does); the eleventh passes into the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; four lines and a fraction of the fifth may be seen between the hind legs; at the top the ninth line appears just above the lower corner of the lion's crown only.

(*f*) The tuft commences at the fourth line; the fifth and sixth and a small bit of the fourth line appear between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The fifteenth line, rising to the left of the point of the shield, passes into the heel of the right hind foot; the seventh, eighth, and a small bit of the ninth appear between the fore legs; the tenth, eleventh, and a small part of the twelfth (under the jaw) between the axe and snout; the fourteenth and fifteenth meet the outline of the body, and the fifteenth joins the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*h*) The top of the main stroke of the figure "4" is cut off square, and the whole figure appears to lean against the figure "2."

TYPE II.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the middle of the "A" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures 10½ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the middle of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The "F" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left is 5¼ mm. from the base.

(*d*) The cross above the large crown leans to the right.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the lower bend of the tail and the tuft; the fifth passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth touches the toe point; the eleventh passes clear; the twelfth passes into the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; five lines appear between the hind legs; at the top the ninth line appears just above the lion's crown and below the mane.

(*f*) The tuft commences at the fourth line, and the fifth and sixth lines can be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The fifteenth line, rising from the centre of the point of the shield, passes into the heel of the right hind foot; the sixth, seventh, and eighth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth, eleventh, and a small part of the twelfth (under the jaw) between the axe and snout; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth meet the outline of the body, and the fifteenth joins the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*h*) The "S" of "SKILL" is smaller than any of the other letters.

(*i*) The left hind foot of the lion is nearer the frame than in any of the other types.

TYPE III.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures 11 mm. from the base, and the top reaches almost to the end of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches almost to the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The "F" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left is 5 mm. from the base.

(*d*) The pearls on the right side of the large crown are larger than those on the left.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line passes under the lower bend of the tail and the tuft; the fifth passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth touches the toe point; the eleventh touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the twelfth passes into the joint; five lines and a small bit of the sixth appear between the hind legs; at the top there is *not* any trace of the ninth line, either above the lion's crown or below the mane.

(*f*) The tuft commences at the fourth line, and the fifth can be seen between the inside of the upper bend and the tuft.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The fourteenth line strikes the heel of the right hind foot; the fifteenth, rising from the point of the shield, passes into the leg; the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth between the axe and snout; the twelfth joins the outline of the snout; the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth meet the outline of the body; and the fifteenth and sixteenth join the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*h*) A hair-line passes through the top right-hand corner of the shield, and two cut into the "I" of "SKILL," and one through the frame of the shield, halfway between the tuft and lower bend of the lion's tail.

(*i*) The top of the main stroke of the figure "4" is cut off at a very acute angle.

TYPE IV.—(*a*) The wreath on the left measures $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the middle of the "E" of the diphthong "Æ" on the left.

(*b*) The wreath on the right measures $10\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the base, and the top reaches the beginning of the "A" of "Æ" on the right.

(*c*) The "F" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left is $4\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the base.

(*d*) The left arm of the cross above the large crown is higher than the right.

(*e*) Counting from the right.

The first line touches the lower bend of the tail and passes through the tuft; the fifth line passes into the heel of the left hind foot; the tenth cuts through the toe point; the eleventh, almost touching the toe point (in some specimens it does), touches the back of the knee joint of the right hind leg; the twelfth passes into the joint; five lines appear between the hind legs; at the top small fragments of the ninth line may be seen above the lion's crown and below the mane.

(*f*) The tuft which joins the frame commences at the fourth line, and the fifth, sixth, and a small bit of the fourth can be seen between the inside of the upper bend of the tail and the tuft.

(*g*) Counting from the left.

The fifteenth line, rising from the centre of the point of the shield, strikes the heel of the right hind foot; the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth lines appear between the fore legs; the tenth and eleventh between the axe and snout; the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth meet the outline of the body, and the fifteenth joins the thigh of the right hind leg.

(*h*) A hair-line passes through the first "L" of "SKILL."

(*i*) The top and bottom strokes of the last "E" of "FRIMAERKE" on the left are joined, giving the letter the appearance of an "H."

It will be noticed that there are thirty perpendicular lines composing the background of the shield in each type, also that there are differences in the appearance and shape of the lion's brow and snout, and again in the figure "2," etc.

Issue IV. 1867-68. 5 values. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 skilling.

In 1867 the new issue appeared, the 2 sk. and the 4 sk. being printed on the same paper as the previous issue, viz., with watermark round the margins of the sheets.

Printed in Christiania, at the works of Messrs. Petersen, for a payment of 30 sk. (100 öre) per 1000 up to 1877, in sheets of 100 stamps, ten rows of ten.

The design is very similar to the last issue.

The arms of Norway in the centre; "NORGE" above; the value "SKILL," with figures on either side, below; on each side "FRIMAERKE" on a tablet. Small ornaments in the top corners; the whole design being surrounded by an inner and outer frame composed of straight lines.

The paper varies slightly in thickness. The values 1, 3, and 8 skill. and 4 skill. on thin paper are not watermarked.

The size of the stamps is $16\frac{3}{4} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ mm., perforated regularly $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

The gum is brown or yellowish brown on the thick paper, yellow or yellowish white on the thin.

The impressions of the later specimens are somewhat unsatisfactory, but those of the earlier are well defined.

It is to be noticed that the 24 skill. value is omitted, and that a new one of 1 skill. is added, on account of the new arrangements made in reference to inland postage.

Unlike the last issue, this has every appearance of having been produced from one die. No varieties or different types are known, excepting perhaps such minor varieties as may occur on all printings; such indeed I have found—viz., 2 skill. with a dot above the lion's tail, 4 skill. with a dot or dots immediately in front of the lion's paws—but I do not consider them of importance, as they are most probably due to careless cleansing of the plate.

Synopsis.

2	skilling,	yellow-orange and orange (shades). June, 1867.
4	,,	blue (shades), on thick paper. 1867.
4	,,	blue, dark blue, on thin paper. Probably end of 1867.
8	,,	rose (shades). October, 1867.
3	,,	lilac, red-lilac (shades). May, 1868.
1	,,	grey-black, dark grey, dark olive-grey. May, 1868.

Issue V. 1872-75. 6 values. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 skilling.

The Norwegian Postal Authorities having entered into new conventions, a fresh scale of charges and new values were decided upon. The 8 skilling value was done away with, and two, the 6 and 7 skilling, substituted.

The new issue appeared January 1st, 1872.

Printed by Petersen in Christiania for the payment of 30 sk. = 100 öre per 1000, in sheets of 100, ten rows of ten.

Known as the first of the posthorn issues, the design (which, with slight variations, has remained in use to the present day) has a figure denoting the value in the centre upon a white background, enclosed by the ring of a posthorn, surmounted by a crown; three pearls support the arch diadems of the crown, and a small cross rests upon the centre diadem; an oval band of solid colour bears the inscription "NORGE" (above the crown), and the value in letters (below the posthorn). The mouthpiece and the bell-shaped end of the posthorn rest on the band on either side, and the background between the band and the crowned posthorn is composed of fine vertical lines close together. At each corner a wheel-like ornament with six spokes, having open wings, completes the design. One fine and one thick line on all four sides frame the whole.

The paper varies greatly, more so perhaps than in the previous issues. It is to be found thin to medium thick, sometimes of a soft texture, and sometimes hard, and again, in the case of the 2, 3, and 4 sk. values, of an oily semi-transparent nature. As to colour, we find it white, yellowish white (toned by the gum), and greyish white; this, together with the various inks used, produces a range of shades prolific enough indeed to delight the heart of any specialist.

The watermark as well as the design is entirely changed with this issue; it represents a posthorn, mouthpiece to left, and it is found in nearly every possible position.

N.B.—The Authorities of the Postal Department at Christiania say that this watermark was in some cases pressed into the paper when in a finished state. Hence the various positions in which it occurs.

The size of the stamps is 17 × 21 mm., and the perforation measures $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ regularly.

The gum is white or yellowish.

The impressions are generally well defined, excepting perhaps those of the 3 and 4 skilling on semi-transparent paper.

From careful examination of the stamps I have come to the conclusion that one matrix served for all the values of this issue; this matrix would be engraved with all the design and the inscription, excepting the figure in centre and the value in letters before "skilling."

The numeral being inserted in the centre in the same manner as the Swedish issue of 1872, the dies for the six values were produced, the letters denoting the value before "skilling" being separately engraved upon each die, thus accounting for the variations in size and position which are so clearly apparent upon each value.

My principal reason for the opinion that only one matrix was used for all values, is that I find that a curious imperfection can be traced on each. Above the letters denoting the value on the left there is a break in the outline of the mouthpiece of the posthorn just opposite the end of the ninth line of shading counting from the left, and this imperfection occurs more or less on every stamp.

1873. 1 skilling, dark green, green, yellow-green (shades).

This value I have found to be very interesting; firstly, because I have found that there are two settings-up, and secondly, because it was the first on which I

noticed the imperfection referred to above. The dark green shade, which is the first, shows the following varieties:

Variety I.—Eight stamps in the sheet have a break across the lines of shading, giving them the appearance of having a white hair line passing from the oval band immediately above the second "E" of "EEN" to the break in the posthorn, and they occur in the

4th and 7th stamps	in the	1st row.
3rd stamp	,,	3rd ,,
1st ,,	,,	5th ,,
8th ,,	,,	8th ,,
1st, 6th, and 10th stamps	,,	9th ,,

Variety II.—There is a dot, or full stop, between the first and second "E" of "EEN" on the stamp appearing the 3rd on the 5th row.

Variety III.—There is a dot, or full stop, after "skilling" on the 10th stamp in the 9th row.

These varieties repeat on the yellow-green and green shade in the following order (second setting):

Variety I.	4th, 6th, and 8th stamps	in the	1st row.
	6th and 9th	,, ,,	2nd ,,
	6th stamp	in the	4th row.
	7th ,,	,,	6th ,,
	10th ,,	,,	10th row.
Variety II.	8th ,,	,,	2nd ,,
Variety III.	4th ,,	,,	1st ,,

Additional minor varieties appear on this shade which do not occur on the dark green sheet:

Variety IV. The 6th stamp on the 5th row has the corner blurred and the "E" of "NORGE" badly defined.

Variety V. The 7th stamp on the 5th row has a round white spot in the place of a pearl on the right-hand side of the crown.

Variety VI. The 8th stamp on the 7th row has a thick white line passing from the first "E" of "EEN" to the outside of the oval.

These last three varieties repeat on all the sheets of this shade I have been able to examine.

Variety VII. Two rows of perforations across the top of the sheet.

1873. 2 skilling, blue, deep blue, ultramarine, and shades of both.

1872 (January 1st). 3 skilling, carmine.

(Variety) I. on semi-transparent paper.

,, II. Two rows of perforations across the top of the sheet.

1872 (January 1st). 4 skilling, purple, violet, and many shades.

(Variety) on semi-transparent paper.

1875 (January 1st). 6 skilling, yellow-brown.

1872 (January 1st). 7 skilling, red-brown, brown, and dark brown.

(Variety) on semi-transparent paper.

The 2, 4, and 7 sk. of this issue are, I believe, known imperforate—probably from proof sheets, or may be from sheets which have escaped perforating. I have never seen a used copy on original letter.

I have not found any varieties in the printings of the 2, 4, 6, and 7 skilling beyond small blotches of colour, and these I do not consider to be of any importance.

