

SAPPHIRE

THE

PHILATELIC RECORD

AND

STAMP NEWS.

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The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JANUARY, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

IT is with considerable diffidence that we once more take up the editorial pen after a lapse of some years, with the hope of being of some service, however small, to the philatelic public.

To follow such eminent previous Editors of the *Record* as Mr. Maitland Burnett, Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, Major Evans, Mr. M. P. Castle, and the retiring Editor, Mr. E. J. Nankivell, is no easy task, but we are not unknown to a very large number of the *Record's* regular readers, and hope that we can place some reliance on their generous aid and support, to enable us to keep up the prestige which we believe our little Magazine has enjoyed for many years.

Our Programme for 1899.

The present number commences the 21st volume of the *Philatelic Record*, and it will be our aim to continue it as much as possible on the same lines as the volumes of the past few years.

Amongst the programme we have in view will be found an excellent article on the much-neglected stamps of Persia, by Mr. C. Forbes, who has been quietly studying this country for some years. This will run through several numbers, and much interesting and hitherto unpublished information will for the first time be given to the philatelic world. An eminent authority on the subject has also promised us what should be an important article on post cards, which we find are now once more coming into favour.

The interviews, with portraits, will be continued, and will include several eminent collectors and dealers, not only in this country, but on the Continent, and also an interview with Mr. H. L. Calman, of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, which we secured when he was in London a few weeks ago.

Further than this, we make no promises of any particnlar articles, but we do promise that we shall use our best endeavours to make the general contents of the *Record* interesting, not only to the specialist and the general collector, but to all classes of philatelists.

We thank those subscribers who have so kindly given us their support for 1899, and also return thanks for the magnificent way in which the trade have supported us with their advertisements, and hope that this support will be well merited and long continued.

Dies of Old German Stamps.

At the annual meeting of German Collectors in Magdeburg we notice that Dr. Fraenkel made a speech in reply to certain enquiries, which is full of interest to Philatelists. Our readers will remember the excitement some years ago with reference to the overprint of the North German design on various envelopes of the different States. The excitement commenced on the publication of Dr. Lindenberg's book dealing with German envelopes, in which he boldly asserted that most of the very rare varieties had never existed in a genuine state, and had, in fact, been manufactured by a Philatelist, who was at that time not only well known in Berlin, but all over the world. In a long and interesting speech Dr. Fraenkel informed his hearers that the Berlin Philatelic Club had now succeeded in obtaining certain valuable dies, from a gentleman who is the son of an Official in the Berlin Government Printing Works.

It appears that this young man's father resided for many years in the same house with the Philatelist (we do not know whether to call him dealer or collector), who was attacked in Dr. Lindenberg's book, and after a lapse of some time the following have now been purchased from him by the Berlin Club, viz:—

1. German Empire, *Cliché* of the 2½gr. stamp.
2. Ditto. Reproduction of the Provisional (1) Eagle.
3. North German Confederation, *Galvano* of the 1gr. stamp.
4. Ditto. *Cliché* of the 2gr. stamp.
5. Ditto. *Cliché* of the square diamond embossing used for the over-printed envelopes.
6. Prussia, copper *cliché* of the 3gr. eagle.
7. Ditto. a similar *cliché*.
8. Ditto. Matrix of the 4pf. eagle.
9. Ditto. Patrix of the same.
10. *Cliché* of the 10pf. value (eagle).
11. A similar *cliché*.
12. Galvano of the 4sgr. octagon.
13. Wurtemburg, die for an envelope (worn out)
14. A die for impressing the patté of an envelope (with post rider).
15. Bolivia, Galvano of the 5c., first issue.
16. Persia, Galvano of the 4 Shahi, first issue.
17. Ditto. 8 Shahi.

What strikes us most in the above list is that amongst these German dies there should have been such things as the Bolivian and Persian. The dies after being purchased by the Club were handed over to the Berlin Post Office Museum, so that they can never again be used for an improper purpose, and we think that the thanks of all Philatelists are due to Dr. Fraenkel and his friends for their noble action in the interests of the pursuit.

* * *

"Hospital Labels."

There has been considerable correspondence in the Daily Press with reference to the new issue of labels for the benefit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund. The first we noticed appeared in *Evening News* the of November 16th, and was headed "Hospital Stamps Boycott causes a loss to the Prince's Fund of £50,000 a year."

Whether the sum received for the Hospital Stamps last year was really as large as stated we do not know, but we thought that the stamps actually sold only came to something about £25,000 or £26,000.

The cause of the heading was the fact that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., had, in an interview with the representative of the *Evening News*, stated that their firm could not recognise these labels as postage stamps. In the next number of the same paper there is a reply from Mr. Percy C. Bishop, editor of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, in which he endorses Mr. Phillips' point of view, and uses the celebrated word "gumpap," which we believe was coined by himself. For our own part we hope that every one of our readers will buy some of these stamps to encourage the good cause, as they are interesting receipts for money paid for the benefit of Hospitals, but Stamp Collectors must not forget that they have no place in Stamp Albums, as they cannot be used to prepay letters, and have no franking value whatever.

When the two stamps of 1/- and 2/6 appeared last year, our publishers, in common with other dealers, dealt in them with an idea that they were to be used during that one year only, in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, and thought there would be no harm in encouraging a good cause, but there was no idea that it would become an annual affair. By all means let every stamp collector and every one of the public buy this year's issue, but they must bear in mind that they have nothing to do with Philately; in fact, as *The Eastern Philatelist* aptly puts it, "they are purely unphilatelic, and hence hardly open to Philatelic criticism."

Editorial Interviews.

BY THEODOR BUHL.

Mr. W. H. PECKITT.

FROM penny packets to penny "Post Office" Mauritius is a far cry indeed, but Mr. Peckitt has accomplished it. We knew Mr. Peckitt in the old days, when he bought "Continentals" (at sixpence a thousand) and cheap sets, to sell at Deptford, by giving them on commission to small shops and to his schoolboy friends. We knew him, as we have known so many of the London dealers; but we know only one other who has achieved anything like the same amount of success in the philatelic world during recent years, speaking, of course, from a dealer's point of view.

To catch Mr. Peckitt is not an easy matter; he is always busy, and nearly always "engaged." Many years ago, in the early days of auction sales, a dealer, who is now a prominent member of the trade, remarked that a certain stamp was as rare as the "Dado." To the ordinary visitor Mr. Peckitt is as rare as the Dodo. A few minutes can be spent with him on most occasions, but any "interview" takes time.

However, on a recent morning we called at 440, Strand, and caught Mr. Peckitt disengaged and willing to talk "stamps" and be interviewed.

In reply to our enquiry "When were you born?" he blushingly replied "1870." The fear of an early stoppage to obtain information for the *Record* prevented us from asking the date, as Mr. Peckitt does not wish to be inundated with birthday cards; but we gathered that our "subject" was born at Deptford.

"How did you first become interested in stamps?" was our next question.

"I commenced with a small Oppen's Album and a 4½d. packet from a dealer, whose name I forget—I believe it was Turner. Afterwards I sold the collection for 4s. 6d."

"And your first efforts as a dealer?"

"I first dealt at school; but a year before I sold my Oppen's Album I used to sell penny packets and common stamps through shops."

"For a time you were in partnership with Mr. Callf, I believe?"

"Yes, we had an office in the Strand, next door to my present shop, and dealt as Callf, Peckitt & Co. Mr. Callf had been a dealer for many years."

"At that time you did not pay particular attention to rare stamps?"

"No; the partnership lasted about a year, and it was not until Mr. Callf and I had separated that I commenced to make a speciality of rarities. I prefer rare stamps; they represent more money and a larger turnover; but there is more profit on the commoner ones."

"Apart from the 'Post Office' Mauritius, will you mention a few of the rare stamps that have passed through your hands?"

"I had the 4d. Western Australia, with inverted Swan, twice within six months, and five or six of the 81 paras Moldavia. I bought the "Blest" collection for £5,000, another general collection for £5,000, the late Mr. Hastings Wright's collection of English and a collection of Ceylon, only second to that of Baron de Worms. The latter contained ten each of the 4d. and 8d. imperforate."

Our Portrait Gallery.



MR. W. H. PECKITT.

"As to the 'Post Office' Mauritius, I believe you have sold the 1d. one on envelope which you recently purchased?"

"Yes, and I have since purchased the other two recently discovered in Bombay, and have sold all three of them at about £1000 each."

"And now I will ask you a plain question, Mr. Peckitt. How do you find business?"

"Business at present is very good," said Mr. Peckitt with a smile, "and I have a great opinion of rare stamps, which are constantly getting rarer."

"Do you find any increase in the numbers of collectors?"

"There are more buyers every day, and the increase is specially marked among the larger and advanced collectors. There is a growing tendency to collect only fine copies and a great demand for unused new issues."

"Do you find a preference for any particular part of the world?"

"Yes, British Colonials sell better than others; British Guianas, for instance, are very popular, and there is a great run on Africans, New South Wales, and the various 'Companies' stamps. West Indians also sell very well, and there is a run on Hong Kong and India and a tendency to buy Straits Settlements."

"I believe you do not publish a catalogue."

"No," said Mr. Peckitt; "but we publish a price list and sell by it."

Here our subject seemed to think we had asked enough, but we ventured one more question.

"Which do you consider the rarest stamp?"

"Of ordinary rarities I should say the 2 cents Hawaii, first issue; but, of course, as you know, there are many varieties of stamps which are rarer even than the Hawaii or the 'Post Office' Mauritius, such, for instance, as the Western Australia with the inverted Swan, *unused*."

Having given Mr. Peckitt's opinions, we will now give a short description of his business premises. The shop is small, and the little room at the back is still smaller, but it is packed with rows upon rows of books of valuables. Down a few steps, in the cellar as it were, is another room, and adjoining this is a strong room, which contains three large safes and has been specially built for the reception of volumes and parcels of stamps of all kinds. It runs under the pavement and part of the roadway of the Strand. We have omitted to mention that the little room—not the rather dismal strong room—is Mr. Peckitt's sanctum, and that the correspondence is conducted both here and at his rooms on the first floor next door.

Our time was up, we said good-day, and thanked our subject for a very pleasant interview. Walking out into the Strand, we stood for a moment with one foot on the pavement and one in the roadway, to make sure that we were really treading on that strong room.

Birmingham Philatelic Exhibition.

BY THEODOR BUHL

A very interesting exhibition was recently held in the Picture Gallery of Messrs. Graves & Co., in Cherry Street, Birmingham. It was not a very large affair, and only remained open from 1 o'clock on the 7th inst., until 7 p.m. on the 9th, but during that time it was visited by about 700 collectors and their friends. There was no particular opening ceremony, and when I arrived there a few minutes after 1 o'clock, the business for the moment consisted of placing stamps into frames to complete the show. The room was a splendid one for the light, and the only pity is that more space was not available. Nevertheless, the exhibition reflects great credit on its promoters, the Birmingham Philatelic Society, and particularly on its energetic Secretary, Mr. G. Johnson.

Amongst the rarities were Mr. Bernichon's two celebrated Post Office Mauritius from the Legrand collection, and Mr. Mackey's celebrated block of eighty-four 2d. blue Great Britain, without white lines, unused.

From the true philatelist's point of view, perhaps the most interesting exhibits were Mr. Lowe's fine collection of the stamps of St. Helena, which included the rare 6d. without surcharge, and a strip of three of the 1d. unperforated, two being with long line and one with short line; and Mr. W. D. Beckton's 10 frames, containing samples of his wonderful collection of Greece.

Another very interesting exhibit was the collection of Uganda shown by Mrs. Tebay. Although only made with the Remington typewriter, these labels are very interesting, and many of them should become very rare. Amongs the other exhibits were the following :—

R. Hollick, British Bechuanaland, British South Africa, Sierra Leone, Zanzibar and Mauritius.

C. F. Larmour, entire sheets of India, including the ½, 1 and 2 annas, first issue.

J. E. Sparrow, triangular Capes, unused, including a block of 18 of each value, and 2 blocks of 8 of the Emerald 1/-.

W. T. Wilson, frame of 18 sheets of rarities, including old British Guiana and scarce Labuan.

M. P. Castle, a splendid collection of Saxony, including 13 copies of the 3 pfennig, and a block of 4 of the rare ½ gr., error.

W. T. Wilson, Mexico, including the rare 1, 2 and 4 reales of Chiapas.

W. Pimm, Tobago.

C. H. Coombs, C. F. Tanner, R. Hollick, W. T. Wilson, a frame of Cape triangulars, including 17 woodblocks.

C. F. Turner, St. Lucia and United States.

H. F. Lowe, Ceylon.

G. F. Jackson, a splendid collection of Spain, which gained a silver medal at the London Exhibition.

Mr. Higginbottom, a frame of Barbados, Cyprus, and a few representative stamps of various countries.

E. Loveridge, Tasmania.

The exhibition was visited by many collectors and dealers, who travelled especially from London, Manchester and other towns, and can be fairly called a great success, having been well reviewed by the local press; and we hope to see many similar exhibitions in Birmingham and other provincial towns, as they tend to increase the popularity of our hobby, and to educate the non-philatelic public.

Imperial Penny Postage.

(From the *Daily Telegraph*.)

THE Press Association is informed by Mr. Henniker-Heaton, M.P., that in a published list of the places to which, on Christmas Day, the people of the United Kingdom may send a letter for a penny, the important Colony of Natal is omitted. Mr. Henniker-Heaton has the authority of Sir W. Peace, the Agent-General, for the statement that official notification has been sent to the Duke of Norfolk, through the Colonial Secretary, of the consent of the Natal Government to the scheme. Aden also has been omitted. Aden Post Office is under the control of the Government of India, and will, of course, be included. The difficulty regarding financial adjustment of the cost between the British Post Office and the Cape of Good Hope is expected to be settled without delay, particularly as Sir David Tennant, the Agent-General, will have the sympathetic assistance of the Governor of the Cape, Sir Alfred Milner, who is now in London. The following is said to be the official list of places which have notified adhesion to the penny postage arrangement :

Aden,
The Bahamas,
British Central Africa,
British East Africa,
British India,
Canada,
Ceylon,
Cyprus,
Falkland Islands,
Fiji,
Gambia,
Gibraltar,
Gold Coast,
Hong Kong,
Lagos,
Leeward Islands,
Natal,
Newfoundland,
Niger Coast Protectorate,
St. Helena,
Seychelles,
Sierra Leone,
Straits Settlements,
Trinidad,
Tobago,
Turk's Islands,
Uganda, and
Windward Islands.

The Stamps of Persia.

BY

C. FORBES (Secretary and Librarian, the Central Philatelic Club).

PERSIA, or the land of the Lion and Sun, is one of the most interesting countries, especially to a philatelist. The history of its stamps discloses, as regards the first issues, a woeful tale of official incompetence, bribery and corruption. In a country such as Persia where the word of the Shah is the only law known, nothing is done properly, all the officials, from the highest to the lowest, are openly bribed.

In the early issues the various kinds of paper used, and the indifferent printing of the stamps that caused such numerous varieties, are not due, as many imagine, to speculation, but to the manner in which the work was done. Everything, as the saying goes, was "from hand to mouth;" no proper printing machines were used, nor was any paper stocked for use; this was bought simply as required; consequently, we get thick, thin, laid, wove, ribbed and tinted papers, such as greyish-white, bluish-white, and in the later printings we get the stamps printed on coloured papers, such as blue, yellow, etc. Again, as they were printed by hand from the blocks, very few of the stamps printed are actually quite perfect. In other cases, where the impression taken was very poor, the paper was simply turned over and printed on the other side; some also showing traces of finger marks, and so on throughout the whole story.

The second and later issues, however, being printed abroad, are a great improvement, the designs are very fine, and they are the earliest instances of stamps printed in two colours.

We must admit, to a certain extent, that the designs are a bit gorgeous; still, the whole series forms one of the finest sets of stamps ever printed, and, to a non-collector, the pages of an album devoted to these stamps would attract the eye far more than those of any other country.

There are also no watermarks to puzzle the amateur, but for the specialist the perforations of many of the issues form a study in themselves. Unfortunately, many of the earlier emissions have been forged to a very great extent in the guise of reprints, both unused and with forged cancellations; still, I think if the reader will follow the series of articles carefully, he will have no trouble in detecting them in the future.

It seems to be the established rule for writers to refer to any books or authorities they have consulted.

The writer therefore states that he has made very little use of any catalogues, lists or articles that have been published in the past on the stamps of this country.

The stamps of Persia, although priced in many cases very low in the catalogues, are extremely scarce, especially the issues from 1875 to 1886; in fact, even with the later issues none of the stamps used can be called in any way common, and if they were collected in the same manner as those of the West Indies, the United States, or the British Colonies in Africa, etc., they would be found to be very scarce, and the prices would jump up at a bound from a few shillings to as many pounds.

The postal issues, according to Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, have up to the present numbered 179 varieties, but according to Scott's Catalogue for advanced collectors, which include many varieties of perforation, etc., not given in other catalogues, the total number amounts to 288.

There are, however, many more than this, as there are many varieties of perforations, and a few errors not given in any catalogue, so far as the knowledge of the writer goes.

The population of the country is estimated to be about 9,000,000, but they do not use many stamps, letter writing being chiefly confined to the wealthy classes and business houses.

There are at present about 100 post offices in the country, and when we consider that the total area of the country is about 630,000 square miles, and that there are as many as 13 cities with a population of over 30,000, it can readily be seen, therefore, that only towns of some size have been supplied with postal facilities in any way. Another reason for the scarcity of post offices is that there are no railways in the country, the late Shah being bound not to allow any railways until the end of the present century. This is chiefly for political reasons, the northern part of Persia being under the influence of Russia, and the sourthern part, including the Persian Gulf, under British influence.

The legendary history of Persia begins far back in the mists of time. It is the custom to assume that legend means fiction, but historians are now beginning to perceive that the legends of a nation are often not only more interesting and poetic than what is called its authentic history, but that they really suggest actual facts. No country has more attractive legends than Persia, and, to judge from them, we cannot avoid the conclusion that no nation now existing has such a continuous vitality as the old land of Cyrus and Darius.

The name "Persia" is not known to the people inhabiting the country. The Persians call their land "Eran." This name is evidently from "Ayra," or "Ariya," from which we get "Ivan." The country has been designated by several terms, which are emblematical, such as "The Land of Fire," to denote the worship of fire; "The Land of the Sun," referring to the reverence paid to the sun; also "The Land of the Lion and the Sun," since the flag of Persia has the device of the sun, in the form of a human face, peering above the back of a lion.

This last device is the symbol of intelligence, light, power, and justice.

Persia is the original home of the progenitors of all the European races, and although the reader may call himself an Englishman, Frenchman, German, etc., he is, after all (if it were possible to trace back his ancestors), a Persian.

The late Shah, Nasr-ed-deen, came to the throne in 1848, and was a man of excellent motives and decided intelligence, and sincerely desired to improve the administration of his empire, and generally exhibited a clemency hitherto rare in Oriental sovereigns; but he occupied a peculiar position owing to the situation of Persia, which is the seat of the intrigues of Russia and England, the former power undoubtedly intending sooner or later to extend her sway over Persia; but we hardly think this will be soon accomplished, for, whatever the results of the ambition of Russia, enough has been recorded in history of late to indicate the vitality of the Persian race, and to show that even when for a time Persia falls under foreign influence and rule, she has in the character of her people elements that promise again to lead her to assert her supremacy under more favourable circumstances.

The Shah was descended from a Mahommedan dynasty, which has ruled for a great number of years. He was by far the most modest and best disposed prince that has ever ruled in Persia, besides being the most progressive.

The religion of the Shah and the ruling races in Persia is a form of Mahommedanism, the rest of the population being chiefly Armenians, Nestorians, Jews, and a few fire worshippers.

The people being—like the English—badly mixed, their language is a mixture of many opposite elements. The Persian tongue is greatly corrupted by words of Arabic origin, and it is impossible to learn the language without some knowledge of Arabic; there is very little grammar, but in its linguistic smoothness it is somewhat similar to French or Italian.

The literature of the country is extensive, and embraces work in every department of knowledge, and is of greater merit than any other Oriental tongue, the Persian poets, notably "Omar Khayyan" and "Hafis" being greatly admired, both by their countrymen and, through translations, by English readers.

The Persian people are given a fairly good name by travellers. They are more honest and friendly than the Mahommedans of Turkey, and compare favourably with Europeans as regards their generosity and kindliness to foreigners. They have, however, a bad habit of procrastination, in that they are willing to promise anything, but seldom fulfil the promises so made.

The late Shah, unfortunately, was assassinated on the 1st May, 1896, by a religious fanatic. He was shortly to celebrate his jubilee.

The present Shah, Muzaffer-ed-deen Mirza, was born March 1853.

The country is at present very quiet, and little is known of him.

Although her present area is far less than in the olden times, yet Persia is still a large country, being more than twice the extent of Germany. The climate, although warm, is generally healthy, the soil fertile wherever it is irrigated; and the progressive tendencies of the present dynasty, combined with these advantages, indicate conditions that promise a renewal of the greatness of Persia, when she has emerged from the transitory stage through which she is now passing.

The long-continued existence of the Persians as an active race, offers a strong belief that she has yet before her a prosperous future.

It was in 1868 that the first Persian postage stamp was created, on the proposition of a Khan, Mirza Ali Amine Dauleah, Chief Secretary to the Shah and Controller of the so-called Postal Department.

It was proposed that a deputation of Persians were to be sent to Paris on a visit to the Minister of Posts to make arrangements for a European postal system.

They brought back with them 16 copper-plate dies, in moveable blocks of four, to represent four different values. These were to be used for the printing of the stamps. They also brought a quantity of perforated proofs. These proofs were perforated 12½ to 13, in various colours and shades, and on different varieties of paper. They chiefly consisted, however, of the two-shahi green.

These stamps were never used or issued for any kind of postal service.

The plates were used for printing all the various after-printings of these stamps which followed.

It was not, however, until 1870 that anything further was done in the matter, when the Shah gave orders that stamps were to be printed from these plates.

No decrees were ever published or authorised. The commands were given verbally, the word of the Shah being law.

Not having, however, any machinery for printing these stamps, they were done sometimes one by one, and at others in strips of four; they were all printed by hand by a local printer in Teheran, from the copper-plate dies, and are consequently very poor impressions.

They represent the arms of Persia, composed of the lion of the Ivan, holding in his right hand a scimitar of the Khorassan, and half surrounding with its tail the sun of Darnis, shining in the rear.

Paper: Thick white wove, sometimes yellowish, and finally bluish. It is said that the blue paper was employed exclusively for the printing of the four shahi, but this was doubtful.

Total number of this issue 22,000, printed in four colours, as follows:—

3,000	1 sh.	Violet (shades)
5,000	2 sh.	Green ,,
8,000	4 sh.	Blue ,,
6,000	8 sh.	Carmine and Vermillion.

These stamps were used in Tabriz, Meana, Zingan, Casveen, and Teheran. Of the 22,000 stamps, hardly one quarter were used, as it was soon discovered that there were no means of cancelling them; consequently, they could be used several times.

Another reason for their being discontinued, was that the contract for the stamps having been given by the Shah to a Persian who was ordered to print them by hand, from the dies furnished to him, it was found that he had printed an enormous quantity over the number required, which he retained for his own benefit.

(*To be continued*).

The Stamps of Uganda.

By THE EDITOR.

IN looking through the collection of the stamps of Uganda, exhibited by Mrs. Tebay at the Birmingham Exhibition, we notice certain varieties which are not noticed in Stanley Gibbons' new Catalogue.

Of the first issue (which is made by an ordinary Remington Typewriter, and consists simply of the letters "U.G." in the upper right and left hand corners, with numeral in centre, and a border in straight lines) there are several varieties. In every case the border consists of five lines on each side and seven lines at the top and bottom, and all the used specimens, with the exception of those hereafter mentioned, are cancelled with a plain cross in pen and ink. The varieties we allude to are as follows:—

5c. on *yellowish* paper instead of white.

15c. variety, with a horizontal line between the third and fourth lines of the right hand border (this appears to exist on every copy of the 15c.).

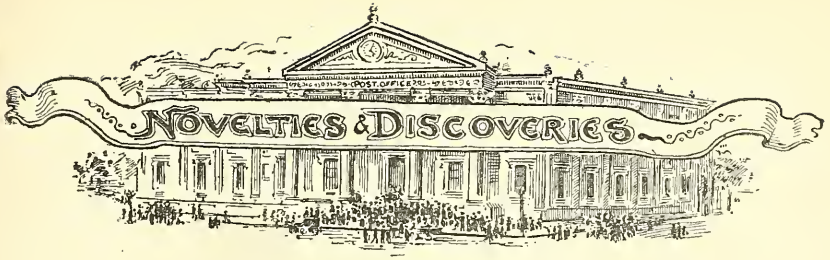
Of the 30c. Mrs. Tebay shows a specimen which, instead of being obliterated with an ordinary cross, is cancelled "May 12th, G.R.B." in two lines, with a line between them.

There is also a pair of the 30c. with the letters U.G. printed three times on two stamps, the second U being over the G of the first stamp, and the second G being almost over the U of the second stamp.

Of the second issue of 1896 with "V. 96. R.," Mrs. Tebay has a 20c. on part of original, and also a quite unknown variety of the 10c. with the letters U.G. much larger than in the original issue, and printed in black instead of mauve.

The 5c. and 20c. are found cancelled with various initials, instead of the ordinary cross, and there is also a specimen of the 10c. which has been altered, by pen and ink, into 15; the 5 being written over the O. Further, there is a 5c. with the words "Parcel Post" written across in pen and ink. Of the 1897 set, we notice a pair of the 4 annas used on part of original, together with one of the ordinary 2½ annas of British East Africa.

Although primitive in style, these stamps should soon rank amongst the rarest of our modern Colonials, and we are delighted to see that such an earnest collector as Mrs. Tebay has been able to accumulate such an interesting collection of them.



British Empire.

British South Africa.—The £1 of the re-engraved type has appeared.

Canada.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a specimen of the 8c. of the redrawn type, with figures of value below.

Adhesive.

8c. orange yellow.

The Imperial Postage Stamp of 2c. has appeared, and is an oblong in black and red with a map of the world. We will illustrate this in our next number.

Adhesive.

2 cents. black and carmine on white.

Ceylon.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly send us the R2. 50c. of this country in a new colour. The design is the same as hitherto, but the stamp is now printed in lilac on a bright brick red paper. The watermark is crown C.A., and the perforation 14 all round.

Adhesive.

R2. 50c. lilac on brick red, Crown C.A., Perforated 14.

Cyprus.—It is reported that a new set with value in English currency will appear shortly.

Fiji.—Mr. W. A. Hull has furnished us with a list of perforations which were not included in our Oceania Catalogue, and very few appear in any of the recent dealers' catalogues. As these stamps are printed and perforated at the Government Printing Office, Sydney, they will doubtless show from time to time all the perplexing variations of "denticulation" which characterise the stamps of New South Wales. Owing to the comparatively small number of Fijian stamps used, it will become increasingly difficult as time goes on to complete sets with the various perforations, so it would be well for collectors to be on the look out, and gauge all their copies lest a rare combination should be inadvertently exchanged away as a supposititious duplicate.—*Australian Philatelist.*

Type of 1880. V.R. engraved.

Adhesives:

1d. blue, perf. 10 x 12.
1d. ultramarine, perf. 11 x 10.
4d. mauve, perf. 11.
2d. green, perf. 10 x 12.
2d. pale green, perf. 11 x 10.
1s. (Queen's Head) pale bistre, perf. 11 x 10.

Current Types.

½d. slate, perf. 11, 12, 11 x 10.
1d. lilac-rose, perf. 11 x 12.
2d. green, perf. 12, 11 x 12.
5d. blue, perf. 11.
1s. bistre, perf. 11.
1d. black, perf. 11, 12, 10 x 12, 11 x 12.
1d. deep lilac-rose, perf. 11, 12, 12 x 11.
2½d. brown, perf. 11 x 10, 12 x 11.
6d. rose, perf. 11.

Great Britain.—Our publishers have the one penny Government parcels with the surcharge inverted.

Adhesive.

1d. lilac, inverted surcharge Government Parcels in black.

New South Wales.—Some more varieties of perforation have to be chronicled.—*Australian Philatelist.*

Adhesives.

9d. brown and black, wmk. N.S.W. and Crown (II), [perf. 12
10d. lilac ,, ,, ,,
12½d. red and black ,, ,, ,,
10s. on *white* paper, perf. 11.

New Zealand.—*L'Ami des Timbres* announces the issue of a registration envelope with a stamp of 3d., of the type of 1874, the words "Registration Fee" being printed at the left, and threepence on the right, in thin capitals. The stamp is on the flap, but we are not told the colour of the paper *Envelope*, 3d., ultramarine.,

South Australia.—Here also the list of perforations must be added to.

Adhesives.

1s. brown, perf. 12½, 12½ x 11½, 11½ x 12½
2s. 6d. lilac, perf. 11½, 12½, 12½ x 11½, 11½ x 12½.

Western Australia.—It is announced that the colour of the 2d. has been, or is to be, changed from grey to orange.

Foreign Countries.

Austria. — Mr. Rudol Friedle has discovered two very interesting specimens of Austrian Provisionals, being half of the 10kr. brown of 1858 used as 5kr. Both are on the original covers, and were posted by the agent of the Danube Steam Navigation Company in Neu-Verbász on the 5th and 6th March, 1859, and addressed to the agent of the Company at Klein-Stâpar.

Provisional. Half of 10k., brown, of 1858, used as 5kr.

Brazil.—By a decree the 100 reis, violet, journal stamp was transformed into a postage stamp of 200 reis, the figures 200 appearing twice, that is to say, once across each figure of 100, with the date 1898 between them, obliterating the word "Jornaes." The stamp was issued on the 29th October last.

Adhesive.

200 reis in black on 100 reis violet journal stamp.

It is also reported that the 50 reis blue and black has been cut in half, and each part used as 25 reis.

China.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us 5 values of a new set, apparently manufactured by a European or an American firm, the execution being much finer than the previous issue. We will illustrate them in our next.

Adhesives.

4c. pale brown.
5 c. salmon.
20 c. chocolate brown.
30 c. lake red.
50 c. green.

They are all perforated 15.

Johore.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us specimens of a new design, with a portrait of the present Sultan, in an octagonal frame. The second colour given is the value, which appears in native and European characters in the lower corners.

Adhesives.

10c. green and black, perf. 14
25c. green and violet. perf. 14.
50c. green and carmine, perf. 14.

Mozambique.—According to a Brazilian contemporary the Mozambique Company have issued a set of stamps in commemoration of some centenary. They are the ordinary issue of the Mozambique Company's stamps of 1894, surcharged in three lines, "1894—Centenario. da—India," with a line above and below. The complete set, from 2½ to 300 reis, has been thus surcharged; but we are not told the colour of the overprint.

Adhesives (*Mozambique, current issue, surcharged in perf.* 12½).

(a) Numerals of value in black.
2½r. olive yellow.
5r. orange.
10r. red-lilac.
15r. brown.
20r. grey.
25r. green.
50r. blue.
75r. carmine.
80r. pale green.
100r. brown on buff.
150r. brown-rose on rose.
200r. blue on blue.
300r. blue on bright buff.
(b) In carmine.
500r. black.
1000r, violet.

Peru.—Messrs. Williams & Co., of Lima, have sent us specimens of the new post-cards, with the words Correos del Peru in ordinary capitals, with a line underneath followed by the words, Tarjeta Postal, then the word Senor, and three lines for address, with different views in the lower left-hand corner. The usual directions are below the last line, which, by-the-bye, is double, one being thicker than the other. The stamp consists of a head embossed in white in oval, above which is the date 1899, and the value below. The value and the views are in each case printed in the same colour, and although they are dated 1899, we have a specimen posted to ourselves, and used, on November 22nd, 1898.

Post Cards.

1 centavo. black and violet on white
2 centavos, black and pink on white.
4 centavos, black and brown on white.

It is stated that the 5 cent "deficit" of this country was used for a few days in Lima as an ordinary 5 cent postage stamp, some being with, and some without, the surcharge "Expendio."

Of the 30,000 specimens of the 1 centavo unpaid letter stamp, surcharged Franque. November, 1897, there were four sheets (400 stamps), with the surcharge inverted.

Of the 1 cent of 1896, printed in Prussian blue, which is the ordinary colour of the 2 cent, there was only one sheet of 100 stamps.

Uruguay.—Here we have two more provisionals, showing that there is evidently still a scarcity of ½ cent. stamps. The surcharge is the same as those already chronicled, but this time it is printed in red on the 1 cent of 1896, and on the 7 cent of 1895.

Provisionals,

½c. in red on 1c. of 1896, lilac and black.
½c. in red on 7c. of 1895, green.

Notes on the Stamps of Newfoundland.

From the Weekly Philatelic Era.

In my notes of Oct. 15th, in speaking of the Newfoundland 3c. type A23, I made the statement that there had never been a re-issue of this stamp. This statement has been contradicted with the assertion that three re-issues of it are known to have been made. Although the writer making the assertion did not designate what the three re-issues were, nor why they should be considered re-issues, I presume the three stamps referred to are the lilac-gray, lilac and violet-brown varieties of type A23. *

If I correctly understand the term re-issue in its philatelic sense, not one of these three stamps nor any shade variety of type A23 which to my knowledge exists can be termed a re-issue. Webster's definition of a re-issue is "a second or repeated issue," but this definition cannot be accepted in the special field of philately. If it is, then each separate printing of a current stamp, with its slight variations in shades, is a re-issue. Under this definition the 2c. carmine of 1890 could be properly termed a re-issue, as well as the 1c. dark blue of 1894 and 2c. carmine-lake and carmine, triangle I, of the same year. This could be carried on until the number of stamps properly designated "re-issues" would be almost legion.

The term "re-issue," for use in the field of philately, should convey a definite and specific meaning in distinction from "reprint" and "regular issue." A re-issue, thus differentiated, possesses four distinctive characteristics, each of which must be present before a stamp can correctly be termed such.

First, a "re-issue" must be of Government origin, and receivable for postage in distinction from a reprint, which may be of either Government or private origin, but is not receivable for postage.

Again, a re-issue must be issued after the stamp of which it is a re-issue has become obsolete, and, in distinction from a regular issue, it must not be the current stamp of its kind for regular use.

The four distinctive characteristics, briefly summarised, are: 1st, Of Government origin. 2nd, issued after the original stamp has become obsolete. 3rd, Receivable for postage. 4th, Not the current stamp of its kind for regular use. The distinct line which it is necessary to draw between re-issue and regular issue makes the fourth characteristic absolutely essential, as, in the ordinary sense of the term, many regular issues in current use are re-issues, and possess all of the first three characteristics enumerated above. The ½d., 1d. and 2½d. of the Gibraltar 1898 set just issued are examples of this. These three stamps cannot, however, be correctly designated re-issues in the specific meaning of the term in the field of philately. They are regular issues for current use, in which an obsolete type and, approximately, colour also has been reverted to. They vary, however, to quite an extent in shade from the corresponding stamps of the 1886 issue, and their proper place and designation is a part of the regular issue of 1898. Mr. Luff so chronicles them in the last *A.J. of P.* From the four distinctive characteristics which I have enumerated as essential to a re-issue, we can draw the following as the definition of the term re-issue in its philatelic sense.

A re-issue is a second issue by a Government of a stamp (if desired for definiteness this could read "postage or revenue stamp") after it has become obsolete, and while receivable for postage, is not a regular issue for current use. In offering this definition, I lay no particular claim to originality, as I have based my conclusions upon certain stamps which have been listed as re-issues, and this classification is generally accepted as the correct one. I refer particularly to the re-issue in 1875 by our own Government of the 1869 series. Consider this re-issue, and it will be seen that the stamps possess each of the four characteristics which I have designated as essentials in a re-issue. The Newfoundland 1894 re-issue, Scott's Nos. 63, 64, 66, 67 and 68, also possess these four characteristics, and these two examples, it seems to me, give a correct premise from which to establish the exact philatelic meaning of the term re-issue.

To return briefly to the question of re-issues of the Newfoundland 3c. type A23. Unless there exist distinct varieties of this type, of which I have no knowledge, there has never been any printing of it save as a regular issue for current use; neither has there been any issue of it since the type became obsolete. All the shade and colour varieties which I know to exist were simply changes of colour, more or less pronounced, in different printings of a coloured stamp. I do not see how they can be termed re-issues.

The 3c. lilac-gray, No. 69, was issued about 1894, and replaced the 3c. slate as the current three cent stamp. It was in use until replaced, about 1896, by the 3c. lilac, which was in turn replaced by the 3c. Cabot. The lilac-gray was not listed until the 1898 catalogue appeared last fall, and for some time the 3c. lilac was quite generally looked upon as the lilac-gray. For instance, the provisionals were at first generally listed and spoken of as 1c. on 3c. lilac-gray, while, as a matter of fact, remainders of the 3c. lilac were used for the surcharge. There is a marked difference in shade between these two stamps, just as much in degree as

[* NOTE.—The type A23 refers to Scott's Catalogue. Editor *P.R.*]

between the dark blue and ultramarine of the U.S. 1c. '94, and there is an equally marked difference in paper and gum, particularly noticeable in the latter, which, of the lilac-grays is whitish and of the lilacs thick and yellowish. Last winter it began to be understood that the 3c. lilac was not the stamp listed in the catalogue as lilac-gray, and in February, in the Supplementary Catalogue of the *Boston Stamp Book*, the stamp was listed as an 1898 re-issue, and continued to be so listed.

That this stamp was issued as early as 1896 I know, because I was shown in the office of one of the largest stamp firms in New York City portions of a sheet purchased by the firm in Newfoundland in the summer of that year. The most striking variety of this type is the violet-brown, and regarding it I have not yet been able to obtain all the definite information I desire. The stamp itself indicates that it is of the same printing as the lilac, and its scarcity indicates that the lilacs outnumbered it twenty to one.

In the large lot of used 3c. A23, embracing all shades which I have examined during the past ten months, I found the lilacs and violet-browns in about the same proportion per thousand, but unused there seems to be but very few of the violet-browns to be had, while the lilacs are comparatively common.

I cannot account for this striking colour of A23, unless it was due to a mistake or else a trial or emergency colour. In any event, they seem to have been sent on to the general post office and very quickly used up *postally*. It and the lilacs were apparently in use at about the time.

GEORGE S. MCKEARIN.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).
The January Packet contains :—
SEVERAL VARIETIES all unused.
No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).
The January Packet contains :—
SEVERAL 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., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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

Items of Interest.

It is announced that Russia will shortly issue a fresh set of stamps, to include a new value of 6 kopec.

Amongst the big collections to be disposed of this season will be the United States envelopes of Mr. Wm. Thorne, of New York, to be sold by the Scott Stamp & Coin Company, or, to be more accurate, as we notice that the sale was announced for December 8th, they have probably by now been disposed of; much to our regret, we have not seen the catalogue.

The following paragraph from Lima, Peru, appears in the *Melita Philatelist*, published in Malta, and we think it is as well to publish it in the event of any of our readers being offered this collection at some future date:—

"One of the principal collectors in Lima is an Italian business man. He values his collection at £1,000, and it certainly makes a magnificent show; but on close examination, many of the rare varieties turn out to be rank forgeries; in most cases he was aware of this at the time of purchase. He is not averse to them as space fillers, and thinks he will be able to hoodwink somebody on his return to Italy in a few months, as he formed the collection with the intention of ultimately selling at a profit. As he is a large buyer, he is greatly in demand amongst several local dealers whose wares are not always above reproach. This is rather an unique specie of collector."