The 3 skilling I have with a white dot after "NORGE," and have seen one other copy, but as I have not been fortunate enough to obtain a sheet of this value I cannot say if it be worth chronicling or not.

*

This brings us to the end of the skilling issues. The Norwegian currency was brought into conformity with the Swedish January 1st. 1877.

I think perhaps a few words in reference to the Norwegian remainders will prove of interest, and may also serve as a warning with regard to certain values, both to collectors of and specialists in "Norwegians" alike, and at the same time go far to put some of the other values on the footing they deserve.

It is known perhaps to the elder brethren of philately that *all* the Norwegian remainders were sold in 1888 to a gentleman who at that time held office under the Norwegian Government.

The contract states that he alone has the right to sell the remainders for ten years (1888 to 1898), provided that he takes stamps to the value of 4,000 kr. (about £200 per annum) out of the remainder lying at the Post Office at Christiania. For the smaller lots this gentleman paid face value cash, and they are now absorbed by collectors, but the values of which great quantities were on hand *were to be taken as required.*

The following were the quantities in 1888:

1856.	4 skil.,	blue (head).	35 specimens.
1863.	2 ,,	yellow (arms).	8 ,,
	3 ,,	lilac.	50 ,,
1864.	4 ,,	blue.	284 ,,
	8 ,,	rose.	111 ,,
	24 ,,	brown (shades), quantity not stated, but probably 500,000 on hand at the present time.	
1867.	1 ,,	black.	285 specimens.
	3 ,, 3	lilac.	236 ,,
	4 ,, 4	blue.	1411 ,, (on thin paper)
	8 ,, 8	rose.	374 ,,
	2 ,, 2	orange-yellow (shades), quantity not stated, but probably a similar quantity to the 24 skill. remains on hand.	
1872.	1 ,,	light green (shades), posthorn (2nd setting), about 500,000.	
	2 ,,	blue ,, ,, ,, 500,000.	
	3 ,,	rose ,, ,, 2633 specimens.	
	4 ,,	mauve ,, ,, about 500,000.	
		All on the hard paper, *and not semi-transparent.*	
	6 ,,	light brown ,, ,, 363 specimens.	
	7 ,,	brown ,, ,, about 500,000.	
1877.	3 öre,	orange (posthorn).	200 specimens.
	5 ,,	blue (shades), quantity not stated.	
	10 ,,	rose ,, ,, ,,	
	12 ,,	green.	629 specimens.
	20 ,,	brown.	722 ,,

N.B.—Out of the 722 specimens of the 20 öre, brown, 1877, 600 were sold to a firm in Christiania, and were used by them to frank their correspondence.

Other values NOT mentioned above issued previous to 1877, such as the 1854, and three of the 1856 issues, and 4 skill. 1864, on thick paper, and 1 skill. 1872 (first setting). *Remainders do not exist.*

British East Africa and Zanzibar.

From Stanley Gibbons "Monthly Journal."

DURING the past twelve months or so, the number of provisionals issued in this district has been so large as to cause much comment in stamp circles as to the *bonâ fides* of the postmaster who authorises their emission, and under the circumstances we thought it best to bring the matter under the notice of the Foreign Office, so that an enquiry might be held, not only in the interests of the stamp trade, but also in the interests of the postal officials themselves; as we believe that the issue of these provisionals makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the officials to tell what stamps bear a genuine surcharge and what bears a forged surcharge. The enquiry was accordingly made through Sir A. Hardinge, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar, and we are very pleased to state that we are directly authorised by the Marquis of Salisbury, under date October 19th last, to publish the following extract received at the Foreign Office from Mr. Remington :—

According to your instructions I have the honour to submit the following explanation with regard to the overprinting and surcharging the East Africa and Zanzibar Protectorates' stamps.

When it was known that the Imperial Government had decided to take over the territory of the late British East Africa Company, I thought it quite possible that the question of supplying stamps might be overlooked, and in order to avoid, as far as possible, any inconvenience to the public this would result in, I wrote to the late Company asking for a large supply of stamps. The reply I received was to the effect that the stock in Mombasa was sufficient for the remainder of the time the Company would hold the territory, and that they declined to send me any more.

My surmise proved to be correct, and I had only the small supply of stamps on hand on the 1st of July, 1895, the date of the transfer of the territory, as shown on inclosed list, to carry on with, and out of this supply I had to forward 736 of each value to the General Post Office, London, as specimens. This supply was not sufficient for one month's requirements, and when it is remembered it was not until the 19th May, 1896, ten months after the date of transfer, that the first supply of the present permanent issue of the Protectorate's stamps was received, some idea may be formed as to the very great difficulty and inconvenience I was put to in endeavouring to meet the public requirements.

On the 10th November, 1895, the Zanzibar Government took over the Indian Post Office at Zanzibar, and with it the stock of Indian stamps on hand. By this time the East Africa Protectorate's stamps were naturally all but exhausted, and when I pointed out to the Acting Consul-General (Mr. Cave) the absolute necessity of supplying stamps to the East Africa Protectorate until the arrival of the permanent issue, it was decided to request permission of the Director-General of the Indian Post Office to use part of the Indian stamps on hand in Zanzibar, and overprint them "British East Africa." This permission was kindly granted, and so the difficulty of supplying the East Africa Protectorate with stamps was, for the time, overcome.

Unfortunately, however, the late Postmaster of the Indian Post Office at Zanzibar had run short of 2½ annas stamps; 2354 was the exact number handed over, and this ridiculously small quantity had to be shared between Zanzibar and the East Africa Protectorate. This quantity not being sufficient for even a week's supply, it therefore follows that it was absolutely necessary to issue a provisional 2½ annas stamp for both territories, and the 1½ annas stamps, being the largest number of any value taken over, were surcharged.

During this time the Zanzibar Government, not previously having made any provision for its permanent issue of stamps, was in correspondence with the stamp contractors as to design, price, &c. On the 10th April, 1896, the contractors wrote stating my instructions were perfectly clear, and that it would be fully three months before the stamps could be shipped. This letter I acknowledged, and requested to be supplied with the stamps as soon as possible. On 28th August the contractors, notwithstanding the letters referred to above, wrote regretting the death of His Highness the late Sultan of Zanzibar, and asked for further instructions. On receipt of their letter I immediately telegraphed them to send stamps immediately, but the failure on the part of the contractors to supply the stamps at the time stated again caused me considerable difficulty in meeting the demand, and I was compelled, after consulting Sir Lloyd Mathews, to issue provisional stamps.

As neither the East Africa Protectorate nor the Zanzibar Government had made any provision whatever to supply any postage stamps on the date of the transfer of the respective Post Offices, I was placed in the very awkward position of having to manage as best I could with one month's supply of stamps taken over from the late Company for nine months and a half for the East Africa Protectorate, and a totally inadequate supply of stamps taken over from the Indian Post Office to be shared between the two Protectorates for twelve months pending the supply of the permanent issue for each Protectorate.

It is entirely owing to this that it has been absolutely necessary to issue provisional stamps, and to my endeavours to eke out my stocks in the face of an exceptionally heavy demand for stamps from dealers and collectors, pending the arrival of the permanent issues.

In addition to this, I would also beg to state that one consignment of stamps lay at Aden more than a month, it having missed the steamer from Aden to Zanzibar, also that another case of stamps was over-carried by the Messageries Maritimes Company to Madagascar, which also involved a month's delay in receipt at Zanzibar.

Had it not been for the kindness of the Director-General of the Indian Post Office in allowing the Protectorates to overprint and use Indian stamps as well as supplying them, I should not have been able to meet the difficulty as successfully as I think I have done. Had the Director-General declined to supply the Protectorates with Indian stamps, there would not have been a single stamp of the East Africa Protectorate to be obtained from October, 1895, to May, 1896, or one Zanzibar stamp in existence until twelve months after the transfer of the Indian Post Office to the Zanzibar Government.

Now the permanent issue of stamps both for the East Africa and Zanzibar Protectorates can be obtained, I am glad to say that no further need of issuing provisional stamps will occur.

I now beg permission to deal with the letter sent by Messrs. * * * to the Chief Secretary of the Colonial Office. Their statement that I have apparently utilized my position by issuing a vast number of provisional stamps is utterly unfounded. I state most distinctly that not one provisional stamp has been issued without the knowledge and sanction of the Acting Consul-General or Sir Lloyd Mathews, that only sufficient to meet the immediate demand were surcharged, and that I have done all in my power to avoid the necessity of issuing these stamps.

As regards the various types used, this is a matter that is entirely out of my hands. The stamps had to be overprinted and surcharged, and the only place to get this done in Zanzibar is at the Zanzibar *Gazette* Office. The staff of printers at the *Gazette* Office is entirely composed of natives, who, I suppose, do not understand the importance, from the stamp dealer's point of view, of the least difference in type, and their plant and appliances being very limited, they did the best they could under the circumstances.

Messrs. * * * statement that they are informed that I have accumulated a private stock of all the different kinds of surcharges, which is valued at something like £2000, is as absurd as it is unfounded. The statement that one of my acquaintances informs them that this supposed stock may very likely be on the market in a short time is also without any foundation and not true, and I beg to solemnly state that I have never even thought of taking any advantage of the position entrusted to me to sell stamps either on the market or to private individuals.

The statement that I am a leading spirit amongst a privileged few to issue provisional stamps for our benefit is also utterly unfounded.

The statement that when ordering stamps I have asked for the same quantity of 2½ annas as of Rs. 2, 3, and 5 is also not true, as can easily be seen from my indents on the Consulate and on the contractors. I would, however, explain that in the first supply of the Protectorate's stamps that was received the number of the lower values stamps ordered, although not the same quantity as the Rs. 2, 3, and 5, were altogether out of proportion to the quantity required. On inquiry at the Consulate, I find these stamps were ordered by wire, and I remember the then Acting Consul-General, Mr. Cave, asked me as to the quantity I thought I should require.

Although only about 5000 of the lower values were telegraphed for, I am confident that there must have been some misunderstanding, as I cannot explain to myself why I should have asked for so small a supply, and when it did arrive the great disappointment I felt owing to it being so inadequate for the requirements.

An additional proof that Messrs. * * * statement is unfounded, may be seen from all my letters to the contractors, in which I have repeatedly asked them to send the lower value stamps first, in order to avoid the possibility of issuing provisional stamps, to which I had a strong objection.

I would also beg permission to explain that, when the late Company was in existence, no stamps were supplied to dealers and collectors from the Post Offices in British East Africa, but were all sold from the Company's London Office; hence I was without the experience Messrs. * * * give me credit for, and quite ignorant of the possibility of the enormous demand for stamps made by dealers and collectors. Besides this, the great increase in the number of Indian natives, Indian troops, and the Europeans who have come into the East Africa Protectorate for the Uganda Railway, which could not possibly have been anticipated in July, 1895, had also to be met.

I quite readily admit that had I had the knowledge a year ago that I now have of the enormous demand for stamps by dealers and collectors, over and above those required for purely postal purposes, the necessity for one or two provisional issues might have been avoided, but, as I have already stated, I had no means of knowing this beforehand.

In proof of this, in my estimate of stamp sales for 1896-7 for British East Africa, I estimated Rs. 25,777—whereas the actual quantity sold was Rs. 62,800, and my estimate for Zanzibar was for Rs. 36,000—whereas the actual quantity sold was Rs. 70,547.

Mr. Remington certainly makes out a good case for the necessity of these surcharges, and for the real need of utilizing the stamps of Zanzibar in British East Africa, and *vice versa*. In view of this explanation, we think it must be fully recognized that Mr. Remington is free from any blame in the matter, and all imputations that have been made should be withdrawn.

Indian Provisionals.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE "LONG PROVISIONAL" 2, 4, AND 8 ANNAS SERVICE STAMPS, AND PROVISIONAL ½ ANNA SERVICE STAMP.

From the "Philatelic Journal of India."

(1) *Letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, Madras, to the Director-General of the Post Office of India, dated 17th July*, 1866.

SIR,—I have the honour, with reference to the recent introduction of the system of payment for service letters as prescribed by the Governor-General's Notification, dated 5th May, 1866, and to the correspondence between the Government of India, yourself, and the Board of Revenue, relative to the short supply of Postage Stamps of 2 and 4 annas value, to submit for your consideration the advisability of moving the Government of India to utilize the large stock of Foreign Bill Adhesive Stamps of the values noted in the margin, by appropriating them for the collection of the Service Postage Revenue.

2 annas.	Re. 1.
4 ,,	Rs. 2.
8 ,,	,, 4.
Rs. 8.	

The provisions of the Stamp Act, Section XI., require that the stamp affixed to a Foreign Bill, whether sole or one of a set, shall be of the value required for a *sole* Bill; consequently the stamps of the values above-mentioned are never used except occasionally two or three together to make up the value of a sole Bill Stamp, and the stock, as *thus* used, now in my charge, is sufficient for about sixty years.

(2) *Telegram from the Director-General of the Post Office to the Superintendent of Stamps, Madras, dated 3rd August*, 1866.

Letter of 17th July received. If the Revenue Board do not object, have the words "Service Postage" printed on the face of the Foreign Bill Stamps which you can spare, and distribute them for use as Service Postage labels.

(3) *Letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, to the Director-General of the Post Office, dated 22nd August*, 1866.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that the new Bill Stamps at Madras are urgently required for Calcutta.

2. The annual indent of Postage Stamps has arrived *viâ* the Cape, and I have now such an ample supply of postage labels that I can convert into service labels any number that may be required until the receipt of the service labels immediately expected from England.

3. As the conversion of the Foreign Bill Stamps at Madras is now unnecessary and would involve loss to Government and trouble to all concerned, and as I am unable to spare them, I have thought it best to send by to-day's steamer a supply of Service Stamps to Madras, informing the Superintendent by telegram that I have done so, and requesting him to save the Foreign Bill Stamps.

(4) *Telegram from the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, to the Superintendent of Stamps, Madras, dated 22nd August*, 1866.

I am sending you plenty of Service Stamps. Meanwhile, please enface Postage Stamps with the word "Service" and save the new Bill Stamps which I require.

(5) *Letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, Madras, to the Director-General of the Post Office, dated 2nd October*, 1866.

SIR,—I have the honour, with reference to your telegram dated 4th August, 1866, to report that immediately on receipt thereof I obtained the sanction of the Board of Revenue and proceeded to make arrangements for utilizing as Service Postage labels the Adhesive Stamps described in the margin which were lying useless in my stores.

½ anna Receipt Stamps.
2 annas } Foreign
4 ,, } Bill
8 ,, } Stamps.

2. On the 7th ultimo I received a letter, dated 22nd August, 1866, from the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, begging me to desist from converting Foreign Bill Stamps into Service Postage labels, as he was in need of them for their proper use, and could supply me with Service Postage labels.

3. At the time of the receipt of his letter the conversion of 2 anna, 4 anna, and 8 anna stamps had only amounted as noted in the margin, and I have immediately stopped the work, and as my previous stock, though reduced very low, had not been exhausted when the promised supply came, they have not been made use of, and I request your instructions regarding them.

2 ans., 18,000 stamps.
4 ,, 20,000 ,,
8 ,, 2,000 ,,

4. My stock of half-anna Service Postage labels was entirely exhausted long prior to receipt of the communication of the Superintendent of Stamps in Calcutta, and I have only to-day received a fresh supply. In the interim I have supplied districts with the converted half-anna Receipt labels, and I beg your instructions whether my stock of half-anna Receipt labels, which are of no other use, may not continue to be appropriated for Service Postage labels until entirely exhausted prior to the introduction of the new half-anna labels.

(6) *Letter from the Director-General of the Post Office of India to the Superintendent of Stamps, Madras, dated 15th October*, 1866.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 2nd instant, I request that you will issue the small supply of 2, 4, and 8 annas Foreign Bill Stamps which have been converted into Service Postage labels.

With respect to the *half-anna Bill Stamps, if not required by you or the Superintendent at Calcutta, they had certainly better be made use of and converted into Service Postage labels.

(7) *Letter from the Director-General of the Post Office to the Superintendent of Stamps, Madras, dated 20th August*, 1869.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward to you the accompanying cover stamped with half-anna Receipt Stamps marked with the words "Service Postage," and to enquire whether there is any considerable stock of them or of other descriptions of Bill or Receipt Stamps similarly converted still in store. I think it would be well to call them in, as the use of different kinds of stamps causes confusion to postal officials.

(8) *Extract from a letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, Madras, to the Director-General of the Post Office, dated 1st September*, 1869.

SIR,—There is no stock . . . in store in this office. A circular will be issued to District Treasuries recalling any stamps of these descriptions that may be in store there, and they will be destroyed on receipt.

* The number of these half-anna Receipt labels in stock appears from another letter to have been 120,000, and it appears likely that the entire stock was thus converted.



The Stamps of Heligoland.

Heligoland, et ses Timbres etude suivie du Catalogue de toutes les émissions postales (Timbres, Envelopes, Bandes, Cartes), par J. B. Moens. Illustré de 104 *gravures. Bruxelles: Bureau du Journal le Timbre-Poste*, 42, *Rue de Florence.* 1897. 10 × 6½ *in.* 272 *pp.*

ENGLISH readers have been familiarized, through the pages of the *Monthly Journal*, with a translation of the contents of this most exhaustive work on the postal issues of Heligoland. The translation which for months past has been running through the pages of our excellent contemporary was of a long series of articles first contributed to *Le Timbre-Poste*, and the book now before us is the gathering up of those excellent articles into permanent volume form.

And here we have, in all the wealth of comprehensive detail, the full and complete history of every scrap of postal issue ever dreamt of in the strange little cliff-girt "Land of the Saints" in the North Sea.

> "Green is the Land,
> Red is the Strand,
> White is the Sand,
> These are the three colours of Heligoland,"

says the poet; and green, red, and white are the stamps; and green, red, and white alternately are the leaves of this volume in which is enshrined in philatelic lore the history of the familiar stamps which have crept into such popularity of late years that the genuine articles are at absolutely famine prices. But the volume is not confined to the history of the postal issues. We have, as we should have, the history of the little red rock itself and all that appertains to it. There are views of the island from various vantage points, views of its inaccessible cliffs, its solitary rocks, and its little cluster of houses. Its stamps, genuine and forged, its envelopes, wrappers, and post cards, are all fully illustrated. Nothing, in fact, is left undone that should be done to present in its completest and most attractive and gigantic form the postal history of this insignificant yet most interesting and curious place of issue. As a philatelic work it is a model of what such a work should be from the specialist point of view, and we are proud of it as the achievement of its renowned author. May he long live to add similar laurels to his international philatelic renown.

The Stamps of Europe.

The Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe, by W. A. S. Westoby. London: L. Upcott Gill, 170, *Strand, W.C.* 7½ × 5 *in. Parts* 1 *and* 2. 1*s. each.*

ANYTHING from the learned pen of Dr. Westoby on matters philatelic is certain to command the attention of stamp collectors, and this work on the adhesive postage stamps of Europe must obviously take high rank. It is written in a clear and simple style, sufficiently explanatory for the beginner and full enough for the ordinary specialist. Each issue is surrounded with sufficient history to make it interesting and instructive.

Part I. opens with a few terse chapters on modes of printing, paper, impression, perforation, gum, used and unused, reprints, and general notes. On the question of used and unused Dr. Westoby says:—

> "The real value of some stamps is increased a hundred-fold by their being cancelled and used in due course of post, while the value of others is diminished in a like ratio. Where a collector wants to make a show of his stamps, the unused certainly present fairer pages; but even he cannot make a complete collection of unused specimens. Were we bound to choose between used and unused, we should certainly prefer the former. They are more useful in study; though we lose the gum, yet the obliterating mark is of importance, as a knowledge of the various obliterating marks is frequently of use in detecting forgeries."

Part I. deals with Alsace and Lorraine, Austria, and Hungary. Part II. covers Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, and Bergedorf.

The work is illustrated throughout with excellent reproductions of the various types of stamps, their watermarks and cancellations. It is printed on heavy surfaced paper.

Bright's Catalogue. 1897.

Bright & Son's "A.B.C." Descriptive Priced Catalogue of the World's Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post Cards, etc. In two parts. Part I., Adhesives. Part II., Entires. Thoroughly revised up to the date of going to press. Well and fully illustrated. 1897. *Part I.*, 542 *pp. Part II.*, 218 *pp. Bright & Son, Wholesale and Retail Importers of Postage Stamps, The Arcade, Bournemouth, England. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Stationers' Hall Court, E.C.* $5\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ *in.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

PRESSURE upon our space has prevented our dealing with books which have been awaiting notice. Hence the lateness of our notice of this Catalogue, which was issued some months since.

This 1897 edition of Bright's Catalogue is certainly a marked improvement over the 1896 edition, but there is still ample room for yet greater improvement. The illustrations are mostly very hazy productions, many of them being almost as void of design as if the back of the stamp had been reproduced in mistake. Very few are even passable representations of the stamps they are supposed to illustrate. Indeed, we scarcely believe our own Post Office authorities would, on serious consideration, be inclined to regard them as dangerous imitations. The alphabetical method of arrangement is preserved, instead of the now more fashionable one of placing the mother countries and their colonies together. There is a great deal to be said for and against each arrangement, but in all probability the advance of specialism will make for the final adoption of the grouping of countries and their colonies together.

No catalogue is ever likely to be produced that will be free of defects which attempts so much as is attempted in the *A.B.C.* The most experienced collectors are those that deprecate most strongly the pricing of everything; nevertheless, we all the more admire the pluck of Messrs. Bright in attempting it. They will no doubt make woeful mistakes; yet, when all is said that can be advanced against the attempt, it must be acknowledged that the ordinary man is admitted to at least an occasional peep behind the scenes that would otherwise keep him in profound ignorance as to the market value of marketable rarities. On this slippery ground of pricing everything, Bright comes a few interesting croppers. In Russia he dates the laid paper 1866, whereas it did not come into use till 1868; and if he can sell the 5 kop. on laid paper at his price at £12, unused, we fancy he should do well, seeing that we have seen quantities since the publication of his Catalogue at 5s. each. In Finland the 5 p., black on buff, is priced £20, unused; whereas the 10 p., brown on lilac, is priced £15. Of the latter numbers of copies are known, and are usually sold at £6 to £8. Of the former not a single specimen is known, and the stamp would be cheap at £100.

On what authority is the ½d. and the 1s. of Grenada 1875 issue chronicled with the large broad-pointed South Australian Star? We know that Mr. Bacon found the 2½ and 4d., but we were not aware that the others had been printed on this paper, and venture to doubt it. The well-known catalogued variety of ½d. on 1½d. Sierra Leone with surcharge inverted is omitted. The Norway list is certainly well done, but the pricing beats even Gibbons' best endeavours. Transvaal is the best list that has yet been done of this grand country for the specialist.