Another paragraph from the same paper is also worth reproducing:—

"To the knowledge of the writer, fully £250 worth (nett) of stamps were sold to a few collectors in Lima at good prices during the past week, shewing that this is rather a fair market, if not a sure Philatelic klondyke when properly supplied. The highest price realized, £28 for a beautiful pair of Argentine 1864 15c. blue, certainly warrants this statement."

The Government of Finland is offering for sale the remainder of the stock of old stamps which have become demonetised.

We regret to hear that Mr. J. J. Casey, of New York, is disposing of his well-known Philatelic Library, thereby giving an opportunity of purchasing books which it may be almost impossible to obtain again in the future; in fact, it is unlikely that a similar opportunity of obtaining valuable Philatelic literature will ever occur again. We hear that the catalogue is now ready for the printers.

It appears that the cutting in half of a higher value to allow each half to be used separately has not been entirely confined to stamps. According to Herdman's Miscellany it was a custom in some of the small South American countries, until a few years ago, to cut both silver and copper coins into equal portions to represent fractions of the original coin, and as such they were current. The 8 real piece and the 1, 2 and 4 real were all thus utilized.

Until further orders the ordinary Postage Stamps of Hawaii are to be available for postal purposes, not only in the Islands, but for any correspondence between the Islands and the United States, so that they really become, in a sense, United States Provisionals.

An American dealer advertises the 5c. St. Louis, plate No. 1, Die B, for the modest sum of £300. Rare stamps are apparently not cheap in the States.

It is stated that the whole stock of the service stamps of Hawaii, of 1897, has been sold to an American firm at face value, the total amounting to about £1000. We take this information from an American contemporary, and publish it with all reserve.

From the same paper, *L'Annonce Timbrologique*, we take the information that the newspaper stamps of the United States have been obsolete since July last, and that the postage for large parcels of newspapers has been paid in cash from that date without any stamp being used.

It is reported that Ceylon will, in the month of December, issue a new stamp with surcharge "One penny" to commemorate the introduction of the imperial 1d. postage.

We are glad to see that Mr. J. B. Moens has again been elected president of the Bruxelles section of the International Philatelic Society by 14 votes and 2 blanks out of an attendance of 16 members.

An easy way of distinguishing a forgery of the first Chilian unpaid letter stamps from the genuine is the date of the post mark. The genuine stamps are all dated from the 1st of October to the 31st December, 1894, whereas all the forgeries that have been seen up to the present bear the dates 22.5.94 and 7.94.

The perforation of the originals is generally 18 x 15, whereas in the forgeries one finds 18½ x 15½ and 19 x 15½.

The idea of the union of philatelic societies seems to be spreading, and we are now pleased to announce that all the Belgian soc.eties have been formed into one under the title of the *Federation des Philotelistes Belges*. The initiative was taken by the *Societe Philatelique Anversoise* and the *Club des Collectionneurs*. These two latter societies alone consist of 220 members, about 200 of which reside at Antwerp, thus making the Antwerp society one of the largest in the world in point of membership.

It is a pity that the daily papers do not employ some authority to write for them when they wish to give any information on philatelic matters. Another instance of the nonsense which is foisted on the public regarding philately appeared in the *Sun* of December 1st; amongst the other inaccuracies being a statement that one collection was sold under the hammer for £10,000.

From the annual report of the Birmingham Philatelic Society we gather that there are now no less than 241 members, and the value of the exchange packet for the year was £38,625 16s. 2d., of which the large sum of £5,437 was sold.

An interesting article on the envelopes of Holland, by Mr. J. M. Ente van Gils, commenced in the December number of *Die Post*. It is remarkable how many varieties of a simple and much neglected envelope can be found if one commences to study the subject, and we find that there are three different shapes alone of the first issue. The article should prove interesting to those who make a study of entires.

We hear that with the month of January a new paper is to appear in Lima, to be entitled *The Peruvian Philatelist*. Philately is evidently making rapid strides in the Spanish speaking States of America.

The following names have been added to the committee of the Paris Philatelic Exhibition of 1900:—MM. J. M. Andreini, L. A. Beausar, F. Breitfuss, Leon Brummer, H. L. Calman, H. J. Duveen, E. Huybrechts, P. Ohrt, W. H. Peckitt, H. Schäfer, A. Straessle-Cottet, C. Wehner, and Carl Willadt.

M. Marcel Pouget discovered a philatelic curiosity of Sierra-Leone by accident the other day. When the change in the postal rates necessitated the creation of a 2½ pence postage stamp the postal authorities first used the stock of ½ penny and 2 pence stamps, and when these had been used up they began to employ one half of the 1 penny and one half of the 4 pence stamps cut diagonally and pasted together so that it appeared like a stamp of two colours. The cancellation B 31 must cover the two halves without break in order to show its genuineness.

M. Maury's correspondent at Mauritius writes that the sale of surcharged stamps at the post-office was the cause of riots, and that the police had to quell the disturbance raised by stamp collectors who fought for a place near the stamp window. As a consequence the Governor ordered the surcharged stamps to be taken to the Treasury and deposited there. It is now thought that the large commemorative 36 cents stamp of the Queen's Jubilee will be re-perforated so as to make two stamps of each, worth 18 cents apiece; at the same time the large stamp will be retired from circulation.

During the past few months the postal authorities of the Argentine Republic have been employing a method similar to that of the Tunisian officials for replacing postage due stamps which do not exist in either country. The amount to be collected on letters, postage on which was insufficient or not paid at all, has been attached in ordinary postage stamps perforated with the letters "C Y T," which stands for Correos y Telegrafos. These stamps are being used in a number of post-offices, and are said to be authorized by the Government although no announcement has been made officially, according to the *Revista Postal*.

It is reported by the daily Press that Princess Charles of Denmark is, or has been, an enthusiastic collector.

As it appears there are still numbers of the obsolete New South Wales stamps in the hands of persons who are unaware of their demonetisation, it has been decided to rehabilitate them for the present.

We regret that a prospectus of an exhibition of postage stamps, to be held in Calcutta by the Philatelic Society of India, during the Christmas week, reached us too late for our last number. Sixteen classes are announced for competition, and a large number of medals. The Committee include such influential philatelists as Mr. C. Stewart Wilson, Lady Collen, Surg.-Major Harris, Messrs. E. S. Gubbey, C. F. Larmour, and many others, including the Secretary, Mr. P. Alwyn Selfe.

Since 1873 a mass of unclaimed correspondence has been accumulating in the "dead letter office," at Santiago, Chili, which it is estimated exceeded 4,000,000 letters, postcards, and packages. It is extraordinary that the postal authorities have not dealt with them before and returned them to the writers, as is done in most countries. Now that the mass has become too great for storage, orders have been given to burn them wholesale, only such letters as appear to contain coin or bank notes being opened. Already about 4,375dols. in large and small sums have been recovered, and over £22,000 in bank drafts out of date. The proceeds have been deposited in the Treasury to await claimants.



The Model Stamp Dealer.

By Gardner R. Kennedy.

(*From the Eastern Philatelist*).

Generally speaking models are unmitigated bores. I hope that this series of opinions will not receive a similar condemnation, Of course my ideals may be mine alone; nevertheless, I trust that my descriptions of what, to me, would be models, will appeal to some of the readers of the *Eastern Philatelist* as quite the proper thing.

I take the dealer first, because the entire fabric of the stamp fraternity is built upon him. Doubtless there would be postage stamp collecting if there were no dealers, but necessarily this collecting would be haphazard and unsatisfactory. This is a patent enough fact to all,—it is beyond argument.

In our gallery of models, the dealer, then, must occupy the first niche. And to me the primary qualification which he must possess, is *neatness*. Closely allied is *good taste*.

You know how much you appreciate a clean, neatly marked approval book or sheet, with stamps carefully placed and with at least a passable arrangement of colours. In an inverse ratio is your regard for the same stamps "slapped on" anyway, paper on the back, prices marked and remarked until the real one is a debatable question, sheets or books dirty and creased,—you know how it seems.

When a dealer has an office it is even more necessary that he be careful in this respect. Counter books with unused copies, oddities, and what-not stuck around the margins, boxes of loose "stuff" scattered around,—these things are not found in the office of "the model stamp dealer."

Next, he should have a good *knowledge* of stamps themselves. This seems at first glance to be a qualification which all possess. But stop and think! How many of the dealers you know are, to any degree, philatelists? Are not many content to be merely good business men?—to have a small knowledge of the stamps they sell (so be it that they sell them), and to depend upon others,—other dealers, collecting friends, and occasionally a clerk for information as to the goods they are handling? This should not be so; but so it is.

Following after some *carefulness* any *accuracy*. Of course it is nice to pick up a stamp underpriced; but it isn't so nice to find a stamp you want carelessly marked 'way over value, especially if you have bought it without reference to a catalogue. Then the shoe pinches a trifle. Neither is it satisfactory to send in a want list and have it filled with a wrong watermark or with the perforation you don't want tucked in either through carelessness or on the supposition that if you don't get what you asked for you will take what you are sent.

The model dealer should be *thoroughly honest*. He will not work off damaged copies on a beginner, just because he is "easy." He will not use his knowledge of a coming very hearty slump in a certain direction to work off all he has on his "friends" at a stiff price. There are other things he will not do that I will refrain from mentioning, or else this article "won't do" either, I fear.

He should be *enterprising* to get what his customers desire; he should be quick in executing their commissions, and his correspondence will be answered in a reasonable time, especially letters enclosing stamps for sale. It worries a man to send his property to a dealer and then not hear from it for, it may be, weeks.

He must be *a social man*. The brusque dealer may sell his goods, but he makes few friends, and about as few customers who will buy of him if they can find what they want elsewhere.

He should be *an earnest promoter of the welfare of his local society*, but not obtrusive at the meetings, especially with endeavours to sell. "Too much dealer" in stamp societies is a bad thing, and tends to drive away the real collector.

Lastly, he won't be unduly puffed up when he reads this catalogue of his merits; and if he is the *other* kind,—and we know his name is at least several,—he will not be vexed, but will turn himself in his ways, and endeavour to be as nearly as may be, that really rare surprise,—The Model Stamp Dealer.

Curious Methods of Delivering Letters.

(From the *Junior Stamp Collector*.)

We all know how interesting it is (at least to stamp collectors) to read of the various ways in which letters are delivered, and of

the men who deliver them; but what I propose to speak of now is, the places where there are no postmen, or where the most primitive modes of delivering letters are used.

I will first consider an island, comparatively near home, though it possesses a population of some seventy odd souls, has no regular method of communication with the rest of the world. I allude to the lonely island of St. Kilda, which is situated about 50 miles north-west of the Outer Hebrides.

When an inhabitant of this place wishes to communicate with a friend living in some other part of the globe, he often proceeds to put his letter in a bottle or tin box in the cavity of a piece of wood (which is formed somewhat in the shape of a boat), together with a coin with which to frank the letter, and a request that whoever picks it up will forward it to its destination. A hatch is then nailed over this, upon which is cut the words, "Please open." The whole is then tied to a bladder made from a sheep's skin and consigned to the waves when a north-westerly wind is blowing.

If the wind is propitious, the letter usually reaches the Hebrides in about five days; but should it drift in a northerly direction, it finally lands in Norway. However, it is said that four out of every six letters posted thus reach their destination safely.

Travelling across Europe, we find that the dweller on the southern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains who expects a letter from a friend living on the plains, sends down his dog in charge of a tax collector or pedlar, with instructions that the missive is to be placed in a little pouch in the ring of the dog's collar. This done, the dog is let loose, and proceeds home with the mail to his master.

In Turkey, it is said that the sacks containing the letters for distribution lie for weeks at a time in the office, waiting in fact until the local Cadi finds it convenient to hand them over to the lowest bidder who will undertake to deliver them within a certain number of days to the Cadi of the town for which they are destined. This the man chosen (who is usually a mountaineer) promises to do "if Allah wills." But should he think fit to visit his relatives for a few days the people have to wait for their letters until he has finished his little holiday.

We read that in the Corea a very primitive mode of carrying the mails is still adhered to, viz., the delivery by ox waggon, which is said to be the slowest method of locomotion to be found.

In China the letters of a mandarin are delivered by a special courier, who is sometimes accompanied by a military escort.

M. V. C. Nuttall.

The Question of Colour Standards.

The question of a standard colour nomenclature in catalogue and album manufacture has long been a mooted one. And this is small wonder when the Standard Cataloguers will persist in using such terms as "lake" and "stone" as the final designation of colour. The "lake" Newfoundlands, so called, might be green or brown, and still be "lake"; and the stamps of Thurn and Taxis, which are called stone by the cataloguers, should be, according to other standards, a kind of bluish-gray, which they certainly are not. These are only random examples of almost universally bad colour naming.

Take for example the English term "azure," usually applied to a bluish-gray paper, interspersed with black "thread" particles, The colour name clearly is misleading and irrelevant.

But perhaps the greatest difficulty which cataloguers experience may be found in the colours ranging in the spectrum between blue and red, involving such shades and tints as lavender, purple, mauve, magenta, maroon, lilac, etc.

It is a generally accepted fact that colour cannot be described except in terms of itself, and that shades and tints may be determined and defined only from a genetic standpoint. That is, we may tell how a hue, tint, or shade may *be made* by the blending of definite proportions of certain standard primary colours, and defining their combination with stated proportions of white or black; but we cannot tell what a colour is like. It is merely like itself.

A very complete and practical system of instruction in colour is now in force in our public schools, and one of the instruments used by the instructors is the "colour wheel," which mechanically produces by the whirling of primary colours on a graded disc in proper proportions, the various hues desired. Tints and shades are further deduced by the adjustment of proportions of white and black respectively. Each child is likewise provided with a small top containing all the necessary mechanism for the same interesting work, and is taught to distinguish colours by the proportions of their components. These small tops cost, perhaps, ten cents each, and ought to be within the reach of the average collector.

Would it not be a good scheme, then, for the cataloguers also to buy a top or a colour wheel, which is likewise comparatively inexpensive, and then by experiment to arrive at some genetic scheme for colour distinction? An accurate knowledge of the exact colour of every stamp in existence could then be had. Some very interesting facts, at any rate, would come out in colour study of this sort.—*Eastern Philatelist.*

How to encourage Small Collectors.

At the risk of quoting too much from our esteemed contemporary the *Eastern Philatelist*, we cannot refrain from reproducing the following extract, which refers to the advancement of stamp collecting by encouraging boys and girls at school to spend their pocket

money in that direction. For ourselves we find that most boys collect stamps at some time of their schoolboy career :—

"The best scheme, that we know of, would be to give away to school children in cities (and adjacent towns) where dealers are located, small packages of stamps illustrating geographical facts. We have discussed this plan with educational people, public school instructors, and the like, and have received universal encouragement. Of course the envelopes enclosing the stamps would be inscribed with the name of the local dealer and would inevitably lead to closer acquaintance, and gain to him, as well as to philately at large, in the end."

Foreign Postmarks on British Stamps.

We learn from *Mekeel's Weekly* that at the meeting of the Chicago Philatelic Society, on November 3rd, Mr. J. M. Andreini exhibited his collection of British stamps with American cancellations. Among his latest additions Mr. Andreini has acquired British stamps with postmarks of Kingston (Jamaica), Peru, and Mexico, and his collection includes obliterations from almost every part of America.

Looking back about fifteen years, more or less, we remember such things being comparatively common. We ourselves have had many letters from Peru, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and other South American States, franked with English stamps, in the days when the postage was one shilling for each half-ounce, when the local governments had no system of their own, and British post offices were established in Lima, Callao, San Juan, St. Thomas, and other towns. Such a collection *must* be interesting, from a Philatelic point of view, if for no other reason than because it reflects the past postal history of certain countries, a history which in itself is unique, and will always remain so. Henceforth we have "Imperial penny postage." As we wrote many years ago, this Imperial penny post is only the forerunner of what is sure to happen, the *universal* penny postage. Reminiscences are rather out of place in a Philatelic Magazine, but we cannot help contrasting the old with the new. Some years ago a letter from the West Indies or South America was a rarity, the postage, as already mentioned, was one shilling per half-ounce, and we have paid many hundreds of these shillings, and multiples of them, for letters to Costa Rica, Guatemala, Barbados, Nicaragua, and any number of other places. Now, instead of a rarity, the average 2½d. letter takes up too much time ; but what will it be in the future ?

Stamp folk must not imagine that the consistent study of stamps or that specialism is wholly the growth of the last five or ten years. The high-class philatelic magazines of twenty-five years ago contained exhaustive special articles and various complete lists of, for instance, tobacco, spirit, etc., stamps that are but little collected to day.—*Mekeel's Weekly.*

The man who gives away a few varieties of stamps on every possible occasion to encourage possible collectors does more practical good to philately than he who writes articles proclaiming the pleasures of philately.—*Mekeel's Weekly.*

According to a newspaper, the local post-office handled a letter from the Philippines on which the postage amounted to $8.56. As the package was sent by a soldier stationed there, it was carried at the rate of two cents an ounce. It weighed twenty-six pounds and twelve ounces and was prepaid by 107 eight cent stamps, the highest denomination that Uncle Sam has in his newly-acquired colony.—*Mekeel's Weekly.*



Scientific Philately.

The Curator of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences has sent us the following interesting letter :—

"174, Montague Street,
"Brooklyn-New York, *Nov. 28th*, 1898.

"The *Philatelic Record*,
"Messrs. Buhl & Co., Ltd.,
"11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

"Gentlemen.—The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences—a public institution of the highest standing and reputation among scientific societies the world over—has established a department known as the 'Section on Philately,' merging with it as a foundation the Long Island Philatelic Society of Brooklyn, having for its object, in the words of its Constitution, 'to promote and encourage the study of Postage and Revenue Stamps, the establishment of a Philatelic Library, and the formation of a permanent collection of the stamps of the world for the Institute.'

"Thus, for the first time, so far as we are able to learn, Philately has been recognized by a great scientific institution—a recognition which philatelists have been seeking for years—and takes its place among the arts and sciences, acknowledged by the trustees of a great institution as being worthy to be classed among them.

"With a view to establishing a permanent Philatelic Library for the Institute for the use of philatelists who desire complete information on the subject, we would thank you very much if you would send regularly to the Curator copies of the *Philatelic Record*.

"The Scott Stamp and Coin Company, Limited, were the first to generously respond to our call for philatelic literature, by presenting us with a complete set of bound volumes of the *American Journal of Philately* from its beginning. If you are willing to present the section with any bound volumes of the *Philatelic Record*, or other literature, the gift would be most acceptable, and highly appreciated. The names of contributors to the library and institute collection will appear in the handsome Year Book of the Institute. All literature and stamps intended for the section should be sent to the Curator at above address.

"Thanking you in advance for any courtesy you may be able to extend to us, I am,

"Very respectfully,
"John D. Carberry,
"*Curator*."

Private address of Curator, 1206, Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Philatelic Societies.

CENTRAL PHILATELIC CLUB.

A Special meeting of the members was held on Thursday, 17th November, at 8 p.m., for the election of a committee to make arrangements with reference to the Exchange packets and other important business.

After some discussion a proposition was put to the meeting that the new committee were to consist for the present of five members, the said committee when elected to have power, if necessary, to add to their number, also to fill up any vacancies that may occur during their term of office.

The following gentlemen were elected to serve as officers on the committee: Messrs. W. L. Dracachis, F. B. Carr, H. Atherley, D. Thomson, and T. Nops.

The Committee were then empowered to draw up a revised set of rules both general and for the Exchange packets, and after their meeting, and decision, to report progress at the next general meeting, to be held on Monday, 5th December.

Monday, Nov. 14th, was a special night for members and their friends of the Central Philatelic Club, a smoking concert having been organized by the management of the Imperial Club, to which all members of the Central Philatelic Club were invited free.

The concert was a great success, the large reading room, which was specially fitted up for the purpose, being crowded. It is proposed to hold further concerts of a similar nature during the winter season. Future dates will be duly announced.

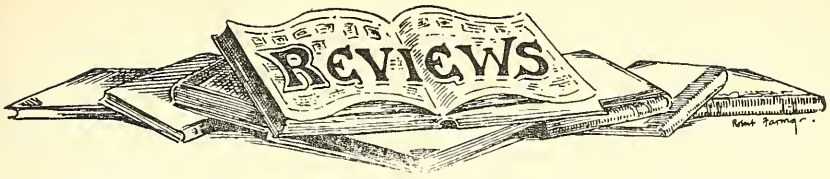
At the next meeting the Secretary, Mr. C. Forbes, gave a few notes, with display, on the Stamps of "Persia."

Applications for membership and all enquiries respecting the Club to be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. C. Forbes.

"International Philatelic Union."

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS.

Jan. 18—Display and Paper, "Persia," Mr. C. Forbes.
Feb. 15—Display and Paper, "Fiscals," Mr. H. Thompson.
Mar. 15—Display, "Servia," The President, Mr. H. R. Oldfield.
Apl. 19—Display, Mr. Joselin.
May 17—Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, and Paper or Display, to be announced.



Stanley Gibbons' Priced Catalogue, 1899.

PART I. BRITISH EMPIRE.

ALTHOUGH only a few days have elapsed since we were favoured with a copy of the new edition of Gibbons' Catalogue, we have heard it very much criticised, but such criticism has been entirely confined to the prices, and not to the book as a catalogue. Looking upon it as a catalogue, and not as a priced list, we must unhesitatingly pronounce it to be a considerable improvement on the previous issue. There are many more pages, but the paper being thinner, it still makes a handy pocket volume. Amongst the new features are illustrations of the stamps of Great Britain, which, by the courtesy of the officials, now appear for the first time after many years; but what strikes us most are the interesting and copious explanatory notes, not only in Great Britain itself, but in many of the Colonies. We observe that the more or less blued paper of the early 1d. and 2d. Great Britain is now ascribed to action caused by the colouring matter and the paper, and the authors dismiss the old theory of the gum, with the laconic remark that the "gum has nothing to do with it."

Heligoland appears to be especially well written up, and the same may be said of all the stamps of India surcharged for use in native States, which appear to be entirely rewritten, and many hitherto unchronicled varieties added. The same applies to the native States, such as Bamra, Bhopal, and Cashmere, the difference between the dies 1 and 2 of the first issue of the latter country now being illustrated. We notice that the small surcharge, "British East Africa," on the high values of India, are not catalogued, the authors remarking that, as far as they know, "these were *not issued* for postal purposes." We think there is a mistake here, as we have ourselves seen them on entire letters, showing that they undoubtedly paid postage; and from correspondence that has been shown us it is stated that they were an issue of November 10th, 1895. In Morocco Agencies surcharged on Gibraltar we find that the 40c. is inadvertently omitted.

In New Brunswick we notice a paragraph which is distinctly new to us, namely, that the 3d., 6d., and 1/- first issue were reprinted in 1890; and the same remark appears with the four first stamps of Nova Scotia.

There are hundreds of similar interesting notes, which we have no space to quote here. Throughout the work the surcharges are splendidly illustrated, and but for a few slight errors, that must creep into a work of such importance, we have no fault whatever to find with the book.

When we come to the question of prices, opinions appear to be very much divided. In many cases important reductions have been made, especially in used stamps, but there are also corresponding increases in others. We have it from the publishers themselves, that the prices are the actual figures at which they sell the stamps at the time of the publication of the catalogue, and, with hardly an exception, every stamp is in stock. Those who complain mostly of the reductions are dealers who sell under catalogue, but we do not see why anyone should complain at Messrs. Gibbons offering their stamps at the prices at which they are prepared to sell them. Nothwithstanding any reduction that may be in the new catalogue, the *market value* of the stamps is just the same as before the catalogue appeared, the only difference, to our mind, being that those dealers who have been in the habit of giving large discounts off catalogue prices, will be compelled to reduce the discount thus offered, the effect being to make the catalogue a more reliable guide than formerly.

We repeat that, to our minds, the market value is not in the least affected. Amongst important reductions, we notice the 1d. Bahamas, imperf., unused, has been reduced from 17/6 to 10/-, and the Barbados 5/- rose, from 60/- to 40/-, the latter appearing, to us, to be rather below its market value.

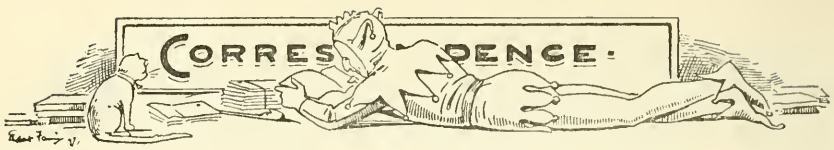
Africans, generally, are "up" rather than "down," especially the Company stamps, and yet there are some which we should not mind purchasing at the new catalogue prices.

We may refer to the book again in our next number when we have had time to further study some of the details, but, on the whole, we consider it satisfactory.

A Magazine for Beginners.

AMONGST the many philatelic journals received by us, we have more than once noticed *The Junior Stamp Collector*, which is published in Birmingham, and is intended for the small collector who is not yet up to the stage of specialism or fancy varieties. The December number contains the following paragraph:—

"If only more would realise that the "Junior" collector of to-day is to be the advanced collector and specialist of to-morrow, and if dealers would do more to discourage speculators and encourage beginners, then philately in general would make much better progress. One who gives a helping hand to recruits is far better than he who introduces into the philatelic circle a speculator who may spend a fortune."



Duty on Stamps at the Cape.

To the Editor of "The Philatelic Record."

DEAR SIR,—I notice in the *Philatelic Record* of October that a Cape Town correspondent advises to send stamps in small parcels in order to avoid having to pay duty. For such very dangerous proceedings there is fortunately no further cause. I received lately a large parcel of stamps from an English dealer to select from, and the Customs office wanted me to pay £9 duty. I strongly protested, of course, as such a charge had never before been imposed upon me. After some correspondence and explanations, I received the enclosed letter, which you may, with any part of this letter you choose, publish in the *Philatelic Record* for the information of fellow collectors and dealers. I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully, A. A. ANDREWS.

GRAAFF REINET, *Oct.* 28, 1898.

"DUTY CHARGED ON POSTAGE STAMPS, &c.

"SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inform you that it has been decided to admit postage stamps free of duty, under item No. 80 of the Customs Union Tariff, as 'engravings or lithographs.'

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. W. HONEY,

"*for Collector of Customs.*

"CUSTOMS HOUSE, CAPE TOWN, *Sept.* 27, 1898.

"Mr. A. A. Andrews, Graaff Reinet"

The Album Question.

To the Editor of "The Philatelic Record."

DEAR SIR,—I beg to thank you for your letter of 18th October, with sample album sheet and copy *Philatelic Record* for March, 1897. I take the *Record* always; it is an excellent magazine.

As regards the Album, I am hoping to be in London early next year, and (though I want new albums badly) I do not propose doing anything until I have a look round at home.

It is a huge mystery to me why some philatelic publishing firm does not bring out catalogued albums for fairly advanced collectors. The Imperial is splendid as far as it goes; but it misses the needs of a general collector, say, of ten thousand stamps. Something more elaborate is needed, and it should be provided soon. Mr. Skipton's British Empire Album showed the way, but I hear that has stopped. Plain albums are capital for the pure *specialist*; but how am I, for instance, to fix up twelve or fourteen thousand stamps in plain albums? The Imperial stops short at standard varieties.

Yours faithfully,

W. CORFIELD.

CALCUTTA. *9th November*, 1898.

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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Enquiries connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Messrs. BUHL & CO., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

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

All letters for the editor should be addressed: The Editor, Philatelic Record, care of Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

FEBRUARY, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

THE "slaughter of the innocents" appears to be the principal philatelic topic this month. It was started by Mr. C. J. Phillips in the *Monthly Journal*, with a warning note to auctioneers as to the way stamps are often described, the cause of the article being the many absurdly low prices at which valuable stamps were "knocked down" at the sale of the collection of the late Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch of Russia. It was taken up by Mr. Castle in the *London Philatelist*, who returns to the charge in the January number. Mr. Castle's arguments are Mr. Phillips' arguments, and they consist of a plea, or a warning—whichever you like to call it—to the auctioneers to improve the descriptions in their catalogues, and to publish those catalogues earlier. As to the latter point, we believe every one of the six London auctioneers transgresses at some time or another, some much oftener than others; but as regards the former it is much more a case of the individual ability, knowledge, or carefulness of the cataloguer. We will give you a little true story that has happened this season. A few months ago a lot was purchased at a certain auction for £4 17s. 6d. The purchaser kept it a month or two, and not knowing what to do with it, or for reasons best known to himself, he gave it to the same auctioneers to be included in a future sale. This was duly done, and this time he bought it in for 34s.!! Now comes the sequel. Without disclosing anything of the above, he gave it to another firm of auctioneers, who included it in one of their sales, and it was bought by an eminent dealer for £16 10s.!! Remember it was only a block of four stamps, and it could not have *improved* by being bandied about for several months and during three sales. Now who will account for this? While our readers are pondering we will provide another true story of prices and descriptions, also quite recent. In a certain auction catalogue appeared the following two lots:—

Auction Prices and Descriptions.

AUSTRIAN ITALY: 1861, 5 and 15 soldi, unused, with part gum, latter clipped - - - - - - 2

BADEN: 1862. perf. 13½, 3kr. rose, unused and fine with part gum (see photo) - - - - - 1

Both these lots were purchased by an agent, on behalf of a collector, at very low prices—7s. for the first lot and 11s. for the second, making a total of 18s.; not dear, you will say, when the Baden alone would have been very cheap at £1 to £2.

Now for the other side of the picture. The stamps *never left the auctioneer's possession.* For private reasons the purchaser did not clear the lots in sufficient time to satisfy the auctioneers, so that exactly ten weeks later they were again offered for sale by the same auctioneers, in whose possession they had been ever since, and this time they appeared in the catalogue as *one* lot, and described as follows:—

AUSTRIAN ITALY: 1861, 5 soldi red, and 15 soldi brown, unused with gum, but latter clipped; and BADEN, 1862, perf., 13½, 3kr. rose, unused, damaged - - - - 3

And the lot was knocked down for five shillings. Somehow in the interval the 5 soldi Austrian Italy had regained the other part of its gum, while the Baden had lost it, in addition to becoming damaged. Why they were put together in one lot, with the best stamp last, is not for us to discuss here. The original purchaser is supposed to pay 13s. 6d. difference, whereas someone else gets a lot at less than one quarter its value at his expense, and not through his fault.

* * *

Governments as Stamp Dealers.

Just as we go to press the startling announcement reaches us from a reliable source that the United States Post Office Department have decided to sell the remainders of the newspaper (periodical) stamps from 1 cent to $100.

Remainders have been sold by Governments on many occasions, and we see no harm in that, provided these remainders are sold *en bloc* to a dealer or to one individual, leaving it to him to retail them at his leisure, just as the Leeward Islands, the Fiji, St. Helena, and others were disposed of; but our reason for using the word "startling" is that they are to be placed on sale in some of the large cities, and at *five dollars per set.* A certain number of sets are to be on sale, of which the public will be advised, after which the plates will be destroyed, so that it appears there is even a possibility of reprinting.

The Attorney-General of the Department has decided that it is lawful for the Postmaster-General to sell these stamps for less than face value, in fact he can sell them for any price he likes, as they are obsolete.

Those who have purchased these sets at face value (about £35), and even those who have purchased at the more modern prices of from £10 to £20, must feel much annoyed at such a procedure, as the price can do no good to the U.S. Post Office, or to the stamp dealers, or to any collectors except the limited number who will purchase a set because it is cheap. The dealers are *not* likely to buy many, as it is known at what price they can be bought. We have to thank the *Weekly Philatelic Era* for much of this information.

* * *

U.S. and Spanish Colonies.

Our readers may have noticed that we have not chronicled many of the provisionals for the various ex-Spanish Colonies. The reason is that we find and hear of so many varieties from all quarters that the matter has got a little bit confused, so we are making up a complete list, that is to say as far as we can make it so, and we want our readers to help us by sending us specimens or information of everything philatelic pertaining to the Hispano-American War. We want United States with surcharges for Cuba, &c., Cuban stamps with U.S. surcharges, Cuban, Porto Rico, and Philippines, with "Habilitado," or other surcharges; in fact anything provisional of these Colonies of recent date, and we shall return any stamps and our thanks to those who kindly help us.

Our Portrait Gallery.



MR. ROBERT EHRENBACH.

Editorial Interviews.

BY THEODOR BUHL.

MR. ROBERT EHRENBACH.

ALMOST everyone who reads the philatelic journals has heard of Mr. Robert Ehrenbach, who has been one of the most prominent and energetic collectors for many years. We have had the honour of his acquaintance, both in England and Germany, from the very first moment that we took an interest in philately; in fact, Mr. Ehrenbach was the first collector that called on us when we started business nearly twenty years ago. He has collected in various ways, and has written many important papers and articles on different philatelic subjects, always showing the keenest insight into detail. As an instance we may mention the recently-published article on the first issue 2sk., Denmark, in the *London Philatelist*, which created much discussion amongst the members of the London Philatelic Society and caused His Royal Highness the Duke of York to make personal researches on the subject. Like most busy men, Mr. Ehrenbach, who is in the shipping trade, is not easy to be interviewed. The late Editor of the *Record* succeeded in writing an interview and obtaining Mr. Ehrenbach's photograph (which we give away with this number), but unfortunately the notes were lost, and it therefore fell to our lot to repeat the dose.

Mr. Ehrenbach formerly resided in the North-West of London, but now lives at Addlestone, in Surrey; but we found him one recent morning at his City offices, very much occupied but still willing to spare us a few minutes.

In answer to our first question, our subject informed us that he was born in Bradford in 1858, but he shares Mr. Peckitt's objection to give the exact date.

Our next question was, "When did you first collect stamps?"

"I started as a school-boy, and have kept it up ever since."

"When did you first take up philately seriously?"

"When I was about 18 or 20. I then had a general collection, but preferred used stamps."

"And when did you commence 'specializing'?"

"My first 'specialist's' collection was Australians, which I started when I was over there in 1886."

"And that you sold by auction?"

"Yes; in 1891 or 1892. I sold a few of the best things privately, and the remainder realised about £1,400 under the hammer."

"And after that?"

"I collected old German States, used and unused, which I subsequently sold for £6,000."

"At that time, I believe, you had another collection running?"

"Yes, unused Europeans, one of each; and I then started specializing in several European countries, such as Austria, Scandinavia, Holland, Belgium, and Russia."

"There was to have been another country?" we enquired, with some hesitation.

"You refer to Portugal, I suppose," said Mr. Ehrenbach. "I bought a fine lot of Portuguese stamps in Lisbon, and, as you know, they were stolen while I was travelling in Morocco."

"And what do you collect at present?"

"South American States: Buenos Ayres, Brazil, Uruguay, and Dominican Republic."

"I believe you have a number of the 4 and 5 pesos of Buenos Ayres?"

"About 20," said Mr. Ehrenbach, carelessly, without any remorse or sympathy for the poor collectors who cannot even get one of these rarities.

"And how about your collection of Columbia and States?"

"I sold that recently."

"And now, what is your opinion of the future?"

"I believe they will start to boom Brazil, and one or two of the hitherto neglected countries."

That was all; but Mr. Ehrenbach, who is an active member of the London and many other Philatelic Societies, is seldom wrong.

Imperial Penny Post.

IN addition to the colonies mentioned in our last number, the Imperial Penny Post has now been extended to the following:—

Ascension,
Barbados,
Bermuda,
British Guiana,
British Honduras,
India,
Malay States (Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Johore, and Pahang),
Niger Territory,
Sarawak.

The Australian Colonies, Cape Colony, British North Borneo, and British Bechuanaland have not yet joined.

A Strange Find.

It was stated recently that an important discovery of stamps had been made at the General Post Office in the department occupied by the secretary and his chief officials. The story was to the effect that while the premises were being overhauled and placed in a state of repair for the new secretary, the men came upon a great number of stamps, many of them of comparatively ancient date—1841 for example. Amongst them were a number of the black penny variety so dear to the heart of the juvenile philatelist, and now becoming somewhat difficult of acquisition. There were, it is said, other varieties of equal interest; also some Mulready envelopes. One authority placed the value of the stamps at several thousands of pounds. Yesterday afternoon our representative made a special inquiry on the subject at the office of the chief of the stamps department. The only information, however, which the officials would furnish was, "We have no communication to make on the matter." At the same time no denial was given to the specific statement that an important discovery of stamps of considerable value had recently been made.

Notes on the 2 Rigsbank Skilling (Blue) Stamp of Denmark,

EMBODYING A COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

READ BY THE HON. SECRETARY AT A MEETING OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 1898.

From the *London Philatelist.*

I HAVE the honour of being entrusted with a communication from our President on the subject of the 2 Rigsbank Skilling (blue) stamp of Denmark.

It will be in the recollection of members that in the course of last season a paper on these stamps was read by Mr. R. Ehrenbach at a meeting of the Society, having for its object the consideration of the question of the types and varieties which were said to exist, and the possibility of "plating" the stamps.

Various points of distinction were described, and in regard to the marks to which attention was called in certain of the stamps, it was stated that they were "caused probably by the engraver's tools," while suggestions were made as to the probable mode of the production and setting-up of the plate.

Although a large number of the members who heard the paper read did not agree with the deductions formed by the author, it was felt that an interesting question had been raised which called for further investigation, and the paper was subsequently criticised by Mr. E. D. Bacon in the *London Philatelist* for April of the present year.

The whole question is obviously one which depends upon the precise methods employed in the manufacture and production of the stamps, and our President thought that it might prove of interest to members of the Society if some authoritative information could be obtained on the subject.

Accordingly, taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by his visit to Denmark in the early part of September last, his Royal Highness caused inquiries to be made from the postal authorities in Copenhagen.

Owing to the temporary absence of the official competent to give the desired information, our President, before returning to England, prepared and left for the consideration of the official referred to a series of questions, having for their object the elucidation of the matters upon which the question as to "types" most largely depends.

The questions so propounded, with the answers which have recently been received, are :—

Questions as to the first stamp of Denmark—the 2 Rigsbank Skilling (blue). Issue 1851.	*Answers.*
1. Was more than one original die used? In what manner was the die made or engraved? And what material was used for the purpose?	1. In the manufacture of this stamp *one* original die only was used. It was engraved on steel.

Questions, etc.	*Answers.*
2. What method was employed in reproducing impressions for making the plates?	2 and 3. From this die a matrix was produced in plaster for making the plates. From an examination of the plates, which are preserved in the General Post Office in Copenhagen, there is no doubt that ten of these matrices were joined together in one block (in five rows of two stamps each), and that the plates were cast on the block by stereotype process.
3. What process was used in manufacturing the plates from which the stamps were printed?	Ten of the plates so produced—in type-metal (a composition of lead, tin, and antimony)—were used to make the printing plate. These were soldered together and mounted on a mahogany bed, and framed also in mahogany.
4. Were the figures and words in the centre of the stamp, for denoting the value, inserted in the original die or dies, or added to the impressions taken for making the plates, or to the plates themselves, and if so, by what process?	4. The figures and words in the centre of the stamp are engraved on the original die.

From these details it would seem clear that there cannot be "types," properly so-called, of the stamps in question; and the facts which our President has been the means of ascertaining demonstrate clearly the accuracy of observation displayed by Mr. E. D. Bacon in his remarks on Mr. Ehrenbach's paper to which I have referred.

I am desired, in conclusion, to assure the members of the pleasure which it affords his Royal Highness to be able to assist in the deliberations of the Society, and to express the hope that the information which has been obtained may be considered of some use in the determination of the questions to which it relates.

[We are confident that the foregoing interesting Philatelic Note, which was communicated to the members of the London Philatelic Society as the direct outcome of the personal researches made by its President, will be eagerly welcomed by all who take any interest in stamp collecting. It evinces beyond doubt that the presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of York is not merely perfunctory, but that he takes an abiding and keen interest in the more scientific aspect of the pursuit, a point that it is necessary to sometimes belabour, in view of the many unfounded statements that creep into a credulous Press. As an instance hereof we may cite the case of an influential provincial journal which, as recently as November 13th, gravely announced the retirement of his Royal Highness from Philately, and the sale of his collection, the proceeds to be devoted to philanthropic purposes! The result of the Duke of York's inquiries fitly terminates the very interesting discussion that has ranged round the question of "types" or the variations of the 2 R. B. S. of Denmark, and places on record the exact cause of the varieties that occur. The fact that the plaster casts were used for reproduction from the matrix is very interesting, as it at once indicates how the differences in the shape of the figure "2" arose, viz., that in the case of divergence the plaster failed to fill in entirely some portions of the die of the numeral, and that these being reproduced in blocks of ten, constituted the varieties that recurred regularly on the plate. The entire question has been one both of interest and utility, and the successful entrance of the President into the arena of discussion will be hailed by all Philatelists as the happiest of *dénouemnets*.—Ed.]

The Calcutta Philatelic Exhibition.

(From the *Statesman*.)

THE Fourth Public Exhibition of Stamps held in Calcutta is now arranged in the southern portion of the Art Gallery annexe of the Imperial Museum, Chowringhee, and fully equals, if it does not indeed surpass, any of its predecessors in interest and variety. It will be open to the public to-morrow, December 26th, at 11 a.m., and will remain on view until Thursday evening next, a charge of one rupee being made for admission. A preliminary inspection of the exhibits shows that those who are interested in the beautiful pursuit of philately may derive much enjoyment from a visit to one of the most attractive philatelic displays ever brought together. Stamp exhibitions are becoming more and more popular each year. That in London in the summer of 1897 has been followed by another at Birmingham only this month, and as Manchester is arranging for a third on a large scale in June or July next, Calcutta may be congratulated upon falling well into line with three leading philatelic centres of the British Empire. The Philatelic Society of India (the successor to the Philatelic Society of Bengal) numbers 118 members. Its journal, edited by Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, has already a world-wide reputation of a high order, and as in future it will be on sale to the public, its circulation and influence should greatly increase. The literary output of the Society has so far been admirable. Two hand-books by the President on the surcharged stamps of Chamba, Faridkhot, and Gwalior and Jhind, Nabha and Patiala have already appeared under its auspices, a third on Bhopal is in the press, and there is further in contemplation an important work on the Imperial stamps of India. For the first time in an Indian exhibition, fiscal stamps are now on view, and the telegraphs of India and Ceylon are also fairly represented. The exhibitors are all members of the Society—two of them, Major Evans, the distinguished editor of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal*, and Mr. Dorning Becton, President of the Manchester Society, sending magnificent contributions of Bhopals, Jhinds, and Japans from England. In spite of these brilliant exceptions, however, it is much to be feared that the unreasonably persisted-in regulations of the Indian Customs authorities have again somewhat restricted the scope of the exhibitions as regards foreign exhibits. Silver and bronze medals (bearing the well-known design of the lion and palm tree) are at the disposal of expert judges for competition in 15 classes. The awards will probably be published on Tuesday.

The following (according to the Official Catalogue) are the countries arranged in the classes selected for exhibition :—

Class I.—Afghanistan and Cashmere—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class II.—Any two from the following group of Native States: Hyderabad, Travancore, Jhind (native issues only), Soruth, Bhopal—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class III.—Not more than two from the following group of British Indian stamps surcharged : Jhind, Nabha, Patiala—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class IV.—Great Britain—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class V.—Not more than two from the following Colonies :—Heligoland, Malta, Hongkong, Straits Settlements (excluding Native States)—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class VI.—Not more than two from the following : Cape of Good Hope, Natal, British Bechuanaland—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class VII.—Not more than two from the following : Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class VIII.—One from each of the following sub-classes A and B : (A) Bahamas, Grenada, Trinidad, Turks Islands ; (B) Montserrat, St. Christopher, Tobago, Virgin Islands—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class IX.—Not more than two from the following : New South Wales, Tasmania, Fiji, South Australia—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class X.—Not more than two from the following : Switzerland, Austria, Hungary—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class XI.—One from the following : Japan, Philippine Islands—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

Class XII.—The United States of America—1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal.

SPECIAL.

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

2. The best exhibit of adhesive fiscal stamps (excluding telegraph stamps) of Great Britain or of India and Ceylon—1 Silver Medal.

3. The best exhibit of telegraph stamps of India and Ceylon—1 Silver Medal.

The exhibits are as follows : Class 1.—Captain F. H. Hancock, Afghanistan ; D. P. Masson, Cashmere. Class II.—Major E. B. Evans, Bhopal and Jhind. Class III.—T. E. Madden, Jhind and Patiala ; C. Stewart-Wilson, Jhind and Patiala. Class IV.—T. E. Madden, Great Britain. Class V.—C. Stewart-Wilson, Hongkong and Straits Settlements. Class VI.—C. F. Larmour, Cape of Good Hope ; Goodwin Norman, Cape of Good Hope. Class VII.—C. F. Larmour, Canada and Newfoundland ; Goodwin Norman, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Class VIII.—C. F. Larmour, Trinidad and Virgin Islands ; Goodwin Norman, Turks Islands and Virgin Islands ; C. Stewart-Wilson, Grenada and Montserrat. Class IX.—C. F. Larmour, New South Wales and South Australia. Class X.—Goodwin Norman, Switzerland ; F. N. Schiller, Switzerland. Class XI.—W. Dorning Beckton, Japan ; Goodwin Norman, Philippines. Class XII.—W. Corfield, United States of America ; T. E. Madden, United States of America.

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

Some recent issues.—W. Corfield.

The Committee of Management are as follows :—Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, President of the Society ; Lady Collen, Vice-President ; G. A. Anderson, Calcutta ; Major L. E. Du Moulin, Amritsar; Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. A. Harris, I. M. S., Calcutta ; Mr. W. James, Calcutta ; Mr. C. F. Larmour, Calcutta ; Mr. A. A. Lyall, Calcutta ; Professor O. V. Muller, Bombay ; Mr. E. Sassoon-Gubbay, Calcutta ; Mr. F. N. Schiller, Calcutta ; Mr. W. Corfield, honorary treasurer of the Society ; Mr. P. Aylwin Selfe, honorary secretary of the Society.

The Stamps of Persia.

BY
C. FORBES (Secretary and Librarian, the Central Philatelic Club).

(Continued from page 11.)

IN the second place, the crude postal organization at that time in force did not even allow the stamps to have control over the revenue derived from the transit and delivery of letters, &c., although postal communications were transmitted by the Government carriers; the revenue derived from the sale of the stamps was divided amongst the Governors of the various towns through which the mails passed, and the higher officials connected with the postal administration. For instance, on the chief road between Teheran and Tabriz the controller of the postal service, or as we should call him the Postmaster General, sold the right of collecting the letters, &c., to the Governors of the various towns on the road; these in turn sub-let them to Persian merchants, and they in their turn authorised the carriers to sell the stamps to those who wished to buy, and to collect and deliver all letters entrusted to their keeping.

The stamps, however, in the majority of cases, were not affixed to the letters, but were re-sold over and over again, payment being demanded from the receivers when delivering the letters. They had also no means of cancelling any of the stamps, for when the system of collecting the tolls on letters by means of stamps was first started by the Shah, such a thing as a post-marking or cancelling machine was quite forgotten, and after about twelve months it was seen how useless the stamps were, and they were finally withdrawn from use in the early part of 1871. Thus the first attempt on the part of Persia to organise a postal system proved to be a disastrous and dismal failure.

Collectors of this issue should beware of stamps that bear cancellations of any kind, as the post marks are always forgeries.

For several years the service was allowed to remain in abeyance, communications between the inhabitants of the different towns being carried on with extreme difficulty and great delay.

In the early part of 1875, about four years after the abandonment of the first issue, the Austrian postal authorities were broached on the subject by the Persian officials by order of the Shah, the result being that Mr. Riederer, a high official in the Austrian postal service at Vienna, was sent by the Government to Teheran, together with a number of subordinates, the result being that Mr. Riederer, in August of that year, was finally entrusted by the Persian Government to organise a postal system on the basis of the one in use in his own country.

The copper-plate dies brought from Paris in 1868, which had been used for printing the issue of 1870, and which had up till now been stored away in the Shah's palace, were entrusted to Mr. Riederer, and he was asked to manufacture, as soon as possible, new stamps from these dies. At the same time he was shown a quantity of the early printings which had been produced by means of these plates.

The remainders of the 1870 issue were destroyed by Mr. Riederer.

The Austrian Adviser immediately set to work, and in a very short time had printed and ready for use about 120,000 stamps in various colours. Before, however, the dies were used he had inserted under the belly of the lion figures to denote the different values of the stamps.

As the figures were inserted by hand on each of the dies, they consequently differ slightly from one another; we get through this four different type or die varieties of each of the four values.

The insertion of the figures of value was done—

Firstly, to prevent the fraudulent use of the 1870 issue;

Secondly, to more easily distinguish the various values from one another.

The stamps were printed at Teheran by, it is believed, a Scotchman named McLachlan.

Of the 120,000 stamps, about one-third were the 1 shahi black;

One-quarter of the number 2 shahi blue;

And the rest about 20,000 of each, 4 shahi vermilion, and 8 shahi green.

There are a number of shades in the colours, such as

1 Shahi black, grey black.
2 Shahi blue, pale blue, ultramarine.
4 Shahi vermilion, and dull red.
8 Shahi green, pale green, and yellow green.

Various kinds of paper were used, varying from very thick to thin, laid and wove, etc.

The following extract from a letter from the Austrian Adviser, dated from Teheran in the latter part of the year to the *Gazette* at Linz, gives a short and interesting account of his work:—

"After a lot of hard work and trouble on the part of myself and the co-operation of my European colleagues, to which I must admit that owing to their perseverance and energy the largest amount of credit and thanks are due, I have succeeded in preparing by means of a hand press and its simplest process a quantity of postage stamps which I think will be sufficient for the present, and although I have had very poor dies to print from, and very few tools to work with, I am pleased to say that I think I have succeeded in getting the stamps in a condition ready to be sold to the public, the greater part of the work having had to be done by hand, as we had no means of gumming the stamps or perforating them in any way.

"I have had trained a small staff of Persian students able to decipher addresses written in French or English, and have had them drafted to the various towns where the postal service has been established, and I can say with a certain amount of confidence and pride that a postal service is now carried on with a certain amount of regularity between the town of Teheran and suburbs, together with the villages of the Shemiran, where the better class of the inhabitants spend the summer."

From the above extract it will be seen that Mr. Riederer lost no time in getting the stamps ready for use, and having them distributed as soon as possible.

For this purpose a carrier on horseback, with a special uniform and horn, was appointed, who started from Teheran in early morning, making his way first to the Palace of the Shah, after which he took a tour round the town and suburbs of Teheran, supplying postage stamps to those who required them, collected letters for Teheran and other towns within his district, and at the same time delivered those he had in his possession to the people in the various towns and villages through which he passed.

By October, 1875, the post was extended to the town of Rescht, on the Caspian Sea, and I believe as far as Bayazid, on the Turkish Frontier.

The first post office was, so far as I have been able to obtain information, established near the residence of the Shah; this was followed by the opening of offices at Rescht, Tabriz, Kasveen, and Zinjan.

From these offices letters destined for Europe were sent; they were transmitted by carriers to the post offices on the Russian Frontier, the Russians then taking charge of the letters, and forwarding them to Europe.

In June, 1876, the toll of 5 shahi, which was first charged on all letters delivered in Teheran and the surrounding villages, was reduced to 2 shahi, when the postal service was then completed.

I now propose to give my readers two further extracts from letters written by Mr. Riederer to different papers, which I think will prove of great interest.

The first extract, which I shall call letter No. 2, was written by him to the editor of the *Neue Freie Presse* at Vienna, from which I take the following paragraphs :—

"I am now pleased to say that I am in a position to fulfil a promise made a good time back.

"At the present time Persia possesses a Postal Administration, and this institution is, I trust, established on a good solid basis, so that I can feel confident of its ultimate prosperity when I return to my official duties in Vienna.

"It is a source of great and indescribable satisfaction to see one's exertions and efforts crowned with success, and this feeling is greatly increased when I consider the mass of difficulties which had to be overcome, and which seemed at the off-set almost insuperable.

"In my case the difficulties surmounted have been very great, as at the time of my starting for Teheran I felt very dubious as to whether it would be possible in such a country as Persia ever to be able to make such a thing as a genuine postal service possible.

"In my last letter to you I think I mentioned that I had stamps printed from the dies then on hand by means of a hand press, but the stamps so printed were of such a primitive nature that I felt very doubtful as to their value, and that at first they were used imperforate, and that afterwards with the aid of my colleagues cut by means of scissors ; later we attempted to perforate them by means of a penknife, and that lastly, by means of an instrument of my own invention, I succeeded in roughly rouletting them.

This vexatious and tedious work occupied many months, during which the more important work of organisation made very little progress owing to various reasons, the chief and most powerful being the lack of money, as I was not able to obtain but very little from the Government to work with."

The third and last extract, which I now propose to give, was written in July, 1876, to the editor of the *L'Union Postale*, at Berne, and runs as follows :—

"I was at last, after a long and wearied delay, informed that the amount asked for could not be given me, and that I must use my best endeavours to organise a modern European service by making use of the present existing arrangements, and to go to as little expense as possible.

"Some old plates, which were brought from Paris, and used for the preparation of the issue of 1870, were given to me by one of the Ministers, and I was requested to prepare from these plates four different kinds of postage stamps.

"The Minister also gave me a large number of the stamps that had been manufactured in Teheran by means of these plates, and which had been withdrawn from use because experience had proved that owing to the fact that they had never been post-marked or cancelled the same stamps were used over and over again for the payment of letters.

"I was requested to prepare stamps by means of these plates, without loss of time to issue the same, and to prepare their use for the public.

"Having made up my mind to try everything, and anything, I consented to this measure, and manufactured 120,000 stamps, with colours

different to those of the former issue, and I further altered their design by causing their value to be engraved in Arabic figures underneath the belly of the lion.

"Russia and Austria have already officially notified to the Persian Government their readiness to complete postal treaties, and I now confidently hope that the junction between the European and Persian postal lines will in a few years take place.

"In the meantime, through the mediation of the Austrian Foreign Office, permission has been granted that I should be furnished with new postage stamps and stamped envelopes by the Austrian State Printing Office, and I am very anxiously awaiting their arrival.

"These new postal labels are extremely necessary, as the ones at present in use are of so primitive a nature that if I call a new issue to be printed from these plates I must run the risk of soon having more counterfeit than genuine stamps in circulation."

In the preceding chapters I have endeavoured to give a short notice of a few interesting facts respecting this mysterious country, also a brief outline of the postal service as at first constituted, together with extracts from letters written by Mr. Riederer, the founder of the Persian postal system, as to the manner in which the early issues were manufactured, etc.

I propose now taking the various issues in their order, and giving as far as I can all information that I have been able to obtain on the subject, and trust that my readers will find the information as set forth of use to them.

CURRENCY.

20 Shahi	=	1 kran.
10 Kran	=	1 toman.
1 Toman	=	9s. 5d. English Money.

1868.

Paper: Thick and thin wove; white and tinted.

Printed in Paris, *fine* impressions.

Perf. 12½ and 13.

Values.

1 Shahi, lilac.
2 ,, green.
4 ,, blue.
8 ,, red.

Design.—The design of all the early issues is practically the same; it consists of 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 surrounded with its tail, the sun of Darnis shining in the rear.

These stamps were never used, and can only be considered as essays at the best.

To catalogue the 2sh. is entirely wrong. Though always catalogued, it is only an essay, and on a par with the 1sh. lilac, 4sh. ultramarine, 8sh. red.

1870.

Design: Printed in Teheran, from the copper-plate dies brought from Paris in 1868, rough impressions.

Paper: White, wove thick and thin, also greyish white and bluish white.

Values not indicated.

Imperforate.

1 Shahi, violet.
1 ,, lilac and reddish lilac.
2 ,, dark green.
2 ,, pale green.
2 ,, yellow green.
4 ,, blue.
4 ,, pale blue.
4 ,, greenish blue.
8 ,, carmine.
8 ,, vermilion.

Variety—

1 Shahi, violet, printed on both sides.

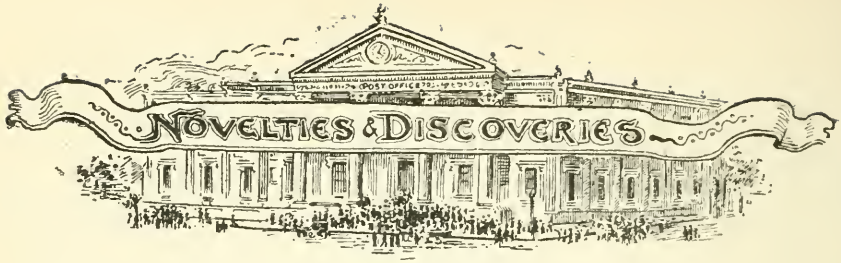
NOTE.—These stamps were never post-marked, consequently all those met with post-marked are undoubtedly forged.

This is absolutely proved by the fact that they had at that time no means of cancelling, such a thing as a date or post-marking stamp not having been thought of.

This issue was withdrawn in 1871, and the remainder, as far as possible, were destroyed by Mr. Riederer in 1874.

(To be continued.)





Part I.—British Empire.

Bahamas.—The one shilling is now printed in blue green.

Adhesive.

1s. blue green.

Bermuda.—We have recently had an opportunity of seeing a collector who has long been resident in this Colony, and who was in London for a few weeks lately, and obtaining his opinion as to the Hamilton provisional. Like ourselves, he has become convinced, by the evidence which he has had the advantage of obtaining direct, that Mr. Perot did prepare the labels in question, and that they were used for repayment of postage; but he adds that, although he had seen two or more specimens, he had never taken much interest in them, as he had never seen one that was attached to an original letter or envelope, or that bore any evidence of having been postally used. Thus we are still looking for really *used* copies to complete the case in their favour.

He has shown us, however, a very curious article, used at St. George's in 1861, which seems to prove that the employment of hand-stamped labels was not unfamiliar. It consists of a small piece of ordinary coloured paper, deep *yellow*, cut roughly to octagonal shape, having stamped on it, in *red*, "PAID—AT" in two lines in the centre, surrounded by the words "ST. GEORGE'S BERMUDA," within a double-line circle broken at the top by a Crown. This was pasted on the cover of an official letter, addressed from St. George's to the Pilot Commissioners at Hamilton, and is duly obliterated with the St. George's postmark of July 12, 1861. But why this kind of adhesive stamp was used, instead of stamping the letter "PAID," &c., it is difficult to understand.—*Monthly Journal.*

British Bechuanaland.—Herr Lossau has shown *Der Philatelist* two varieties of surcharge on the 2d. stamp of 1895, one being 20 by 2¼mm., and the other 21 by 2mm.

British Central Africa.—The following extract from the *Government Gazette* of this territory, dated Nov. 12th, 1898, is interesting as showing the results of the recent troubles—we are glad to hear that they are over:—

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



British South Africa.—We illustrate the design of the new 1d. stamp, which we hear will be followed by a complete set of all the values, from ½d. to 10s., of similar design.



Canada.—We now illustrate the new 2c. Imperial stamp mentioned in our last, which was, in error, stated to be on white. As it happens there are three printings; we believe them to be three (or at least two) different *issues*. The first which came over and were posted in Ottawa, on December 7th, had a background of lavender, which, by the way, is hardly the proper colour to represent the sea. Then came a blue green, and now we have a proper green background, which we should think, is what the printers have been striving for.

The following from the Montreal *Star* is worth reproducing:—

"OTTAWA, November 25th.—When Mr. Mulock was in England recently he was struck by the failure of the great mass of the people there to appreciate at their true value the portions of the British Empire beyond the sea. The thought occurred to him that no more effective object lesson of

the vastness and solidarity of the Empire could be given than by presenting a picture on the new Imperial penny postage stamp, contrasting the dimensions of Greater Britain with those of all other Powers.

"The feature of the stamp is a neatly executed map of the world, in miniature, distinguishing the British Empire from the possessions of all other Powers. The British possessions are printed in red, and these stand out in bold relief against a dark background. Surmounting this picture is a representation of the Crown, underneath which is a bunch of oak and maple leaves, symbolizing the Unity of England and Canada.

"At the upper edge of the stamps are the words 'Canada postage' in a neat letter. Underneath the map is placed 'Xmas, 1898,' so that the date of the inauguration of Imperial penny postage shall be made a matter of record. On each of the lower corners appears the figure '2,' indicating the denomination of the stamp, and at the lower edge is this suggestive passage, taken from the words of one of our patriotic poets, 'We hold a vaster Empire than has been.'"

Adhesives.

2 cents black, carmine, and lavender.
2 „ „ „ „ blue green.
2 „ „ „ „ green.

Cape of Good Hope.—The *London Philatelist* is informed by Lieut. Raby that the recently issued ½d. green stamp has been withdrawn from use. No reason is given.

Ceylon.—Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co., send us the 15c. surcharged "six cents" at foot, in black, intended to be used for Imperial penny postage.

Adhesive.

6c. in black on 15c. sage-green.

Cook's Island.—Three values of the new series have appeared.

Adhesives.

2d. brown.
6d. violet.
1s. carmine.

Fiji.—Messrs. Campbell & Co. have shown the *Monthly Journal* the current 5d. perf. 10 all round.

Adhesive.

5d. ultramarine, perf. 10.

Gold Coast.—A foreign contemporary announces the following values of the types of the high values :—

1d. violet and carmine.
3d. violet and yellow.
6d. violet and violet-blue.

to which must be added, according to the *Timbre Poste* :—

2½d. violet and ultramarine.
1s. deep green and black.
2s. deep green and carmine.

Great Barrier Island.—Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. have sent us a specimen of a stamp which is apparently type-set, and bears a fanciful design with the words "Great Barrier Island special post" and "one shilling" on each side. It is oblong, printed in blue on white, on water-marked paper, and we will illustrate it in our next; The perforation is a sort of rough pin perf. 13. We have not yet looked up our Atlas to see where Great Barrier Island may be, but we are informed that it is a long strip of land somewhere off the coast of New Zealand. In sending us the stamp, Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. state: "The stamp is said to be used to prepay letters from the Island to Auckland by private ships; there is only one value. We have no reason to doubt its *bona-fide* nature, but we are making enquiries about it."

Adhesive.

1s. pale blue on white.

Jhind.—M. Moens announces the 1 rupee, carmine and green, with the surcharge "Service" in black.

Official Stamp.

1 rupee, carmine and green and black.

Morocco Agencies.—There is a variety on the sheet of all the values having the letter "M" smaller.

Newfoundland.—The 2c. now comes over with the colour changed from orange to vermilion red. This is the stamp with the portrait of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Adhesive.

2c. vermilion red.

New South Wales.—It is announced that the current 2½d. stamp has been changed in colour to blue, but we can give no details at present.

Queensland.—The "I.B.J." announces a news band of 1d., with stamp of the current type, but with the inscription altered, the wording now reading: "If this rule be infringed the statutory penalty will be enforced," instead of the former inscription, which was: "If this rule be infringed the packet will be charged as a letter."

The *Monthly Journal* has received a ½d. stamp of a new design, or perhaps it should be termed a modification of the previous one. The shape is still oblong, but the head is on a white ground in a beaded circle, the diameter of which is little less than the depth of the stamp; the words "QUEENSLAND" and "HALFPENNY" are consequently placed upon curved, coloured labels, at left and right respectively, and the value is further indicated by white figures in each corner. The 1d., the design of which has not yet been changed again, comes over with a very curious species of perforation; it is *rouletted* (if we may so term it, for want of a better expression) by means of a zig-zag rule, with angles open, producing a similar appearance to that of ordinary perforation when the stamps are separated—a pair at least being required to show the true nature of the case. Both stamps have the ordinary Q and Crown watermark.

Adhesives.

½d. deep green, new type, perf. 13.
1d. vermillion, zig-zag roulette, 13.

Newsband.

1d. vermillion on buff, 125 by 290 mm., with altered inscription.

St. Vincent.—The "I.B.J." announces a set in exactly the same type as the new Sierra Leone stamps. In each case the

second colour is that of the name and value. They are all watermarked Crown C.A., perf 14.

Adhesives.

½d. lilac and green.
1d. lilac and carmine.
2½d. lilac and ultramarine.
3d. lilac and olive-green.
4d. lilac and red-brown.
5d. lilac and black.
6d. lilac and deep blue.
1s. sea-green and carmine.
5s. sea-green and ultramarine.

Straits Settlements.—The 5c. has been printed in pale brown, and surcharged "four cents" in two lines in black, to conform with the Imperial penny postage.

Adhesive.

4c. in black on 5c. pale brown.
Watermark C.A., perf. 14.

Other Countries.

Belgium.—The current 50c. stamp is now printed in black instead of grey, as announced by us in December.

Adhesive.

50 black.



Brazil.—In addition to the surcharge mentioned in our last number, several others have appeared, but the list seems to be so complicated at present that we now illustrate the one chronicled by us last month, but only give the following additions for the present.

100 reis in violet on 50 reis orange.
1000 reis in green on 500 reis orange.
1000 reis in green on 700 reis orange.
2000 reis in green on 1000 reis orange.
300 reis in violet on 200 reis orange.

The latter is on the authority of the *Monthly Journal.*



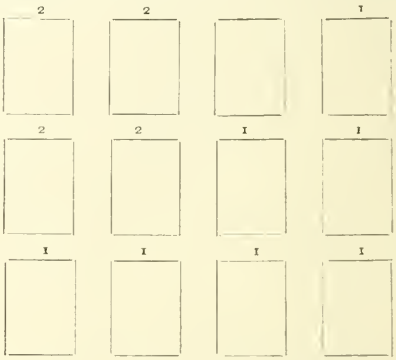
China.—In chronicling the stamps mentioned in our last number, we find we made a mistake in not stating that they belonged to the London print or "Waterlow" series, which were already chronicled by us in November last. The actual set, therefore, consists of a ½, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 30, 50c, $1, $2 and $5. The perforations seem to vary in the different values. We now illustrate the $2 value.

Columbia.—A new value of the current type, with arms in circle, has appeared here. Perf. 13.

Adhesive.

1 centavo red on yellow.

France.—Some excitement has been caused among our Parisian *confrères* by the appearance of certain unused specimens of the current 10c., black on *lilac*, stamp of the first type ("INV" under "B" of "REPUBLIQUE"). The explanation is curious and worthy of record. It appears that the plate of the 10c. value was in some way damaged, and while the mischief was being remedied some old *clichés* of the first type were made to occupy the damaged positions on the sheet. The 10c. value is printed in sheets of 300 stamps (which, however, are distributed to the Post Offices in half-sheets of 150 each), composed of 12 small panes of 25 stamps each. We append a plan of the sheet which has been issued, composed of the two types:—



There are therefore 200 stamps (8 panes of 25 each) of the first type on the sheet, and 100 stamps (4 panes of 25 each) of the second type; or, as distributed to the Post Offices, the right-hand half of the sheet contained 150 stamps all of the first type and the left-hand half 50 of the first type, and 100 of the second type.—*London Philatelist.*

Hungary.—The *T.P.* chronicles the 1 Kreuger Journal stamp with the new "crown" watermark.

Unpaid letter stamp.—1 kr., orange; watermark crown.



India.—We illustrate the design of the ½ anna Provisional Stamp chronicled sometime ago.

Japan.—Mr. George Braithwaite has kindly sent us specimens of the one sen. card for the interior, which was issued on January 1st. A reply card for the same purpose was also issued at the same time, and also new adhesives of the value of 2, 4 and 10 sen., specimens of which our correspondent has kindly forwarded. They are of an entirely new design, and we will illustrate them in our next. All perforated 12, but without watermark.

Adhesive.

2 sen. green.
4 sen. rose.
10 sen. blue.

Post cards.

1 sen. brown on white.
1 x 1 sen. brown on white.

Norway.—There are two new letter cards here, with stamps of design of the current Adhesives. The Cards are white outside and pink inside, size 140 by 315mm.

Letter Cards.

5 öre, green on white.
10 „ red „

Nicaragua.—The issue of 1896 Officials is said to exist with the surcharge 1897 in red.

Orange Free State.—We have received, used on a newspaper, a specimen of the one shilling, printed in the colour of the half-penny. Whether this is a new issue or an error we do not know, but it was evidently used in the belief that it was a ½d. stamp. A new postcard with stamp, of usual design to the right, has appeared.

Adhesive

1s. brown (? error).

Post Card.

½d. rose on white.

Peru.—In addition to the cards chronicled in our last, we have now another value, the design being similar, but being printed entirely in black on white.

Post Card.

3 centavos, black on white.

Portuguese Colonies.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the 15 and 25 reis were issued on the 1st January in new colours, the change having been rendered necessary by the recommendation of the Postal Union, these values being equal to ½d. and 1d. respectively. Up to the present the change has occurred in Angra, Funchal, Horta and Ponte Delgada, but it is presumed that the other colonies will follow suit.

Adhesive.

15 reis, blue-green.
25 reis, pink.

Portugal.—The same remark applies as to the Colonies.

Adhesives.

15 reis, blue-green.
25 reis, pink.

Salvador.—*Mekeel's Weekly* announces the 1c. and 2c. envelopes of 1897, each with a surcharge the same colour as the stamp, and reading respectively "Servicio Nacional y Local" and "Servicio del Exterior."

Envelopes.

1c rose, surcharged in rose.
2c., green, „ green.



Surinam.—We illustrate the 10c. provisional recently chronicled.

United States.—According to *Mekeel's Weekly*, some rare provisional unpaid letter stamps were issued in Jefferson, Iowa, on October 6th, 1895. They were made by the postmaster, who, having run out of 1 cent "postage due" stamps, cut some of the 2 cents in half, and surcharged each half "Postage Due—1 Cent" in two lines. Only about twenty are said to have been issued. The 2 cents reply card has been altered by having the frame removed and its size changed, and the 15 cents adhesive now comes in olive.

Adhesive.

15c., olive.

Reply Card.

1c. by 1c. black on cream, no frame, size 140 by 83mm.





Uruguay.—We now illustrate the type of surcharge of the various provisionals recently chronicled, and also a new stamp of 5 mil, which is equal to ½ centavo. This is printed in pink, on rough unwatermark paper, and we should not be at all surprised if it were not to remain in use long.

Adhesive.

5 mil., pink. perf. 11½.



The first issue of the Imperforate British Central Africa provisionals (cheque stamps) were signed at the back by the Postmaster General with either J. T. G., J. G., or J. T. Gosling.

The Government of India still decline to exempt stamps from Customs duty.

"Fiscalists" is the new word which the editor of *Stamps* has invented to describe collectors of fiscal stamps.

At an auction held at Boston (U.S.A.) recently, a pair of 1d. black Great Britain brought $1.50 against a catalogue value of 20c. This is certainly one of those stamps that are most underpriced. At the same sale, the 1s. Tobago error of colour was sold for $3.00.

Mr. F. C. Fisher is starting a new Exchange Society for *pairs*, *blocks*, and *strips* of stamps only.

About five years ago, the plates of the Providence (U.S.) locals came into the possession of an American firm of dealers, and they have now decided to make reprints. So that these reprints cannot be passed off as originals, each of the twelve stamps will have a large letter printed in yellow-brown on the back, thus:—

B O G
E R T
D U R
B I N

An American firm announces that in one of their recent sales they received 1,329 bids by post, and could only buy 159 lots for their customers!

The following reasons for the issue of the 2½d. on 1s. Samoa are given by a German Navy Officer:—

"King Malietoa had hardly died, when the order was given by the postmaster to all offices to immediately return their entire stock of the 2½d. stamps, which bore the King's effigy. It was explained that the natives consider it a sin to look upon the picture of a dead ruler. The provisional surcharge is very roughly made by hand, but a stamp of a new type of the same denomination was ordered in New Zealand. It is expected shortly."

"Roumania will issue a commemorative stamp upon the occasion of the dedication of its new Postal Building in Bucharest. This stamp will be three times the ordinary size; its design will be of the Byzantine style, the centre representing the facade of the new building, flanked by Byzantine columns. Above will be a medallion portrait of King Karol, at either side of it the emblems of the Postal and Telegraph services. The die was cut by the Roumanian engraver, Popescu, at Paris."—*Philatelic Monthly.*

The Brazilian postcards of 40 and 80 reis are withdrawn from circulation.

"I am a firm believer in the value of the local club as a true promoter of good fellowship and collecting impulses; and that philatelist who fails to take advantage of the privileges of club membership loses much of real value. The exhibiting of new issues, the exchange of duplicates, the examination of private collections, the exchange of stamp magazines, talks, and lectures, all assist in making one's own collection seem more precious."—*American Exchange.*

A number of hitherto unknown varieties of the stamps of the Republic of Colombia, and some of the States, appear to have been discovered recently, but as there are so many of them, and their character appears somewhat peculiar, we do not care to chronicle anything further at present. We rather suspect reprints or remainders, most likely the former.

The Philatelic Society, of India, announces the early appearance of Part II. of its work on the British-Indian Adhesive Stamps, surcharged for Native States It comprises Jhind, Nabha, and Patiala.

The following portions of the "Tapling" Collection are now on view at the British Museum:—

Spain, issues from January 1st, 1873.
France, issues down to October, 1862.

Two journals on the Continent, namely, *La Opinion Imparcial*, in Madrid, and *The Kleines Journal*, in Berlin, daily provide their readers with a column on Philately. Surely, this is a considerable advancement on the past, and we can see the time approaching when the same may be found in the London daily papers.

There is soon to be a new value—70 centimes—in Switzerland.

The German ring of collectors having secured the old dies of the stamps of Brunswick, and also dies of some of the essays of designs which never came into circulation, all these have been handed to the German Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin, so that no reprints can ever be made again.

The Committee of the Paris Exhibition of 1900 is still growing, and the following names may now be added:—

Messrs. R. R. Bogert,
Bouman,
W. D. Beckton,
W. Grunewald,
Jourin Suter,
M. Galvez Jiminez,
Major Shenek, and
Theodor Buhl.

In the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* appears a little article on the subject of "Postal Orders and Post Office Orders." It is written by Dr. J. I., and it pleases us very much to hear from this authority that in Great Britain a cheque under £2 need not be impressed with the stamp, and that, therefore, it is possible to remit any sum under £2 at a total outlay of 1d., the cheque costing nothing, and the postage costing 1d. We should like to see Dr. J. I. present a cheque in this country for any sum, say even 5/-, and observe his disappointment if he could not receive cash for it because it was not stamped.

The idea is gaining ground that at the time of the 1900 Exhibition, the French Government should be requested to inaugurate the National Exhibition of postage stamps. M. Maury supports the idea in the last number of his paper, and other remarks on the subject will be found in another column.

It is stated that the special stamps of Nossi-Be, Diego-Suarez, Mayotte, and Sainte-Marie have been suppressed, and that the stamps of Madagascar and Dependencies are now used in their place. Other sources have announced that the stamps of the first four named Colonies were surcharged, and from still another source comes information that the stamps are being used indiscriminately; in fact, that the stamps of Nossi-Be and Diego-Suarez have been seen used together on a letter from Madagascar.

The proprietors of the *Austria Philatelist* are inviting subscriptions for an important work on the obliterations of Austria, Hungary, and Lombardy. It is to contain no less than 70 plates, and the price, elegantly bound, will be mks. 5, but we are afraid the general demand for such a work will not be sufficiently large enough to ensure its success.

Abundant evidence of the growth of Philately in South America is the appearance of the *Brazilian Philatelic Directory*, which has just reached us, and which consists of just over 100 pages, giving the names and addresses of collectors in almost every town of importance, and many others in Brazil. Among the names we notice a very large number of English and German.

The *Buenos Aires Philatelico* is rather annoyed about the 25c. error of Uruguay with the centre inverted, but the annoyance appears to be principally that the stamp is fetching £25, and apparently because the writer did not secure a copy or two at face value.

We are pleased to announce that the eminent Philatelist, Mr. Stewart Wilson, has been appointed Postmaster-General of the Punjab, from January 1st last. We feel sure both from a public and Philatelic point of view the department will be in good hands, and that Mr. Stewart Wilson will do his best to exterminate unnecessary issues.

From an official decree appearing in a Paraguay paper which has been sent us, we find that the Provisional 10 centavos on 4 centavos, was issued on the 12th August, 1898.

Some of our readers will be interested to know that we contemplate shortly reserving a page or so each month for matters connected with the collecting of Fiscals.

The Statutes of the Dresden Philatelic Society for 1899 are, as usual, very interesting reading; they are published in four languages, and we think that all advanced Philatelists should obtain them and join the Society, which numbers, we believe, something approaching 2,000 members.

To show the interest taken in Philately by the daily Press, we have received a copy of the *Syracuse Times* of January 15th, which not only gives a full column description of the fine collection of Mr. J. F. Seybold, but also large illustrations of his rarities on entire envelopes, such as the Franklin 5c., Providence 5c., Oldenburgs, &c.

We beg to remind our readers that May 1st next is the last day for entries for the Manchester Exhibition, at which no less than 140 gold, silver, and bronze medals will be offered for competition.

From the annual report of the International Dealers' Society, at Berlin, we find that now there are no less than 197 members, without counting the one honorary member—Mr. J. B. Moens. Very few, who are not members, are aware how much good this Society does in a quiet way.

Our readers will perhaps notice an advertisement of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., which announces their intention of bringing out a Universal Standard Catalogue at a reduced price, which is to be issued without reference to perforations or to watermarks, except in important cases.

Postage to Malta (from the *Daily Mail*):—

"MALTA, 25 Jan.

"The Malta Government has found the way for a partial adoption of the penny postage — a measure rendered inevitable by the circumstance that the majority of correspondents in the United Kingdom would only affix a 1d. stamp to their letters, although Malta has not joined in that postal reform.

"A notice issued by the Governor announces that no surcharge of postage will be claimed by the Malta Post Office on letters from the United Kingdom weighing under ½oz., on which postage equivalent to 1d. has been paid.

"Letters posted here will, of course, continue under the 2½d. charge per ½oz."

A certain Mr. Evans stood in a post office preparing to post a letter, and had just moistened two halfpenny stamps, when they slipped from his fingers and fluttered to the floor. Mr. Evans, who is a portly man, looked at them in disgust, and then stooped to pick them up. Before he could put his fingers upon them, however, they began to move slowly away from him along the floor. He drew back, and gazed at the spectacle with astonishment and terror. When they reached the side of the room they began slowly to ascend the wall. Mr. Evans was so astonished that he begged someone to feel his pulse, for he thought that something was wrong with himself. Meanwhile, the stamps had risen half-way to the ceiling, and were still gliding upwards. Happily for Mr. Evans's sanity, the square bits of red paper just then altered their course, and began to descend, and soon they were within reach of his hand. Then the strange mystery was fully explained. The moistened stamps had fallen upon a big fly's back, and had stuck to the insect, which, naturally enough, started off with them.

Notices.