Altogether, we close the 1897 *A.B.C.* as much in doubt as ever as to its having justified its existence.

Album for Brazilian Specialists.

Album do Brasil para os Colleccionadores Especialistas dos Sellos Brasileiros. Organisado por Alph. Bruck. Rio de Janeiro: Propriedade da Casa Philatelica de Alph. Bruck, Travessa de S. Francisco de Paula, n 1A. 1897. 63 *pp.*

A SPECIAL album for the specialist is a natural development of the trend of matters philatelic. Our American friends have a special album for the collector of U.S. plate numbers. Mr. Ewen has given us an album for collectors of English issues, and here we have an album for the collector of the very interesting issues of Brazil. The various series and their varieties are illustrated and set out catalogue fashion on one page, and on the opposite page are numbered spaces for the stamps. The album is in Spanish, but the enthusiastic specialist very quickly masters the few words that are necessary to enable him to make use of the catalogue of his favourite country, whatever its language may be. The album comprises 63 pages, is oblong in shape, and measures $11\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ in.



British Empire.

British East Africa. — The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles a reply post card of the current type with head of Queen.

Post Card.

½ a.+½ a., yellow-green on buff; size, 120×75 mm.

Canada.—Our publishers have received the half-cent stamp in the new design of the permanent series. The design is simple but effective, and resembles the 6d. of the first issue. Inside an oval band, that almost touches the border on each side, is a recent side-face portrait of Her Majesty wearing a small crown. The band is of solid colour, and bears the inscription in white block letters, above, "Canada Postage," and below, "Half Cent." In each corner is a maple leaf, said to be the genuine article. The portrait seems rather too large for the oval, and the engraving, which is the work of the American Bank Note Co., lacks finish. Perf. 12.

Adhesive.

New Design. 1897.

½ c., black.

Great Britain.—*Ewen's Weekly Circular* states that the current 2½d. postage stamps are now issued with a line round each pane, as in the 3d. and 6d. values.

India.—*Bundi.*—The *Philatelic Journal of India* is sorry to learn that this State has ceased to be content with the ½ anna stamp, which has hitherto been sufficient for its local postal wants, and chronicles the following additional values: 1, 2, 4, and 8 annas, and 1 rupee. The *P.J. of I.* thinks there may be justification for the first two, but the higher values appear to be quite uncalled for.

The *Monthly Journal*, which has received specimens of four of these fresh values, says they are all printed on *laid* paper, and in as many varieties of type as there are stamps on the sheet.

Adhesives.

1 a., red; *in* 8 *rows of* 15.
2 a., green ,, ,, ,,
4 a. ,, ,, ,, ,,
8 a., red; in 13 rows of 8.
1 r., yellow on *blue.*

Dhar.—Still they come! The *Philatelic Journal of India* announces that Dhar, a Maratha State in the Bhopawar Agency of Central India, commenced the issue of stamps in June last. The stamps are type-set in native characters, and are produced locally. According to the *P.J. of I.*, "The lettering in the stamps is: *top* 'Darbâr' (*i.e.*, State); *left*, 'Dâk' (*i.e.*, Post); *right*, 'Dhar'; *bottom*, value. The half pice value is called 'half double,' the British Indian pice being commonly known as a 'double' 'superior pice,' or shortly, 'double.' These stamps, like those of Duttia, require the State seal on them before they can be used to prepay correspondence. The ½ pice stamp is used to prepay correspondence posted in a State post office for delivery through the Imperial Post. These stamps are shortly to be superseded by a superior perforated and gummed set from Bombay."

Adhesives.

½ pice, *i.e.*, ¼ anna, black on rose; red, thin wove paper.
½ anna, black on lilac-rose; thin wove paper.
1 ,, black on yellow-green; thin wove paper.

Post Card.

¼ anna, violet on creamy card.

Envelope.

½ anna, black on white laid paper.

Hong Kong.—Mr. Benjamin sends us the two dollar "Duty Stamp," surcharged in Roman capitals "One—Dollar," with the original value (words and figures) barred out, and Chinese inscriptions added at the sides. The following are the measurements of the various portions of the surcharge:—"One," 2¼×7¼ mm.; "Dollar," 2¼×14½ mm.; bar over "Two Dollars," 1×20¾ mm.; bar over each figure "2" in top corners, 1×2 mm. Chinese inscriptions, 2×21¾ mm. The Chinese inscription on the left is vertical, and on the right oblique.

This surcharged issue is said to have been rendered necessary by the circulation of a forgery of $1 stamp made by surcharging the 10 c., which is similar in colour to the $1 on 96 c.

Adhesive.

$1 on $2, sage-green, surcharged black

Newfoundland. — We have received from Mr. Ohman the 3 cent of the current type surcharged "One Cent." in one line, between two parallel bars.

Why the postal authorities, with a conveniently accessible source of supply, allowed their stock of such a common value to run short needs a little explanation. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that there are three types of the surcharge. These we will particularise when we have seen specimens.

Adhesive.

1 c. on 3 c., grey, black sur.

New Zealand.—The *Monthly Journal* has received some official stationery from this Colony, including two sizes of envelope, No. 102 in the Catalogue, 140 × 80mm. and 220 × 90 mm. respectively; also an envelope of the larger size, with a stamp of similar design, but inscribed "AUDIT"–"FREE," in straight lines.

Official Envelope.

Black on *white laid*; 220 × 90 mm.; *Audit.*

Niger Coast.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 2½d. value, watermarked C A, perf. 15. Our contemporaries add the 5d. and 1s. values to the watermarked series, but Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that these have not yet been issued.

Adhesive.

2½d., blue, wmk. C A, perf. 15.

Sierra Leone.—In May last (p. 137) we chronicled the provisional "2½d." on the 1s. fiscal, but we now find that the make-up of the surcharge on the 1s. varies from that of the "2½d." on the 3d. and 6d. fiscals. In the first place the "2½d." on the 1s. is above instead of below the surcharge "POSTAGE—AND—REVENUE," and five lines bar out the original value, instead of six as in the 3d. and 6d. When chronicling the surcharge on the 1s. and 2s. fiscals we presumed that there were four types of the "2½d.," as in the 3d. and 6d., but we have not yet seen strips to verify this. Will some correspondent kindly send us specimens for inspection, or the necessary information, to complete our particulars of these interesting provisionals?

We must further correct our chronicle of May. The 3d. and 6d. fiscals are bicoloured, the stamp being printed in lilac and the original value in green. The 1s. is not bicoloured, the value being also printed in lilac. Therefore our chronicle of the 1s. should have given lilac only as the colour of the stamp, and not lilac and green.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the ½d. value in the bicoloured series. Wmk. C A, perf. 14.

Adhesive.

½d., lilac, name and value label in green.

Straits Settlements.—*Negri Sembilan.* — The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* announces the 5 c. and 10 c., and a new value of 20 c. in the current bicoloured Tiger type, wmk. Cr. CA, and perforated 14 × 14½.

Adhesives.

5 c., lilac, name and value in olive.
10 c. ,, ,, ,, orange-red.
20 c., green ,, ,, olive.

Victoria.—This Colony has issued a 1½d. value. It is an oblong stamp of a somewhat similar design to the current ½d., is watermarked V and Crown sideways, and is perf. 12½ × 12.

Adhesive.

1½d., green.

Foreign Countries.

Abyssinia.—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* understands that the currency, and also the postage stamps, of this country will shortly be changed.

Austria.—The *London Philatelist* says a fresh set of stamps with the new coinage denominations will be issued at the beginning of the year.

Hungary.—The *Monthly Journal* has received from a correspondent a set of what it terms "the most complicated post cards we ever saw." The *M. J.* infers that they are employed by the inhabitants of Hungary, and by persons visiting that country, for the purpose of notifying to the police of Budapest their arrival, departure, and other movements. Each card is folded in three, and contains six pages of printed forms and instructions, all in Hungarian, including a reply portion on which, we presume, is given the permission (or otherwise) of the police for residence, departure, &c. The cards measure 305 × 72 mm. when open, and are described to us as follows:—

Post Cards.

2+2 kr., blue on *buff*; "*Notification for settled inhabitants and their servants.*"
2+2 kr., blue on *blue*; "*Notice of Departure for the above.*"
2+2 kr., brown on *buff*; "*For use of non-residents, journeying through the town, and staying only a short time in Hotels,*" *&c.*
2+2 kr., brown on *blue*; "*Notice of Departure for use of non-residents,*" *&c.*

The *London Philatelist* notifies a proposed new issue. It says :—

The values of the new stamps will be in Krone and Heller, by which means the currency will be made equivalent to that of Germany, as 1 krone = 1 mark = 100 pfennige, or 100 heller.

The plates of the new stamps are said to be ready, and the values are 2, 4, 6, 10, 20, 30, 48, and 60 Heller, bearing the design of Hungarian Coat of Arms, flanked by figures of value on either side ; and 1, 2, and 4 Krone with Coat of Arms, supported by angels. The three latter values will be of large size, and the impressions bicoloured throughout.

China.—Last month we chronicled (p. 298) the receipt of stamps of the new design up to 50 c. We have since received the dollar values from Mr. Benjamin. The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says they are printed in sheets of 80 in four panes of 20 side by side, each pane consisting of 5 rows by four. We shall illustrate the designs in a later number. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesives.

New Design. 1897.

$1, carmine and pink.
$2, orange and yellow.
$5, green and pink.

Referring to the article on Chinese stamps, quoted by us from the *Timbre-Poste* last month, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write : "Your list of Chinese provisionals on page 295 is not quite correct. No such stamp exists as 8 c. on 5 cands. : it should be on 6 cands. The two varieties of 4 c. on the 3 c. fiscal (small and large figures) both have the value in two lines. It does not exist in one line in this value, only in the 2 c. The three last on page 296, are the Pakhoi issue, about which you have already published particulars."

Ecuador.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* announces a new set of eight values, all of the same design. The stamps are supplied by Messrs. Waterlow. They are printed on white wove paper and are perf. 15.

Adhesives.

1 c., green.
2 c., red-brown.
5 c., dark carmine.
10 c., dark brown.
20 c., yellow-brown.
50 c., steel-blue.
1 sucre, grey-lilac.
5 ,, slate-violet.

Egypt.—*Soudan.*—The surcharged set will soon be complete in every possible particular. The *Monthly Journal* adds the following stationery :—

Envelopes.

5 mil., red on *azure* ; black *surcharge.*
1 pias., blue ,, ,, ,,

Envelope Letters.

5 mil., red on *salmon* ; black *surcharge.*
1 pias., blue on *azure* ,, ,,

Post Cards.

3 mil., puce on *buff* ; black *surcharge.*
5 ,, carmine ,, ,, ,,
5+5 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

France.—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* says the 10 c. reply card is now issued, inscribed *République Française*, as on the other cards. The same journal chronicles the 50 c., black on blue, telegram letter card with similar inscription.

Reply Card.

10 c. + 10 c., black on blue.

Telegram Letter Card.

50 c., black on blue.

Germany.—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles a letter card with a stamp of the current type in the right-hand top corner, with the usual inscription and lines for address, and evidently in three folds.

Letter Card.

10 pf., carmine on white ; 140×316 mm.

Orange Free State.—We do not seem yet to have chronicled the 1d. in the new shade — mauve, which has now been in use for some time.

Adhesive.

1d., mauve.

Persia.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* lists an envelope, 16 shahi, rose ; also the 5 shahi, blue, envelope on white instead of yellowish paper, and in a smaller size.

Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste says the new series with portrait of the new Shah Mustapha-ed-Din will not be ready for some months.

Envelopes.

5 shahi, blue ; 146×92 mm.
16 ,, rose ; 140×108 mm.

Peru.—The *Philateliste Francaisé* chronicles the Unpaid Stamps 5 c. and 10 c., surcharged "Deficit," in the same type as the 50 c. and 1 sol. chronicled by us in May last (p. 138).

Adhesives.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.

5 c., red ; black surcharge.
10 c., orange ,, ,,

Portugal.—*Azores.*—The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have come across a vertical pair of the 5 reis of 1871, one stamp of which has the *black* surcharge, and the other the *vermilion.*

Timor.—The *Monthly Journal* has received a set of the surcharged issue of 1895, which includes a value, 2 avos on 10 reis, *green*, which has not been chronicled for either this Colony or Macao. The surcharge is in the same type as that of the 6 avos.

Adhesive.

2 avos, in *black*, on 10 r., green.

Roumania. — The *American Journal of Philately* reports the discovery of a specimen of the 15 bani, *red*, of the 1869 issue, on *laid* paper.

Adhesive.
1869.
15 bani, red, *laid paper.*

Sarawak. — Our publishers have received the 50 c. and 1 sol. values of the current type, and the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* adds a 3 c. post card with stamp of the current type.

Adhesives.
50 c., green, value in blue-green.
1 sol. ,, ,, black.
Post Card.
3 c., carmine on buff; 140×88.

Spain. — A correspondent sends the *Monthly Journal* the following translation of an extract from the *Diario de Cadiz* of October 11, 1897 :—

We have already announced that a Decree had been signed, giving the new general tariff of the Posts and Telegraphs for Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and the corresponding stamps.

To suit these new tariffs there will be 20 varieties of stamps and 8 post cards.

The stamps will be of the following values: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 milésimas of a peso; 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, 40, 60, and 80 centavos of a peso; 1 and 2 pesos.

The post cards will cost 5 milésimas; 1, 2, and 3 centavos, and double the price each for reply-paid cards.

The stamps will bear a special design.

The new tariff will come into force from the 1st January, 1898.

In October last (p. 272) we chronicled a new war tax stamp of 5 c., green. Our contemporaries have since added other values, but we now learn from *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* that there are other values of 10 c., 20 c., 1 p., and 5 p.; but they are only for fiscal use, the 5 c. chronicled by us being available for letter and printed matter.

United States. — *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* says that new 1 c. postal cards will soon be placed on sale throughout the country. The plates have been engraved by the Bureau, and are about to be turned over to the new contractor, Mr. Albert Daggett. The portrait of John Adams is to appear on them, and it will be the first time that the Post Office Department has ever made use of the portrait.

Also that the 2 c. postal cards were recently increased in size, and now measure $3\frac{7}{16} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$. The quality of the paper has also been improved.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).

The December packet contains—*SIX VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED*, viz., China New Issue, ½ c., 1 c., 2 c., 4 c., 5 c., and 10 c.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).

The December packet contains—

ELEVEN VARIETIES, ALL UNUSED, viz., China New Issue, 20 c., 30 c., and 50 c.; and Set of Eight Salvador Postage Due 1896.

These packets are on sale until Dec. 31st (unless the supply is previously exhausted), and are supplied only to *Subscribers* to the PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS. Similar packets will be on sale every month, and may be subscribed for in advance for the year (January to December inclusive), at the following rates: No. 1 packet, 12s., post-free; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—BUHL & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign correspondents can materially help us in this direction. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and be addressed to the Editor, MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL,
28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.



Official Japanese Postal History.

WE are indebted to *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* for the following translation of an interesting history of the postal issues of Japan published some time since by the Japanese Government. It is entitled "Dai Nippon Teikoku Ubin Kittle Eukakushi" (The Postage Stamp History of the Japanese Empire), and contains the history of stamps for letters, telegrams, etc., from March, 1871, to March, 1894. In the translation which follows the words enclosed in brackets are the editorial notes of *F. F. and F.*

In March, 1871, the first attempt was made by the Government to organize such a postal system, at first only on the Tokaido (Government road) and between the cities of Tokio, Kioto, and Osaka, and for the first time postage stamps were issued in the Japanese Empire as follows :—

March, 1871. 48 *mon*, *brown ;* 100 *mon*, *blue ;* 200 *mon*, *red ;* 500 *mon*, *green.*

The sale of this issue was stopped February, 1872, and the same was declared obsolete on November 30th, 1889. (The two dates—stopping of the sale and declaring the issue obsolete—are given under each stamp. The first date will always be given by us, the second one—in all cases being November 30th, 1889—will not be repeated. It is interesting to note that even the old stamps were current and admissible for postage a long time after their sale had been stopped. The monetary value of a mon in the first issue is, in the initial tabulation, simply referred to as so many hundredths part of a sen ; this corrects a wrong valuation given to the mon in the leading American and German catalogues.)

A CHANGE OF CURRENCY.

February, 1872. The monetary system was changed somewhat according to the United States system, and a new issue of stamps was thereby necessitated. ½ *sen*, *brown*, sale stopped September 1, 1872 ; 1 *sen*, *blue*, 2 *sen*, *red*, stopped July 20, 1872 ; 5 *sen*, *green*, stopped May 31, 1873. The finely engraved plates of this issue wore out very quickly, and therefore on July 20, 1872, a new issue of these two values became necessary, and they were engraved in an entirely new design.

1 *sen*, *blue*, sale stopped February 4, 1875 ; 2 *sen*, *red*, sale stopped June 5, 1873. In April, 1872, a *wrapper at* ½ *sen* had been issued.

INCREASE OF POSTAL BUSINESS.

In the meantime the postal service increased largely, and made several new stamps desirable. These were issued, together with a new ½ sen stamp.

September 1, 1872. ½ *sen*, *brown ;* 10 *sen*, *green ;* 20 *sen*, *violet ;* 30 *sen*, *dark grey.* To this issue was added on April 1, 1873, another new value, 4 *sen*, *red.* The sale of the last-named five values was stopped February 4, 1875.

May 31, 1873. The postal rates having been changed, there was no special use for a 5 sen stamp, therefore the sale of this last one of the old type was discontinued without the stamp being replaced by a new design.

June 5, 1873. It was found that the colour of the 2 sen stamp was not easily discernible from the colour of the 4 sen stamp, and for this reason the colour of the lower value was changed, 2 *sen*, *yellow*, which issue was stopped May 17, 1876.

ENVELOPES AND POST CARDS.

December 1, 1873. Envelopes and post cards were issued. The envelopes were made in two styles, *envelopes*—2 *sen*, *yellow ;* 4 *sen*, *rose*, *brown-violet* (long narrow shape) ; 1 *sen*, *blue ;* 2 *sen*, *yellow ;* 4 *sen*, *rose* (ordinary shape). The sale of these envelopes was stopped April 4, 1874. *Post cards*—½ *sen*, *orange ;* 1 *sen*, *blue.* The sale of these cards was stopped in the very month of their issue. (These are the cards with the frames printed in red, and without Japanese inscriptions, on the third page ; the fact that they were suppressed so soon after their issue makes it easily understood why these cards are so rare. The reason of the suppression of these cards is not given, but from the way the next issue differs from these we might surmise that it was deemed necessary to give the general public detailed instructions printed on the cards how to use them.)

In the same month, December, 1873, a new set of cards was issued, on the third page of which various instructions were printed. *Cards*—½ *sen*, *orange ;* 1 *sen*, *blue ;* the issue of these cards was stopped on April 1, 1874. On January 1, 1874, a new rate of postage was adopted, and in consequence the issue of a 6 sen stamp became necessary. (In the English text of the book we find here the word unnecessary, but the Japanese gives the correct wording.) 6 *sen*, *brown-violet*, issue discontinued on February 4, 1875.

In February, 1874, the paper of the postal cards was altered. Up to this time Japanese paper had been used, but this being liable to

injury when written upon in the European style, it was changed to the European article. (*Of this change collectors should take notice.*)

"FUNO" BECOMES "FUHI."

On April 1, 1874, the stamps on the envelopes and postal cards underwent a slight change, one word of the inscription (funo) being changed for another (fuhi). The meaning of these words differs very little in the ordinary language: both mean stamp, and they may be interpreted by "adhesive stamp" and "envelope stamp." The reason for this change was that cut-out copies of envelope and card stamps had been used as adhesives. (It is difficult to comprehend how this little change could have remedied this misuse.) The entries issued after this change are *postal cards*—½ *sen, orange;* 1 *sen, blue* (May 10, 1875). *Envelopes, both forms*—2 *sen, yellow* (June 29, 1877); *oblong form*, 4 *sen, rose;* 6 *sen, brown-violet; ordinary form*, 1 *sen, blue;* 4 *sen, rose;* 6 *sen, brown-violet; ordinary form*, 1 *sen, blue;* 4 *sen, rose* (sale discontinued March 10, 1888).

THE "SYLLABIC CHARACTER."

On September 12, 1874, it was resolved to use syllabic characters on all stamps to be issued after this date in order to facilitate the keeping of sale accounts. (It is peculiar that already before this date these characters had been in use on cards, envelopes, and on the 6 sen stamp. This change, although mentioned, was, however, not deemed important enough to be illustrated in the book by the original stamps.) About this time Japan joined the Postal Union, and the new rates necessitated the use of new stamps.

June 1, 1875. 12 *sen, red;* 15 *sen, violet;* 45 *sen, red.* The sale of the first two values was stopped June 29, 1877, and the last one August 18 of the same year.

In January, 1875, a reduction took place in the selling price for envelopes. After this the price was to be as follows:—

OBLONG FORM.

2 sen envelope, price, 2 sen 1 rin.
4 ,, ,, ,, 4 ,, 2 ,,
6 ,, ,, ,, 6 ,, 2 ,,

ORDINARY FORM.

1 sen envelope, price, 1 sen 1 rin.
2 ,, ,, ,, 2 ,, 2 ,,
4 ,, ,, ,, 4 ,, 3 ,,

It having been suggested that the cost incurred in the manufacture of the stamps should be to some degree in conformity with their face value, and it having been found that in various cases the ink employed for printing the lower values was of higher cost than the ink for the higher values, the Government decided to change the colour of the stamps, and to have all of them made hereafter in uniform size. After this decision was made, on February 4, 1875, the following stamps were issued, all being of the same size and all bearing syllabic characters: ½ *sen, grey;* 1 *sen, brown* (May 17, 1876); 4 *sen, green* (June 23, 1876); 6 *sen, orange;* 10 *sen, blue* (June 29, 1877); 20 *sen, red;* 30 *sen, violet* (August 18, 1877). (The dates after the various stamps indicate the time of the discontinuance of their sale.)

NEW PROCESS OF ELECTROTYPING.

In 1873 a new 2½ rin wrapper was issued on account of the engraving being worn out—*wrapper*, 2½ *rin, red.* Sale stopped in June, 1880. On May 10, 1875, the postal cards were changed to the ordinary kind, unfolded. The reason for this change is very interesting, as it was made on account of the two flaps of the old cards being pasted together; thus the cards really formed a letter. *Postal cards*—½ *sen, orange;* 1 *sen, blue;* the paper of these cards was changed in November, 1875, and their sale was stopped September, 1876. On June 11, 1875, on account of a new process of electrotyping, which was hereafter used in the manufacture of stamps, the syllabic character on all stamps was done away with. (The change in the cards from stamps with syllabic characters to stamps without them is not mentioned; probably it falls together with the change in paper in November, 1875.)