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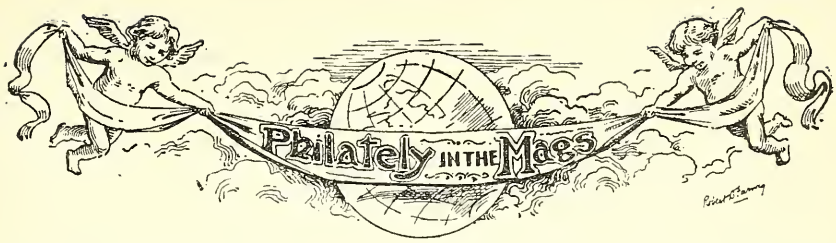
IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Owing to want of space, our "Reviews" are held over until next month. The delay in the appearance of this number is due to the delay in the Interview, and to the unfortunate illness of the Editor.



Is the O'Connell an Essay?

Some discussion has been going on in transatlantic contemporaries as to whether the famous O'Connell stamp of New Brunswick can correctly be called a real postage stamp, or only an essay. The history of this stamp, says *Stamp Talk*, can be briefly repeated. In 1861 the Hon. Charles Connell (or O'Connell?) was made Postmaster-General of New Brunswick. Acting in his official capacity, he ordered a supply of stamps from the American Bank Note Company, from designs which he himself prepared. The 1c., with a steam engine, his own portrait on the 5c., that of the Queen on the 10c., and a steamboat on the 12½c., and the Prince's portrait on the 17c. About the time of the arrival of these stamps from the Bank Note Company, Mr. O'Connell gave a banquet, and in the course of the evening each of the 200 guests was presented with a copy of the 5c. bearing their host's portrait. Some of these were used next day, and duly passed through the mails. However, a political opponent set to work to make the appearance of this sign of the Postmaster-General's self-esteem the occasion for a disturbance. A mass meeting was called, and O'Connell was requested to resign. Upon his resignation the obnoxious stamp was destroyed.

We fail to understand why there can be two opinions on the matter, for if the stamp did duty for postage, and was authorized by he who was the proper authority at the time, it must have been a legal issue. A writer in the *International Philatelist*, says, "I have thoroughly investigated the subject, and have arrived at the decision that not a single specimen was ever used for postage," but we think he is wrong. Used copies that could be well authenticated have been heard of, and are to be found in many old collections.—*Stamps*.

Danube and other Locals.

A long and interesting article on the collectibility of the stamps of the Danube Steam Navigation Company and similar Companies on the Danube appears in what is certainly now rather an old number of the reports of the German Ring of collectors. The article is from the pen of Mr. L. Berger, of Brunswick, and was originally read as a paper by this gentleman at one of the annual meetings. We ourselves have never doubted the genuine postal character of any of these labels. Most of our readers probably know the T. B. Morton & Co. stamp, of Constantinople, and many have no doubt, like ourselves, seen undoubted used copies of the Danube Steam Navigation Company's stamps, although the remainders and reprints are to be had so cheap.

Amongst the stamps, which our author mentions in a very long paragraph as undoubtedly worthy of being collected, are those of the following: — "Donau-Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft," T. B. Morton and Company, "Tavastehus-Tammersfors," "Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft Helsingfors-Bobacka," "Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft Thyra," "Comp. Holback," "Packetbeforderungs-Gesellschaft zu Odense," "Tyriffjord," and "Suez-Canal" stamps.

Zanzibar Provisionals.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie contains a long and complicated article on the Provisional Stamps of Zanzibar, of July, 1897. These Zanzibar stamps are not the ordinary British variety, but French stamps surcharged with different figures of value in annas, and sometimes re-surcharged, as far as we can see, several times over. There are also blank pages of paper with type-set designs, and although the illustrations given are only 25, we have an idea that to collect according to the author of the article, who is no less a celebrity than M. F. Marconett, would require a good sized album, without thinking of collecting any other country. Our particular attention is drawn to the fact that in some printings the margins between the panes of stamps constituting the sheet have received surcharges, and therefore these plain pieces of paper with the surcharge should also be collected as rare varieties, but then, according to an elaborate system of calculation, they are rarer in some ways than in others, and therefore they become more valuable in pairs, namely, a stamp with a surcharge and a piece of paper with a surcharge together; but then, again, the rarity depends whether the margin or the piece of paper with the surcharge is at the top, bottom, right or left hand side of the stamp. To sum up, the article may be, and no doubt is, very interesting to those who like it, but we fancy the average result would be a headache.

Gibraltar.

Mr. Herbert F. Maxted writes to the S.C.F. that the postmistress of Gibraltar pronounces the surcharge "Morocco Agencies" in *blue* on the 50c. Gibraltar to be a forgery. As we know of copies received direct at face value, we cannot understand the object of such a forgery. Besides which the surcharge is hardly blue—it is blue-black, like Stephens' inks, and to our mind as much black as blue.

Moving Post Offices.

THE United States postal authorities are about to inaugurate a system of moving post-offices on wheels, which will circulate among the remote and rural districts and extend free delivery to farmers in all parts of the country. Experiments are to be made by the authorities on New Year's Day, and the utility of the post-wagon, which will be presided over by a regularly appointed post-master, will be put to a practical test. The following description of the "travel-rural post-office" is taken from the *Tribune*:—"The post-office department will issue plans and specifications for a vehicle of this unique class within a few days. The exterior will somewhat resemble the modern country stage coach, with three windows on a side, and will be labelled 'U.S. Mail' in conspicuous letters. The body will be eight feet long, four feet across, and just high enough for a man six feet tall to stand erect inside. It will be a very light running coach, weighing but 600 pounds, and adapted to all kinds of weather—rain, hail, snow or blow, blizzards or red-hot summer. The *personnel* will consist of but two—the travelling post-master and his driver. The latter will be mounted upon an ample seat in front, sheltered overhead and protected in wet weather by a waterproof covering. Entrance to the interior of the vehicle will be by a door on either side, which, when shut, will serve as the centre of the three glass windows. These windows, and another in front, will make the office as light as may be desired by day, while a blazing lamp will do the same by night. The postmaster will be seated in the centre of his office upon a revolving chair made stationary with the the floor, Both before and behind him will be a working table and a complete set of post-office pigeonholes. Under ordinary circumstances he will ride with his back toward the driver, there being more room at his rear table than at the front. Just above the rear table will be a closet with double doors. Inside will be shelves, a cash drawer, and drawers for storing stamps, postal cards, envelopes, cancellors, and other necessities, including a trusty gun for protection against the bold highwayman, without whom literature on mail coaches is ever dry and uninteresting."—*Mekeel's Weekly.*

Ocean Penny Postage.

A MOST appropriate article at the present moment is one on Ocean Penny Postage, which appears in the number of the *Monthly Journal*, just issued. It is from the pen of that well-known writer, Mr. E. D. Bacon. As Mr. Bacon truly says, it is strange, but none the less true, how quickly events become forgotten, and freely either the history of what were once popular agitations sink into total oblivion, or the real facts become misrepresented by writers of even the next or the succeeding generation. This assertion is strikingly borne out in the history of the initial movement for an Ocean Penny Postage, which has naturally had lately a good deal of attention drawn to it owing to the adoption of Penny Postage for certain parts of the British Empire on Christmas Day last. Every writer who has referred to this early agitation, including the author of a long article on "Imperial Penny Postage," which appeared in *The Times* on December 24th, is apparently entirely ignorant of the true object of the early Ocean Penny Postage reformers, and what they meant by the term.

The following further paragraphs of the article are so interesting that we cannot refrain from reproducing them.

It was in the early part of 1847 that Mr. Elihu Burritt first propounded his scheme of Ocean Penny Postage. This philanthropist was born at New Britain, Connecticut, on December 8th, 1810, and from the fact that he started life as a smith, was afterwards familiarly known as "the learned blacksmith." He spent many years of his life in England, which he devoted entirely to promoting, in addition to the cheapening of postal rates, such objects as the abolition of slavery and the establishment of universal and unbroken peace, with which latter object he founded the "League of Universal Brotherhood." He died at New Britain, March 6th, 1879. In order to show what Elihu Burritt's Ocean Penny Postage scheme really was, it is only necessary for me to give two extracts from a little work he published upon the subject. The Pamphlet is entitled *Ocean Penny Postage: its necessity shown and its feasibility demonstrated.* The work contains thirty-two pages, and was published by C. Gilpin, of 5, Bishopsgate Street Without, at 8s. per 100, or 2d. each. The only copy I have seen has lost its wrapper, so it is impossible to say whether the pamphlet bore a date; but from the fact that two pieces of poetry at the end have the respective dates of "February 3rd, 1848," and "Christmas, 1848," and from other internal evidence of a statistical nature, there can be little doubt that it was published in the year 1849. At the top of the first page is the illustration of a steamer, with "Ocean Penny Postage" on the foresail and "1d." on the flag at the masthead, corresponding exactly with that found on one of the illustrations of the Ocean Penny Postage envelopes. The following are the two extracts I have mentioned; the first contains the opening paragraph of the work on page 1, the other is taken from page 15:—

"That the term '*Ocean Penny Postage*' may clearly define the proposition which it is employed to denominate, it may be proper to state, at the outset of our argument, that it means simply this: That the single service of transporting a letter, weighing under half an ounce, from any seaport of the United Kingdom to any port beyond the seas, at which the British mail packets may touch, shall be performed by the English Government for one penny and *vice versa;* or, one

penny for its mere conveyance from Folkestone to Boulogne, Southampton to Bombay, Hull to Hamburg, or from Liverpool to Boston. As we would not ask the English Government to perform any other than this single service on a letter for a penny, consequently the entire charge upon one transmitted from any town in the United Kingdom, either maritime or inland, to any port beyond the seas would be *twopence*—one penny for the inland rate, the other for the sea rate."

Many of our readers have no doubt seen the envelopes, which were issued about, or soon after, the period of the Mulready, and these are reproduced in the *Monthly Journal*, together with Mr. Bacon's notes upon them. The article concludes with a copy of the pledge of the Universal Brotherhood, which is contributed by the Editor of the *Monthly Journal*.

The Manila Post Office.

San Francisco, December 3rd. — Referring to the work of the post-office at Manila, now in American possession, the *Call* says to-day: "The most interesting thing connected with the acquisition of the Manila post-office is the adoption by the Federal government of the labor facilities of the island. Six men were sent from the San Francisco post-office to Manila, and this number was reinforced by fourteen men from Manila. Two of these latter are United States soldiers who had enlisted from the postal service, and twelve are Spanish postal employés, retained because of their knowledge of the Spanish language and the routine of the office. The Spanish before the American occupation received salaries of $150 per annum in Mexican silver, being equal to about $75 in American silver or gold coin. The office was closed every alternate day, and when working it was closed for two and three hours each day, beginning about noon. The total number employed was 200, but they took life easy, and did the work of about twenty Americans. The twelve Spaniards who are retained receive salaries ranging from $150 to $200 per annum in Mexican silver, such being the ruling rate of wages in the Philippines for that kind of service, but they have to work every day instead of every alternate day as heretofore."—*The Post Office.*

Cuban Postal Service.

E. G. Rathbone, of Ohio, ex-Assistant Postmaster General, was to-day (December 10th) appointed to take charge of the postal service in Cuba. He will leave for Havana in a few days. A commission of four experts representing the office of each of the Assistant Postmasters General will leave for Tampa at once, and sail for Havana probably on Wednesday. A number of postal employés will also be dispatched probably on the same steamer. General Superintendent A. W. Machen, of the free delivery system, will be one of the commissioners.—*New York Times.*

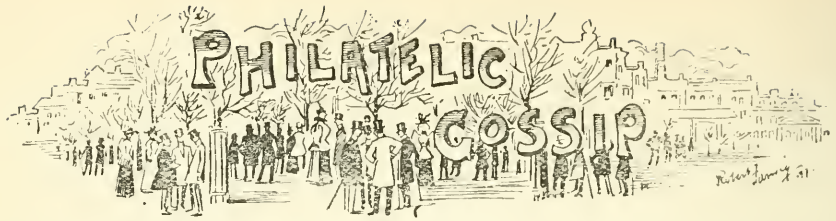
Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).
The February Packet contains :—
SEVERAL VARIETIES all unused.

No. 2, price Five Shillings (postage extra).
The February Packet contains :—
SEVERAL VARIETIES, all unused.

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., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

The subscription to the paper (5s. per annum) is extra.—Buhl & Co., Ltd., 11, Queen Victoria St., E.C.



Williams & Co., of Lima, Peru.

WITHIN the last few weeks several warnings with reference to this much-advertised firm have been circulated. A very serious warning has been issued by the International Stamp Dealers' Society, of Berlin, which Mr. Phillips translates in the *Monthly Journal*, but as it has been received by us as a confidential communication for members only, we do not feel justified in making use of it. At the same time we reproduce the following from the *Monthly Journal*—

"As we are going to press, we hear as ollows from a well-known Continental dealer:—

'What business relations have you with Williams & Co., of Lima? For your guidance this party resides in Lima, in an hotel of low rank, and is a retired pugilist. He lives entirely by trickery, and says he represents your firm and the firm of Williams, of London. I think a stop must be put to such pranks, and, if you have any interests, you should act promptly in order to protect them.'

"Taking it altogether, we have not the slightest doubt but that a colossal fraud has been attempted, and, we are afraid, successfully; and we shall be glad if any of our readers who have any claim against this firm will communicate with us, sending us full details of the dates of their consignments, the value of same, and as to whether applications have been made for their return. We will then see if any concerted action can be taken."

At the same time we must mention that our publishers have inserted the advertisements of Williams & Co. in absolute good faith, in common with many other journals.

North Borneo, perf. 18½.

MR. W. JACOBY writes, enclosing us a copy of the 1c. orange, North Borneo, perf. 18½, and asks for some information on the subject. We regret we cannot inform Mr. Jacoby whether this perforation is really official, but we have known this one value ever since the stamps came into use. Of course the ordinary perforation is 12, and it seems curious that one value only should be found with such a peculiar perforation, which we do not recollect on any other colonial stamp. However, though it is not chronicled, the stamp is well known, but it appears impossible to find out whether it was officially issued in this state. Perhaps some of our readers can enlighten us on the subject.

New Books on English.

MESSRS. WILLIAM BRENDON AND SON announce the publication of a new edition of Messrs. Philbrick & Westoby's work on the Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain. The price of the first 250 copies subscribed for will be 12/-, after which it will be raised to 16/6 until actual publication, when it will be raised to 21/-. We notice that the printing is not to be commenced until 200 copies have been subscribed for.

At the same time the early publication of the long expected work of the Philatelic Society of London on the Postage and Telegraph stamps of Great Britain is also announced. The price of this will be 24/-, and 600 copies are to be printed. It is rather a pity that two such important works should be announced at the same time, as we are afraid that one will clash more or less with the other.

About Provisionals.

IN *Le Philatelist Francaise*, M. L. de Noailhac publishes an article on the classification of Provisional stamps, which he divides nto eight headings:

1. Value modified (or decreased) by surcharge.
2. Value modified by more than one surcharge.
3. Name of country changed by a surcharge.
4. The value and name of country modified at the same time by a surcharge.
5. Telegraph stamps used postally.
6. Fiscals used postally.
7. Stamps cut in half to replace others of half their value.
8. Stamps of one country used in another country without surcharge.

Proposed Postal Museum.

FROM an article, which appears in the *Revue Philatelique Francaise* we notice that important steps are on foot with the object of inducing the Government to inaugurate a Postal Museum in Paris on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the Postage Stamp in France. Several important Government officials have already expressed their willingness to further the project, and two long and interesting letters have been addressed to the Assistant Secretary of State of Posts and Telegraphs, signed by the following important names:—

Schoeller.
Erard Le Roy d'Etiolles.
Bormoy d'Evenans.
Jules Bernichon.
Lucien Gilis.
Albert Coyette.

We wish the project every success.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

MARCH, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

THE forthcoming Philatelic Exhibition at Manchester has again suggested the idea of a Philatelic Congress, on the lines of the annual gatherings in Germany. As far as we can recollect, no such meeting has ever been held in England, notwithstanding the fact that this country probably contains more large collectors than any other. In Germany the venue is changed each year; this year it will be Dresden, in July, last year it was Gössnitz, and in 1896 it was held at Cologne, where several English dealers attended, and from personal observations we know that considerable business was done. Representatives of all philatelic societies, collectors and dealers attend these gatherings, which usually last three days, the programme being arranged to include, beyond the routine business and speeches, a dinner, a drive to any place of interest in the neighbourhood, and similar entertainments, and a large hall is provided where all can meet for business or to "talk stamps."

Why not a Manchester Congress?

We have often wondered why similar arrangements could not be made in this country, and although we do not wish to overburden the Manchester Executive with work, we make the suggestion to them that the time of their exhibition would be most opportune. The matter could be made self-supporting, as in Germany, where tickets are sold to include everything. Two or three hundred persons usually meet at the Continental gatherings, and many new friendships are made, besides which a considerable incentive to new business is the usual result for the dealer. Why not try it? We feel sure that it would afterwards become an annual affair, and Manchester would have the credit of the start, to be probably followed by our other large cities, not omitting the little village where the *Record* is published.

Editorial Interviews.

BY THEODOR BUHL.

Mr. F. R. GINN.

MR. F. R. GINN has been prominently before the public for some years, not only as a dealer, but as a Secretary of the Philatelic Protection Association (or P.P.A.), which did so much to exterminate forgeries. In his advertisement he styles his business premises the "Philatelic Centre" (an irreverent dealer refers to it as the "Hub"), and if we are to take the word "centre" as a question of position, it is well justified by the situation, being on the first floor just opposite the Gaiety Theatre.

The business is all conducted on the one floor. On entering you find a counter, with a glass case, containing copies of albums and philatelic publications, amongst which we are glad to see the *Philatelic Record* has always a prominent place; to the right is a large room facing the Strand, where the business is conducted by Mr. Ginn and a staff of *employées*, including a younger brother, who bids fair to be a good philatelist. Partitioned from this room is a small ante-room, also overlooking the main thoroughfare, and it was here on a recent morning we were received by Mr. Ginn, who had promised to give us a few facts regarding his business career.

It was in June, 1864, that our "subject" first saw the light, and the locality was Tottenham, where he still lives, and where the now prosperous business was originally conducted.

"I commenced collecting at school, and bought and sold stamps there, my first transactions being in 1880," said Mr. Ginn; thereby reminding us that it is the same story with everyone who is interviewed, and showing the necessity of encouraging the schoolboy collector; "but my first actual launch as a dealer was about 1887; up to about 1886 I was engaged in the tea trade in Mincing Lane, and the transactions in stamps began to increase so rapidly that it dawned upon me that I should have to devote my time either to tea or stamps. I chose the latter, gave up the tea trade, and have never regretted doing so."

"At that time you conducted your business from your residence at Tottenham?"

"Yes. It was not until June, 1894, that I came to the Strand. These offices had been occupied by Mr. Dawson A. Vindin, and on his return to Australia I took the lease off his hands."

"What is the principal part of your business?" we asked, knowing full well what the answer would be.

"Approval selections," said Mr. Ginn, with pride, and I believe I do one of the largest trades in the world in that line. My business is principally by post, but recently there has been a considerable increase in the cash trade here."

"Have you any publications of your own?" was our next question, and Mr. Ginn's reply was a reminder that he publishes the celebrated *Philatelic Collecting Books*. "I also publish a small catalogue of stamps in stock," he added, "giving prices for medium and other stamps and sets; I publish nothing else, but I sell other people's albums and publications."

Our Portrait Gallery.



MR. F. R. GINN.

"You do no wholesale business?"

"None whatever," was the reply; I have quite enough to do with the retail, in my own way."

"It is now some time since you purchased the celebrated "Henderson" collection?"

"Yes; I gave £3,000 for it, but before that I bought a large one in Paris for £1,500, and recently one from India at £1,000."

"You have always specialized in American stamps?" we asked, thinking of Mr. Ginn's superb collection of this country.

"Yes; and my collection of the United States stamps is one of the finest and most complete in the world. As you know, it was awarded the silver medal at the last London Philatelic Exhibition, and I shall exhibit it at Manchester."

In interviewing a dealer it is the usual thing to ask him how he finds "trade," and in reply to our enquiry, Mr. Ginn was pleased to say that trade is now very good. Last autumn it was very slack, but at present there is a large increase in the turnover and he expects it to continue.

"And your opinion of the future?" we queried.

"The future is safe enough, but I do not believe in the "specialist." I believe in the general collector, and as the number of general collectors is on the increase, it is a good sign for philately."

"And what about auctions? You do not attend many?"

"Yes, I do *now*," said Mr. Ginn, "I went to a bad sale, bought a lot of bargains, and since then I attend most of them."

"Is there anything you would like to say about the P.P.A. and your connection with it while you were Secretary?"

Only this, that I worked up the Association, and when I resigned in July, 1895, I handed my successor the sum of £140 4s. 10d., being the balance in hand. He held one meeting, at which he resigned, but what has happened since I don't know."

And we think not only Mr. Ginn, but others ought to know. The P.P.A. was financially all right, and we know of no reason for its disappearance from the horizon.

Just then a well-known collector called, and we left, having obtained all the information we could from the busy head of the "Philatelic Centre."

Kashmir Notes.

By D. P. MASSON.

(From the *Indian Philatelist.*)

I FEAR the readers of the *Journal* have heard about enough regarding the stamps of Kashmir, but I cannot but send a few stray notes on matters that have just come to my knowledge. For most of the information I am indebted to Captain Stuart H. Godfrey, assistant resident in Kashmir, who is taking a deep interest in the philatelic matters of the State, as well as in its more important questions.

Captain Godfrey, in the course of his investigations, discovered the engraver of all the genuine dies of the Kashmir rectangular stamps, and in this man's specimen book he found proofs of all the dies, shewing them to be identical with the dies recently defaced. The proofs are all in black ink, and include a complete sheet (20 half-annas and 5 one-annas) of the so-called 1924"* issue, or the Kashmir province plate of these denominations. Captain Godfrey was inclined to consider these proofs as genuine stamps, but I pointed out to him that in every case the paper differed from that of used copies; and the engraver confirmed my view by saying he had printed the sheets himself, for his own satisfaction, and for the approval of the Maharaja Ranbir Singh. Though these impressions must be classed as essays, they are both interesting and valuable.

Other most interesting items in the "find" were perforated proofs of the half-anna and one-anna stamps of the new rectangular (1878) issue, proving beyond question that some of the anna sheets were perforated as well as half-anna ones. The engraver was ordered to prepare perforating machines, as well as dies, for the new issues, and the perforators were prepared for him by a "*lohàr*" of his acquaintance. His memory was somewhat at fault, as he at first stated that only one perforating machine was prepared; but on my pointing out—for Captain Godfrey kindly asked me to be present at the interview—that the same machine could not possibly perforate rows of three (as in the half-anna sheets) and rows of four (as in the anna sheets), he at once said that two machines must have been made. This was undoubtedly so, as the perforations on the anna sheet are closer than those on the half-anna sheet. In explanation of the perforator not having been more generally used, the old man said, with a shrug of contempt, that the postal people could not understand its working.

But perhaps the most interesting "find" of all, from the old engraver, was a "proof" (original?) of what I daresay I am justified in calling

The Oldest Service (Native State) Stamp of India.



* The engraver confirmed the information I have already given in my papers, that *all* the old circular and rectangular stamps bear the date 1923.

The inscriptions are as follows :—In Persian, khăt zărúri (urgent letter); in Shastri, awă shăkkă păttăr (I cannot get this translated); and in Dogri, kăkăl zărúri (urgent document). As the inscriptions show, the stamp was used for urgent letters. A letter or parcel so stamped was forwarded urgently, by night and day, passing from the hand of one runner to another, and accompanied by a "time table" to show the hours it passed from one tehsil to another. Having been used only on the Maharaja's or State Service, it may be classed as a genuine service stamp. The Rev. Mr. Knowles informs me he has seen used specimens. It was printed in red.

By the way, the designs on this stamp, on the Kashmir post-cards, and on many fiscals I have seen, confirm my view that the central design of the old circular stamps, and the star at the top of the old rectangulars, represent a sun, and not a lotus flower.

Kashmir Remainders.

To the Editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India.*

Dear Sir,—It was recently announced in your journal that the circular Kashmir stamps printed on thin European paper would not in future be offered for sale by the Kashmir State, but apparently this is not the case.

The Rev. C. B. Simons, the Agent of the Kashmir State at Baramula, has just sent me on approval 100 unused specimens of Kashmir stamps, which include the reprints referred to. The Agent has prefixed the following somewhat quaintly worded note to his specimen sheets, so that the purchaser is at least candidly informed that he is purchasing at a very high price what are nothing more than pure and simple reprints, many of which have never been postally used.

The circular stamps on thick native laid paper are reprints in oil colours from the genuine dies. I have seen a few used specimens of these reprints on original covers, but it is believed that these stamps were not generally available for sale to the public at the post offices in Kashmir.

With regard to the different shades of green, brown, red, etc., I think it is a mistake to class the different shades of the same value as distinct specimens. The varieties of shade are simply due to the colour having been prepared in small quantities, and to no care being taken to obtain the same shade when the next lot of colour was mixed for use. Some of the shades mentioned by the Rev. Mr. Simons may be rare in the sense that there are only a few specimens left in the Agent's hands, but it is probable that this is due to a larger quantity of these particular shades having been sold to the public, and to dealers and speculators.

Yours truly,
W. C. H.

Notes for Primitive Collectors.

"1. The stamps (1 to 11) are called circular stamps. They are impressed from the original dies, and printed in oil colours on native greyish laid paper. These specimens are of extreme rarity. Many dealers do sell this kind of stamp as the genuine article, whilst in the end one finds that they differ in many respects, being impressed from the so-called 'missing die,' specimens which the State does not wish to dispose off. Of these 1877 circulars only a limited quantity is in stock, hence the price will soon be doubled.

"2. The stamps (12 to 16) are circulars from the original die on thin European paper. These specimens were probably reprinted in 1884 for the many visitors in this country; consequently they should be considered as 'reprints,' though undoubtedly genuine. In the Indian bazaars one meets frequently with similar stamps, but nearly all of them are impressed from the missing die, and hence perhaps forgeries.

"3. The stamps (17 to 22) are called rectangulars; they are impressed from the original die, and printed in oil colours on native greyish laid paper. Except 21, I have never seen these rectangulars 'postally' used, and though this fact does not effect in the least their being genuine, nevertheless on account of this doubt only, the prices have been remarkably reduced. Of these only a few are in stock.

"4. The stamps (23 to 25) are also rectangulars, and impressed from the original die, but printed on thin European paper. Like the circulars on thin paper, they have never been postally used, have probably been reprinted in 1884, and should therefore be classed as 'reprints.'

"5. The stamps (26 to 100) are styled square stamps, either ordinary or service. Nobody doubts or ever will doubt their being genuine. The stamps (27 to 33) are various shades of brown; numbers 34 and 35 are scarce (refer to Stanley Gibbons' No. 159). The numbers 36 to 45 represent the different shades of red. Between 46 and 50 there exists this difference, that the former is thick paper, issued in 1879 (see Stanley Gibbons' 154). The stamps 47 to 49 are shades of olive. The stamps 51 to 78 form a rare and interesting collection of the various shades of the one anna green. No. 79 is not catalogued in any book, and very rare; so is No. 80. The numbers 81 to 97 need no explanation. The stamps 98 to 100 are service on yellow paper.

"6. The value of all the stamps taken together amounts to Rs.125-14-0. However, if the whole collection of 100 varieties is taken, price will be Rs.125."

When read with the above letter, the following advertisement, extracted from the *Pioneer* of the 10th December, will hardly excite much enthusiasm:—

"Kashmir Stamps!

"A SUITABLE PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS!

"Complete sets of a hundred unused varieties at Rs.125,

"Smaller varieties procurable at Rs.25 and upwards.

"All stamps guaranteed genuine.

"Terms cash with order or V.-P. P.

"Apply early to Rev. C. B. Simons, Sole Agent for the Sale of Kashmir Stamps by Special Appointment of the Kashmir State Council, at Baramulla, Kashmir."

[Ed., *P. J. I.*]

Kashmir.

MORE "MISSING DIES."

By D. P. Masson.

(From the *Indian Philatelist.*)

LOOKING over the collection of a friend the other day, my attention was instantly arrested by a new type of circular stamp. I thought that at last I had found the rare "Die I;" but alas! I am again doomed to disappointment, as I am informed by Captain Hancock, who knows Die I, that this new discovery is a forgery. I bring it immediately to the notice of collectors, because it is very dangerous for the uninitiated, seeing it marks a step in advance by the forger, it being supplied with an imitation of the magenta obliteration of Jammu, or the brick one of Srinagar. No wonder Kashmir stamps are in disfavour, if so many forgeries are about: I thought I had got to the end of my list in my three papers on the old circular and rectangular stamps.

I have seen only the half-anna and four-anna denominations, but no doubt an anna stamp die also exists.

The four-anna stamp is roughly engraved, and I have seen it only in blue. I take the first Dogra 3-like letter as my key, and I place the Persian character on its left in the position of 12 o'clock on a watch dial.

Four-anna Stamp.—In the forgery, as in that formerly described, the stroke within the central sun points in the direction of 1 o'clock (to the left of the first Dogra letter), whereas in the genuine die it points to 1.45 (between the first and second Dogra letters). The rays of the central sun in the forgery are short, and exactly like the teeth of a cog-wheel, and there is a slight space between their ends and the foot of the Dogra letters. Taking the first three Dogra letters, it will be found that they are compressed into smaller space in the forgery, measuring only 8 mm. from what I shall call the abdomen of the first, to the back of the head of the third, as against 9 mm. on the genuine die. The rest of the stamp in the two specimens I possess are so badly printed as to make comparison with the genuine die impossible. The colour (blue) is a very fair imitation of that of some of the genuine stamps.

Half-anna Stamp.—This die is very well cut. The central sun again resembles a cogwheel. The first Dogra letter is a perfect figure 3, the upper and lower limbs being about the same shape, whereas in the genuine die the lower loop is crooked up, and does not project as far as the upper. The second Dogra letter is straight-backed instead of bent-backed; the left one of the three central strokes, instead of being slightly curved, is comma-shaped, and the central and right-hand strokes, instead of being parallel, would meet on its outer edge of the central sun if prolonged. I have the half-anna stamp in three colours: (1) blue, like the 4-anna one, (2) what is meant to be black, but is really a dark brown, and (3) a dull red.

Well printed copies of either forgery can be detected by the two encircling rings; in the genuine die the outer ring is light, the inner heavy; in the forgery the outer ring is heavy, and the inner so light that it sometimes prints a dotted circle.

The Fiasco of the S.S.S.S.

(From the *Indian Philatelist*).

By DAK.

So they hunted and they hallo'd till the settin' of the sun,
An' they'd nawt to bring away at last when the huntin' day was done,
So one unto the other said this huntin' doesn't pay ;
But we've footled up an' down a bit an' had a rattlin' day. Look ye there.
Old Song Re-set.

THE "four S'd league" is moribund, if indeed it has not already ended an inglorious career, and few will regret its final disappearance. For three or four years it has proved an object lesson in vacillation and incapacity probably without parallel in the experience of any public body associated for philatelic advancement, either past or present. The evils it was self-created to suppress remained, and its exit from the scene without even the semblance of a farewell is perhaps the best thing known to its credit.

From its commencement the Society asked for the confidence of collectors. Its request was very generally complied with. It was welcomed and advertised, and we were prepared to respect its rulings and follow its lead.

"What a good thing it is for you you've some one to help you at last" was its tone, and the help took the form of advertising far and wide the little weaknesses inherent in our pursuit to a Philistine world that enjoyed the revelations. "We've got skeletons in our cupboard—lots of them!" said the S.S.S.S. "Come and look!" and the world gazed, and was duly impressed.

But the S.S.S.S. is gone, and a long trail of more or less feeble witticisms in countless stamp papers mark its tortuous course for the puzzlement of future philatelic students and historians ; otherwise there is little to redeem its memory from an oblivion well deserved. Federation, fizzle, and fiasco symbolize its birth, its career, and its ending. May we never look upon its like again.

The lessons of the fiasco are many—too many for enumeration here. That we philatelists are powerless to work together for good is perhaps one of them, though it is by no means certain but that had we but been favoured with more masterful officers in the recent "crusade" the results might not have been more encouraging. Another lesson is that the London Society, as at present constituted, is hardly, from its nature, the best "cabinet," so to speak, for the direction of philatelic politics as apart from philatelic research.

In the meanwhile we must proceed as well as we can, which means that we shall probably get along very well indeed. A "Rock," after all is said and done, may be but a mirage. We have but to bring ourselves to see that speculative stamps have been, are, and (while human nature remains as it is) will be, and that no philatelic plague regulations, nor philatelic pills for earthquakes, will ever successfully uproot them. Superficial and not even skin-deep blemishes on our pursuit, it is after all our own fault if we let them do us any lasting harm.

The whole trouble about speculative stamps may be safely left to be dealt with by the press and the catalogue. The former should (and will) throw all the light possible upon the origin, nature, and other facts concerning all stamps issued, speculative or otherwise. The latter should content itself with chronicling all stamps of recognised Governments, whatever

the duration of the life of the stamps, classing commemorative, hospital, or other short-lived special issues apart from the general issues of each country.

If the catalogue and album compiler contented himself with doing this, the exigencies of the situation arising out of the creation of undesirable but inevitable and legitimate labels would be adequately met. He should catalogue all stamps issued, and not descant upon the lack of value to collectors of certain issues, nor yet ignore such issues entirely. In the *Philatelists' Supplement to the Bazaar* (9th November), for instance, in "Westoby's Stamps of Europe" (of which work it is difficult to speak too highly), the St. Anthony and Vasco da Gama series of Portugal are rightly classed under the sub-head of "Commemorative Stamps," as the compiler would have fallen short of his duty had he failed to record these ephemeral issues of an important European Government; but while placing them under their correct sub-head he goes out of his way to stigmatise the beautiful Vasco da Gama series as "rubbish," in which remark countless philatelists of long experience will fail to concur. It is the province of the cataloguer to properly classify all the issues of a country whatever his personal feelings may be as to their actual necessity, just as it is the duty of a magistrate to administer the law as it stands without regard to his private opinion concerning its abstract justice. It is not the duty of the catalogue compiler to sit in judgment upon the stamps he lists, any more than it is the duty of the magistrate to criticise or condemn from the bench the law with the provisions of which he may entirely disagree.

The frequent issue of *unpriced* uniform handbook-catalogues for the whole world on the lines of "Westoby's Europe" would do more than a score of amateur and irresponsible "suppression" societies in as many years towards the educational aid of collectors, and the defence and upraising of Philately from the quagmire of mere commercialism.

The 1½-anna Postage Stamp of India.

(From the *Indian Philatelist.*)

THIS stamp was asked for in 1880 to meet the demand for a single stamp to represent the single rate for newspapers, books and samples to the United Kingdom at that time. The first supply arrived in October or November, 1881, and began to be issued to the public in January, 1882. There was a moderate demand for these stamps (nearly half a million annually) till 1892, when the initial packet postage rate to the United Kingdom was reduced to ½ anna. Since then the demand for this stamp has been very trifling, and it has now been decided to do away with it altogether. About six millions of the stamps have been printed, of which about half a million still remain. These will be got rid of in the ordinary way of postal business, but no more will be ordered. From January, 1899, the stamp will be withdrawn from the official list of postage stamps, but it will not be demonetised. Of course it follows that no more 1½-anna stamps will be surcharged for the use of Native States. Up to date Chamba and Jhind have taken but few, and Faridkot none. Gwalior and Patiala have had large numbers, and Nabha 14,900. They will all soon be obsolete, when those of the Chamba and Jhind States will be rare.

The Turkish Postal Service.

(From a correspondent of the *Philatelic World*).

ON account of Emperor William's trip to the Holy Land a German post office has been established at Jaffa, which it is understood will remain there permanently. At the present time the same stamps are used there as in the German post office of Constantinople, the German stamps of the current issue with the surcharge in piastres and paras. It is curious enough that Turkey should permit such a large number of foreign post offices in her own territory, but this custom has become prevalent on account of the entire irresponsibility of the Turkish mails and the carelessness of Turkish post officials. All the large cities of the Orient have foreign post offices, and even the native merchant employs them in preference to his country's mail service. A short description of my experience in Syria may explain matters more fully: "The European mail arrives in Jerusalem two or three times a week; this fact is announced by criers, and great commotion can be noticed among the population. Whoever expects letters hurries upon the open square in front of the Turkish post office. After waiting for a long while patiently, the window opens, and the dignified old postmaster reads aloud the addresses of the letters that have arrived. Whenever anybody cries out 'here,' the postmaster throws the letter with unerring aim over the heads of the crowd in the direction of where the 'here' was heard. The receiver of the letter, postal card or newspaper is supposed to catch his mail on the fly. The novice at first crumples his mail in the catching, but soon he learns, and gets use to this method of delivery. Letter carriers are unknown in Turkey with but few exceptions. When nobody is there to receive arriving letters, they are placed in a glass case in front of the post office, where they may be called for at certain hours. And even for this service the people must be thankful, for it is better than none at all!

"While I was in Syria I often had to use the Turkish mails. Once I asked for letters I expected, and was told to pick it out from a clothes basket full of letters standing in one corner, and that after I had been waiting an hour for the postmaster to put in an appearance. At Bethlehem I entered the Turish post office to buy some postals, and asked for them, 'But, shining light of the West,' the postal effendi, a venerable white-bearded Turk replied: 'Why doest thou use postal cards for thy correspondence? Do write letters. You can tell more, and everybody cannot read what you say as upon an open post card.' 'I have but little to write,' I said, 'and cards will do me very well.' 'But, my beautiful turtle dove, you are not one of those poor people, who are compelled to write on postal cards for their cheapness. Will you not rather write nice letters? When I insisted energetically upon being given postals the postmaster said meekly: 'Much respect stranger, I would like to sell you postals, but I cannot do so!' 'And why not?' 'Because I have none; I'm all out of them. If you have to have them you will have to go to Jerusalem; they *may* have some left there!' Since I did not care to take a day's ride for the sake of a few postals I bought stamps, of course, and wrote letters, receiving into the bargain the blessings of the effendi, who wished me a happy voyage through Syria. Syria has but a few post offices, and the interior is reduced to a unique service, that of ambulant postmen. A travelling official passes over a given road every fortnight or so, making regular stops at certain appointed places. He has all the letters for the district in a large sheet, tied by the four

corners. Arriving at one of his stations he simply spreads out his cloth, lays his letters face up, and begins to read the addresses of the letters for the district. These people, mostly Arabs, can seldom read, and pay the postman a small amount for his trouble in reading their letters to them. Often they also have him write the reply for a similar consideration. These postal clerks, although engaged by the Turkish Government, seldom receive their wages, and depend almost entirely upon their side-earnings of this character. Moreover, they forward messages from town to town at the same rates as the Government, that is, they collect fees for forwarding letters, but do not prepay postage or turn in a penny. I received a message in the interior of Syria, which necessitated my telegraphing home. At the post office where I entered the telegram (in Damascus, the sender of the telegraphic message is required to enter the telegram, the number of words, and the amount to be paid for it into a book laying on the counter, so as to prevent the officials from defrauding the Government), the clerk in charge begged me not to enter the despatch. When I replied that I would have to enter it, as this was the only way I could rely on having the message forwarded, the clerk entreated me in the most plaintive terms: 'Oh, my good sir, I have five hungry children, and for more than six months the Government has not paid me a cent of my salary. Do take pity on me, and don't enter that amount. Your message will arrive promptly, anyway.' I did as he begged me, and had a reply inside of seven hours, the quickest service I ever had in Turkey. Friends in Syria tell me that telegrams between cities sometimes take five days or a week. When in the Orient one soon learns to be patient with the mails. When stormy weather prevails, at Jaffa it is impossible to land the mail or passengers, and the steamer continues on the way to Beirout. Then the mail is either returned with the next steamer down the coast from Beirout, or it is forwarded overland, which takes much longer as a rule. When I once asked for my mail in Damascus, the postmaster told me, with an injured air, 'Why, my dear sir, you've only had letters here last week! And here you are asking again.'

"Matters are best illustrated, however, by the condition of things at Jerusalem. There is quite a large transient population there; tourist and pilgrims come there during the entire year, yet, outside of the boxes within the Turkish and Austrian post offices, there is not one single letter-box in the entire city."

The Stamps of Persia.

BY

C. FORBES (Secretary and Librarian, the Central Philatelic Club).

(Continued from page 37.)



TYPE OF 1870 ISSUE.



TYPE OF 1875 ISSUE.

1875 issue.

Design: Printed in Teheran, from the same plates as the 1870 issue, but values indicated by an Arabic figure under the belly of the Lion.

Paper: Thick white wove.

Imperforate.

1 Shahi, black
1 ,, grey black
2 ,, blue
2 ,, ultramarine
2 ,, dark blue
4 ,, vermilion
4 ,, red
4 ,, dull red
8 ,, green
8 ,, light green
8 ,, yellow green

Variety—

8 Shahi, yellow green (*Tête Bêche*).

Jagged edge perforations, made with a penknife—

1 Shahi, black
1 ,, grey black
2 ,, blue
2 ,, ultramarine
4 ,, red
4 ,, vermilion
8 ,, green
8 ,, yellow green

Rouletted—

1 Shahi, grey black
2 ,, blue
2 ,, ultramarine
2 ,, light blue
4 ,, vermilion
4 ,, red
8 ,, green
8 ,, yellow green

These stamps were printed in horizontal rows of four, and, as there were only four dies used for each value, a strip of four constitutes a plate.

The figures of value were inserted by hand, and, as they differ slightly from one another, we consequently get four type or die varieties to each value; for future reference we will call these varieties Dies A, B, C, and D.

The figures were inserted for two reasons, to prevent the fraudulent use of the 1870 issue and to more easily distinguish the four values from each other; the colours also were purposely changed for the same reasons.

Note.—With reference to the perforations to be found on this and the later printings, made in the early part of 1876, I would call the attention of my readers to the letter from Mr. Riederer to the *Neue Freie Presse* at Vienna (No. 2) in the February article, page 35, in which he states that first the stamps were issued imperforate, secondly they were separated by means of a penknife, and last that by means of a machine of his own invention he succeeded in roughly rouletting them, and this so-called machine was simply a short steel rule, with teeth cut like a comb; thus we get—1st, stamps issued imperforate—2nd, with a very jagged edge, separated with a penknife—3rd, a rough roulette.

The writer has also stamps in his collection in which the strips have been simply folded over between the stamps and separated by hand; also specimens showing double cuts where they have been divided by means of ordinary scissors.

1876 issue.

In 1876, whilst waiting for the new series of stamps, which were being printed in Vienna, through Mr. Riederer, by order of the Persian officials, they ran short of stamps, and were forced to again resort to the old plates; we get, however, two new values added to the series in this issue.

Paper: Thin white wove, printed in horizontal and vertical rows and blocks of four; the grouping of the four die varieties are not in all cases in the same order as those of the 1875 issue.

Imperforate.

Values.

1 Shahi, black
1 ,, grey black
2 ,, blue
2 ,, pale blue
4 ,, red
4 ,, vermilion
8 ,, yellow green
8 ,, green

Rouletted.—Jagged edge perforations, done with a penknife.

1 Shahi, grey black
2 ,, blue
4 ,, red
4 ,, dull red
1 Kran, carmine
4 ,, yellow
4 ,, orange

Rouletted (with steel rule).

1 Shahi, grey black
2 ,, blue
4 ,, red
8 ,, yellow green
1 Kran, carmine
4 ,, orange

Varieties—

Errors of colour.
2 Shahi, black instead of blue
1 Kran, yellow instead of carmine

Printed on both sides.
1 Shahi, black
1 ,, grey black
4 ,, vermilion
4 ,, red
1 Kran, carmine
1 ,, red
4 ,, yellow
4 ,, orange

Tête Bêche.
4 Kran, yellow

Laid Paper.
Imperforate.

1 Shahi, black
1 ,, grey black
4 ,, red
1 Kran, carmine
4 ,, orange
4 ,, yellow

The stamps of this issue of the values of 1 Kran and 4 Kran were printed from the same dies as the 1 and 4 Shahi, the only difference being in their colours. You therefore get the same varieties in the figures of value in the 1 and 4 Kran as are shown on the plates of the 1 and 4 Shahi.

Note.—As the stamps of the 1875 and 1876 issues were printed by hand from the dies we get many minor varieties, caused through careless printings; for instance, many of the stamps show traces of thumb marks, caused through the stamps being touched by the fingers before being dried. Many other minor varieties exist; the various shades of colour and the different kinds of paper used were all caused through the same careless printing. No paper was ever stocked; this was bought at the bazaars simply as required, and whether the paper used was wove, laid, thin or thick, did not trouble the Persian printers much. The same thing also happened with reference to the various shades of colours found; in mixing the inks for printing very little trouble was taken by them to see that they were the correct shade. Although we must admit that the Austrian adviser, Mr. Riederer, did all that lay in his power to have the stamps properly and correctly printed, it is as well to point out the chief causes of the various varieties found in this issue, as many have the idea that they are due to speculation or jobbery. This view of the question is, however, quite a mistake; it was simply the wretched system they had in use at that time to print stamps.



Third issue, August, 1876.

An entirely new issue was brought out in this month. The stamps were printed in Vienna by the Austrian Government, from a design suggested by the Shah and approved of by Mr. Riederer.

Design.—The head of the Shah Nasr-ed-deen, in a circle, surrounded by a coloured border, the other portions being filled in by a netted groundwork.

Typographed, size 19 x 24 mms.

Paper: White wove.

Perforated.

Values: 1, 2, 5, and 10 Shahi.

Perf. 10½.
1 Shahi, black and mauve.
5 ,, ,, ,, rose.
10 ,, ,, ,, blue.

Perf. 12.
1 Shahi, black and mauve.
2 ,, ,, ,, green.
5 ,, ,, ,, rose.
10 ,, ,, ,, blue.

Perf. 12½.
1 Shahi, black and mauve.
2 ,, ,, ,, green.
5 ,, ,, ,, rose.
10 ,, ,, ,, blue.

Perf. 13.
1 Shahi, black and mauve.
2 ,, ,, ,, green.
5 ,, ,, ,, rose.
10 ,, ,, ,, blue.

Perf. 12 x 10½ or 10½ by 12.
1 Shahi, black and mauve.
5 ,, ,, ,, rose.
10 ,, ,, ,, blue.

Perf. 12½ x 13.
2 Shahi, black and mauve.
5 ,, ,, ,, rose.
10 ,, ,, ,, blue.

(To be continued.)

U.S. Periodicals.

Official Notice.

Sale of Newspaper and Periodical Stamps.

Post Office Department,
Office of Third Ass't Postmaster-General,
Washington, D. C., Feb. 4, 1899.

ANNOUNCEMENT is hereby made that, in compliance with numerous requests made to the Postmaster-General by collectors and others, enough of the newspaper and periodical stamps lately in use by Postmasters to make up 50,000 complete sets have been reserved by the Department for sale, and that on and after the 15th instant they may be had of postmasters at first-class post offices, or upon application to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, at the rate of five dollars a set—the set consisting of one each of the following denominations:—One, two, five, ten, twenty-five, and fifty cents, and two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, and one hundred dollars. When applications are made by mail, the money to pay for the stamps must accompany the order, with ten cents additional to pay for postage and registry fee on the returned packet.

Not less than a full set will in any case be sold; but as many more whole sets as may be wanted can be bought. When two sets or more are desired, any or all of the several denominations may be had in an unsevered condition; that is to say, in strips not exceeding ten stamps each, or in blocks of four or more. The Department, however, cannot require postmasters to segregate, for the accommodation of purchasers, marginal strips of stamps bearing plate numbers; nor can any guarantee be given that the stamps shall be perfectly "centered." It must also be understood that the stamps are not good for postage, and that after their purchase they cannot be redeemed or exchanged for others by the Government.

The sale of these stamps will continue up to the 31st December next, unless the stock is sooner disposed of; but no more than the 50,000 sets will be sold, and no more will hereafter be printed—in fact, the working plates from which the stamps were printed will shortly be destroyed.

The newspaper and periodical stamps of a former issue—of which fragmentary lots have been returned to the Department by postmasters—will not be sold, but, together with the stock of the last issue returned in excess of the 50,000 reserved sets, will all be destroyed.

JOHN A. MERRITT,
Third Assistant P. M. General.

Notable Stamp Exhibit.

By the Section on Philately, Brooklyn Institute of Art and Sciences.

Philately Recognized as a Science.

The year 1898 marks a new and most important epoch in philately, that is, the study, collection and preservation of postage and revenue stamps, and stamped envelopes. This subject, which many people have imagined only a schoolboy's hobby, has received the serious thought and earnest support of students in all parts of the civilised world, having among its devotees, artists, scientists, theologians, financiers, soldiers, and statesmen, Pope Leo XIII., the Czar of Russia, Queen of Holland, King of Siam, Duke of York, Baron Rothschild, Count Ph. Von Ferrary of Paris, the well-known Americans, William Thorne, Esq., of New York, and F. W. Ayer, Esq., of Bangor, Maine, being among the most ardent collectors. It conduces to extensive research in geography, history, and political science, as is indicated by acquisitions of new territory, accessions of sovereigns to power, and changes in the monetary systems of countries, oftentimes necessitating an entirely new issue of stamps, varied in colour, design, and value.

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

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

The exhibition will be open on week days from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The formal opening of the exhibition will take place on Saturday evening, March 18th, 1899, at which only members of the Section and invited guests will be present; all other days and evenings will be open to the public.

A special day (Saturday, March 25th) will be set aside for the school children of Brooklyn; packets of postage stamps will be distributed; competent persons versed on the subject will be present to talk about stamp collecting, and thus arouse among them an interest in this valuable pastime.

Various awards and medals will be offered for competition.

Information concerning classes, awards, rules and regulations governing the exhibition can be had by applying to John D. Carberry, Secretary Exhibition Committee, 1206, Brunswick Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

It has been decided that no fee shall be charged for admission, and all persons interested in this most fascinating pursuit are invited to view the Exhibition.

Desiring to further the interests of philately, the members of the Section are making a large and valuable collection of the stamps of the world, under the supervision of the Curator, for the museum of the Institute, which is always open to the public; and are also establishing a permanent philatelic library for the preservation of literature for the use of philatelists in search of complete knowledge on the subject; and to this end contributions of stamps and philatelic literature are earnestly solicited.

The members of the Section are most untiring and persistent workers, and their efforts to elevate philately to the plan of a science, and to increase its popularity, deserve to be crowned with success.

Prospectus.

The exhibition will be formally opened March 18th, 1899, at 8 p.m., and will be open free to the public Sundays, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., and week-days from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., from Sunday, March 19th, to Friday, March 31st inclusive, at the art rooms of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, 174, Montague Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The art rooms of the Institute are specially adapted for the exhibition of art treasures, and have the advantage of good light without danger from exposure to the sun's rays.

Night and day watchmen will be employed, and every possible precaution will be taken to secure exhibits from damage or loss, but neither the members of the committee nor the Brooklyn Institute of Arts

and Sciences will assume any liability for loss or damage.

The following rules and regulations govern the exhibit and exhibitors, and all exhibitors must conform and be subject to these rules and regulations.

The intent of the exhibit is not so much its completeness as the benefits derived from its educational advantages and the general advancement of philately in the public eye. Saturday, March 25th, will be devoted to the children of the public schools, and packets of stamps contributed by the leading dealers will be distributed.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

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

Arrangements can be made by exhibitors for insurance against loss by fire (or burglary) of exhibits with the committee while same are in their custody, at the rate of 25 cents per $100.00 insured for each kind. The charge for same, together with charge for space, will be payable on delivery of exhibit to the committee.

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

No price or other notification of rate may be fixed to an exhibit.

The right of refusing any exhibit is reserved by the Committee.

Exhibits for competition must be *bona fide* property of the exhibitor.

No exhibitor may be awarded more than one silver medal.

The following judges have kindly consented to act, the awards in each class to be made by at least three judges :

P. F. Bruner, John N. Luff,
J. W. George, Charles R. Braine. Jr.,
J. M. Andreini, Alex. Holland.

The following is the table of classes and divisions for competition and awards:

CLASS I.

For collections of adhesive stamps of any one of the following countries or combination of countries named below :

Division 1.

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.

GROUP A.

United States Postage (including Departments, Dues, and Newspapers).

GROUP B.

United States Revenues—

1. Document and Private Proprietary.
2. Telegraphs.

GROUP C.

United States Colonies.

1. Hawaii.
2. Cuba.
3. Porto Rico,
4. Philippine Isles.

GROUP D.

1. Colombian Republic and States.
2. Brazil,
3. Mexico.
4. Central American States (Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Honduras).
5. Chili.
6. Peru.
7. Ecuador.
8. Argentine.
9. Bolivia.
10. Uruguay and Paraguay.
11. Venezuela.
12. British Colonies in North America (Canada, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia).
13. British Colonies in Western Hemisphere, remaining.
14. Danish and Dutch West Indies (Surinam, Curacoa).
15. Hayti and Dominican Republic.

Awards in this Division :

Group A, one silver medal.
Group B, one silver medal.
Group C, one silver medal.
Group D, one silver medal.

Division 2.

EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA.

GROUP A.

1. Great Britain.
2. Austria (Austrian Italy and Hungary).
3. Russian (Finland and Poland).
4. Germany (any two of the following) : Alsace and Lorraine, Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, Empire and Confederation ; Hamburg Hanover, Lubec, Mecklenburg-Sch. and Str., Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Sch. Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemberg.
5. Italy (any two of the following : Italy, Modena, Naples, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sicily, Tuscany.
6. Spain and Portugal.
7. Switzerland.
8. Turkey.
9. France.
10. Holland and Belgium.
11. Greece.
12. Norway and Sweden.
13. Denmark and Iceland.
14. British Colonies in Europe (Cyprus, Gibraltar, Ionian Islands, Malta).
15. Balkan States (Servia, Roumania, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Bosnia.

GROUP B.

1. Japan.
2. Persia.
3. Egypt.
4. Colonies of France and Portugal in Asia, Africa.
5. Orange Free State.
6. Sarawak and Siam.
7. India and Ceylon.
8. British Colonies in Asia and Africa, other than (7).
9. Australia and New Zealand.

Awards in this Division;
Group A, one silver medal.
Group B, one silver medal.

CLASS II.

EXHIBIT BY A DEALER.

One silver medal for most meritorious exhibit by a dealer.
Arrangement to count 10 per cent.
Quantity to count 40 per cent.
Quality to count 50 per cent.

CLASS III.

Division 1.

BEST EXHIBIT BY A LADY.

Division 2.

BEST EXHIBIT BY A BOY OR GIRL UNDER EIGHTEEN.

Awards in this class, Division 1, one silver medal.

Awards in this class, Division 2, one silver medal.

SPECIAL AWARDS.

The following Special Awards have been donated:—

Section on Philately. One Bronze Medal for the most meritorious exhibit shown by a member of the Section on Philately.

Nassau Stamp Co. One Gold Medal for the Exhibit showing most scientific arrangement.

Scott Stamp and Coin Co. One 1899 Edition National Album, linen paper, full morocco, for the best exhibit shown in Class I., Division 1, Group A.

One 1899 Edition International Album, two volumes, half morocco, for the best exhibit shown in Class I., Division 1, Group D.

One subscription to "The Catalogue for Advanced Collectors" for the most meritorious exhibit shown.

A. Krassa. One "Ne Plus Ultra Postage Stamp Album," sunk mounts, for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Section on Philately, in Class I., Division 1, Group B.

One sterling silver "Ne Plus Ultra Stamp Cleanser and Hinge Remover" for best exhibit shown in Class I., Division 2, Group B.

J. C. Morgenthau & Co. One "sheet 25 centavas Arequipa, Peru," for the best exhibit shown of South American countries.

Bogert & Durbin. One "5 Pesos Honduras inverted center," for best exhibit shown by a member of the Section on Philately, of the Central American States.

One "sheet Providence Reprints" for best exhibit shown of U.S. Reprints.

Geo. R. Tuttle. One and two cent. Justice Department unused for second best exhibit shown in Class I., Division 1, Group A.

The J. W. Scott & Co. One "J. W. Scott's Best Blank Album" for best exhibit shown in Class I, Division 2, Group A.

George J. Carter. A set of United States Revenues, valued at $20, for the most tastefully arranged general exhibit of stamps by a boy or girl under fifteen years of age.

For further particulars apply to the Secretary, Exhibition Committee,

JOHN D. CARBERRY, ESQ.,
1206, Brunswick Avenue, Brooklyn.

The following gentlemen comprise the Executive Committee of the Exhibition: Alex. Holland, Chairman; John D. Carberry, Secretary; Charles R. Braine, jun., P. Elbert Nostrand, David S. Wells, Dr. T. P. Hyatt, Geo. W. Ring.

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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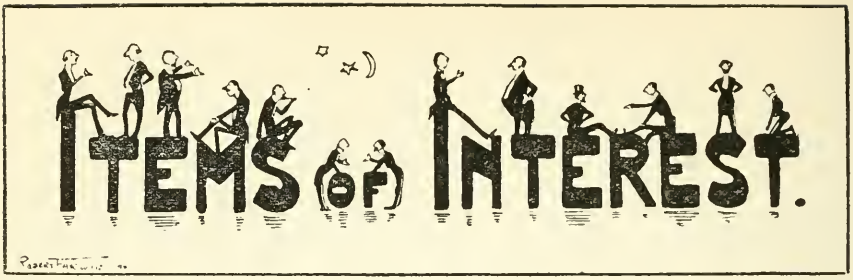
SPECIAL POSITIONS BY ARRANGEMENT.

Enquiries connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Messrs. BUHL & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

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

All letters for the editor should be addressed: The Editor, Philatelic Record, care of Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.



We regret to announce the death of Mr. Pearson Hill, only son of the late Sir Rowland Hill, which occurred at his residence on December 13th last, at the age of sixty-six. Mr. Hill entered the service of the Post Office in 1850, and originated many improvements. Although not a keen collector, Mr. Hill was a constant buyer some years ago, and we well remember seeing him almost daily in a certain city stamp shop which has now disappeared. He was a member of the London Philatelic Society.

Mr. Castle has counted the number of stamps in the following five African Colonies, according to Gibbons' new catalogue, viz:

Number of stamps issued by—	
British East Africa	109
British South Africa	61
British Central Africa	55
Niger Coast	63
Zanzibar	78
	366

Our *confrere* heads this "Prolific Philatelic, *South* Africa." The italics are ours. Will someone please send on a map of Africa.



There is an interesting local reported from Jacmel, a small town on the island of Hayti. Mons. Maury having been asked as to his opinion about a small rectangular stamp, evidently a hand stamp, showing the words "Poste Payé" in an upright rectangular frame, and dating from 1891, replied that he had seen several envelopes sent from Jacmel in May and June of 1891 bearing the mark described.

It seems, he says, that stamps must have run out in that city and for a few weeks postage was collected in this form, the stamp being imprinted upon the envelope, and the amount written across. These imprints took the place of adhesive stamps, therefore Mons. Maury thinks they should be classed and catalogued as local provisionals.

In the *Postal Card Bulletin*, Mr. Lohmeyer describes a number of Indian postcards, which he considers as hitherto unknown, and calls a "discovery." Why these cards should never appear in the catalogues we do not know. It is nearly three years since our publishers received a number of them for auction from India, and they have frequently been offered in their sales and privately.

Mr. Vear writes to us that the Siliguri Sub-Treasury in Northern Bengal issued a sheet of 240 *Postal Service* stamps by mistake for *service* labels on 8th September last, and 14 similar stamps 11 days later. Altogether 151 were actually *postally used*. Apparently they were not challenged by the Post Office for the first day or two, but after that all covers franked with the Postal Service stamps were charged with unpaid postage. The stamp issued in error was the 9-pie carmine surcharged "one anna."—*Indian Philatelist*.

Malta and Imperial Penny Postage.—Reuter's correspondent at Malta, writing under date 4th ult., points out that the Maltese Government has not accepted the Imperial Penny Postage, and that every letter received in that island at present bearing only a penny stamp is taxed to the extent of threepence on each letter. The postage to Malta, therefore, remains as previously, viz., twopence halfpenny for every half ounce.

Captain Godfrey writes that the Poonch stamp dies and obliterator have been handed over to him by Rajah Baldeo Singh, of Poonch. He proposes to have these defaced in presence of two or three representative gentlemen, and to deposit them in the Srinagar Museum. This is excellent news, as Poonch stamps have been largely "obliterated to order." Rev. Father Simons has been appointed agent for the sale of the remainders of Poonch stamps too, and we hear it whispered that the "used" portion of the stock is so only in name. Of this, however, we shall no doubt hear more hereafter. It is at least satisfactory to know that there can be no more of this. We have, of course, no intention of even hinting that the Rev. Father Simons is acting in bad faith in the matter.—*Indian Philatelist*.

Our Honorary Secretary has his own trials. A "philatelist" has sent him a contribution to our exhibition which consists of 3,250 used *current* telegraph stamps, and 250 used *current* ½ and 1 anna postage stamps. This gentleman makes the modest request:—"Please kindly do this favour on my behalf to exhibit them and to get rewards of silver medals for me and please send them to me." He wants to make quite sure of a package of medals, for he adds: "An early reply and the rewards will highly oblige me." We fear that he will be disappointed when he gets his treasures returned without medals—aye, without being exhibited.—*Indian Philatelist*.

A Swedish journal states that a Philatelic Congress would take place in Stockholm during the month of March, but we have no further particulars.

The *Virginia Philatelist* state that without a doubt the *Philatelic Journal* of India is one of the finest philatetic publications. With that we agree ; but our contemporary goes on to say that it is published by the Philatelic Society of India for members only. With the last three words we do not agree. We understand anyone can have the journal at 6s. per annum, post free.

The latest boom of the "English Specialists," following the Railway Letter stamp mania, is English stamps used in Cuba and Porto Rico.

The American Philatelic Association has now 708 members.

Several journals have recently chronicled what they consider to be a discovery of a hitherto unknown provisional of Barbados. It is the one penny of the 1882-84 issue perforated diagonally, and each half surcharged "HALF PENNY." One of our contemporaries wants "more light on the discovery," and we are willing to oblige with what we should have thought would be common knowledge to dealers and editors. The thing is a bogus concoction of a certain gang of "fakers," and was made many years ago, at which time copies of it frequently came under our notice.

Our Post Office provides a considerable sum annually to the budget, but we notice that the United States P.O. department has an annual deficiency of about £2,000,000.

The latest suggested absurdity is a series of postcards with the marches and hymns of different countries.

The latest from Bolivia is that forgeries of the current 1 peso stamps having been discovered, nine persons have been arrested, including an hotel proprietor, who is alleged to have had the stamps in his charge for a time.

No more "Omaha" stamps are being printed. As the supplies are exhausted they are being replaced by the regular stamp.

At least two New York dealers have gone to Cuba in quest of new postage stamps. Mr. E. D. Powers, representing J. G. Morgenthau & Co., left in January for Havana.

M. Arthur Maury has had a curious experience recently. He was travelling with one of his children on the Cherbourg line to Paris on a certain Monday morning, in a crowded railway carriage, and it happened that on the same day an article on stamps was published by a Parisian paper, in which his name was mentioned. The conversation happened to turn on this subject and a bombastic individnal in the carriage said that he knew Arthur Maury very well, in fact he had the day before yesterday purchased some forgeries from him (Maury), and had compelled him to return the money. Of course all this was untrue, and when M. Maury disclosed his identity the result was highly amusing.

France does not mean to be behind hand, and has started her own "Imperial Penny Postage," but in this case the cost is 15 centimes (1½d.) between France and any of her colonies.

Anyone who takes an interest in Oriental stamps, such as Afghanistan, Cashmere, Japan, &c., cannot do better than purchase Dr. Legrand's excellent work on the Oriental alphabets and figures (*Alphabets et Chiffres Orientaux*), which is published by M. Moens, of Brussels.

The state of Rio Grande de Sul, one of the United States of Brazil, has passed a law authorizing the institution of a State postal service. This is a novel move, yet perfectly comprehensible, considering the peculiar condition of the service of the government mails. In the first place, the rates of postage have been steadily increasing in Brazil of late, owing to the depreciation of the money ; moreover, the numerous shortcomings and imperfections of the service cannot be denied. The state mail promises many innovations and improvements; quick service at rates less than half of those charged by the Brazilian Government. New stamps of this State service may, therefore, be looked for at an early date.

I hear the Canadian postal authorities are preparing a new five dollar stamp, as it is required to pay newspaper postage in bulk It will not be issued until the high values of Jubilee stamps have been exhausted. Under a new law, newspapers, which heretofore passed free by mail from the office of publication, throughout the Dominion, must, after January 1st, pay postage at the rate of ¼ cent a pound if sent beyond 20 miles from their place of publication, and this rate is prepaid by stamps placed in a pass book supplied for the purpose, and cancelled at the mailing office.

This use will soon exhaust the high values of our Jubilee issue, of which, in spite of the condemnation of the S.S.S.S., I am quite

fond, because we know exactly where we stand with it. The number issued of each denomination is known beyond all dispute, and, thank heaven, the plates are destroyed, and we can have no reprints, specimens, proofs, or other resurrection abuses. I look with pleasure on my handsome page of Jubilee blocks.—*Weekly Philatelic Era.*

I met a dealer last week, who wore a troubled look upon his countenance. He showed me a request for stamps on approval "not perforated in the effigy." The order was filled and nicely centered stamps sent, but back came the goods, "unsatisfactory," with a request for others on approval. The aforesaid dealer told me that he immediately closed the correspondence, life being too short to deal with the foibles of the condition crank.

The condition crank is a *genus homo* that must be known to be fully appreciated. He demands a stamp free from the taint of hinge, with a margin of white on all four sides, not a straight edge, full, orginal gum, and not a perforation missing. Have you met this man? He must believe that governments issue stamps, not for postal services, but to beautify stamp collections. I suggest that the condition crank be taxed for his crankiness. Otherwise we shall have a catalogue soon, giving valuations upon stamps in the various combinations of condition referred to above.—*Mekeel's Weeky.*

Some collectors consider themselves philanthropists when they give a beginner a few torn and dirty stamps that they would be ashamed to have in their own albums.

The "littleness" of dealing in some of the cities of the United States is exemplified by a paragraph from Chicago in *Mekeel's Weekly*, which states that "a nice lot of seven cancelled two dollar Omahas was sold to a dealer by a youth who, as the son of a bank president, secures the pick of all the stamps received on mail addressed to the banking house." In London we should not consider the purchase of a hundred two dollar Omahas worth mentioning.

April 10th will witness another addition to the ranks of the London dealers. On that date Messrs. Bright & Son, of Bournemouth, will open a shop at 164, Strand, under the able management of Mr. Oliver.

The author of this article is neither a dealer nor a speculator, but a plain ordinary collector, who studies his stamps, and who wishes to disseminate to the philatelic public any information he may thereby gain. He considers the stamps of Paraguay neglected, and as an almost complete collection can be purchased for a small outlay of money, he advises all genuine collectors to take time by the forelock, and purchase these stamps while they are cheap.—*Virginian Philatelist.*

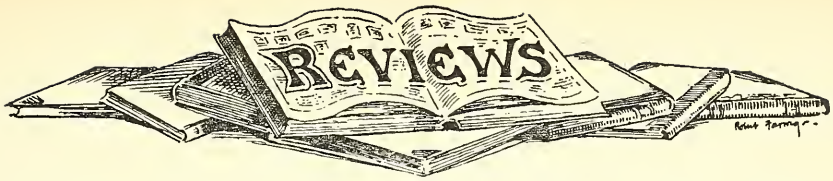
The *London Philatelist* announces that Bolivia is selling "used and unused regular issues with Government, Fiscal, Telegraph, and other stamps at 50 per cent. discount from Senf's prices." "No dealers." This must, we fear, do much to diminish the interest taken by collectors in what our contemporary call this "enterprising volcanic area." This news is certainly surprising, and we must beg to express a little doubt as to its accuracy until it is officially confirmed. The *Indian Philatelist*, commenting on this, says that the earlier issues are probably reprints. We would add that no reprints of Bolivian stamps exist.

Orders have been given for the surcharging of a number of United States stamps with the words "Porto Rico," similar to those recently issued for Cuba.

It has been said that the Americans are stamp collectors, and the English philatelists; and there is considerable truth in the remark. One of the prominent philatelists of London, in writing of the Sidney Views, gives the following colour or shades for the 3d: green and the following shades of green, bright, dull, pale, full, apple, deep apple, myrtle, emerald, slightly bluish, brownish, dull brownish, yellow, and pale yellow green; 14 shades of one stamp. As the 3d. Sidney View is catalogued at from $9 to $25 for common varieties, and some of these shades are considered as great rarities, it costs considerable money to be a specialist in 3d. Sidney Views alone. It is the study of stamps which enables one to specify all these different shades that goes to make what is called a philatelist in the true sense of the word. Where the Englishman has the advantage over the American is that the former, if a wealthy man, is a man of leisure; and the latter, in almost any rank of life, is immersed in business cares.—*Weekly Philatelic Era.*

A New York dealer recently received a request and want list of some rare stamps. These were accompanied by guarantee of safe return by a bank president, in such a manner as to leave no doubt as to the safety of the stamps. A week later the entire selection was returned in perfect order, and not the slightest damage had been done in any way. Accompanying was a letter stating: "* * * I was expecting some Philatelic friends to spend the evening, and desired to place these fine stamps in my album to show them. My friends were delighted with my collection, and I now return the stamps to you with my best thanks for the loan, &c., &c." No cheek about that, was there?—*Weekly Philatelic Era.*

The St. Louis (U.S.) "Stamp Exchange" appears to be a big society. It has no less than 1318 members, and the value of stamps in circulation is $56,000 (£11,200), and the weekly turnover about $2,000 (£400).



Bright's Catalogue, Third Edition, 1899.

There are many features in this new edition of Messrs. Bright and Son's new catalogue which will be appreciated by the general collector. The whole is published in one volume; the adhesives first, and the cards, envelopes, and newsbands at the end of the book. It is not too bulky, and the matter has the great advantage of being arranged in strictly alphabetical order, instead of in empires, or different parts of the world, or in groups of countries and colonies. The binding is substantial, and the printing is clear, but most of the copies we have seen appear to have been hastily cut, as many pages have either no heading, or no bottom margins, and many are lop-sided, but this, probably, only applies to the first few copies which were got out in a hurry, and will be found remedied in the later ones.

The illustrations are of unequal merit. Some, such as Great Britain, which now appear for the first time, being very good, but others, such as some of the Brazil, Ceylon, Chili, Cyprus, Mauritius, &c., are very poor indeed, and we hope to see this improved upon in future editions.

On page 560 we find an interesting variety of Zambesia, with the King of Portugal standing on his head, and in many cases the arrangement of the pages is spoilt by the illustrations appearing at the bottom of one column, with the text commencing on the next colnmn, which does not look well.

From the point of view of a catalogue, we have little fault to find. We notice that t' e 2 para error of Servia, first issue, has been omitted, but this is one of the small errors which must creep into such a work.

The prices seem to be calculated on a reasonable basis as compared with other recent catalogues and the current market value. It is, of course, too much to expect that the compiler of a catalogue should know everything that goes on in the philatelic market, for, although it may be news to some of our readers, there is such a thing as a philatelic market, and a minimum value for every stamp, and we must not make too much of the few errors, such as the set of Labuan *lithographed unused*, which amount to 6s. 1d., about one-fourth of their value. They are several times rarer than the engraved (no watermark) issue, which are priced in the same catalogue at 18s. 6d., and are cheap at that!

We are, perhaps, unfortunately, so conservative in our views of matters philatelic, that we do not like to see the splitting up of prices into "halfpennies."

After all, no one takes "catalogue prices" as an *exact* guide, and, to our mind, it seems absurd to price some stamps at ½d., 1½d., or 2½d. If they were priced 1d., 2d., and 3d, or, if you prefer it, 1d., 1d., and 2d., it would be easier for those who use the book, and would not make one atom of difference to the reader of the catalogue.

The above sounds something like a grumble, but taking the volume all in all, as it stands, it is a production very creditable to its publishers, and we hope to welcome many future editions of what is now so well-known as "Bright's Catalogue."

A New Perforation Gauge.

Messrs. G. Hamilton Smith & Co. have sent us a specimen of the philatelic perforation gauge, which is certainly an improvement on any gauge which we have seen up to the present. The perforations, which appear to be perfectly accurate, are from 9¼ to 16, arranged round the four sides of the card, thus making it possible to measure the perforation of any stamp that may be hinged in the ordinary way, without taking it out of the album, or removing it from the sheet on which it may be placed. There is also a neat millimetre scale (up to 40 mil:) at the side of the card, by which the length of any stamp or surcharge may be measured without removing the stamp. Messrs. Hamilton Smith & Co. are to be congratulated on the production of what is not only a very happy idea, but an improvement on any gauge that we have hitherto seen.

A "Philatelic Almanac."

We have received, for review, a copy of the Philatelic Almanac for 1899, published by Messrs. Smyth & Co., Boscombe, Bournemouth. As an almanac it is very useful, as it gives us postal rates, a list of countries in the Postal Union, the relative value of foreign moneys, a list of Kings and Queens, and any amount of information on gardening, but apart from advertisments, we fail to find the least suspicion of anything Philatelic, except perhaps a list of Philatelic Journals.

British Indian Adhesive Stamps, surcharged for Native States. Part II. By C. Stewart-Wilson, Calcutta, 1898. Published by the Philatelic Society of India.

The good work started by the Philatelic Society of London is beginning to bear

fruit. A few years ago no one would have thought that there was any society in other parts of the British Empire which would be able to turn out "handbooks" on philatelic subjects to vie with the mother country, but philatelic events move rapidly, and the Philatelic Society of India should be proud indeed of such a work as the one now under notice. Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, who is now Postmaster-General of the Punjab, proves himself to be a thorough philatelist in every sense of the word. The work of 136 pages shows most painstaking researches into matters which, in a country like India, must be difficult to determine, and we really cannot select any part for special mention. All we can advise our readers is to buy the book, which is published at the modest price of six shillings.

Mr. Arthur Manry apparently does not mean to be behind the times, so he has published a supplement to his catalogue, being a price list of stamps, envelopes, and cards issued in 1898. It consists of only 36 pages, but should be of considerable interest to those who follow the prices of modern issues.

La Cartolina Postale Illustrata is the title of a new publication emanating from Milan. It appears monthly, is very well got up, and is devoted to the collection of—*illustrated postcards*. This is certainly not philately, and we only mention the magazine to show what rapid strides in the public estimation has been made by a new hobby, which cannot, and ought not to be, taken seriously, and which we feel confident will die out as rapidly as it came into fashion.

Descriptive Catalogue of the Postage Stamps and Cards, issued by the Hong Kong Post Office, by Juan Mencarini, author of "Catalogo Descriptivo de las Sellos y Tarjetas Postales de las Islas Filipinas." Also, "Descriptive Catalogue of the Postage Stamps issued by the Amoy Local Post," 1898.

We have little to say about this work. Mr. Mencarini has been a philatelist for many years, and is well-known to the older school as not only an enthusiast, but also an undoubted authority on anything pertaining to philatelic matters in the East. If fault is to be found with anything in the little book, it is that there is rather too much of the "introductory remarks," "terminology," and "technical terms" about it, but much of this is counteracted by the list of the stamps of Hong Hong, and the excellent illustrations of Chinese characters, with their pronunciations in Mandarin and Cantonese, and their meaning in English.



International Philatelic Exhibition, Manchester, 1899.

The following circular letter is now being sent with the prospectus of this exhibition, and we hope many of our readers will apply for tickets:—

With reference to the enclosed prospectus the Committee beg to intimate that the whole of the guarantee fund has been raised amongst the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society, but with a view to afford the general body of Philatelists an opportunity of contributing towards the expenses of the proposed Exhibition, subscription tickets will be issued at one guinea each, which tickets will entitle the subscriber to admission to the Exhibition, and to all functions in connection therewith.

The names of all those who support the Exhibition by subscription will appear in the official catalogue.

Scientific Philately.

We have received the following further communication from the secretary of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences:—

174, Montague Street,
Brooklyn, New York, Jan, 17th, 1899

Dear Sir,—By creating a section on Philately, the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences has publicly and officially recognised that the study and collection of stamps is a science. The members of the section have decided to give a public exhibition of stamps, and the project has met with the approval and support of the trustees of the institute. The exhibition will be held in the art rooms from March 18th to 30th, 1899.

The official catalogue will contain a short history of postage stamps and postage evolution, also pages devoted to advertisements, at the following rates, viz.:—One page $10; half, $5 50c.; quarter, $3. Special rates will be made for more than one page. No type smaller than brevier will be used.

The following facts should be borne in mind when deciding whether you will embrace this opportunity to advertise:

1. The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences is an institution of learning, supported by the State and city.

2. There are 7,000 members of the institute.

3. This is the first time that Philately has been publicly recognised as one of the arts and sciences. Two public lectures upon philatelic subjects have been given; four more are dated, besides this exhibit. All matter for advertisement must be in the hands of the catalogue committee by Feb. 15th, 1899. No advertisements will be printed without payment in advance. For further information address H. Toelke, Secretary, 91, Grove Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., or, yours truly, T. P. Hyatt,

Chairman Catalogue Committee, 516, Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A New Album.

Now that there is such a demand for the stamps of Spanish Colonies, or rather late Spanish Colonies, there should also be a demand for a new album, which has just been published by M. Galvez, of Madrid. The translation of its title is "An Album for the Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Spain and her Colonies," by M. Galvez Jiminez, published in Madrid, 1898. To show the completeness of the album there are no less than 120 spaces left for Fiscals used postally, and in the ordinary portion there are spaces put to even the very latest issues. Ten pages are left for telegraph stamps, and the book can be recommended to those who are now specializing these stamps.

Herts Philatelic Society.

Honorary President:—Harold J. White.
Vice-Presidents:—Robert Ehrenbach, Herbert R. Oldfield, Gordon Smith, M.A.

Committee:—

W. A. Bois,	W. G. Cool,
George Gaffe,	E. A. Mardon,
Louis E. Bradbury,	W. Simpson,
Rev. Walter Jenks,	Fredk. A. Wickhart.

Counterfeit Expert:—Rev. R. B. Earee, Miserden Rectory, Cirencester.

Librarian:—G. Haynes, Donnington House, St. Albans, and 124, Newgate Street, London, E.C.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:—H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

Bankers: London and County Bank, St. Albans.

Annual subscription, 5s. No entrance fee. Life membership, £1 1s.

The *London Philatelist*, and other philatelic journals, can be obtained of the secretary at reduced rates.