On March 19, 1876, changes in the postal rates having occurred, the reinstatement of the old value of 5 sen was desirable, and a stamp of this value was issued—5 *sen, green.* Sale stopped June 23rd of the same year. (This is the last stamp manufactured in the old way, perhaps for the reason that a plate after the new style could not be got ready in quick enough time; and this is also probably the reason for the short duration of the sale of the stamp. The return from stamps with syllabic characters to those without them, in the 1 sen, brown, and 4 sen, green, and the 1 sen, brown, with bow, and the 2 sen, yellow, with bow, were probably not thought of any importance, as we find no mention of this change in this book at all.)

AN ENTIRELY NEW ISSUE.

After this an entirely new set of stamps was issued, the different values appearing at different dates as follows:—

DATE OF ISSUE.	VALUE.	SALE STOPPED.
May 17, 1876	(5 *rin*) ½ *sen, grey*	Current
,, ,,	1 *sen, black*	Oct. 11, 1879
,, ,,	2 *sen, olive*	,, ,,
June 23, 1876	4 *sen, green*	March 10, 1888
,, ,,	5 *sen, brown*	Jan. 1, 1883
June 29, 1877	6 *sen, orange*	March 10, 1888
,, ,,	10 *sen, blue*	,, ,,
,, ,,	12 *sen, rose*	,, ,,
,, ,,	15 *sen, green*	,, ,,
Aug. 18, 1877	20 *sen, blue*	,, ,,
,, ,,	30 *sen, violet*	,, ,,
,, ,,	45 *sen, red*	,, ,,
Nov. 20, 1877	8 *sen, brown-violet*	,, ,,
June 30, 1879	3 *sen, orange*	,, ,,
,, ,,	50 *sen, red*	,, ,,
Oct. 11, 1879	1 *sen, brown*	Jan. 1, 1883
,, ,,	2 *sen, purple*	,, ,,

The change of the 1 and 2 sen stamps into the new colours was made on account of the

old colours being too durable, it having been found that the stamps had been frequently cleaned and used for a second time. All stamps, cards, and envelopes enumerated up to here were declared obsolete from November 30, 1889, with the exception of the 5 rin, grey, adhesive, which forms a part of the present set. (The sale of a few of the following has been stopped, but as nothing is said about their being declared obsolete it is to be assumed that all the following are valid to this day.)

September 19, 1876, a new design of postal cards was adopted—5 rin, orange ; 1 sen, blue. November 20, 1877, together with the 8 sen stamp, a new set of postal cards was issued for foreign correspondence. *Postal cards—3 sen, olive-green ; 5 sen, green ; 6 sen, vermilion.* The sale of these cards was discontinued June 30, 1879.

July, 1880. The 2½ rin wrapper was changed again for the same reason as in 1875. *Wrapper, 2½ rin, red ;* sale stopped November 30, 1889.

SPECIAL LOCAL RATE ABOLISHED.

December 31, 1880. The sale of the ½ sen cards and the 1 sen envelopes that had been in use for the urban delivery was discontinued, as the special local rate had been abolished, city and country delivery being the same after this date. At the same time postal regulations were entirely revised and rates materially simplified. April 29, 1884, a new 1 sen wrapper was issued in accordance with new postal regulations—*wrapper, 1 sen, blue ;* sale discontinued November 30, 1889.

The adhesives, cards, and envelopes at the present time in use in Japan were used as follows :—

January 1, 1883, 1 *sen, green ; 2 sen, red ; 5 sen, blue ;* March 10, 1884, 4, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50 *sen*, 1 *yen ;* May 6, 1892, 3 *sen, mauve ;* March 9, 1894, two stamps for the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the wedding of the Mikado, 2 *sen, red ; 5 sen, blue ;* September 29, 1876, *postal card—1 sen, blue ;* June 30, 1879, *postal cards—2 and 3 sen ;* January 1, 1885, *reply postal cards—1+1, 2+2, 3+3 sen.* The paper of all these cards was changed on July 29, 1892. June, 1877, envelope—2 sen, olive-green in two sizes, the paper of which was changed on March 31, 1888.

STAMPS PRINTED PRIVATELY AT FIRST.

The manufacture of the stamps for the Imperial Post was at first in the hands of a private firm up to October 20, 1874. By that time the use of postage stamps had become so enormous that the Government itself had to take over the manufacture.

U.S. Plates, 1847 to 1893, Destroyed.

WE do not seem to have mentioned the important fact that all the plates from which United States postage, periodical, and departmental stamps were printed, from 1847 to 1893, were all destroyed on August 5th, 1897, under official supervision. We quote the following from the *Philadelphia Record* of 9th August, 1897 :—

The last 15,000 pounds of plates, from which in years gone by the postage stamps of the United States were printed, were destroyed at the Navy Yard on Thursday. For half a century these plates had been accumulating until the time came when the Post Office Department desired to get rid of them all at once, so Postmaster-General Gary appointed a commission to superintend the operation, and the plates were melted up in a furnace and cast into pig iron.

But, according to the *Philatelic Monthly and World*, the original dies were not destroyed.

The Victorian Disease Labels.

THE Victoria Disease Labels were to be ready by the end of September. It is expected that they will be rapidly bought up by speculators, but if those speculators expect to unload their precious labels on this side they will probably be woefully disappointed.

English collectors will be surprised to learn that the issue of this disreputable rubbish is "the outcome of a suggestion made by Mr. F. R. Godfrey, a member of the Philatelic Society of Victoria," and that "the accepted designs are the work of Mr. M. Tannenberg," another member of the same Society. No wonder "V and Crown," in the *Australian Philatelist*, indulges in the following comment :—

It is surprising, when we remember that there is a society whose object it is to suppress stamps of a speculative or unnecessary nature, that these Hospital Stamps should be so eagerly sought after and readily purchased by local collectors. Similar speculative issues emanating from foreign countries are viewed as trash by the Australian collector, and are considered as unworthy of occupying space in their albums ; but when the stamps are issued by their own country quite a different aspect of the case is taken, they are lauded, boomed, and only parted with at high prices.

It is to be hoped for its own good name and fame that the Victoria Philatelic Society will dissociate itself from all semblance of approval of this scandalous piece of postal jobbery.

Victoria 2d., Emblems, Discovery.

THE *Australian Philatelist* announces a discovery by Mr. Fred Hagen of a 2d. "Emblems" type of 1863, in brown-lilac, perf., with the watermark single-line 6. The stamp it appears was discovered amongst an unsorted lot in the late Dr. Ellison's collection. Mr. David

H. Hill, of Melbourne, to whom the stamp has been submitted, writes as follows :—

Many thanks for your letter of the 23rd inst., enclosing Victoria, Emblems (Type VII.), watermark single-line 6, for my inspection. This is as much a novelty to collectors as the 6d., blue, watermark double-line 2, you unearthed some time ago. Comparing the watermark on the stamp you send with others bearing the same numeral it looks a bit thin; but coming from such a source I have no reason to doubt its genuineness, as I find it corresponds in size with other specimens.

The only explanation I can offer to account for this "error" is that a sheet of single-line 6 paper may accidentally have been placed with the single-line 2 paper by the storekeeper, and issued for the 2d. stamps. The single-line 6 paper was first received in March, 1863, and between that date and March, 1864, when the 2d., of Type VIII., became obsolete, only four printings were made, the last being on 17th February, 1864. The stamp must, therefore, have been printed between those dates. As the supply of single-line 2 paper was not exhausted during this period, there would be no reason for using any other paper for the 2d. stamps, and the occurrence of the watermark 6 can only be looked upon as accidental. With paper in stock bearing so many different watermarks, it would no doubt be difficult to prevent a stray sheet or two being placed on the wrong bundle, especially where the paper was in the custody of the storekeeper, who might not see the necessity of keeping each watermark separate, so long as he could account for the aggregate quantity.

Dr. Legrand's Collection.

MR. CASTLE, in the *London Philatelist*, commenting on the sale of Dr. Legrand's collection, says :—

The purchaser is M. Th. Lemaire, of Paris, and we believe that the sum paid will be found to be within a measurable distance of "300,000 francs." Although the collection had not been kept up to the modern standard it was, however, replete with fine and rare stamps, many of which could hardly be duplicated, and must have been well worth the price paid. The Doctor, as was well known, had two of the Post Office Mauritius, one being unused, and these have been already purchased by M. J. Bernichon, of Paris, for 48,000 francs, equal £1920! The Plates of Mauritius of Dr. Legrand's were also very fine, and he also possessed (we believe) the 5 and 1st 13 cent of Hawaii. In the early Guianas he was not strong, but all the standard rarities of other countries were naturally present, and his collection as a whole was of the greatest interest; it included no less than forty volumes of entires. We are informed that Dr. Legrand still has his French stamps, and a very large and complete collection of fiscals.

N.S.W. "O.S." Remainders Destroyed.

THE Australian correspondent of the *London Philatelist* states that after being on sale for upwards of two years the uncancelled remainders of the "O.S." stamps of New South Wales have been withdrawn from sale, and the whole remaining stock destroyed. The correspondent assures us that this is the very last chapter of the "O.S." stamps of New South Wales, and that there are now neither reprints, remainders, nor any other class of official stamps in existence, so far as the Postal Department is concerned. Let us hope so, at all events, though recent experience of this postal cookery does not justify over-confidence.

Following is the official notice :—

POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
20th August, 1897.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the sale of O.S. Postage Stamps (which, in accordance with authority given in July, 1895, have hitherto been sold to the public, on the understanding that they are not to be used for purposes of ordinary postage) being discontinued; and such stamps will therefore be withdrawn from sale from the 1st proximo. JOSEPH COOK.

French Zanzibar Provisionals.

THE *London Philatelist* having expressed its suspicion as to the genuineness of the recent surcharges chronicled on information received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., this firm defends the issue in a letter courteously inserted by our contemporary :—

In describing the French Zanzibar provisionals in your last issue you make some remarks which we consider most unfair, and not warranted by the information we gave you. You state that the French Post Office is "probably still producing" the provisionals, and that they were made "to cope with the demand for the supply of provisionals." So far from this being the case the information we gave you, and which is absolutely reliable, is that the stamps were only issued from July 25th to 29th, and that none were at any time sold to the public, but only affixed to letters presented for posting. The entire issue was only 1600 stamps, which used up the whole of the stamps in the office, including the borders, and all were legitimately used.

Jubilee and other rubbish.

IN the October number of *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* Major Evans does a considerable amount of healthy swearing at recent Jubilee issues. The Canadian Jubilee issue is placed first as

the "worst of all for shameless dishonesty," and as "a simple robbery of everyone who bought them." Major Evans draws attention to the fact that the $4 and $5 stamps cannot be used for any postal rate in the dominion, and therefore represent only money obtained under false pretences. He also voices the disappointment of collectors in finding that the Cabot series of Newfoundland is not to be a permanent issue.

U.S. Stamps Surcharged "Universal Postal Congress—1897."

A NEW variety for the specialist hunter after "Specimen" stamps has been created. Mr. J. M. Bartels, *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News'* correspondent at Washington, says :—

During the International Postal Congress in this city a number of sets of all United States adhesives in current use, including dues and periodicals, were surcharged "Universal Postal Congress—1897," in black ink, and a set of them presented to each delegate in attendance. The order was first given to use the old familiar surcharge "Specimen," but upon recommendation of one of the secretaries the other was adopted. It is reported that about 125 sets were thus surcharged.