The counterfeit expert is prepared to give his opinion on all stamps submitted to him at a charge of one halfpenny per stamp (plus postage).

Members are allowed to see or contribute to all the exchange packets free of charge. No charge is made on purchases, but 2½ per cent. commission is deducted from gross sales.

Sheets are returned and balances are paid immediately on return of packets.

A supply of twelve society's sheets is forwarded annually to all members free of charge. Extra sheets are charged for at cost price.

All subscriptions become due on October 1st of each year.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Honorary President :—W. B. Avery, Esq.
President :—W. T. Wilson, Esq.
Vice-Presidents :—R. Hollick, Esq.
W. Pimm, Esq.
Committee :—

Mr. H. Bewlay.	Mr. T. W. Peck.
Mr. P. T. Deakin.	Mr. C. A. Stephenson.
Mr. V. Lundeblad.	Mr. W. S. Vaughton.

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer :—
Mr. G. Johnson, B.A.
Official Address : 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

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

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

Jan. 19, 1899. The following were unanimously elected members :—Mrs. Tillotson, Messrs. A. G. Farrar, A. D. Arter, and H. H. Buijs. Votes of thanks were given to Messrs. H. Ferrier Kerr, Bright and Son, and Gelli and Tani for presentations to the Library. It was also decided to purchase Philbrick and Westoby's Stamps of Great Britain (new edition); Postage stamps of India, and the *Indian Philatelist*.

Feb. 2nd—Miss S. M. D'Albiac and Mr. A. Still were unanimously elected members. Mr. W. Pimm showed his collection of New South Wales, which is strong in the early issues, and includes some exceptionally fine re-constructed sheets, every stamp being in fine condition.

Feb. 16th—Messrs. T. E. Laureson and L. König were unanimously elected members. Mr. T. W. Peck gave a short paper on U.S.A. watermarks, illustrated by a large number of strips and plate numbers.

The Central Philatelic Club.

RULES OF THE EXCHANGE PACKET.

1.—The Packet to be sent to members only. Stamps to be affixed to one side of page only ; they must not face each other and each page *to average not less* than 15/- *in value*. Stamps to be priced by Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, and to be subject to a discount of 50 per cent. Sheets to be sent to the Secretary by the 1st of each month at latest, the Packet being sent out promptly on the 5th.

2.—The settlements to be monthly and in cash. Balances must in all cases be settled within seven days after receipt of account. The Packet will not be sent to members neglecting to settle within this period, and their sheets in circulation will be retained by the Secretary until the amount is paid. Every endeavour will be made to pay out all amounts due to members within 14 days of the return of the sheets. Five per cent. commission on net sales to be retained by Secretary. This amount will cover all postage and printing expenses in connection with the Packet.

3.—The Packet to be forwarded as quickly as possible, by Registered Parcel Post, and in no case to be kept longer than 24 hours. (Any member of the "C.P.C." may see the Packet, whether he sends sheets or not, but in the case of a member who does not send a sheet, special application to the Secretary is necessary.)

4.—Remarks as to prices and forgeries have in every case to be plainly initialed.

5.—No entire post-cards, envelopes, or wrappers may be included.

6.—The Club will not be responsible for the debts of members, or for sheets of stamps, or packets lost or stolen. The Committee reserve the right to take such action as they may deem necessary for the recovery of missing stamps or their value.

7.—A member removing a stamp must initial in ink or with a rubber stamp the space from which the stamp is taken, and enter the total on the front of each sheet. He must also enter an account of his takings upon the back page of his own sheet ; or, if he has no sheet in the Packet, then on a blank form, and he must also fill up and sign the Postal List accompanying the Packet.

8.—Members should carefully count the sheets, and also examine the Packets on arrival, and see that all spaces are initialed before removing any stamps. Should blank spaces be found, notice of such should be sent to the Secretary and to the forwarding member, who will be debited with the stamp or stamps missing.

9.—The order of the Packet is made in the following manner :—All members are balloted once to fix their position as regards seeing the Packet, but members sending sheets will take priority over those who do not send sheets, the Secretary taking turn with the other members.

N.B.—A special meeting of the members will be held on the first Monday in each month at 7 p.m.

(*Signed*) C. FORBES,
Secretary.

Plymouth Philatelic Society.

THE Annual Philatelic Display of this Society was held on Saturday afternoon and evening, January 14th, at 9a, Princess Square, Plymouth, and proved a most gratifying success—the exhibits being unquestionably in advance of all that had preceded. A large number of philatelists and philatelic friends inspected the stamps, and among those present were the Hon. Lady Fremantle, Lieut.-Col. Crookenden, Major G. Stockdale, R.E., and several members representative of the trade. In themselves the exhibits were very varied and well mounted, though the room unfortunately did not lend itself to setting off the stamps at their best. To Baron A. de Worms certainly fell the honour of the finest display. His mint collections of St. Helena and British Honduras were deservedly the attraction of the room, and comprised, in the St. Helena, blocks of the 6d. perf. and imperf., the 1d. both sized bars, a pair of the 1s. green, short bar (difficult enough to procure unused in the single copy) and four varieties of the pale blue 6d., shown also in pairs; while in the Honduras one noted a pair of the 6d. orange and 1s. grey, two mint specimens of the 50 cents on 1s., and the 3 cent on 3 pence, 12½ perf. C.C.—this last stamp perhaps the *piece de résistance* of the many good things shown by Baron de Worms. The Rev. E. T. Fyffe, R.N., contributed several striking copies of the first issue of India, with interesting specimens of proofs, but reached high watermark in the very handsome display of Sydney views that he also sent in. These included a very fine plate of the 1d. die II., with clouds, of July, 1850—the stamps being all in fine colour—along with several impressions of varying plates of the 2d. value, all in fair condition. From Major Stockdale, R.E., came an exhibit both of quality and quantity, embracing Ceylon, Egypt, Persia, Spain, France, Luxembourg (unused and complete), Malta (unused), Gibraltar (unused), with copies in mint of the two early 1/-. Among some of his most coveted treasures were to be seen unused copies of the 10d. imperf. Ceylon, and of the 9d., 4d., 5d., and 1/9 star issue of the same country. Indeed, his Ceylons were very complete and fine, and included a number of the rare 2 cent surcharges on red lilac. Major Stockdale's French, which were also much admired, were those recently exhibited at Birmingham. An equally full assortment of European issues in fine used condition was sent by the Rev. E. A. Donaldson.

His Germany was practically complete, and in addition Mr. Donaldson showed very full collections of Bremen, the Two Sicilies, Wurtemberg, Parma, Romagna, and Holstein, breaking ground also into Italy. Among the plums of this Continental dish the collector picked out the ½ tornese of the Two Sicilies, the two shades of the 70 kr. Wurtemberg, the 50 and 100 lira, unused, 1854, of Italy, and several fine Oldenberg. The New World found its best exponent in the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland issues exhibited by the Rev. E. R. Hudson. These comprised a superb copy of the 6½d. orange-vermilion, used, of Newfoundland, the 1/- of the same issue, but with poor margins, and the 1/- values of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the latter also lacking environment. Great Britain was also shown by the same collector, the 1d. values in mint and often in pairs. Nor were West Indians forgotten. Mr. R. T. Stevens, the Society's vice-president, contributed a fascinating little group of Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago—but a little of what he could have shown had more been called for. And in Dr. Houghton's collection of Turk's Island, a very complete and choice lot of stamps had been got together, including as these did several varieties, such as a pair of the ½d. surcharge on the 4d. grey. Africans were looked after by Messrs. H. W. Mayne and W. A. Walker. The former, besides sending in some very nice St. Helena, displayed British East Africa, inclusive of a pair of the 2 anna imperf., used, with Uganda, used and unused. Mr. Mayne had also on view an effective mounting of Gibraltar, with some of its later issues in pairs and strips.

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

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

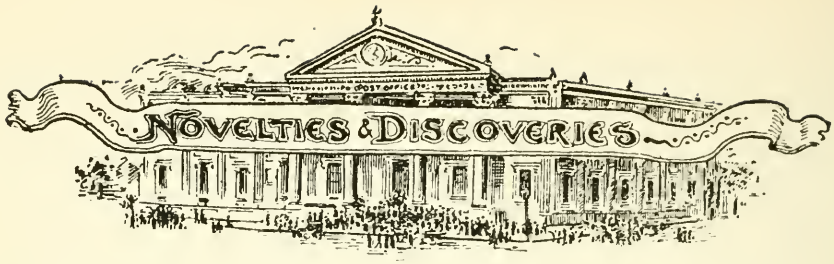
HERTS. PHILATELIC SOCIETY. — At a special meeting held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Tuesday, December 6th, the proposed alterations and additions to the rules were carried unanimously. The expense for reprinting new rules was sanctioned. The following gentlemen were elected members of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

At the close of business W. Simpson gave a display of his general collection and of some unique blocks of 1fr. France, 1853-6 issue. A vote of thanks to Mr. Simpson for his entertainment of members terminated the meeting.

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

H. A. SLADE, Hon. Sec.

Ingleside, St. Albans.



Part I.—British Empire.

British Guiana.—We have received the 5c. envelopes of 1894, surcharged "TWO CENTS" in small block capitals, in *black*, across the lower part of the stamp. These envelopes exist in two qualities of paper—thin, white tough wove, and *azure* wove with *blue granite* surface inside. The surcharge exists also both with and without a period at the end.

Envelopes.

2c. on 5c. white, 35 by 106 mm.
2c. on 5c. azure „

India.—Mr. A. W. Carfield has kindly sent us the new 3 pies (quarter anna) stamp, which replaces the recent provisional. The head of Her Majesty is similar to that on the high values, with INDIA POSTAGE in a curved band at the top, and THREE PIES below.

Adhesive.

3 pies, rose red, wmk. star, perf. 14.

Malta.—Some very pretty new values have appeared here, which we will illustrate shortly.

Adhesives.

4½d. dark brown; perf. 14.
5d. vermilion „
2s. 6d. greenish grey „
10s. deep blue „

New South Wales.—Messrs. Smyth & Nicolls have favoured us with specimens of the ½d., 2½d., and 6d. in new colours, the designs being unaltered. Our correspondents write that the charge in the 6d. was hurriedly decided on, and only gazetted on January 17th.

Adhesives.

½d. green.
2½d. blue.
6d. orange.

Virgin Islands.—Contrary to our expectations, which were based on semi-official information, a new set of stamps has appeared here, so that the Islands have apparently seceded from the Leeward Islands federation. A figure of the Virgin is still the central design, but the stamps are not nearly as pretty or artistic as the former issues. They are watermarked Crown C.C. and perf. 14.

Adhesives.

½d. yellow green.
1d. brick red.
2½d. blue.
4d. brown.
6d. purple.
7d. deep green.
1s. yellow brown.
5s. indigo.

Western Australia.—The 1d. and 2d. are now coming over in new colours, and watermarked with a small crown between the letters W A, thus: W ♔ A.

Adhesives.

1d. rose.
2d. yellow, wmk. W ♔ A.

Part II. Other Countries.

Columbia.—The 20c. vermilion of 1884 is announced by *L'Ami des Timbes*, with the surcharge *Vale un peso* in blue.

Switzerland.—Mr. A. W. Drahn informs us that the colour of the 5 centimes has been changed to green.

Adhesive.

5 centimes, green.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The March Packet contains:—

SIX VARIETIES all unused.

Viz.: Cuba, surcharged on United States, 1c. on 1c.; 2½c. on 2c.; 3c. on 3c.; 5c. on 5c., &c.

No. 2, price 5s. (postage extra).

The March Packet contains:—

14 *VARIETIES*, viz.: Complete set of 13 Nyassa, 1898 (surcharged on Mozambique); Cuba, surcharged on United States 10c. on 10c.

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., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

APRIL, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

UNTIL the recent flood of surcharges Brazil was always considered amongst the model stamp issuing countries; nothing unnecessary was ever issued, and from the year 1843, when the then Empire of Brazil issued its "bulls eye" stamps, which, by the way, made it the first country after Great Britain to issue stamps, right up to the present time, the country was considered blameless as to reprints. Now, however, our illusions are dispelled by the information which, with all the accompanying details, comes direct from St. Paulo that the 280 reis, vermillion red, of 1861 (small upright figures) was reprinted in 1886. The story runs that the plates of this issue were preserved in the mint of Rio Janeiro, where all Brazilian stamps are made. An engraver, whose name is given, who was employed in the establishment, managed clandestinely to secure the plate of the 280 reis, and manufactured private reprints to the value of 200,000 reis. (This sounds a big figure, but it is only 200 milreis. At that time a milreis was about 1s. 6d., now it is about 6d.). He was arrested in 1888, and condemned to four years' imprisonment, not so much for making reprints of an obsolete stamp, but for betraying the confidence of the Government by using the plate, because it appears that the plate was put back into its proper place after having been used. The originals are vermillion red, and the reprints, so we are informed, are rose carmine. It is stated that no used copies of the reprints have been seen, and even unused ones must be scarce, as the amount named represents less than 800 stamps.

Brazilian Reprints.

Such is the story, but it will be seen that the Brazilian Government can still boast that it has never issued reprints, as these are quite unofficial; but the strangest part to us is that we do not think we have ever seen one of these stamps in *rose carmine*. Should any of our readers possess a copy, we should be much obliged if he or she would kindly send it for our inspection, and it shall be promptly returned; but it is possible that very few ever reached the hands of collectors, as we are not informed whether any of these reprints were found when the engraver was arrested.

Editorial Interviews.

BY THEODOR BUHL.

MESSRS. G. HAMILTON-SMITH & Co.

A DOUBLE interview is rather an awkward affair, but it had to be done. The two gentlemen whose portraits we publish to-day are each so much a part of the firm of G. Hamilton-Smith & Co. that it would be impossible to publish an interview with one of them without mentioning the other, only that to-day our readers must be content with rather less "interview" and more of a history of the flourishing business which has grown so rapidly.

Mr. G. Hamilton Smith was born at Bristol in 1870, and commenced dealing in stamps while at school at Clifton in 1882, at the age of twelve. Ten years earlier, in 1860, Mr. Gwyer saw the light in the same city, but his philatelic career commenced at a much later age than that of his partner.

At the firm's comfortable first-floor offices in Bishopsgate Street Within we recently found Mr. Hamilton-Smith, not doing anything in particular at that moment, and willing to give us a few minutes' time, although he had "nothing to say," and didn't know what we wanted to ask. The date of his first dealing efforts being already known to us, we plunged at once into Mr. Smith's more recent history as to when and why the ancient City of Bristol was forsaken.

"It was in 1893," said Mr. Smith, "that I came to the conclusion that there was not enough scope for stamp dealing in Bristol, so I came to London, and opened up business on my own account. My first premises were in Regent Street."

"At that time you had not yet secured a partner?" we queried.

"No; it was about five months after I had started that I thought a partner would be desirable, and I was fortunate enough to meet with Mr. Gwyer, a very keen philatelist. The partnership was soon arranged, and has, I believe, been entirely satisfactory to both of us."

At this period Mr. Gwyer entered the room, and the conversation assumed a more general tone, from which we gathered that the removal to Bishopsgate Street took place at about the same time as the partnership.

"But why did you leave Regent Street in favour of the City?" we asked Mr. Smith.

"For the reason that we could not buy in the West End. We could sell there well enough, but there was nothing to be bought. In the City it is quite different, and we are continually buying."

"And which was your first big venture?"

"The purchase of Dr. Viner's collection," said Mr. Gwyer; "it contained some fine things, and took a lot of arranging. A portion of it was sold by auction, and realised £1,500."

"Before we go further will you give a few details about your own philatelic career?"

"I was one of the earliest members of the London Philatelic Society, and was simply a collector until I met Mr. Smith. I should think I have in my time formed six or seven collections. Whenever my collection got to

Our Portrait Gallery.



MR. G. HAMILTON-SMITH.



MR. GWYER.

any size I sold it and started another. The pleasure to me was *collecting* the stamps, not the mere possession of them, and in my travels I had many opportunities of collecting 'on the spot.'"

"Is it not partly owing to your travels that you formed a liking for the stamps of the Straits Settlements?" we asked, because "Straits" are Mr. Gwyer's strong point; he is a specialist in them, and the firm hold what is probably the best stock in the world of these interesting stamps.

"Yes, I suppose so," said Mr. Gwyer; "during my residence in Singapore, Malacca, and Penang I picked up many of the best things we have now."

Much more than this we gathered in the few minutes at our disposal. The firm of Hamilton Smith & Co. do not believe in great rarities—when they get them they try to sell them quickly; neither do they believe in very common stamps, and as to "wholesale"—not at any price. Their favourite stamps are the medium article, betweed 1d. and £10 each, but the business is progressive, and as the clients increase the field may be widened. Besides Dr. Viner's, the firm have recently purchased two other collections for £1,800, and Mr. Smith informed us that trade is very good, with good prospects for the future. Most of the business is done by post, but sometimes there is a rush of "cash trade" to the Bishopsgate Street establishment, and as many as five members of the London Philatelic Society have been there at one time.

"You buy largely at auctions?"

"Yes," was the reply from both partners, "we buy more at sales for ourselves than anyone else."

"And the approximate value of your stock?" we queried.

The reply was in good round figures, and the partners informed us that their business has been so successful that they reckon their present stock costs them just about nothing.

"Do you publish a price list?"

This was one of our stereotyped questions, and we gathered that Messrs. Hamilton Smith & Co. publish what they term a "spasmodic" price list, which appears just when it suits them, and contains prices for any goods they may have to sell at the moment.

As to their belief in catalogues, for the two partners seem to think as one, they think them very good "as a means of buying."

The teetotal partner suggested an adjournment to the hostelry next door, but as our time was precious we declined the honour, and left with the knowledge that we had interviewed a most enterprising young firm which appears to have a big future before it.

Fiscal Notes.

CONTRIBUTED BY A. PRESTON PEARCE.

THE very great increase of interest now being manifested in the revenue stamps of this and of other countries has become matter of general observation, and, although the full extent of the movement is unknown, even to those who are in the centre of it, there is no longer any doubt of the fact that collectors of fiscals are about to see their section of the hobby placed on an established and thoroughly recognized footing.

Hitherto—and more especially in this country—fiscals have been regarded by the vast majority of unreflecting philatelists as mere rubbish, and, sadder still, these same philatelists have united with "the trade" in resolutely refusing to give collectors a ghost of a chance, and in snubbing and boycotting them as though they were enemies of their kind.

Of course there have been exceptions, and most collectors know that several of Philately's most honoured sons have taken, and do take, much interest in fiscals. Now, however, the explorations in the rich fields that await the prospectors are not to be conducted solely by a very few, and it is in recognition of the fact that notes on revenue stamps will now be acceptable to a large and ever increasing number, that I have been asked by our Editor to supply a page or so of matter each month.

I am pleased to announce that there are no cut and dried restrictions as to the character of the "copy," and that I have no intention of laying out the available space, or of arranging a plan of campaign. One month you may be treated to a series of short paragraphs, ranging over most of the earth's surface, and next time may have to put up with a solid double-column disquisition on the perforating machines used—and abused—by the Japanese. However, if I make no promises in this respect, I must say that I shall always be delighted to receive communications from collectors who have anything of special interest to bring before their brethren, and if it necessitates the use of an illustration to elucidate the matter I believe that our Editor will be good enough to admit it.

* * *

We fiscalists are accustomed to take quite a special interest in the annual Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, as at the time of writing these Notes* it appears only too probable that new or increased taxation is inevitable, it may well happen that the forthcoming deliverance of Sir Michael E. Hicks-Beach will contain something of immediate concern to us other than that common to all taxpayers.

In this connection it may be recalled that the attractive little stamps of the Transfer Duty series, first issued in 1888, were colloquially known as "Goschens," being named after their creator. If Sir Michael gives us a new series of Customs labels they might most appropriately be styled "Beaches."

[*These notes were written for the March RECORD, but had to be held over until this month. Perhaps Mr. Pearce will tell us something about the new British stamp duties in his next contribution.—*Ed.*]

Mr. E. W. Wetherell, who is known to most collectors in this country, is now in India, and is actively pursuing the hobby. He claims that it is possible to plate the native issues of Mysore, and promises detailed information on the completion of his researches in this direction. I should think it would not be a difficult task to plate the native issues of Berars, for a haphazard score of specimens are almost sure to exhibit a dozen palpable varieties.

* * *

Not so very long ago I was assuring a most courteous correspondent in Newfoundland that our cousins in that Colony were exceptionally favoured in not being subject to pay stamp duties, but he now informs me that we must open a fresh place in our albums for the reception of a series ranging from 5 cents to 25 dollars, which has just been emitted. I am expecting further information from official sources, and, if received and found to be of interest, it shall be summarised for a later issue.

* * *

That there is an intimate connection between postage stamps and letters goes without saying, but it would be a very exceptional thing to find the latter on the back of the former, especially if it were evident that it had not been done for the sake of the doing. However, from the last packet of the Fiscal Club I took for my collection an unusually nice and well-centered copy of the 6/9 beer duty stamp of New South Wales, which bears on the reverse quite a lengthy communication of a personal character. I must admit that the label is of an unusual size.

* * *

In these days of specializing it is only natural that I should be asked every now and then for the name of the country whose emissions are most worthy of special attention, and if I find that my questioner has no exceptional opportunities of procuring the stamps of any particular region, I invariably recommend Mexico. It is true that this country has recently





fallen somewhat from its high estate by the *écoulement* of certain remainders, but I know of no other which so fully meets all the requirements of the budding specialist. The exigencies of space forbid further dilatation at this moment, but in all probability I shall frequently recur to the subject.

As may be surmised, I have personally paid considerable attention to the stamps of this Republic, and have been rewarded by several discoveries of some interest. Perhaps the most striking of these is conveyed in the announcement that there are two distinct types of the lowest value of the 1876 issue of Documentos y Libros. It appears to me that, after the required supply of all the values except the 25 centavos, and possibly the 10 pesos (which latter I do not possess), had been printed, it was discovered that the engraver had omitted to complete the ear of the patriot, José Marie Morelos, whose

portrait occupies the centre of the design. On all the specimens of the 3, 5, 10 and 50 centavos, and 1 and 5 pesos, this important feature will be found to be a mere daub.

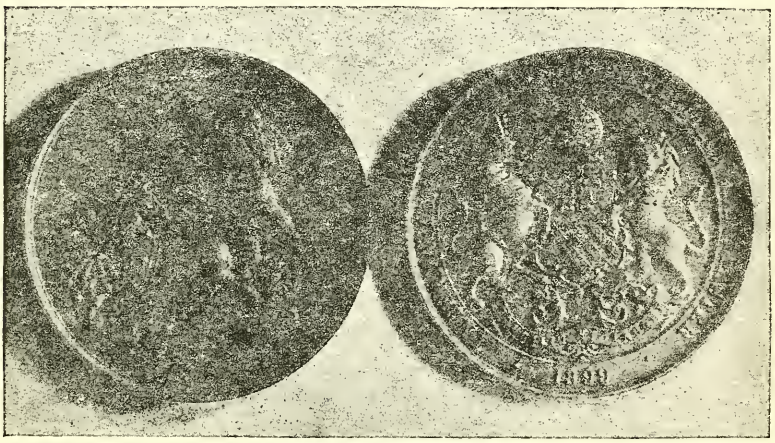
The first printing of the 1 centavo shows the same unfortunate blunder, but it was subsequently rectified in the case of this value, and all the specimens of the 25 centavos that I have encountered are correctly drawn.

The illustrations appended exhibit the two types which, once known, are distinguishable at a glance. It will also be found that the white line bordering the collar and lapel of the coat is much less pronounced in the re-engraved variety.

All communications in respect of this page should be addressed to 25, Washington Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth.



International Philatelic Exhibition, Manchester, 1899.



Since the publication of the prospectus, the following additional medals have been accepted by the committee.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

One silver and one bronze medal for the best exhibits by a resident in Yorkshire.

LIVERPOOL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

One silver and one bronze medal for the best exhibits from Liverpool and District (*i.e.*, within a radius of 15 miles).

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

One silver medal for the best exhibit of uncatalogued varieties shown in class 2, consisting of stamps issued up to the end of 1896, and not catalogued by Stanley Gibbons or Scott.

NEDERLANDSCHE VEREENIGING VAN POSTZEGELVERZAMELAARS, AMSTERDAM.

One silver medal for the best exhibit by a Dutch collector.

SOCIETA FILATELICA LOMBARDA.

One silver medal for the best exhibit of Italian States.

SOCIETE FRANCAISE DE TIMBROLOGIE.

One silver medal for the best exhibit of France or colonies.

MESSRS. BRIGHT & SON.

One silver medal for the best exhibit of Holland in Class 2.

Messrs. Butler Brothers.

One bronze medal for the best collection of not less than 2,000 varieties shown by a boy or girl under 16, and attending school.

Messrs. Winch Brothers.

One bronze medal for the best and most accurate colour chart, consisting of genuine Government postal issues, with colours named, Seebecks, reprints, locals, and forgeries, being excluded.

Mr. Ernst Stock.

One gold and one silver medal for the best exhibits of German States, in unused condition, regard being paid to the pristine beauty of the specimens shown, as well as to their rarity.

By the courtesy of the Hon. Sec. we are enabled to illustrate the design of the medals, of which there are no less than 160, and we hope that many of these will fall to the share of our readers.

The Brooklyn Exhibition of Postage and Revenue Stamps.

(From the *Philatelic Monthly and World.*)

PERSEVERANCE, hard work, and untiring energy has achieved wonders. Handicapped by weather, the rush season of the year, insufficient help, and numerous other obstacles, the exhibition was opened as promised, and proved more than a success. To the committees in charge and the different exhibitors too much credit cannot be given for their efforts and their successful termination.

The exhibition was held in the Art Rooms, at 174, Montague St., Brooklyn, N. Y. It opened March 18th, and was supposed to close March 31st; but owing to the enormous quantities of small boys who flocked there on Children's Day, and the evident disappointment of those who were refused admission on account of the crowd, it was unanimously decided to remain open another day.

Mr. Alexander Holland made an address of welcome, which was well received. Although a most dismal rain prevailed a large and enthusiastic number of collectors were present, including a number of ladies. Invitations had been sent to President McKinley, Postmaster General Smith, 3rd Assistant Postmaster General Merritt, Governor Roosevelt, and other men of prominence.

The following afternoon the judges met, and awarded prizes as follows:

CLASS I.

Division 1.

Group A. Bronze Medal.

Charles R. Braine, Jr., for stamps of the United States.

"Ne Plus Ultra Album," sunk mounts.

John D. Carberry, for stamps of the United States.

1899 National Album, full morocco.

P. Elbert Nostrand, for stamps of the United States.

Frank D. Moffat, One and Two Cent Justice Department, unused, for second best exhibit.

Group B. Bronze Medal.

Clarence H. Eagle, for United States revenue stamps.

Honorable Mention.

Alexander Holland, for private proprietary stamps.

Joseph S. Rich, for telegraph stamps.

Group C. Bronze Medal.

David S. Wells, for stamps of the United States Colonies.

Honorable Mention.

John N. Luff, for stamps of Hawaiian Islands.

Group D. Bronze Medal.

George W. Ring, for stamps of the British Colonies in Western Hemisphere.

International Album, two volumes, half morocco.

Charles R. Braine, Jr., for stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Division II.

Group A. Bronze Medal.

Dr. Thaddeus P. Hyatt, for stamps of Scandinavia.

Best Blank Album.

P. Elbert Nostrand, for stamps of Turkey.

Honorable Mention.

David S. Wells, for stamps of European Countries.

Honorable Mention.

P. F. Bruner, for plated stamps of Switzerland.

Group B.

Joseph Holland, for stamps of Sarawak and Siam.

"Ne Plus Ultra Stamp Cleanser and Hinge Remover."

Oliver C. Drew, for stamps of British Colonies in Asia and Africa.

CLASS II.

DEALERS.

Bronze Medal.

Edgar Nelton, for stamps of British North America.

Honorable Mention.

A. Krassa, for display of United States proofs.

Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd.

CLASS III.

Division I.

Bronze Medal.

Mrs. Frederick A. Hoyt.

Bronze Medal.

Miss Elizabeth Nostrand.

For most meritorious exhibit shown, H. A. Talbot, one subscription to Catalogue for Advanced Collectors.

For most tastefully arranged exhibit by a boy under fifteen, L. A. Thuning, set of United States Revenues.

For most meritorious exhibit shown by a member of the Section on Philately, Alex. Holland, one bronze medal.

For exhibit showing most scientific arrangement, J. W. George, for Private Proprietary Stamps, One Gold Medal.

In all cases where more than one exhibit received an award in any group, the exhibits were judged of equal merit.

A visitor on entering the rooms would be interested in the diversity of colors and shades that would meet the eye. Turning to the left he would notice a rather curious exhibit of stamps and envelopes used in the late war, from Cuba, the different camps, soldiers' letters, etc., shown by Mr. W. J. Brennan. A frame containing stamps, supposed to be the most beautiful,

exhibited by Geo. J. Carter, attracted much attention from non-philatelists. The page of Tonga, exhibited by A. L. Thuning, 15 years old, deserved well the prize it received for neatness in mounting. The exhibition of Swiss plates by P. F. Bruner, and of Great Britain 1d. and 2d. plates by Alexander Holland, attracted the attention of specialists, and excited much interest from new collectors, who wondered at a person collecting "so many just alike."

To the lover of rarities, however, the frames exhibited by Edgar Nelton appealed with peculiar force. British North America was his specialty. Newfoundland scarlets and oranges were common. Three or four New Brunswick shillings, Nova Scotia shillings of varied hue, the 6d. yellow and ochre, all kinds of splits, pairs and strips on the originals were especially noticeable. One frame exhibited by the same gentleman, showing variations in the designs of British Colonials, contained the 4d., 8d., 2sh. Ceylon, imperforated, unused.

Zanzibar and Tonga, exhibited by O. C. Drew, were striking examples of neatness in mounting.

The stamps, however, best represented were the United States. In the regular postage stamps, the exhibit of Mr. Chas. R. Braine was the best, as it showed the departments complete. The stamps exhibited by J. D. Carberry, however, were a close second, the complete sets of newspapers being a special feature.

One of the most interesting exhibits was that of Mr. C. H. Eagle, of United States Revenues imperforate. These stamps were shown in pairs, strips and blocks, and made a most beautiful appearance. Pairs of the 1c. playing cards, $200.00, and the $1.30, $1.60, $1.90, all were shown.

One of the most popular awards was the gold medal to Mr. J. W. George for the exhibit showing most scientific arrangement. This gentleman exhibited a magnificent collection of private proprietary, match and medicine stamps, which for condition can never be surpassed.

Children's Day, March 25th, is a day which will long live in the memories of Messrs. Holland and Briggs, who were in charge at the exhibition. Our publishers had decided to give away 1,000 packets containing from 200 to 400 stamps. Every fifth package contained a prize. A postal card was also given away, on the presentation of which a rebate of ten cents was allowed on a twenty-five cent package.

At nine o'clock the doors were opened, and the rush of children began. The gentlemen in charge were literally taken off their feet by the flood of small boys.

After securing a package the children would wander around looking at the frames until they saw stamps they had, when a rush would be made, and a frame would be obscured from view while the small boy pointed out to friends the stamp he had. It was estimated that from 2,500 to 3,000 children saw the exhibit, March 25th.

The exhibition concluded as well as it began. Its good results will be incalculable. It has unquestionably revived interest in stamps among many, and started more. While no doubt the exhibit could be improved on, for a first attempt it has been more of a success than any could have predicted. To all who have loaned their time and assistance the heartiest thanks of all philatelists is due.

The Stamps of Persia.

BY

C. FORBES (Secretary and Librarian, Central Philatelic Club).

(*Continued from page* 63).

1887 provisional issue.

IN this year a provisional stamp was made by cutting in half horizontally the 10 shahi of the 1876 *head type*, and surcharging the upper and lower halves with the inscription "5 shahi" or "5 shahy" in black or greenish black ink.



Type of 1877 provisional.
Black surcharge.
5 shahi on upper half of 1876 issue (head issue).
5 ,, lower ,, ,,
5 shahy on upper half of 1876 issue.
5 ,, lower ,, ,,
"*Greenish Black*" surcharge.
5 shahi on upper half of 1876 issue.
5 ,, lower ,, ,,
5 shahy on upper half of 1876 issue.
5 ,, lower ,, ,,

NOTE.—This surcharge being merely hand stamped is to be found varying somewhat in the thickness of the type.

It is very important, however, to point out to collectors that this provisional stamp, although it can be found on pieces of original envelope postmarked, is not an *official* issue; they were issued by the then postmaster of Teheran for speculative purposes, and were never officially used or sanctioned; in fact, as soon as their issue became known to the Persian officials, the remainder were seized and destroyed.

NOTE.—These stamps in the writer's opinion should be eliminated from all catalogues as an official issue, as their insertion is misleading to collectors. I should advise their being placed (if it is necessary to catalogue them at all) at the end of the catalogues amongst other bogus issues, etc., of other countries. A number of these stamps have been placed on the market lately unused, with a surcharge in heavy thick type and black ink. It is needless to point out that these surcharges are absolutely bogus.

1878. Fourth issue.

During the latter part of 1878, the 1876 issue became somewhat exhausted, and although orders had been given to the Austrian postal authorities for a new series of stamps, the old dies of the 1875 lion type were again brought into use temporarily.

The values reprinted from these dies were 1 kr., 4 kr., 5 kr., and 1 toman. The dies of the 1 shahi, which were used for printing the 1 kran and 1 toman values, becoming now somewhat worn, they were slightly recut, and a broad white circle was made round the figures of value in the four corners. The insertion of these circles enables collectors to easily extinguish the 1 kran of this issue from the 1 kran stamps of the 1876 issue.

Imperforate : Paper white wove.

1 kran, carmine.
1 ,, pale carmine.
1 ,, deep red.

Paper yellow wove.

1 kran, carmine.
1 ,, deep red.

Paper white wove, also grey and greyish white.

4 kran, light blue.
4 ,, grey blue.
4 ,, ultramarine.
4 ,, dark blue.
5 kran, slate violet.
5 ,, lilac.
5 ,, brown lilac.
5 ,, bronze.
5 ,, red bronze.
5 ,, gold.
1 toman, gold.
1 ,, bronze.

On blue paper.

1 toman, gold.
1 ,, bronze.

Varieties.

Tête Bêche.

1 kran, carmine on yellow.

Showing thumb mark of printer.

4 kran, grey blue.
4 ,, blue.
4 ,, ultramarine.
5 ,, red bronze.

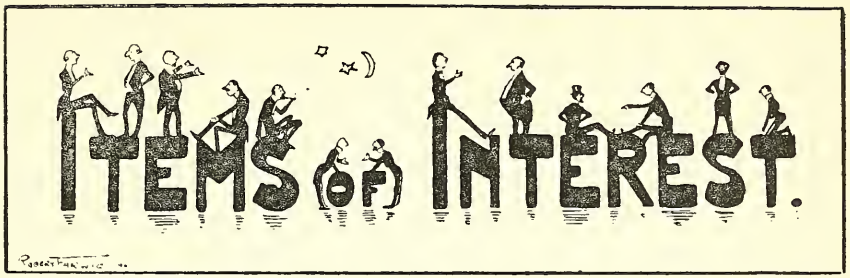
NOTE.—In printing the stamps of this issue, the dies A, B, C, D were used for the 1 kran and 1 toman stamps; for the 4 kran values dies A, B, C, only of the 4 shahi were printed from. The 5 krans were printed from dies A, B, and D of the 8 shahi, the figures and Arabic characters being erased, and the figure 5 under the lion, together with the Arabic characters for this numeral, being substituted in the circles in the four corners.

This interesting issue of stamps, which is, more strictly speaking, a provisional one, were all printed from the plates by Persian workmen by hand. All the stamps were issued imperforate. Mr. Riederer and the other Austrian postal officials having returned to Vienna, they were consequently printed in a very slovenly and careless manner, and no attempt was ever made at perforating them, as this would have called for too much exertion on the part of the Persian workmen. No printing machines were used; the dies were simply bound together, inked by hand, and printed from in strips and blocks of three and four. As regards the kinds of papers used—why should they buy any quantity at a time so as to have one kind only? Where was the need? Did not they have the bazaars close at hand to replenish the stock when needed? Thus, in the case of the 1 kran, when white paper could not be got, they used yellow; and later, when printing the 4 and 5 krans, first white was used, and when that was not obtainable, greyish white, and finally, grey paper was used; and last, when printing the 1 toman stamps, they had finally to resort to blue paper.

In the inks used also, why should they trouble to mix large quantities so as to get the exact colours? There really should have been only one

colour for each value, viz., carmine for the 1 kran, blue for the 4 krans, violet or lilac for the 5 krans, and gold for the 1 toman; but, as they continually mixed fresh inks as they were wanted, all the different shades cropped up, and in the 5 krans, when they were unable to obtain neither lilac or violet, they mixed the red of the 1 kran with the gold of the 1 toman, and made a mixture of the two, which we can call by no other name than red-bronze. In printing the stamps also, the plates were simply inked, and the paper, being cut in strips, was pressed on them by hand, and when they grew tired of this the foot was called into use, and used to press the paper on to the plates. So long as they had impressions of one sort or another, it did not matter to them whether they were perfect or not. The writer has in his collection specimens—especially of the 5 krans—which show plainly distinct thumb marks, and very little else, showing that no trouble was taken to see that the ink on the stamps was dry before they were handled. Others show impressions on both sides of the paper. In this case, you see, when they had an impression which, in their opinion, was *very* bad, they turned the paper over and used the other side! Was ever such a system in vogue in printing stamps in any other country? We think not. What other country, except Persia, would be guilty of such iniquities?





THE LATE DR. VON STEPHAN.

Unveiling of Monument in Berlin.

(Through Reuter's Agency.)

The unveiling took place, in the Dome Hall of the Postal Museum, of the monument of the late Dr. Von Stephan, the first Postmaster General of the German Empire. Several speeches were delivered on the occasion.

Herr Sachse, formerly Director of the Imperial Post Office, dilated on Stephan's eminent services, which, he said, had also been recognised abroad, for at the Congress of Washington in 1897 the late Postmaster was alluded to as the soul of the postal world, and as the Bismarck of the Post.

After the monument had been formally handed over to and accepted by General Podbielsky, the present Postmaster General of the Empire, the latter delivered a speech, in which he lauded Stephan as the creator of the universal postal union, and exhorted the postal officials of to-day to devote themselves with untiring energy to the furtherance of means of communication in the Empire. General Podbielsky concluded by saying that they could not do better than adhere to the plan which Von Stephan had prescribed of always keeping the postal service of the Empire in the very front rank.

Philatelists will be interested to learn (says the *Madras Standard*) that the Federated Malay States will use their own stamps on letters, etc., for all parts of the world, when transmitted through the post office of the Straits Settlements from January 1st. It is likely that Johore will conclude a similar arrangement with the British Post Office. Up to date these Malay States stamps have only been able to be used for postage on letters between the individual States.