We wonder how long before one of those 125 sets will find its way into some well-known collection of postage stamps.

U.S. Post Cards New Contract.

THE United States Postal Department has just concluded a four years' contract for the printing of its post cards. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* publishes the following particulars :—

The Postmaster-General recently awarded to Mr. Albert Daggett the contract for printing postal cards for the next four years. This contract is approximately for 650,000,000 postal cards, the contract price for the various classes aggregating about $650,000. Mr. Daggett will begin delivering the cards on December 1st, the contract with the present contractor, Mr. Woolworth, of Castleton, New York, expiring November 31st.

The kinds of cards and prices thereof to be furnished by Mr. Daggett are as follows :—

For single cards, large size, $3\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, to be made of paper according to the departmental sample, 23·95 cents a thousand cards.

For single cards, small size, $2\frac{15}{16} \times 4\frac{15}{16}$ inches, to be made of paper according to the departmental sample, 20 cents a thousand cards.

For double, or reply cards, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, to be made of paper according to the departmental sample, 47 cents a thousand double cards.

The estimated number of cards to be made is about two billions and a quarter. These cards will weigh twelve million six hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

Proposed New Canadian Issue.

THE proposed new issue for Canada seems to be taking shape, as will be gathered from the following quotation from the Canadian correspondent of the *Weekly Philatelic Era*. We have heard a great deal of late about Canadian loyalty and patriotism, but it seems to us a curious kind of patriotism that first induces a Canadian firm of engravers to build special premises in Ottawa for printing Canadian stamps, and after the slight term of six years to hand over the contract to an American firm, who are encouraged to build and equip a rival establishment alongside the former printers.

A new general issue of Canadian postage stamps is imminent, being necessitated by the fact that the present Liberal Government has entered into a new contract for engraving and printing Dominion Treasury Notes, Postage and Revenue Stamps, and, in short, all Government matter. The previous contractors were the British American Bank Note Co. of Montreal. About six years ago the Government insisted on their contractors doing their printing at the Capital, and the British American Bank Note Co. erected a handsome establishment on Wellington Street, where all postage stamps have since been printed. It may be remembered that the Ottawa printings were signalized by distinct varieties in shade from the earlier Montreal issues, varieties that have never been sufficiently distinguished in the standard catalogues. When the bids for a renewal of the engraving contract were opened last winter it was found that the American Bank Note Company of New York were the lowest bidders, and that they bound themselves in the event of the acceptance of their tender to build and equip a printing establishment in Ottawa, in compliance with the conditions of the bids. Their tender was accepted, and they have carried out their undertaking by building a commodious and fully equipped establishment near that of their rivals on Wellington Street. Of the new presses the Jubilee issue of postage stamps were the firstfruits. The impending general issue will be required as soon as the existing stock of the current issue is exhausted, and it is rumoured that the supply of some values is running low.

This much is announced—that the design for the new issue has been decided upon ; that the centre of the stamp will contain a portrait of the Queen taken at the time of the Jubilee, approved and signed by the Queen as the best existing likeness of her ; and that our national emblem, the maple leaf, will appear in the corners—not the unnatural and misshapen leaf that appears on the Jubilee issue, but the real article, copied from actual leaves gathered on Parliament Hill. This would indicate that there will be only one die for all the values, but I have as yet no information as to size, colours, or details.



Stamp Dealers' Exchange.

WE hear that a London Dealers' Stamp Exchange has been formed, with the following officers :—President : Mr. W. Hadlow ; Committee : Mr. G. C. Ginn, Mr. A. Myerscough, Mr. C. T. Reed ; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer : Mr. J. Crawford, 73, Bethune Road, Stoke Newington, N.

RULES.

1. That the Annual Subscription be 5s. per annum.

2. The membership shall be restricted to acknowledged stamp dealers not under twenty-one years of age.

3. Candidates for membership must be nominated by a member of the Exchange, and elected by a majority of the Committee.

4. The affairs of the Exchange shall be conducted by a Committee of five members, consisting of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer combined, and three other members.

5. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee, three shall form a quorum.

6. Officers to be elected at the Annual General Meeting to be held about end of September, when subscriptions for the ensuing year become due.

7. The Exchange shall be held every alternate Tuesday, at the Albion Hotel, Ludgate Circus, E.C., between the hours of seven and ten in the evening, or at such other places or times as the Committee shall determine.

8. No member shall be eligible to attend any meeting of the Exchange until his subscription be paid.

Why not also a Stamp Collectors' Exchange on the same lines, to be confined to *bonâ fide* collectors, for the exchange of duplicates?

Leeward Islands Jubilees.

WE have been assured over and over again in various journals that the Leeward Islands Stamps overprinted for so-called Jubilee commemoration were immediately snapped up ; but it is now evident that that report must have been started by an interested speculator, for we have before us a copy of the *Leeward Islands Gazette* asking for tenders for the unsold remainders. Some flats, we dare say, will tender for this waste. We reproduce the official notice *in extenso* :—

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

EXTRAORDINARY.

Vol. XXV. FRIDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 1897. No. 50.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
1st October, 1897.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication for general information of the following Return of Jubilee Stamps sold in the several Presidencies of the Leeward Islands.

PRESIDENCY.	½d.	1d.	2½d.	4d.	6d.	7d.	1/-	5/-
Antigua . .	4113	4200	2075	1672	1220	1241	779	320
St. Kitts-Nevis	5361	5191	4707	1913	1049	1023	724	384
Dominica . .	2398	2400	2264	600	240	240	120	50
Montserrat . .	958	834	664	499	120	120	60	02
Virgin Islands.	133	186	123	63	61	63	60	10
Total . .	12963	12811	9833	4747	2690	2687	1743	784

N.B.—It is hereby notified that the Die used for over-printing the Stamps issued as Diamond Jubilee Stamps has been destroyed in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, the Acting Colonial Secretary, and the Postmaster. By Command,

E. ALEXANDER FOSTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
1st October, 1897.

Tenders are hereby invited up to the Thirty-first day of December, 1897, for the purchase of the following unused Jubilee Stamps :—

Denomination of Stamp.	1st Lot.		2nd Lot.		3rd Lot.	
	Sheets.	Separate Stamps.	Sheets.	Separate Stamps.	Sheets.	Separate Stamps.
½d.	7	39	7	39	7	39
1d.	7	90	7	90	7	89
2½d.	15	3	15	2	15	2
4d.	4	18	4	18	4	17
6d.	2	104	2	103	2	103
7d.	2	25	2	24	2	24
1/-	1	80	1	80	1	80
5/-	1	80	1	80	1	80

Persons desirous of tendering can do so for the purchase of one or more of the lots shown in the above statement.

All Tenders should be submitted in a sealed Envelope addressed to the Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, Antigua, and be marked on the envelope "Tender for Jubilee Stamps."

The Government will not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By Command,

E. ALEXANDER FOSTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

N.B.—Each sheet contains 120 Stamps.

Manchester Philatelic Society.

President—W. Dorning Beckton.
Vice-Presidents—F. Barratt. E. Petri.
Hon. Treasurer—G. B. Duerst.
Hon. Librarian—J. C. North.
Hon. Secretary—A. H. Harrison.
Asst. Hon. Sec.—C. H. Coote.
Committee:
W. Grunewald. W. W. Munn. J. H. Abbott.

SYLLABUS—SESSION 1897-8.

1897.
Sep. 24. Opening Meeting, 7 p.m. "Exhibition."
Oct. 1. A Paper on the "London Exhibition." E. PETRI.
,, 8. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 15. A Paper on "Gums," and the modes to discover a Cleaned Stamp . M. W. JONES.
,, 22. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 29. The Stamps of "Nevis" W. D. BECKTON.
Nov. 5. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 12. The Stamps of "France" W. GRUNEWALD.
,, 19. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 26. A Paper on the Production of Postage Stamps. J. C. NORTH.

1897.
Dec. 3. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 10. The Stamps of "Schleswig-Holstein." G. B. DUERST.
,, 17. ANNUAL DINNER.

1898.
Jan. 7. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 14. "Lantern Exhibition" . J. H. ABBOTT.
,, 21. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 28. The Stamps of "Sardinia" . E. PETRI.
Feb. 4. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 11. The Stamps of "Venezuela." W. D. BECKTON.
,, 18. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 25. A Paper on "The Agonies of a Young Collector". . . . THOMAS OXLEY.
Mar. 4. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 11. A Paper on "Lithography." W. W. MUNN.
,, 18. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 25. The Stamps of "Denmark." A. H. HARRISON.
April 1. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.
,, 6. Stamps of "Servia" . . G. B. DUERST.
,, 15. Meeting for Discussion and Exchange.

The meetings are held weekly at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Friday evenings, at 7.30.

Speculative Stamps.

WE are glad to afford the following evidence of the renewed activity of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, and cordially endorse every word of this further Circular.

As the subscription has now been placed at the nominal figure of 2s. 6d. per year, we hope collectors and dealers will back up the Society in the very necessary work which it has undertaken in the best interests of stamp collecting and stamp dealing.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

President—Mr. M. P. CASTLE, J.P.
Vice-President—Major EVANS.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—
Mr. H. R. OLDFIELD, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C.
Committee of General Management—
Mr. R. EHRENBACH, | Mr. J. A. TILLEARD,
Mr. E. J. NANKIVELL, | Mr. GORDON SMITH.

[Circular No. 6.]

NOTICE is hereby given that the Special Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, having taken into consideration the undermentioned issues, are of opinion that the same are speculative or unnecessary.

In making public the above opinion this Society recommends collectors to refuse to purchase the undermentioned stamps, and so assist the Society in preventing the issue of stamps intended mainly for the purpose of sale to collectors and speculators. This practice if attended with successful results is calculated to seriously prejudice the interests of all Philatelists, and to bring Philately into disrepute.

1. CANADA.—Jubilee Set.—The objections to these stamps are that the set includes high values for which there is no postal use, and that certain of the values were not issued to the public in the regular way, and could only be purchased in complete sets, and not separately.

2. NEWFOUNDLAND.—Cabot Issue.—This was wholly unnecessary and did not supersede the regular issue, the plates having been destroyed after a limited number of stamps had been printed.

3. NEW SOUTH WALES HOSPITAL STAMPS.—These were entirely unnecessary for postal purposes, and were only made available in order to induce collectors to buy at enhanced prices.

4. VICTORIA HOSPITAL STAMPS. — The same remarks apply to this proposed issue.

5. LEEWARD ISLANDS. — Overprinted "Centenary."—This was a temporary issue entirely unnecessary for postal purposes. The remainders are being offered for sale by Public Tender, and as an inducement it was officially stated that the die used for the overprinting had been destroyed.

6. Mauritius.—Proposed Jubilee Issue.—It is believed that the usual objections will apply to this issue. Collectors are advised to regard it with suspicion until it has been ascertained whether it is intended to be of a permanent nature, or merely commemorative.

7. Uruguay.—"Paz" Issue.—The stamps were available for only three days in September, 1897, and were not issued to meet any postal requirements.

8. British South Africa. — An announcement having been made that a stamp in commemoration of the completion of the Railway as far as Buluwayo was to be issued, the Committee are pleased to state that the London officials of the Company have given their assurance that no such issue will be sanctioned.

9. Olympian Games Stamps.—The condition under which these stamps have been issued having been modified, so that they have now become a permanent issue, the objections mentioned in a previous circular no longer apply.

By order of the Committee,

Herbert R. Oldfied,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

November, 1897.

Effingham House,
Arundel St., Strand, London, W.C.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

Dear Sir,—As no doubt you may have seen in the philatelic journals, the Society has been entirely reorganised. The Special Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, has been entrusted with the work of considering all unnecessary and speculative issues, and the results of their deliberations will be notified periodically in the various philatelic publications throughout the world. In order that the work of the Society may be carried on with vigour, and receive the support of all philatelists, it has been decided to reduce the subscription to 2s. 6d. (3 fr.) per annum. It is therefore hoped that with this small subscription a large number of members may be enrolled to assist in maintaining the purity of stamp collecting. I trust, therefore, you will continue your membership (if already a member), or, in case you are not a member of the Society, that I may have the pleasure of adding your name to the list.

Subscriptions may be paid by Postal Order, or in the *permanent* current stamps of any country, and will cover the period ending 31st December, 1898.

I am, dear sir,
Yours faithfully,
Herbert R. Oldfield,
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Form of Application for Membership.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, for which purpose I enclose the amount of my Subscription (2s. 6d.) for the year 1898.

Name..... .....

Address .....

....

The Hon. Secretary,
The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps,
The Philatelic Society, London,
Effingham House,
Arundel St., Strand, London, W.C.



Notable Stamps at Auction.

* Unused. † On original.

Buhl & Co., Ltd.

11th October, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Grenada (1881), 1s., violet	1	0	0
Hong Kong, $10, pink,* and gum, but unevenly centred ..	1	8	0
St. Christopher, 4d., blue, C A,* no gum ..	3	0	0
St. Vincent, 1s., indigo, no wmk.,* and gum ..	3	5	0
Servia (1866), 1 p., green on rose, block of 12,* some creased ..	1	16	0
Trinidad, 6d., green, C C, on imperf. pair * ..	5	0	0
Virgin Islands (1867), 1s., rose, double-lined border	2	12	6
Ditto, ditto, single-lined border	2	17	6

October 22nd, 1897.

Great Britain, 2d., blue, L C, perf. 14, block of 6, badly centred *	6	0	0
Ditto, £5, on bluish, "Specimen"	1	18	0
Labuan, 8 c., carmine, C A, * surcharged "2 cents" diagonally	3	3	0
Nevis, 4d., orange, engraved *	2	0	0
St. Helena, 3d. purple, wmk. C and C C, an imperf. pair *.. ..	6	10	0
Tobago, 6d., ochre, C. and C A *	5	0	0
Trinidad, 1d., rose, C and C C, imperf. pair * ..	5	0	0
Ditto, 5s., lake, ditto, imperf.*	1	18	0
Turks Islands, "4" on 1s., puce, small figure * .	3	5	0
Western Australia, 1s., green, wmk. Swan, imperf. pair * ..	3	0	0

Messrs. Cheveley & Co.

October 18th, 1897.

Brazil, slanting figures, 180 r.	2	0	0
Ditto, 300 r.	3	10	0
Ditto, 600 r.	4	10	0
Gambia, 1s.. green ..	1	16	0
Nevis, 6d., litho.	8	10	0
St. Lucia, 1s., orange, C A	2	10	0
Sandwich Islands (1853), 5 c., blue, on thick paper	4	15	0
Ditto, (1859) 2 c., black on white wove ..	1	0	0
Spain, (1852) 2 reales ..	9	5	0
Ditto, (1853) 2 r. ..	4	10	0

October 30th, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Zululand, 5s., black and rose	2	0	0
Bremen, 7 gr., perforated	4	17	6
British Columbia, 1 dollar, perf., 12½	2	10	0
Cape of Good Hope, 1d., carmine-red, *wood block* *..	13	10	0
Ditto, used, ditto ..	3	15	0
Ditto, ditto, shade ditto	3	0	0
Ditto, 4d., blue, ditto ..	1	18	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf.	14	15	0
Geneva, the double stamp, corner damaged ..	13	10	0
Turks Islands, 1s., prune, perfs. cut	5	0	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s., thick figures *	2	14	0
United States, (1869) 24 c., with inverted centre	22	0	0
Ditto, (1869) 90 c., black and carmine	1	17	0
Vancouver Island, 5 c., imperf., fair margins	13	10	0

W. Hadlow.

19th October, 1897.

Great Britain, 1d., black, V. R., thinned and damaged	7	10	0
Ditto, another, used and rubbed	8	0	0
Ditto, 1d., black, block of 12, unused ..	6	12	6
Ditto, 2d., blue, no lines, unused, no gum	3	12	6
Ditto, 1d., red, on Dickinson paper ..	2	15	0
Ditto, 6d., octagonal, with gum	3	0	0
Ditto, 1d., red, S C, die 1, perf. 16, block of 6	2	0	0
Ditto, 1d., red, S C, perf. 14, creased ..	1	10	0
Ditto, another, without gum	1	2	0
Ditto, 2d., blue, S C, perf. 16	3	5	0
Ditto, 2d., blue, S C, perf. 14, torn	5	10	0
Ditto, 2d., blue, L C, perf. 14..	1	18	0
Ditto, pair with gum ..	3	17	6
Ditto, 1d., red, plate 142, used, imperf.	1	6	0
Ditto, 4d., carmine, wmk. Small Garter, pair, unused, with gum; right-hand stamp is stained in corner with ink	22	0	0
Ditto, 3d., rose, plate 3, with white dots and 'penny' perforation..	6	17	6
Great Britain, 3d., rose, plate 5, pair, unused	0	16	0
Ditto, 4d., plate 14, strip 3	2	0	0
Ditto, 2s., dark blue, very fine	3	2	0
Ditto, 2s., dull blue ..	2	2	0
Ditto. 2s., bright blue..	2	4	0
Ditto, 1½d., lilac-rose, pair	3	15	0
Ditto, 5s., wmk. Anchor, no gum	10	0	0
Ditto, 6d., brown, plate 11, 3 shades	2	2	0
Ditto, 6d., buff, plate 11, pair	1	16	0
Ditto, 1s., green, plate 8, with gum	1	0	0
Ditto, 1s. green, plate 9, pair	2	8	0
Ditto, ½d., red, plate 9, one perf. gone ..	1	14	0
Ditto, 2½d., lilac-rose, plate 2, block 6 ..	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, plate 4, pair	2	0	0
Ditto, ditto, plate 8 ..	0	15	0
Ditto, 4d., vermilion, plate 15, pair ..	2	2	0
Ditto, 8d., brown, fine single	5	5	0
Ditto, 10s., grey, wmk. Cross, part gum ..	18	0	0
Ditto, 2s., red-brown, unused, imperf. ..	5	0	0
Ditto, ditto, pair ..	12	10	0
Ditto, 1s., salmon, wmk. Spray, block 8 ..	11	0	0
Ditto, £5 orange, used	2	0	0
Ditto, £1, oblong, wmk. Crowns ..	3	15	0
Ditto, 2s. 6d., piastres on 2s. 6d., on *bleuté* ..	1	14	0
Ditto, 5s., rose, I. R. Official, used	2	10	0
Ditto, 4d., sage, plate 15, pane of 60 ..	11	15	0
Ditto, 1s., green, 1884, block of 4	1	0	0

Puttick & Simpson,

19th and 20th October, 1897.

Bahamas, 1d., lake, imperf..	3	0	0
Ditto, 1d., vermilion, C A, perf. 14 * ..	3	7	6
Barbados, 1d., on half of 5s., large numeral, and oblique perf., a pair	25	10	0
British Guiana, (1860) 1 c., rose (No. 16 on plate), roul. on three sides ..	8	10	0
Ditto, 2 c., yellow, full roulettes	9	15	0
Ditto, 4c. blue, full roulettes	13	0	0

* Unused. † On original.

	£	s.	d.
Cape of Good Hope, *wood block*, 1d., pair ..	7	15	0
Ceylon, 2s., blue, imperf.*	8	5	0
Ditto, 4 c., rose, wmk. Star, perf.	3	15	0
Dominica, 1s., mauve, C A, block of four * ..	8	2	6
Gambia, imperf., 4d., brown, no wmk. * ..	1	1	0
Ditto, imperf., 6d., blue, ditto *	1	10	0
Great Britain, V.R., 1d., black *..	6	10	0
Ditto, but finer	7	15	0
Ditto, 9d., bistre, plate 4, emblems *	1	3	0
Ditto, 2s., brown, heavy postmark	0	19	0
Ditto, 20s., purple-brown, wmk. Cross ..	1	8	0
Ditto, £5, orange, telegraphic can. . ..	1	15	0
Nevis, perf., 15s. 6d., grey, litho.*	7	10	0
Ditto, 6d., green, C A *	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, used ..	4	17	6
Newfoundland, 1s., scarlet	17	0	0
New Zealand, perf., 1d., brown, wmk. N Z ..	14	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1d., brown, strip of 3 *	3	15	0
Ditto, 3d., blue, * strip of 3	3	12	0
Nova Scotia, 6d., yellow-green*	7	7	0
Ditto, 1s., violet ..	19	15	0
Ditto, but cut close ..	6	7	6
Ditto, cut into and pen-marked	3	5	0
St. Helena, 4d., carmine, C C, perf. 12½, long bar, with double surcharge	2	10	0
St. Vincent, 4d , blue, no wmk., a pair imperf. between	6	6	0
Swazieland, 10s., brown *	3	7	6
Switzerland, *Geneva*, the double stamp, slightly cut into	13	0	0
Ditto, 1850, 10 rappen, black and red on yellow, cross framed ..	4	8	0
Transvaal, (1878) 2d., blue on mauve, imperf, surcharged VR, Transvaal variety with small T	1	4	0
Trinidad, 1d., blue, lithographed	4	12	6

VENTOM, BULL & COOPER.

14th and 15th, October, 1897.

	£	s.	d.
Denmark, (1851) 2 rbs., blue,* with gum ..	3	17	6
Denmark, another,* but no gum	3	3	0
Ditto, 4 rbs., brown, 3 shades,* with gum	3	5	0
Ditto, 16 sk., violet, rouletted *	1	16	0
Great Britain, *octagonal*, 1s., green, die 1,* with gum	3	15	0
Ditto, 2s., brown,* with gum	5	10	0
Ditto, 10s., ultramarine, on blued paper,* with gum	5	15	0
Malta,(1871-75), ½, yellow-buff, perf. 14 × 12½, block of 6 *	2	15	0
Mauritius, *Large Fillet*, 2d., blue	5	0	0
Natal, 1st issue, 6d., green, pen-marked	6	10	0
Ditto, 1s., buff, on piece, rather small, and rather heavy postmark	3	7	6
Nevis, 6d., grey, litho. ..	8	10	0
United States, *Carrier's Stamp*, blue on pink, on piece	7	0	0
New York, (1849) 1d., circular, black on buff, on entire	2	0	0
Periodicals, $48,* with gum	2	0	0

Notices.

Subscriptions.—THE PHILATELIC RECORD AND STAMP NEWS will be sent post-free to any subscriber at home or abroad, on receipt of 5s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Messrs. BUHL & Co., LIMITED, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, England.

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	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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Half Page.....	1 14 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 4 0
Quarter Page	1 2 0	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0

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ABBREVIATIONS.

A *Articles.* **C** *Correspondence.* **E** *Editorial Notes.* **F** *Forgeries and Reprints.* **G** *Philatelic Gossip.* **N** *Novelties and Discoveries.* **P** *Philately in the Mags.* **R** *Reviews.* **S** *Stamp Trade Notes.*

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