A big find of New Zealands was recently made in Wellington. Amongst the lot were no less than 2,100 2d. blue 1865. 300 2d. large star 1873, and any quantity of Pelure's N.Z. watermarks, etc. The whole lot, the good with the bad, have been purchased by our local firm, and the lucky finder will soon be in the possession of almost enough funds for a trip to England by their sale. Talking of lucky finds, the following cutting from an American paper is interesting:—"Another lucky strike of a rare stamp was made many years ago by Mr. Francis Foster, of Boston, who now has a collection of stamps worth thousands of dollars, and second to a very few, if any, in New England. While walking along Washington Street one day, he was accosted by a young boy with a Brattleboro local stamp on the original cover, who wanted 75 cents for it. In those days the local postmaster stamps were not particularly desired by the few collectors, and he refused to buy it. The boy followed after him and reduced the price to 60 cents, and seemed very much hurt when he again refused it, Mr. Foster thought that probably the boy was really in distress for the money, and that if he favoured him this time he might, sooner or later, bring round something good in postage stamps. He turned and whistled for the boy to come back, made him happy with the 60 cents, and to-day 500 dollars wouldn't buy that stamp from Mr. Foster. It is one of the great rarities of this country."

The sale of the Painter Collection in New York appears to have been the most important of the season in the United States, and it was attended by collectors and dealers from all parts of the country, and even from Canada. Prices ruled high, as will be seen by the following paragraph in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* :—

"The auction emphasized the return to prosperity in the stamp business. Dozens of collectors and small dealers living in secluded parts of the country sent bids on from one to five hundred lots and failed to secure a single stamp, and yet their bids averaged at about prices which prevailed six months ago. A large number of stamps sold at over catalogue prices, although seventy-five per cent. of catalogue appears to be the general estimate of value."

The craze for collecting minor varieties is getting rather overdone in the United States just now. Someone has discovered that some of the sheets of the 1c. stamps surcharged "Porto Rico" have the last "O" broken in one of the stamps, making it look something like a "U," and that the 2c. have the same in the second "O" of "Porto." Other equally trifling varieties are mentioned, but we do not think them worth collecting.

The Brazilian letter of the *Revue Philatelique Francaise* states that the following journal stamps of 1890 have been surcharged:

500 reis, yellow surcharged 1000 in green.
700 reis, yellow surcharged 1000 in green.
1000 reis, yellow surcharged 2000 in green.
50 reis, orange surcharged 100 in violet.
200 reis, black surcharged 300 in violet.

The Director-General of Posts for Cuba has made application to the department for a supply of 2c. and 5c. envelopes, which is being favourably reported on. They will be manufactured by the Plimpton-Morgan Co., and designs have been called for. The design will probably be head of Liberty, similar to the one on the $20 gold piece. Mr. Elliott has also made application for 25,000 8c. stamps, and also a supply of postage due stamps. It is probable that his wishes will be complied with, and a supply sent to the island at an early date, although no action has been taken in the matter as yet.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

Major Rathbone, of Cuba, is indeed an enterprising man, and from all appearance will not fail to keep us supplied with novelties for some time to come. Special delivery stamps will be the next innovation in Cuba. An order has been received for 10,000 of these stamps surcharged "Cuba, 10 Centavos de Pesos," and as soon as the stamps arrive the system will be inaugurated in Havana. If successful there it will be extended to the principal cities throughout the island. It is the purpose of the Post Office Department to get up a distinctive stamp of the "special delivery" style. What is wanted in the shape of a design is one emblematic of Cuba and suggestive of quick delivery.—*Metropolitan Philatelist.*

It is reported that the plates for the new Cuban stamps are now ready, and that the printing will be commenced shortly.

The following circular with reference to the obsolete newspaper stamps has been sent to all the United States postmasters :—

"March 20, 1899.

"To the Postmaster :

"You will please report to this office at once (1) the number of complete sets of newspapers and periodical stamps recently furnished you by the department for sale to the public; (2) the number of these sets already sold by you; (3) the number of sets you estimate you can sell up to date for discontinuing the sale of these stamps, December 1, 1899.

"This report should be made out on the attached reply card, which is to be detached and forwarded to this office as promptly as possible. JOHN A. MERRITT,

"Third Assist. P. M. General."

One of the standard questions asked at the reference department of the Chicago public library is: In what year were postage stamps first made?

A newspaper, in answer to an inquiry as to what use old postage stamps could be put to, says that it understands that a superior grade of wall-paper is made from them.

A gentleman who is specializing in the issues of Guatemala shows the following varieties in surcharge in the "correos nacionales 1 centavo" in red on the long fiscal 10 centavos green. The varieties were found in the examination of a large number of sheets of the stamps.

Second "r" in correos in smaller type.
The three letters "rre" in correos in smaller type.
Inverted "b" and ordinary "b" for "o" in nacionales.
The letter "r" for the second "n" in nacionales.
Inverted "k" for the first "n" in nacionales.
"C" in centavo entirely missing, making "entavo."
Inverted "a" for "v" in centavo.
"D" for "o" in centavo.
Thin type "c" in centavo.

The Washington correspondent of *Mekeel's Weekly* says that the design of the new Cuban envelopes will be the head of Columbus as it appeared on the Columbian half-dollar. It is remembered that the head of the coin was roundly ridiculed at the time of the mintage of the half-dollars.

Never before in the history of stamp collecting has the boy factor shown up so satisfactorily as he is doing now, and because these boys are to be the collectors in the years to come it should be considered that their renewed interest in stamps is especially favourable to the continuance of stability and popularity in philately. It is no uncommon sight to see the boys lined up two and three deep before the counters of our dealers, and it is a most amusing as well as interesting sight to watch them pick out their selections and drive their bargains. I was informed by one of these boys that every pupil in his grade at school was a collector, and all were striving one with another as to who should possess the best collection.—*American Exchange.*

As there seems to be so many priced catalogues now in the market, and as each dealer reckons his catalogue, and his alone, is the sole reliable index of value, I recently persuaded an advanced collector friend to value his collection by three different books—Serf, Gibbons, and Scott—and the result was extremely interesting :—

	£
According to Serf (German)	181
According to Gibbons (English).....	220
According to Scott (American)	270

This only proves what I have repeatedly pointed out, that Scott's catalogue is far too high as prices go now-a-days. In my opinion Gibbons is the best of the lot.

It is not generally known that our sister colony of New South Wales was the first country in the world to issue postage stamps, viz., in 1838, fully a couple of years before the home country. The design of same was circular, with the Royal arms in centre, surrounded by inscription, "General Post

Office, Sidney." They should not, perhaps, be called stamps, being more like an embossed envelope. The price was about 2d. each, and they served for postage of letters within the limits of the city of Sydney. These envelopes are very scarce, and are worth as many pounds now as they were pence in 1838.—*Otago Witness* (New Zealand).

Mr. M. Copenhagen, of San Paulo, Brazil, announces that the publication of his philatelic journal has been stopped for the present, owing to the lamented death of his wife.

We think it would be as well if the matter of the use of obsolete British fiscal stamps for postal purposes were settled definitely by the authorities. A reader informs us that he finds these are accepted in payment of postage by the clerks in some offices but refused at others. Our impression is that they are still available for postal purposes, but we should very much like a decision on the subject.

We are informed that British North Borneo, Labuan, and Jamaica will join the Imperial penny scheme on May 24th (Her Majesty's birthday), and that provisional stamps of 4 cents will be issued on that day for the two first-named places.

A New Colour Chart.—An unusually accurate and very comprehensive colour chart has at last appeared with the imprint of Messrs. Louis Prang & Co., the Boston (U.S.A.) art publishers. The chart will be found very valuable to stamp collectors and cataloguers, and ought to prove a panacea for "lake," "stone," "mauve," and other temporary aberrations of the philatelic mind on the colour names of stamps.

Mr. George Robey, the comedian, is said to be an enthusiastic philatelist.

It is stated that the stock of Thessaly stamps has been sold.

All Finland stamps are now obsolete, and only the ordinary Russian postage stamps are to be used there in future.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. August F. de Jong, president of the Staten Island Philatelic Society, which occurred at his residence, 65, Beach Street, Stapleton, New York, at the age of 67 years.

We have ascertained from a search made in the State records by Sirdar Shumsher Singh, Postmaster-General, that the native-printed stamps of Jhind were introduced as early as 1876.—*Indian Philatelist.*

Another enthusiast sends an exhibit in various classes. To represent Canada he sends *five* current stamps only, and other countries are even more amusing. Tasmania is represented by *one* stamp only, and that a fiscal! His "30 rare stamps" include such philatelic treasures as the current 1d. English! Will no one pity the Honorary Secretary!—*Indian Philatelist.*

Mozambique Provisionals.

The following cutting is from the *Beira Post*:—

Philatelists Beware.

Philatelists will do well to beware of an issue of Mozambique Company's stamps, carmine, 75 reis, surcharged *Provisorio* across centre, and 25 on top; the original 75 below being ruled out, all surcharging being in black ink. Of these 10,000 were printed, but less than 3,000 were issued to the public from the Post Office; the balance of 7,000 were bought up by speculators within an hour or two of the Treasury Office opening by those who had been *privately* informed of the issue coming out. It was not advertised previous to issue; and there is so much doubt connected with the issue that locally it is regarded as not an issue fit for collectors to touch; the boycott should be general.

The remains of Mr. Cobb, the late British postmaster in Constantinople, were interred in the English cemetery at Haidar Pasha.—*Reuter.*

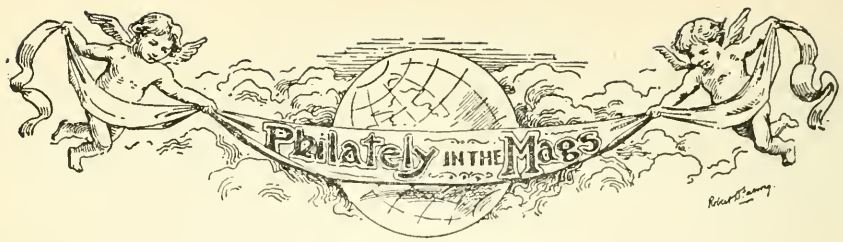
A notice issued by the Postmaster-General announces that the postage to Malta has been reduced to a penny.

Police Notice.

Stolen since 21st March. 24.3.99.

About 200 foreign and colonial postage stamps, some on card, some in light oak frame and some in dark wood do., including 1 New South Wales 2d. green (with Wales spelt "Waees"), 1-2 dollar United States Columbus issue: some Brunswick Bremen Lubeck, 2 Maltese halfpenny (1 buff and gold, 1 yellow), also several unused Nova Scotia and a 2d. blue Victoria.

Information should be given to the London Police.



The High Value State Department Stamps.

Our publishers were all the time of the opinion that the statement of John Kerr Tiffany and other writers accepted as authority that the issue of the $5.00, $10.00 and $20.00 U. S. Department of States consisted only of 367 copies of each stamp was of rather doubtful value. If really this small number of stamps should have been printed it would be exceedingly peculiar to notice the immense expansion of these stamps, the same being frequently met with at auction sales, advertisements of dealers, and known to e ist in a great many private collections. As early as May, 1897, an article to this effect was published in these columns for the purpose to locate as many of these stamps as possible. The article appeared at a rather unfortunate time just at the beginning of the indifferent stamp season. Nevertheless inside of two months we were able to locate over 90, or fully one quarter of the $20.00 stamps, and proportionately large numbers of the other values. We now beg to thank all our friends who have helped us to find out this much. but great deal more thanks is due to Mr. John N. Luff, of New York, for his indefatigable researches in this branch of philately. By the same Mr. Luff is now enabled to give the exact number of the higher value State Department, and in fact of most all other departments ever accounted for by the post office department. These accounts for the year ending December 31, 1873, comprise 700 each of the $2.00, $5.00, $10.00 and $20.00 State. This first instalment is already more than Tiffany's total. 1874 adds 1,800 $2.00 stamps, while in 1875 the numbers are given 1,980, $2.00; 1,870, $5.00; 1,930, $10.00; 1,940, $20.00. In 1876 no more of the high values State Department are accounted for, and it is probable that 1875 was the last year of their issue. Taking this for granted we have in all 4,480, $2.00; 2,570, $5.00; 2,630, $10.00; 2,640, $20.00, a result which is certainly more probable than the ridiculously low figure given in former accounts, and which at the same time may throw some new light on the proportionate valuation of these certainly much coveted stamps.—*Philatelic Facts and Fallacies.*

The Boy Collector.

How much we have heard of the boy collector lately. He has been given a prominent place in all the periodicals; he is a mushroom product; he springs into the full fascination of the interesting pursuit, or art, in a single night, and it often as suddenly loses its interest for him.

To the dealer the boy collector is a source of profit. He is not a heavy buyer; on the contrary, he invests but little, but he takes the more common varieties off the dealer's hands; he is not that worry of all dealers, a "philatelic crank," he is satisfied with a good stamp. He does not require his unused stamps in "mint state," but he is very careful to see that their faces are clean. If a stamp is one milimeter off center he does not refuse it as worthless, and if it has a cancellation that can be seen with the naked eye he does not consider it valueless.

He is not a speculator; he is trying to get as many varieties as possible, and a Nicaragua is as good as a Norway. He does not worry his brain over Colonel Seebeck with his endless varieties; does not obey the commands of the great and awful S. S. S. S., but goes merrily spending his pennies for Chinese locals and jubilees. As a rule the boy collector is "out of fashion"; he does not lay aside collecting in summer; on the contrary he spends more time over it; he does not specialize, as a rule he has not even a catalogue.

Still, the faults of the boy collector sometimes effect the dealer; he does not keep his sheets clean; he has an unpleasant way of figuring upon the back of the sheet of what he owes the dealer, and often the sheets are returned with an unaccountable X marked under sundry stamps. The stamps come off the sheets easily in his possession and he energetically replaces them with whatever comes handy, be it a drug label or a sticking plaster, causing the dealer, when he examines the sheet, to scratch his head with thoughts of substitution, etc., flitting through his brain.

The boy collector is usually honest; he remits with ungummed stamps or stamps so gummy that they stick together; part of remittance is usually in stamps and part in coin. He usually splits that odd cent. for himself, and generally retains 2 cents for postage.

His writing is, as a rule, such a scrawl that within two months the dealer considers himself able to read Chinese.

Japan.

Mr. H. B. Haskell, of Yokohama, sends us the following "Notification No. 71" over the signature of the Minister of Communications:—

"As the rates of postage are to be changed in April next, the department has determined to issue new stamps of different colours to those now in use. The new 3 sen stamp,

according to a proclamation just issued, will be of light chestnut colour, the 1 sen stamp will be brown, while the ½ sen stamp will be of the same colour as it is now. The new stamps will be sold from the 1st of April next, but those of the same denomination heretofore in use will be accepted for the present by the post and telegraph offices."

The same correspondent has also forwarded a previous notification (No. 66) covering the changes in rates which are responsible for the colour alterations noted above. The principal sections, relating to single and double postal cards, ordinary letters and stamped envelopes, are given herewith :—

1. The cost of postal cards being changed to one and a half sen per card, a five rin stamp shall be pasted below the part of the face of the existing one sen card where the cost of the card and seal are stamped.

2. The cost of return postal cards being changed to three sen per card, two five rin stamps shall be pasted one each below the part of the face of each leaf of existing two sen return postal cards where the cost of the cards and seal are stamped.

3. No. 1 postal matter—that is to say, mails—shall require the postage fee of three sen per four momme (for mails under four momme the same fee will be charged). For mails under four momme three sen stamp or stamps of equal value should be pasted, no matter how much the weight may be. For mails above four momme and up to eight momme, six sen will be required ; above eight momme and up to twelve momme, nine sen ; and for mails above twelve momme, a three sen stamp should be added for any increase not exceeding four momme.

4. When the existing two sen postal envelopes are used, additional stamps shall be pasted at the foregoing rate according to the weight of mails. Such stamps shall be pasted as much as possible below the part of the face of the envelope where the cost and seal are printed. For example, for mails weighing four momme and under, a one sen stamp should be pasted, and for mails weighing more than four momme and up to eight momme, stamps having a value of two sen shall be added.—*Mekeel's Weekly.*

The "Standard Catalogue" Supplement.

The supplement to the 58th Edition Standard Catalogue is now in circulation, and seems very well to fill the mission of the new catalogue edition usually brought out at this time. The supplement notes new issues appearing as late as October first, and is very complete and accurate as far as it goes.

The publishers have stated their intention of waiting until spring for decision regarding a 59th edition. This must mean that we may or may not see the next edition about one year from this date, but can hardly expect to have one sooner.

The issuance of the supplement has made a new edition at the present time unnecessary, by providing a list of new issues now so popular with the trade, and it has further wisely dodged the difficult problem of price adjustment on the old issues.

The Present Status of the 58th.

It seems to be the general opinion that the 58th edition catalogue, though created in different market conditions from the present, still reflects *relatively* just values of the stamps it lists. It is nevertheless believed to be too optimistic for present conditions, and it will seem to our readers almost trite to say that stamps have not generally sold in even prime condition at prices approximating the catalogue quotations since the catalogue was printed. The fact is universally patent. But the catalogue, owing to its *relative* correctness, has held, with varying discounts and concessions, during all the abnormal conditions of the last hard year.

The Future.

There is now no doubt—it is beyond question—that trade is getting better and that collectors are no longer holding aloof, but are buying at prices which at least make it possible for tradesmen to sell. In every case when the supply of a thing is limited and the demand for it increases, just one of two things may be expected to happen ; either the supply will be exhausted or the price of the thing will go up. In the case of a stamp, whether the supply is exhausted or merely straightened, popular opinion expressed in various ways forces the price up. So it may be safe to assume that prices will not stay, even at their present level, indefinitely, but will slowly rise toward the level of the 58th catalogue. Whether the next catalogue will need to lower or raise the general standard of prices laid down in the 58th edition will depend upon the rapidity of the rise in values created by increasing demand. At present the 58th edition seems adequate to supply the popular need.

The Real Status of any Catalogue.

But the "Standard" or any other so-called "catalogue" should not be taken too seriously

It should never be forgotten that any such publication is, and probably always will be, the price-list of an individual business house.

Of course, generally speaking, it is to the interest of any concern to make a "catalogue" as complete and as valuable as possible to the buying public, in order to insure its popularity and sale. It is also usually to the interest of a concern, in the publication of a price-list, to meet competition in the adjustment of prices. But these general rules do not necessarily hold in every case, and when catalogue and price-list are combined they may not have all the force that they would have in the case of separate publications.

But public opinion is a censor which is usually respected and catered to. The only danger, on the other hand, is that public opinion may occasionally lose sight of the fact that almost everything in this world should be taken *cum grano salis*, and nothing—not even a stamp catalogue—is infallible.—*Eastern Philatelist.*

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

All letters for the editor should be addressed: The Editor, Philatelic Record, care of Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.



When things are at their worst they must mend—or end. The beginning of 1898 found philately in a parlous state. Speculators of every brand had preyed upon it like vultures upon the yet living body of the exhausted camel lying in the desert—the soi-disant amateur leading the way. Some dealers strove to choke it by forcing prices to abominably fictitious heights, some auctioneers did their little best by playing into the hands of unscrupulous rings of bidders, while even Governments conspired with this horde, and aided in the spoliation of the philatelist. Well nigh exhausted and apparently moribund, philately looked almost past redemption—but this very exhaustion proved its salvation. Seeing there was so little blood remaining, the blood-suckers stayed their efforts to some extent. So-called amateurs ceased to boom a country or a continent to their own great ulterior benefit, and, instead, investing their money in houses or brewery shares. Auctioneers ceased to publish reports of their sales, and dealers, taught wisdom by experience, reduced their prices. Philately breathed again, and if only the speculator can be held at arm's length, and the common sense of the collector be exercised when he is purchasing, so that he will prefer to go without a stamp rather than be robbed in the purchase, then the improvement will go on, and the hobby—or science if you will—be established on so strong and permanent a basis that it can laugh at all assailants.—*Floreat Philatelia (Philatelic Chronicle).*

Williams & Co., of Lima, Peru, have definitely disappeared. We have before us a letter addressed to them on December 24th last, which has come back through the dead letter office.

The man known as "Williams" was, we are informed, in Paris recently, and called on several dealers, disposing of a quantity of good stamps at very low prices. He announced himself as an American dealer, and in one case he asked for the addresses of persons who would be likely to buy his stamps. He apparently avoided calling on any of those with whom he had done business by correspondence, but one day he made a mistake. He called on a certain dealer, and as he opened the door he was greeted by a gentleman who knew him in Lima with the words, "Hallo, Williams!" Mr. Williams promptly shut the door and disappeared, which is the last we have heard of him.

Birmingham Philatelic Society.

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Mr. T. W. Peck.	Mr. W. F. Wadams.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer :—
Mr. G. Johnson, B.A.

Official Address :—208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

March 2nd. The following were unanimously elected members :—Messrs. S. G. Vlastos, C. P. W. Andreae, and G. Avyerinos.

Mr. Pimm gave a very interesting paper on the stamps of New Zealand, illustrated by his own fine collection of that country, and also by those of Messrs. W. T. Wilson and T. W. Peck, the former showing all varieties in ranges of shades, used and unused, and the latter, fine blocks of imperfs in Mint condition, and other rarities in exceptionally fine condition.

The paper was interspersed and followed by remarks and discussion as to the various shades in use at certain dates, and a good number of copies with dated postmarks and stamps on original, including some of the rare watermarks, roulettes, etc., materially helped the discussion.

April 20. The following were unanimously elected members :—Messrs. W. Nathan, J. Venn, W. Morgan, C. E. Price, and A. N. Hayne.

Mr. R. Hollick then showed his collections of New South Wales and Tasmania, carefully explaining to any who required it, the numerous varieties and re-touches of the plates in the early issues of the former colony. Many very fine copies and shades of these early issues were shown, and this was the cause of a subsequent discussion on catalogue values and discounts, from which it appeared that most of the members would only be glad to get *satisfactory* copies at full catalogue rates, or even more, but such copies are a steadily decreasing quantity, and for them there is always a good demand which is gauged to a very small extent by quotations of auctions or catalogues.

Plymouth Philatelic Society.

THE eighth session of the Plymouth Philatelic Society, which will shortly close as far as active winter work is concerned, has been a most successful one. Nineteen new members have joined since October, 1898, and fourteen ordinary meetings have been held, at which papers have been read in conjunction with alternate evenings for discussion and exchange. The following have contributed to the readings:—Major G. W. Stockdale (President), twice on the issues of France, Rev. E. A. Donaldson and Mr. H. W. Mayne on the "Collecting of Entires," Rev. E. T. Fyffe, R.N., on "Auction Prices and Catalogue Values," and Mr W. A. Walker, on "Breakers ahead." On the 14th of January, 1899, an exhibition of stamps was held, which proved a most gratifying success, and the exchange branch of the Society shews a very marked development—its monthly packets averaging over £100 in value. A silver medal has also been contributed to the forthcoming Manchester Philatelic Exhibition. The present session will end shortly with a lecture on Philately, to be contributed by the Rev. E. Bell, of Saltash.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer } W. A. Walker, Esq.

Hon. Secretary Exchange Branch } Dr. C. E. Russel Rendle

Central Philatelic Club.

EXCHANGE PACKET.

AT a Committee meeting held on Monday, Feb. 6th, a discussion of the rules of the Exchange Packet, with reference to the pricing of stamps, took place, when the following proposition was carried that the words *by Stanley Gibbon's catalogue* be erased, and the words *at member's discretion* be inserted. Rule 1 will now read: *Stamps to be priced at member's discretion, subject to a discount of 50 per cent.* As I am anxious to make the packets a great success, I trust all members will help me by sending sheets regularly. The first packet will be sent out on the 11th inst., but future packets will be issued promptly on the 5th, sheets to be sent in by the 1st of the month.

C. FORBES, *Secretary.*

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra). The April Packet contains:—

NINE VARIETIES all unused.

Viz.: Japan, New Issue, 5 rin, 1 sen and 3 sen; Uruguay, 5c. on violet; Ceylon, 6c. on 15c.; Brazil, 20r. on 10r. blue journal stamp; Columbia, 1899, 1c. red on yellow, &c.

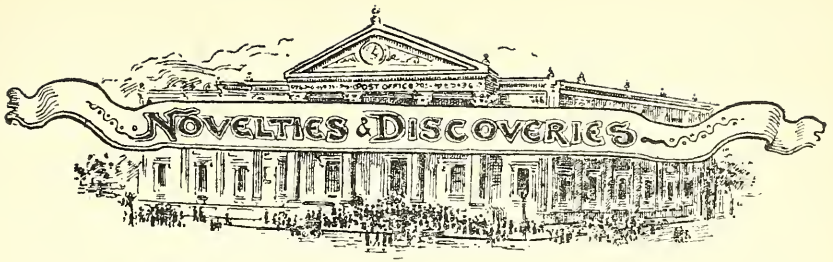
No. 2, price 5s. (postage extra).

The April Packet contains:—

16 *VARIETIES*, all unused, viz.:—Cape of Good Hope, 3d. lilac; Straits Settlements, 4c. on 5c. rose; Guatemala, 1c. on 50c., and 1c. on 75c., and set of 12 Nyassa, surcharged on Mozambique.

These packets are on sale until the supply is 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., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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



Part I.—British Empire.

Mauritius.—We have received the 18 cents envelope surcharged "4 cents" in two lines in red, with a bar obliterating the original value.

Envelope.

4 cents in red, on 18 cents, blue on white.

Samoa.—Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. send us the one penny (tree in centre) with the surcharge in red, "surcharged 2½d." in two lines. The word "surcharged" with the final D appears peculiar, and is probably an error.

Adhesive.

2½d. in red, on 1d. green.

British Guiana.—The 1897 "Jubilee" issue does not seem to have gone off as well as was expected, as Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. send us two values, the 10c. and 15c., each with the horizontal surcharge TWO CENTS in black block letters.

Adhesives.

2c. in black, on 10c. red brown and grey.
2c. „ „ 15c. blue and brown.

Sirmoor.—Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. have sent us four new stamps of the "elephant" type, with the inscription "Sirmoor postage and Inland Revenue."

Adhesives.

3 annas, emerald green.
4 „ blue green.
8 „ blue.
1 rupee, red.

Queensland.—The saw-tooth perforation dies hard, as will be seen from the following account by a correspondent of the *Australian Philatelist:*

"The zigzag perforation was a fiasco, principally on account of its being necessary to perforate before gumming. The gum then fastened up the holes made by the steel rule. It was impossible to perforate after gumming, and about 3,000 out of the 5,000 sheets printed as issued to the general post office were returned to the Government printing office, to be perforated in the ordinary way by the comb machine. There are thus four varieties of this latest perforation, viz.—(1) serrated, (2) serrated in black, (3) serrated and perf. 12½, (4) serrated in black and perf. 12½.

"The explanation given for the existence of the serrated in black variety is that the machinists (this work being done on an ordinary printing machine), in order to get the perforation to register properly, ran several sample sheets through the press, and so arranged it that the frame did not perforate, but, with the judicious application of a little printer's ink, simply left a blank impression. Where this impression encroached on the coloured design of the stamp, the register was altered, until at last all the lines of the perforating frame fell between the rows of stamps, then the 'sampling' was discontinued, and the perforating proceeded with merrily."

We chronicle the three varieties added by this announcement, having already printed the ordinary *perce en scie* variety adhesives:

1 penny, orange-red, perce en scie, black lines.
1 penny, orange-red, perce en scie and perf. 12½.
1 penny, orange-red, perce en scie, black lines and perf, 12½.

Victoria.—We are rather amused to see the *Monthly Journal* chronicle the 1s. blue on blue, with blue surcharge. We are writing away from our books, and therefore cannot fix the exact time when this was chronicled, but it must be somewhere between five and ten years ago, nearer the latter date, and the stamp has been in our possession several times.

Great Barrier Island.—Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. kindly send us the following information:—

"The enquiries we have made about these stamps have led to some unexpected results. We had no idea of the exact nature of the stamps when we first received a few from a New Zealand correspondent, as he gave us no information about them, but they prove to be something startlingly novel. There is no cable to the island, and the mail service is irregular and infrequent, and as long ago as November, 1897, a 'Pigeongram' service was established, the pigeons of course being taken out by vessels as opportunity offered, and liberated when messages were required to be sent. For twelve months this service was carried on without the aid of stamps, but last November, in consequence of the increase in the number of messages, it was deemed advisable to issue stamps, and 1,800 were printed. The messages are written on slips of thin tissue paper, the address being at the top, and the stamp is placed on the message, as of course no envelope can be used in such a service. The stamp is obliterated by a circular stamp, and the slip is then rolled up and tied under the pigeon's wing. We do not know how many such messages each bird can carry. When the birds are liberated at Great Barrier, they fly home to Auckland, New Zealand, when the messages are removed and placed in envelopes, addressed and posted, the fee of 1s. covering delivery to any part of the colony.

"There is only the one value, 1s., which is, indeed, the only one required, the fee being 1s for each 'Pigeongram.' The design being badly done, a new stamp has been engraved, of which we expect a supply in a few weeks, when we shall send you a specimen for illustration. Although a private venture, we are satisfied that it is *bonâ fide*, and it is of so unique and interesting a character, that we believe the stamps will soon be much sought after. If we can get hold of an original used 'flimsy' with stamp attached, we shall let you see it, but the stamps are generally somewhat the worse for the journey, being in a more or less creased condition."

New Brunswick.—The following contribution towards the history of a much-disputed issue is sent to the *Monthly Journal* by a correspondent who obtained it direct from a personal acquaintance of Mr. Connell:—

"A number of years ago I was in Woodstock, where Mr. Connell lived, and knew him well. On asking him about the celebrated 'Connell' stamp, he told me that what he felt most keenly about the affair was the charge of vanity urged against him. His explanation was, as well as I can remember, that it was necessary, as New Brunswick had followed Canada in adopting the decimal system, to change the designations of the New Brunswick postage stamps. As Postmaster General, he had to carry out the change. He accordingly went to the United States to make the necessary arrangements. There were several denominations of stamps, and the design for each had been settled excepting that for the 5 cents stamp. Being obliged to return unexpectedly to New Brunswick before that design had been agreed upon, he urged the designer to give him something definite about it. The artist said if the matter was left to him he would let the Postmaster-General have something that he thought would please the people. Mr. Connell, in 'a moment of weakness,' agreed to the proposal, and left for home. When the first consignment of stamps arrived he was more surprised than anyone else to find that the stamp bore his own likeness. He had no time to change the design, so let it go. The day for the first issue came, and with it a storm of popular wrath, which the Premier of the day allayed by the only course open to him, viz., by requesting and obtaining Mr. Connell's resignation.

"While Mr. Connell was giving me this version of the trouble we were walking in front of his house. He said, 'I have the stamps here, for I felt that it was only right that I should pay for them out of my own pocket.' Taking me into a room, he showed me a great pile of the stamps, and said, 'I am going to burn them.' Thinking that a souvenir would be a good thing to have, I asked him if he would let me have a few. He at once acceded to my request, and I put some of them into my pocket-book. Soon after I learned that he had destroyed his little 'Klondyke.'

"I understood from him that very few of these stamps passed under the official stamp, but how many I do not recollect. The stamps I received from Mr. Connell I parted with about 1877 to an English collector."

Part II. Other Countries.

France.—The 5c. now comes in pale yellow green, instead of blue green.

Adhesive.

5 centimes, pale yellow green.

New Zealand.—Mr. L. A. Sanderson, of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, has favoured us with a pair of the 2d. *imperforate between* the stamps, vertically. Our correspondent informs us that a sheet of these has turned up, and we have also come across the 1d. value in a similar condition.

The new issue—bicoloured—is already obsolete, and Messrs. Willcox, Smith & Co. inform us that the 1883 issue has been reverted to until the new colonial printed series is ready. On this subject the same correspondent sends us a cutting from a local paper which reads as follows:—

"Wellington, 12th March.

"The machinery is now erected, and printing is expected to commence in a week or ten days' time.

"The paper will be a special one, but the usual wm. star and N.Z. will be the same.

"All the plates have been received except the ½d., 1d., and 2d., which are being replaced, so as to get a uniform size of stamp. The 4d. is, of course, to be altered, and the question of altering the colour to those adopted by the Universal Postal Union will also be attended to."

Siam.—Mr. Hood Beng informs us that the 12atts was issued on the 12th of March, with the surcharge 1att, but does not tell us the colour or nature of the surcharge.

Straits Settlements.—In addition to the surcharge chronicled in February, we now have the 8c. in blue, with similar surcharge, and also the 5c. printed specially in lake red, with the surcharge 4c. in words in one line at the bottom.

Adhesive.

4c. in black on 8c. blue.
4c. in black on 5c. red lake.
Both watermark C.A., perf. 14.

Argentine Republic.—A correspondent sends us a letter sheet with stamp of the somewhat improved type, and of the same design as the current envelopes, the only inscription being Memorandum Posto. The inside is ruled with blue dotted lines.

Letter sheet, 5c., vermillion on white.

Brazil.—It does not appear to be generally known that the current 200 reis exists with some extraordinary perforations, some specimens being perf. 5 and some perf. 7.

Columbia.—Mr. Alfredo Tarr kindly sends us specimens of the new 1 centavo The design is similar to the stamp it super sedes, but this time the colour is pale brown on yellow.

Adhesive.

1 centavo, pale brown on yellow.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

MAY, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

IT is only a few years ago that the railway companies were authorised to issue stamps of their own for the purpose of being used on letters posted at railway stations, to be re-posted in the ordinary letter boxes at the town or village to which the letter is addressed. The uniform charge is 2d. per letter, which must not exceed in weight the ordinary penny postage rate. Until recently this was one ounce, but under the altered postal rates it is now four ounces. The object of this is undoubtedly to prevent this rapid means of communication from being used for anything else than important *letters*; even printers' proofs are excluded, but we expect that in time the weight allowance will be raised to enable those who are willing to pay for it to use the "railway letter" system for larger packages of documents, providing, of course, that the post office obtains its proper share of the spoil, otherwise the proper rate of postage, and the company could still reap the benefit of a multiple of "twopences" in the same ratio.

Railway Letter Fee Stamps.

Truly this "railway letter" system is capable of considerable improvement, both for the benefit of the railway companies and the public. We started this article with the object of writing about the stamps, but one point strikes us in reference to the system which we think is worthy of a little criticism. A few Sundays ago we were anxious to get an important letter to a certain town as quickly as possible, and we took it to one of the principal London railway stations, and after some trouble succeeded in finding the parcels office. We found that we could send the letter, providing it was a letter, and did not weigh over four ounces, and, although the green 2d. labels appear to be rare, we could get one put on (note that we were not allowed to handle it ourselves); but the letter was heavy enough to be possibly four ounces, and the authorities had not provided scales. A friendly porter offered to get it weighed, and the result was about three ounces. Now comes the absurd part of the story. A railway letter requires an ordinary penny postage stamp, in addition to the company's green 2d. one, but the clerk in the parcels office had no postage stamps. "We are not allowed to sell them," he said, plaintively, and from his stolid indifference it appeared that he could not even see the ridiculous side of the case. The Government permits you to send a letter by a certain system, and it lays down regulations by which you are to pay threepence for its transmission by a 2d. railway stamp and a 1d. Government stamp, and you

are to hand it in at a railway station, but when you get there you cannot get the necessary stamp. The clerk in charge spoke of "fines of twenty pounds," and other dreaded penalties, but the fact remains that we could not send our letter, as no penny stamp was available. In the end we secured brown paper and string and made a "parcel" of it, and as a parcel it was sent off by the railway company, by the same train which would have taken it as a letter. The whole point is the absurdity of not allowing the railway companies to sell penny stamps. For our own part we have never yet understood why anyone should not be allowed to sell stamps. It is for the public convenience, and it increases the profits of the Government.

To come to the stamps themselves, which is the subject we originally started upon, we agree with Mr. Ewen that there is no serious reason why they should not be supplied to the public at face value. It would add to the incomes of the railway companies, it could not injure the postal authorities, it would be a great convenience to the public, and it would be common sense! At present the *advertised* market values of some of the varieties are ridiculously high, and they need not be so if the stamps could be obtained from the companies. But when we say "stamps" we do not feel satisfied that it is the proper definition; our contention is that not being postage stamps, which they certainly are *not*, they have no value from a philatelic point of view. They are not locals and they are not Government issues, hence they have no philatelic *locus standi*. We are well aware that these labels have been "boomed" beyond all proportion to their possible value, and we want to know who regulates these fancy prices of 10s. to 30s. each, of articles which are comparatively modern and non-philatelic, and *who pays them*? At best the ordinary issues are not philatelic and of little value, except perhaps the *imperforate*, and other varieties which are, no doubt, scarce, as such things go; but the "British specialist" has been overdoing this sort of thing for some time past, while so many other and undoubted postal issue still await the study and research of the enthusiast.

* * * *

Our Interviews. We regret that there is no interview this month, but it is not our fault. We have had two in stock for some time, but in both cases we have, up to the present, been unable to obtain the photographs of our victims. We therefore defer the matter until our next number, when we hope to start again, and to give some interesting information.

Fiscal Notes.

CONTRIBUTED BY A. PRESTON PEARCE.

IT does not appear to be probable that the financial proposals of our Chancellor of the Exchequer will result in any extension of the long list of British revenues. Should an issue of adhesives be found desirable, it is expected that the stamps will savour strongly of the "Goschens" referred to in the April number, and it is to be remarked that through the latest concession the percentage charge becomes the same as in this former Transfer Duty.

The rumour comes that the evidence of payment will be supplied by the employment of impressed stamps, and when I referred to the extreme inconvenience of having to send the shares and certificates affected by the new duty to Somerset House, I was informed that there are two offices in the City where securities can be stamped.

* * *

To avoid mixing things up too much, I had better finish my say about our own stamps before going abroad.

Mr. Morley has shown me a circular stamp, 25mm. in diameter, bearing the youthful profile of Queen Victoria to the left, with the word "Customs" twice repeated above, but separated by a star, and the value—one penny—below. The impression is in blue, with inscriptions in thin white slightly raised capitals, on stout white wove unwatermarked paper. The stamp is not perforated, but is cut square with large margins, and as it does not appear to have been gummed it may be a non-adhesive or an essay, or (though not without trepidation dare I suggest it) even a cutting from some hitherto unnoted official *postal* stationery. Can any reader furnish information concerning it?

A valued correspondent, who is "something in the City," draws my attention to the fact that "Sea policy" stamps are commonly used on transfers of stock. Some correspondence anent the correct designation of these labels passed between Mr. Lundy and myself about a year ago, and I remember that he wanted to term them general duties. Against this, I could only urge the fact that the official title on the Inland Revenue stock lists is marine policies, and that, as far as I knew, their employment on other documents might only be temporary. Now, however, it is fairly apparent that the title hitherto used is too restricted, and Mr. Lundy's suggestion may have to be adopted.

Certain questions, though, present themselves at once, for, inasmuch as there can be but little doubt that until recently the stamps of this character were only used on policies of marine insurance, where is the dividing line to be drawn, and how is the division to be made? If the former query can be satisfactorily settled, the latter might not present much difficulty, and

doubtless the specialist catalogue of the near future will contain some such headings as :—

MARINE INSURANCE POLICIES (adhesive).
1850.

and, further on :—

MARINE POLICIES AND GENERAL DUTIES.
1887.

The term "adhesive" is advisedly inserted, for, although it may be news to many, it is, nevertheless, a fact that a *stamp duty* on policies against losses by sea was first imposed in this country in 1694, though the percentage duty on the sum insured dates only from 1795.

* * *

I am now in a position to give a list of the stamp duties in force in Newfoundland, and as it contains a sufficiently curious array of titles, some of which are strangely suggestive, I propose to give an exact copy of the statement furnished by my correspondent.

The stamps are used in lieu and in payment of the fees payable under the following Acts :—

Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals, Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Judicature Act, Central and Harbour Grace District Courts, Courts of Session, Stipendiary Magistrates and Justice of the Peace, Trial by Jury, Registration of Deeds, Liens of Mechanics and others, Hawkers and Pedlars being foreigners.

Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Registration of Certificates to Masters and Mates, Pilots and Pilotages, Harbour Regulations, Licenses for Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, Illegitimacy, Keeping of Dogs, Naturalization of Aliens, Preservation of Deer.

Cheques drawn on banks in Newfoundland do not bear a stamp.

Fortunately it has not been considered necessary to have special stamps for each duty, and the single set of nine values, listed and illustrated in the April number of *Stamps*, serves for the whole. I am informed that the higher values will be chiefly used on Probates of Wills, which, however, are not mentioned in the above list, though they may be included in the term "Registration of Deeds."

The only used copy that has yet come my way is the specimen of the $1 value, which was cancelled at Her Majesty's Customs Office, St. John's.

* * *

Non-collectors of revenue stamps frequently express great surprise at the magnificent designs and exquisite workmanship displayed by such a considerable proportion of the objects of our search ; and, as the ordinary solution of anticipated sales to collectors is felt to be inapplicable, they are apt to be much puzzled to account for the fact.

There is, however, a perfectly legitimate reason for the lavish ornamentations that is so characteristic of the fiscal emissions of several countries, and it is to be found in the motives that prompt the usual adoption of such beautiful and intricate designs for bank notes and other forms of paper money.

I am inclined to think that my collection contains as many specimens originally costing me one pound each as there would be found one shilling values in a general collection of postage stamps of the same size, and I might be able to cover each five shilling stamp by a five pound one, so it will be readily seen that the temptation of forgery is much greater in the case of fiscals than in that of postage stamps, and the danger has to be guarded against as best it may.

Frequently the authorities adopt a course which, as in the case under notice, produces a most pleasing state of affairs, but sometimes the result is far less desirable, and I shall revert to this subject again.

International Philatelic Exhibition.

MANCHESTER, JUNE 29th TO JULY 6th, 1899.

HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE time for the opening of the Manchester Exhibition is now rapidly approaching, and everything points to a most successful week. There will be no less than 160 medals, and the Executive Committee have left nothing undone that could in any way aid the success of what promises to be the most important philatelic exhibition ever held. To give some of our readers an idea of the importance of the undertaking we publish the following list of the supporters of the undertaking :—

Patron.—H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G.

The following Societies have signified their approval :—The Philatelic Society, London ; Internationaler Philatelistenverein, Dresden ; Société Française de Timbrologie, Paris; Società Filatelica Lombarda; The Philatelic Society, India ; Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postzegelverzamelaars, Amsterdam ; Birmingham Philatelic Society, Bradford Philatelic Society, Brighton Philatelic Society, Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society, Herts Philatelic Society, Leeds Philatelic Society, Oxford Philatelic Society, Plymouth Philatelic Society, the Scottish Philatelic Society, Sheffield Philatelic Society, International Philatelic Union.

Executive Committee.—J. H. Abbott, F. Barratt, W. Dorning Beckton, A. Buxton, M. P. Castle, C. H. Coote, G. B. Duerst, D. S. Garson, O. Gillett, W. Grunewald, A. H. Harrison, J. E. Heginbottom, J. R. Hesketh, W. W. Munn, J. C. North, D. Ostara, T. Oxley, E. Petri, Vernon Roberts, N. Wanstall ; chairman of committee, W. Dorning Beckton ; hon. treasurer, Ernest Petri ; hon. secretary, G. Fred H. Gibson.

The following members of the Executive Committee will undertake the correspondence in—German, G. B. Duerst ; Italian and Spanish, E. Petri ; French, W. Grunewald. All communications to be addressed to the "Exhibition Committee Rooms," 2, Cooper Street, Manchester.

The following well-known Philatelists have promised their support :—C. A. van der Abeelen, J. G. Adamson, G. A. Anderson, Cav. Salvatore Arbib, Count d'Assche, W. B. Avery, E. D. Bacon, Attilio Barocci, Mrs. C. A. Baynes, L. A. Beausar, A. Beddig, Edmund van der Beeck, F. A. Bellamy, F.R.A.S., F.R. Met. Soc., W. W. Blest, Bright & Son, W. Brown, Leon Brummer, Buhl and Co., Ltd., F. F. Burghard, M.S., F.R.C.S., Lieut-Colonel St. L. Burrowes, Geo. Callf & Co., Cav. uff. Vittorio E. Capanna, Stanley M. Castle, William Cowland, Albert Coyette, A. B. Creeke, Junr., R. Dalton, E. S. Davidson, Alfred A. Davis, H. F. W. Deane, Dr. Emilio Diena, Marchese Domenico Pallavicino, T. Phipps Dorman, Robert Ehrenbach, Douglas Ellis, H. L'Estrange Ewen, Major E. B. Evans, Henri Fiacre, A. E. Fiecchi, Carlo Fino, O. Firth, William Fish, M.A., Rudolph Frentzel, Eduard Fürstenau, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., Fredk. R. Ginn, Thomas Girtin, Francesco Gnecchi, J. H. Townsend Green, Henry Grey, T. W. Hall, J. H. Hallett, M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E., M.I.N.A., Leslie R. Hausburg, Henry Hetley, M.D.,

Rev. E. Oldridge de la Hey, G. J. Hymes, W. E. Image, J.P., D.L., G. Johnson, B.A., T. Wickham Jones, W. R. L. Joynt, Whitfield, King & Co., Jonkheer C. Ph. L. van Kinschot, Georg Kirchner, Dr. jur. P. Kloss, C. F. Larmour, G. F. Leliman, Eliot Levy, Paul Lietzow, W. S. Lincoln, P. J. Lloyd, J. A. Loli, Julius Lossau, Henry Loveridge, J. N. Luff, C. McNaughton, D. J. Macfie, Pierre Mahé, Mrs. Marshall, C. F. Dendy Marshall, W. Matthews, Carlos Matzenauer, Rudolph Meyer, Dr. J. Michelsen, H. M. Millington, J. B. Moens, Walter Morley, E. S. Moser, Prof. O. V. Muller, W. J. Myers, Edward J. Nankivell, John A. Nix, H. R. Oldfield, H. G. Palliser, M.I.C.E., W. R. Palmer, Prince A. Doria Pamphilj, J. F. Peace, W. H. Peckitt, J. Lee Pike, F. Ransom, Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A., Rev. P. E. Raynor, Ad. Reinheimer, Thomas Ridpath, L. Risigari, J. B. Robert, W. Denison Roebuck, Dr. Rommel, Adolf Rosenberg, George Bell Routledge, E. H. Selby, P. Aylwin Selfe, Ad. Schœller, J. Schlesinger, W. Schwabacher, W. H. Scott, Walter Scott, S. C. Skipton, T. Kershaw Skipwith, H. A. Slade, Alfred Smith & Son, Gordon Smith, M.A., G. Hamilton Smith & Co., J. E. Sparrow, A. H. Stamford, R. Tyeth Stevens, Ernst Stock, Major G. W. Stockdale, R.E., Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Tapp, Taylor Brothers, J. A. Tilleard, John G. Tolhurst, Dr. C. W. Viner, W. A. Walker, Rob. Weidenhagen, W. A. S. Westoby, Harold J. White, C. Stewart Wilson, W. T. Wilson, Baron A. de Worms, Baron P. de Worms.

Mexico.

A short review of Mr. Rudolph Frentzel's collection, which will be on view at the Manchester Exhibition.

WE have had the pleasure of seeing this wonderful collection of the postage stamps of Mexico, and have written a short account, which may interest many of our readers.

The first issue, 1856, is shown used and unused, with and without surcharge, also some Habilitados and other varieties, and some splits. The 1860 issue contains errors of the half real and one real, some varieties and some splits. The 1863 issue contains a set imperf., two stamps postally used and various surcharges. The Eagle issue 1864 is shown in great variety both unused and used, including three 3 centavos, one of which is postally used, also Habilitados and many stamps with counter numbers. The Maximilian issue 1866 comprises all the surcharged varieties of the previous issue, also some errors and essays. The provisional issue of 1867 is shown in great variety, both unused and used, with and without watermarks. The locals of 1867 are represented by the 25c. and 50c. Campeche, ½, 1 and 2 reals of Chiapas, and some 140 stamps of Guadalajara. The 1868 issue is represented by a few sets of unused stamps showing the various perforations, Anatados, Habilitados, &c. In the 1872 issue are shown several blocks of watermarked stamps, also three stamps on laid paper, and some used and unused stamps, both with and without moiré on backs. The 1874-77 and 1878-83 issues are represented by used and unused stamps, containing several sets of coloured surcharges and many unpublished varieties. The 1879 and 1882 issues are represented like the preceding issues, and contain also many unpublished varieties. The 1884 issue contains some imperforated stamps, some curious surcharges, &c. The remainder of the issues are mostly represented by unused sets.

N.B.—Only part of the collection will be shown.

The Stamps of Persia.

BY
C. FORBES (Secretary and Librarian, the Central Philatelic Club).

(Continued from page 90.)

NOTE.—Referring to the third issue, the following variety was inadvertently omitted from the reference list :—

Page 63 (please add) Variety.
5 Shahi, *pair*.
Perf. 13 at sides, 12½ at top and bottom.
Imperf. between.

Reprints of 1875, 1876, and 1878 issues.



About the end of the year 1885, a number of orders from English and European dealers for the first issues of Persia began to pour in to the Postmaster at the chief office at Teheran. As very few of the stamps of these issues were in stock they were at a loss what to do in the matter. To return the money was impossible to a Persian official (the very idea of returning money once received for an article, even if they are unable to supply the same, is almost out of the question with an Oriental); a bright idea entered their heads. Why not take out the old dies, which unfortunately for collectors had not been destroyed, and have further stamps printed from them?

The Postmaster of Teheran, who was then about to go to Paris to negotiate for the designing and printing of a new issue of stamps, had the dies entrusted to his care, and shortly afterwards the stamp world was flooded with all kinds of varieties, printed in all sorts of colours, and on white and coloured papers. These stamps were only printed from certain of the dies, as many of them were too worn to be of any use. These so-called reprints were afterwards sold with forged postal obliterations, the more readily to deceive the unwary.

The majority of these reprints are, however, very easily detected, especially the unused, being printed on thick *white wove* writing paper, with a quantity of white gum. In cases where the stamps had been post-marked, it is not so easy to detect them at the present time, especially when they have been washed, and been handled by collectors a number of times. The general appearance of these reprints is against them, as the dies, having been very much worn, they were slightly re-cut, and the stamps being printed in Paris have a much clearer impression. In pointing out, as far as possible, the various differences between the originals and the reprints, the four type or die varieties will still be designated as dies A, B, C, and D.

All the following *reprints* were issued *imperforate*, in strips and blocks of four to each value.

1875, 1876, and 1878 issues.

Values, 1 shahi, 1 kran, and 1 toman, printed from type "B."

The reprint of these values are easily distinguished from the originals, there being a broad white circle round the numerals of value, especially noticeable in the 1 shahi value; the pearls of the circles are plainer and heavier, and the figure of value under the belly of the lion is invariably a *Roman* "I," instead of an Arabic "1."

Paper, thick white wove.
Colours:

1 Shahi, black
1 ,, grey black
1 Kran, yellow (shades)
1 ,, carmine
Yellow wove paper.
1 Kran, rose
1 ,, red
White wove paper.
1 Toman, bronze
1 ,, gold
Blue wove paper.
1 Toman, gold
1 ,, bronze
Yellow wove paper.
1 Toman, bronze
1 ,, gold

1875, 1876 issue.
Value 2 shahi.
Printed on white wove paper only, from Type "A."
Colours:

2 Shahi, blue
2 ,, ultramarine
2 ,, black
2 ,, grey black

The reprints of this value are blurred, the die being much worn, and very slightly re-touched; the stamps have the appearance of having been printed in a hurry. They generally have the outer frame on the left, and at the bottom broken, and in some specimens the frame is almost undiscernable.

1875, 1876, and 1878 issues.
Values, 4 shahi and 4 krans.
Printed from Type "D."
Paper: White wove.

4 Shahi, red
4 ,, vermilion
4 Krans, yellow
4 ,, orange
4 ,, blue
Pink paper
4 Krans, blue

Printed from Type "A."
White paper.

4 Krans green.

The reprints of th e4 Shahi, red and vermilion, and the 4 Krans, yellow and orange, are not in all cases easily distinguished from the originals; the chief distinctions, however, are that the outer line of the frame in the originals is thick and the inner line thin, whilst in the *reprints* the two lines of the framework are about the same thickness. In the reprints also there is a thick white line commencing from under the figure "4" in the ornaments under the Lion, and extending almost to the circle of pearls. This line is evidently caused through the die having been dented, or struck in some way before it had been printed from. This white line, which is very conspicuous when once pointed out, does not appear at all on the originals.

The other printings, 4 Krans blue on pink paper, and the 4 Krans green on white, are easily detected, owing to their wrong colours.

1875 issue.
Value: 8 Shahi.
Paper: White wove.

Printed from dies "B" and "C."
Colours :

8 Shahi, green
8 ,, blue

1878 issue.
Value : 5 Krans.
Printed from dies "A" and "D," of the 8 Shahi, the figure 8 of which had been altered to 5 for printing the original 5 Kran values.
Colours :

5 Krans, lilac and violet
5 ,, bronze and red bronze
5 ,, gold

These reprints (with the exception of the 8 Shahi blue, which of course is the wrong colour) are very similar to the originals; the remark above, with reference to the outer frame of the 4 Shahi value, is also applicable to both the 8 Shahi and 5 Kran values.

Note.—With reference to the above lists, and remarks on the reprints of the early issues, I have endeavoured to explain, as far as possible, the chief differences between these stamps and the genuine ones; but I would like to point out to my readers that it is very difficult to explain on paper all the minor differences. It is only by studying them, and comparing with absolutely genuine copies that it is possible to detect all of them; especially is this the case were the stamps have been postmarked. The reprints are, as a rule, being printed in Paris, far superior in appearance to the originals.

The 5 Kran and 1 Toman values were also issued perforated.

Note.—It is scarcely right to call all the above stamps reprints, because a reprint is, as the word implies, a further printing from the original dies, after an issue has become obsolete; whereas in the above instances, as only one, and in some cases two out of four, of the original dies of each value were used for printing purposes, it is obvious that other dies must have been prepared, otherwise it would have been impossible to print them as they did, in strips and blocks of four, so as to imitate the originals as much as possible.

To accomplish this feat lithographic transfers were made, and new blocks prepared, from these stamps were printed in all manner of colours and on various coloured papers.

In the opinion of the writer these printings should not be called reprints; their proper name should be "Official Imitations or Counterfeits." I designate them as "official" because this issue was authorised to be printed by the Persian Government for sale to collectors and dealers, and they never were intended to do postal service, nor have any of them ever been used for this purpose. Unfortunately, however, for the philatelist, the official who gave orders for their printing was not satisfied with printing them in their correct colours, but also issued a lot of each value in all manner of colours, etc., as described above.

Note.—In a later number I hope to have plates of the above issue photographed, so as to show plainly the position and formation, etc., of the various figures which constitute the type or die varieties.



Fifth issue, February, 1879.
Values : 1 and 5 Krans.
Typographed.
Printed in Vienna from the plates of the 1 and 5 Shahi values of the 1876 issue (head type), but with a coloured border added, about one-eighth of an inch in width round the framework.
Paper : Thick hard white wove ; thin soft white wove.
NOTE.—In the stamps of this issue, as in previous issues, the different values are not shown on the stamps, and can only be told by the various colours of the borders.

Perf. 12.
1 Kran, black, brown border.
5 ,, ,, blue ,,
Perf. 12½.
1 Kran, black, brown border.
5 ,, ,, blue ,,
Perf. 13.
1 Kran, black, brown border.
5 ,, ,, blue ,,
Perf. 12 x 13.
1 Kran, black, brown border.
5 ,, ,, blue ,,
Perf. 12½ x 13.
5 Kran, black, blue border.
Perf. 12½ x 11½.
1 Kran, black, brown border.
Perf. 12½ x 12 or 12 x 12½.
5 Kran, black, blue border.

Varieties.
Imperforate.

1 Kran, black, brown border.
5 ,, ,, blue ,,

Provisional issue.
5 Shahi envelope stamp, cut from envelope and used as adhesive.

NOTE.—With the 1876 issue (head of Shah), printed in Vienna, there were included a quantity of envelopes of the value of 5 Shahi. The die of the 5 Shahi stamp was not used for these envelopes. A new one was made, very similar, but differing in many minor points. They are also slightly larger in size.

When the envelopes were sent to Persia very few were actually used, and then only by the Post Office officials and a few merchants. Very few knew their use, and they had been put aside and almost forgotten, except by the officials. Having run short of stamps of this value, and, while expecting shortly the remainder of the new series, they were forced to use these envelope stamps. The stamps in question were cut from the envelopes and sold as adhesives.

This issue is perfectly bona-fide, as they were properly authorised by the Government. Great care should be used by the collectors in buying these stamps, and those only when on the originals can be considered to have been used as described above. The writer has in his collection two of these stamps cut from envelopes, used side by side on a letter to the value of 10 Shahi.

January, 1880, continuation of fifth issue.
Values : 1, 2, 5, and 10 Shahi.
Typographed.
Perforated.
Printed in Vienna from the plates of the 1, 2, 5, and 10 Shahi of the 1876 issue (head type), but with a coloured border added similar to the 1 and 5 Krans, as previously described.

Paper : White wove.

Perf. 12.
1 Shahi, black, red border.
2 ,, ,, yellow border.
5 ,, ,, green ,,
10 ,, ,, violet ,, (shades).
Perf. 12½.
1 Shahi, black, red border.
2 ,, ,, yellow border.
5 ,, ,, green ,,
10 ,, ,, violet ,,
Perf. 13.
1 Shahi, black, red border.
2 ,, ,, yellow border.
5 ,, ,, green ,,
10 ,, ,, violet ,,
Perf. 12 x 13.
1 Shahi, black, red border.
2 ,, ,, yellow border.
5 ,, ,, green ,,
Perf. 12½ x 13 or 13 x 12½.
1 Shahi, black, red border.
5 ,, ,, green ,,
10 ,, ,, violet ,,

REPRINTS.

The above series were officially reprinted, or, more properly speaking, counterfeited, in the year 1885, at the same time as the early issues. It has always been stated that these stamps were reprinted from the die of the 5 Shahi envelope. This statement is entirely erroneous. It is true they were not printed from the originals, as some of the dies were getting slightly worn, but, by order of the Shah, a new head was engraved and inserted in the old frame. These new heads are very similar to that of the 5 Shahi envelope; in fact, this design was taken as a copy, but there are several differences, the chief being that the inside circle is much smaller, and the whole of the appearance of the head is more sharply defined. If the two stamps are compared side by side many minor points of difference can be noted. The difference between these Government counterfeits and the originals can readily be seen. The inside circle is smaller, the ground lines are farther apart from one another, the nose is more crooked, and the head-dress is lower and of a somewhat different design.

NOTE.—There are no reprints of this design without the coloured borders, consequently any collector in doubt as to the genuineness of any of his specimens should compare them with the stamps of the 1876 issues, from which plates all the 1879 and 1880 issues were printed.

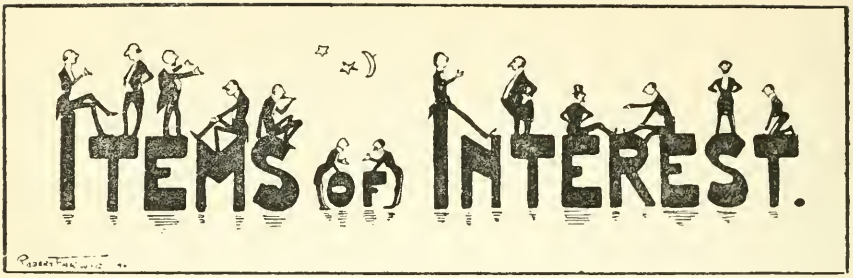
Paper : White wove.
Perforated.
Printed in Paris.

Perf. 12.
2 Shahi, black, yellow border.
2 ,, ,, blue ,,
5 ,, ,, green ,,
5 ,, ,, red ,,
1 Kran, ,, pale brown border.
Perf. 13.
2 Shahi, black, yellow border.
2 ,, ,, blue ,,
1 Kran, ,, pale brown border.
Perf. 12 x 13.
2 Shahi, black, yellow border.
2 ,, ,, blue ,,
5 ,, ,, green ,,
5 ,, ,, red ,,
10 ,, ,, red-violet border.
1 Kran ,, brown ,,

Perf. 12½ x 13.
2 Shahi, black, yellow border.
2 ,, ,, blue ,,
1 Kran ,, brown ,,

NOTE.—There are no counterfeits of the 1 Shahi black and red, or the 5 Kran black and blue. There were only four plates to use to print the six values. The 2 Shahi was printed as black and yellow and black and blue, and the 5 Shahi as black and green and black and red.

(To be continued.)



We are sorry to find that in our March number we made a mistake, or rather, three mistakes. When quoting from the *Philatelic Journal of India* we referred to that excellent journal as the *Indian Philatelist*. The former is the correct title, the magazine being the organ of the Philatelic Society of India.

Very few countries nowadays are without their own set of postage stamps and postal stationery.

In Europe there only remain two small territories which are still without postage stamps—in the Republic of Andorra, in the Pyrenees, and the principality of Liechtenstein between the Tyrol and Switzerland—neither of which is likely to establish an independent postal system unless the revenue falls off, and the issue of postage stamps appears likely to replenish it.

In Africa the vast empire of Morocco has no government series of stamps so far, and as England and France maintain post offices at the ports, it is probable that all requirements are fulfilled by these and various services of carriers which exist.

The State of Oman, in Arabia (which was very much to the fore in the newspapers lately), still remains outside the philatelic fold, but the vastness of its trade and its close relations with India lead to the belief that the authorities may follow the example of their kinsfolk in Zanzibar, and join the postal union.

The British colony of New Guinea, although already a member of the postal union, has no stamps as yet but no doubt an issue will take place when the population reaches numbers sufficient to warrant it.

Various States in Central Asia, such as Bokhara and Khiva, Thibet and Baluchistan, issue no postage stamps, but as they all form practically parts of the Russian, Chinese, or British empires it is hardly likely that they will indulge in the luxury of stamps.

There are various islands in different parts of the world, notably Ascension, which have no stamps, but in no case does their size warrant the belief that an issue will take place. —*Stamb Collectors' Journal.*

Stanley Gibbons state they have shipped £600 worth of their new albums to Australasia. Judging from that statement, philately does not seem to be at all on the downward path.

The story goes that the well-known Chicago stamp dealer, Mr. M. P. Wollsieffer, recently advertised his willingness to sell stamps at 50 per cent. of their value, meaning, of course, catalogue value. Imagine his astonishment on receiving a visit from a gentleman who expected to get unused two cent U.S.A. stamps of the current issue at one cent apiece. That gentleman, like many another, wanted to economise on his postage bill; but Mr. Wollsieffer could not oblige him.

20,000 Stamps Stolen.

Harry Frank, 29, who described himself as a wood-carver, living at 1, Cannon Street Road, E., was charged at the Guildhall with being concerned with a man not in custody in breaking and entering, on the 18th ult., 75, Little Britain, and stealing therefrom a cash-box containing a £5 note, an open cheque for £2, two bills for £30 and £26 respectively, an I O U for £11, and about 20,000 foreign and colonial used and unused postage stamps, total value about £110, the property of Henry Ross Shields.

On Wednesday morning Constable Staff, of the H Division, saw the prisoner offering some stamps for sale at 44, St. George's Street, E., a second-hand shop. Noticing he answered the description of a gentleman the police were looking for as being likely to be in a position to throw some light upon the mysterious disappearance of property in Little Britain, the officer asked him how he came by the stamps. He replied that he had been saving them for years, and that they came from his numerous correspondents in New York and Johannesburg. He further informed the officer that he was not the man the police wanted, and that he (Staff) would be in the "wrong box" if he arrested him. Notwithstanding this, Staff removed him to Leman Street police-station, where about 4,000 stamps were found upon him.

Detective-Sergeant Denning, who said he believed the accused had been convicted before, asked for a remand.

Prisoner: Commit me to the coming sessions.

The Alderman remanded him for a week.

The *Philateliste Francaise* gives the numbers of stamps contained in the albums of some of the leading German collectors as follows:—Mr. A. Treichel, of Hochpaleschken, 36,000; Mr. J. Lindman, of Furth, 32,000: Mr. A. Metzner, of Nordhausen, 28,000; Dr. A. Knizek, of Reichemberg, 21,000; Mr. J. Ott, of Freidenau, 19,000; Mr. R. Kortenbach, of Bonn, 14,000 (all unused); Mr. F. W. Cohn, of Berlin, 12,000 (all unused).—*Stamp Collection Fortnightly.*

Among the exhibits at Manchester will be a most interesting collection of the stamps of New (or Boer) Republic, which is being shown by Mr. H. Marks, who will also exhibit a fine collection of Transvaals.

An American contemporary notices the curious anomaly caused by the introduction of the Imperial penny post. A letter now costs the same as a postcard, both being one penny each.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

No. 1, price One Shilling (postage extra).
The May Packet contains :—

FOUR VARIETIES all unused, viz:

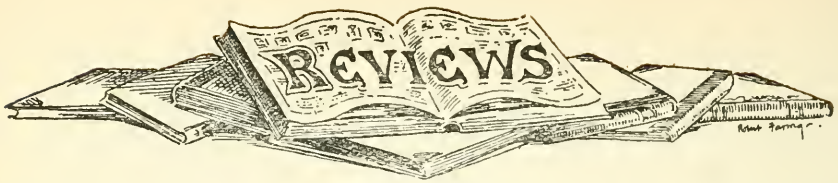
Salvador : Centenary Stamps, 1c. blue and gold, &c., 5c. rose and gold, &c.; Columbia, Registration 10c. yellow, with surcharge "R colon" in circle; Porto Rico, 2c. "Impuesto de Guerra."

No. 2, price 5s. (postage extra).
The May Packet contains :—

12 *VARIETIES*, all unused, viz. :—Porto Rico, surcharged "Habilitado 1898 - 99," 2m., 4m., 1c., 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 6c. and 8c.; Samoa, "Surcharged 2½d." in red on 1d. green and on 1/- rose; Philippines, 1898-99, 4 mils brown.

These packets are on sale until the supply is 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., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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



Priced Catalogue of Stamps of Foreign Countries (1899), London, Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

We are somewhat late in reviewing this, the second part of Stanley Gibbons's Catalogue for 1899, which deals with all adhesive stamps, exclusive of locals, other than those of the British Empire. Much anxiety was felt in many quarters as to the alteration in prices, which everyone expected to be considerably reduced, and the rush for "Gibbons Part II." was consequently very great. On perusing the book we find, much to our satisfaction, and also quite as we expected, that the reductions are really very unimportant, and where they are, as in a few cases, pretty considerable, they are undoubtedly justified by circumstances, and by the current market value of the stamps themselves. The different values of the 1288 issue of Afghanistan have been reduced all round, and it is only proper that such should be the case, but against this some of the values of the issues from 1293 to 1295 have been raised in price, and when we consider the large number of Afghan stamps held by Messrs. Gibbons from the collection of the late Mr. Gilbert Harrison we must consider the prices as being very fair. Many alterations are to be found in such countries as Buenos Ayres, Dominican Republic, Oldenburg, &c., and the stamps of Persia have, as we expected, "gone up" considerably, but we see no important reductions, unless it be in some of the old European countries, such as Spain. We are glad to see that our old complaint has been partly rectified, inasmuch as we now find "Sweden and Norway" as a heading, whereas the heading was formerly "Norway," followed by Sweden; but we are not quite satisfied, as the compilers of the catalogue, evidently anxious not to give way too much, have made the first subheading Norway, and still put Sweden as the second string. We ask whether the gentleman who rules these countries is usually referred to as the King of Sweden or the King of Norway, and we leave our readers to answer the question for themselves.

The illustrations are a great improvement on the previous edition, though a few faulty ones must creep into such a work, notably two eminent gentlemen whose features are depicted on the modern Salvador stamps, and who are illustrated with a black eye each.

Our remarks as to the copious notes in Part I. apply equally to the second part, and the illustrations of watermarks, and the different types of the early Austrian Italy, the perforations of Finland, and the different types of Bosnia are not only most useful, but splendidly executed.

The paper used for this edition is much thinner than formerly, but it is equally strong, and, to our mind, it shows up the printing much better, at the same time reducing the volume to a handy pocket size.

We need only add that the book is quite up to date, and includes such recent novelties as the provisionals for Cuba, Porto Rico, and other Spanish colonies.

The Universal Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World, First Edition, 1899, Ipswich, Whitfield, King, & Co.

The enterprise of our Ipswich friends is well known, and they are to be congratulated on a most creditable production, which will undoubtedly be much appreciated not only by the rising generation, but by that large class of average general collectors who do not wish to be bothered with details of watermarks and perforations beyond the absolutely distinct varieties.

The catalogue is published at the modest figure of 1s. 3d., and there is a superior edition—an "Edition de Luxe" the publishers call it—interleaved with plain white paper for notes, at 3s. post free.

Of course, a catalogue of this nature has its disadvantages, and would be little, if any, use to those who wish to discover the value of varieties. With a few notable exceptions, no varieties of watermark are given, except where the colours are also different, or, as in the case of Ceylon, where the differences between "Star" and "Crown C.C" are noted. This colony itself is a very good example of the whole work, and is sufficiently interesting to criticise specially. The first issue is given as "1857 imperf., watermark star." Then comes the 1861 issue, "same types, watermark star, perf.," but it will be noticed that no particular perforation is mentioned, the varieties 14 and 12½ of the 10d. not being noticed. Then we come to "1862, same type, no watermark, perf.," and afterwards "1864, same types, watermark Crown C.C." The different perforations of the 3d. of 1867 are not given, and the same applies to the various perforations of the subsequent issues, both unsurcharged and surcharged. In the "Service" stamps the 2s. *imperforate* is not mentioned. This

will give a good idea of the style of the work, which is not intended for the specialist or advanced collector, but is an excellent production for the beginner. It is well printed on good paper, and should have a large sale.

The Transvaal Collectors' Quarterly.

We must confess that we had no great faith in the success of a magazine devoted entirely to the stamps of one country, even though that country be such an interesting one as the Transvaal, which offers such a wide and interesting field for research; but the first number of Mr. Nankivell's new quarterly publication is so full of interest that it will most probably be read by many who have not hitherto specialized in Transvaals, and achieve what we believe to be its object, namely, to increase the number of specialists in the stamps of this country. Mr. Nankivell's enterprise is to be commended, especially as it is hardly likely to be particularly remunerative.

The Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe, by W. A. S. Westoby, Part X., London, H. Upcott Gill, price 1s.

The tenth part of this work commences with the balance of Romagna, and ends in the middle of San Marino, a system which we can hardly consider satisfactory. Surely each part could be arranged to commence at the beginning of a country, and finish at the endof one, instead of leaving off in the middle of a sentence.

After this grumble we can find nothing but praise. The work is in Mr. Westoby's usual thorough-going style, crammed full of detail, showing minute research into the question of dates of issue, and the illustrations, which are full size, are excellent. The Russian locals are not described, but the author gives us three pages of their history, written in his usual lucid style. When the whole work is completed it should be a valuable addition to a philatelic library, as the details collected by Mr. Westoby are of great interest to the advanced collector apart from the usefulness of the work to a novice



The Revue Philatelique Française has just celebrated its tenth birthday with a jubilee number. For the purpose of this number the editor invited readers and contributors in all parts of the world to send him articles on the following two subjects:—

1. What is to be done to keep up the continuance of collecting at its present rate?

2. In your philatelic career what incident has given you the most satisfaction, or which is the most amusing incident that has happened to you? The answers received are from such well-known philatelists as Messrs. Leon Brummer, G. B. Duerst, E. B. Earée, Dr. Fraenkel, Paul Leitzow, Pierre Mahé, Paul Marconnet, Arthur Maury, E. J. Nankivell, P. Ohrt, A. P. Pearce, H. A. Slade, and Victor Suppantschisch, and they afford most interesting and amusing reading.

Plymouth Philatelic Society.

On Wednesday, May 10th, under the auspices of the Plymouth Society, a most enjoyable lecture was delivered at the Athenæum by the Rev. E. Bell, M.A. (of St. Stephen's, Saltash), on the educational value of philately. Premising that the hobby was a scientific pursuit, the lecturer dwelt on the threefold division of philatelic humanity into the ignoramus, the timbromaniac, and the philatelist proper or collector, who found in stamps an intelligent interest and a valuable training. With this introduction the political histories of France and Spain and the unification of Italy were ably traced through the postal issues of these countries, lantern and screen combining most effectively to illustrate the points of the lecture. From Southern Europe Mr. Bell passed to South Africa, and reviewed the vicissitudes of our politics in the Transvaal, shewing how marked an object lesson was to be found in the issues of that Republic. Equally impressive but more pleasing was the lesson to be learned from the stamps of Fiji, where British rule had kept, and not relinquished its hold. The diagrams that followed on the screen were now of more varied type and illustrative of different phases of philatelic interest, æsthetic bearing, or educational value. Thus on one striking group the heads of five Sovereign monarchs were depicted, four of whom had met with the bitterest reverses of fortune: the effigies of our own Queen in varying stages of her rule were also presented; and colonial enterprise and sentiment fitly illustrated in the symbolisms of New South Wales, Cape Colony, and Canada. Finally, after a series of plates that typified the debt of philately to the natural world in its designs of bird, animal, reptile, and fish, the lecturer made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the hobby of stamp collecting with its æsthetic and educational training in contrast to the destructive and wanton enthusiasms of the ornithologist and entomologist.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bell for his lucid, interesting and most suggestive address was then proposed by Mr. R. L. Stevens, seconded by Mr. H. W. Mayne, and unanimously accorded by all present.



Part I.—British Empire.

British Bechuanaland.—Mr. Beeman has sent us the fourpenny registration envelope of the Cape of Good Hope, with the surcharge, BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, in two lines, in black, across the stamp, the surcharge being in block capitals.

Registration Envelope.

4d. blue and black on white, size F.

Ceylon.—The provisional six cents has been superseded by a permanent stamp of that value, which has been sent us by Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co., together with other new values. The design is similar to the other values of the current set, but the value is printed in black. There is also a 75 cents, grey, the value being on a red-brown tablet; and the die of the old 2r. 50c. has been utilised for two provisionals by printing in different colours, and surcharging in black, similar to the old 1r. 12c. provisional.

Adhesives.

16 cents, rose and black.
75 cents, grey and red brown.
1 rupee 50 cents in black, on 2r. 50c. grey.
2 rupee 25 cents in black, on 2r. 50c. yellow.

Dhar State.—We have received the 1 anna of the new type, printed in purple.

Adhesive.

1 anna, purple.

Great Barrier Island.—Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. have sent us a specimen of the second issue for this island. The design is similar to the first, but it is engraved and printed in blue green on a greyish tinted paper. We are informed that only 1,800 of the first issue were printed.

Adhesive.

1s, blue green on greyish.

Labuan.—A sheet of the 50 cents, brown, has been found without the surcharge LABUAN. As this stamp was never issued in this colour for Borneo, it should be a very scarce variety.

Adhestve.

50 cents, brown, without surcharge.

Negri Sembilan.—There is evidently a scarcity of the 4c. value here, as Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. have sent us no less than four different provisionals. The surcharge in each case is FOUR CENTS, in one line, in black; and on the 1c. and 5c. of the first type, and the 8c. (Tiger's Head) there is a line obliterating the original value, but on the 8c. (Tiger's Head) there is no line, the surcharge being at the top.

Provisional Adhesives.

4c. in black on 1c. green.
4c. ,, ,, 5c. blue.
4c. ,, ,, 3c. lilac and rose.
4c. ,, ,, 8c. ,, ,, blue.

Part II. Other Countries.

Argentine Republic. — We have to thank Mr. L. Bugnot for specimens and information of several new issues from here. Firstly there is a new postcard of 6 centavos, with stamp similar to that on the "Memorandum Posto" described by us last month, and a reply card 6c. by 6c. There are also new envelopes of 5c. and 12c., with similar stamps, and on the 20th of May there were to be wrappers of ½, 1, 2, 4c., a postcard of 4c., and a 4c. letter card, about which we await further information.

Postcards.

6c. blue on buff.
6c. by 6c. blue on buff.

Envelopes

5c. orange on buff.
12c. blue on buff.

Cuba.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 10 cents "Special Delivery" of the United States, surcharged in three lines in red. "CUBA, 10c., de PESO." The surcharge is very indistinct."

Special Delivery Stamp.

10c. de peso, red on blue.

Japan.—Mr. George Braithwaite has favoured us with specimens of the three lowest values of the new set, 5 rin, 1 and 2 sen., of similar design to the other values recently chronicled by us.

Adhesives

5 rin grey.
1 sen pale brown.
3 sen purple.

Norway.—Mr. H. Dethloff has kindly sent us specimens of the new 2 öre. The type is the same as hitherto, but the colour is a pale brown, on very white paper.

Adhesive.

2 öre pale brown, perf. 14

Samoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us another new provisional, similar to the last, but this time the surcharge is in *red* on the 1s. value.

Provisional Adhesive.

2½d. in red, on 1s. rose red.

Uruguay.—A new issue of Envelopes, Postcards, and Letter Cards is to appear shortly.

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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SPECIAL POSITIONS BY ARRANGEMENT.

Enquiries connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Messrs. Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

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All letters for the editor should be addressed: The Editor, Philatelic Record, care of Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JUNE, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

The Manchester Exhibition.

JUDGING from what we can hear on all sides, the forthcoming International Philatelic Exhibition in "Cottonopolis" is arousing as much interest as anything of the kind ever held, not only here, but on the Continent, and in America. That it deserves to be a success, there can be no doubt, the energy displayed by the Committee, and the many months of their time which they have devoted to the preparations, the advertising and the multiferous duties connected with such an undertaking being worthy of all praise, and of the success which we feel sure they will achieve. The Exhibition will be opened on Thursday, the 29th June, by Mr. H. Henniker Heaton, M.P., the gentleman who gave us "Imperial Penny Postage," and we expect a large attendance at the opening ceremony, including many foreign collectors and dealers, most of them intending to stay in Manchester until the close. The regulations will be found in another column, and the medals number no less than 160, gold, silver, and bronze.

Something of the kind has been badly wanted by Philately ever since the last London exhibition, and although our science has now recovered from the depression of a year or two ago, it is sure to benefit by this, as it always does from such displays. Philatelic Exhibitions interest the non-philatelist as well as the enthusiast, and never fail to bring, at least, a few recruits to the stamp collecting ranks. We can name several who started with the first London exhibition, and we hope later on to hear of many who started with Manchester. Even the small exhibition in Birmingham last year opened the eyes of the local Press to the fact that there was such a thing as a Birmingham Philatelic Society. Up to the time of the Exhibition those non-philatelists who did know of its existence had only looked upon it as an association of harmless cranks.

We will not say that such is the case in Manchester, but the fact remains that the display and the publicity given to philately must, and, in such cases, always does, have a beneficial effect. The dealers benefit by meeting each other and doing business together, collectors spend money to complete or improve their exhibits, and are further encouraged to further efforts if they obtain an award or two, and the meetings with one another renew old acquaintances or make new ones, with that cosmopolitan good fellowship which has always been characteristic of nearly all stamp collectors and dealers.

We write this notwithstanding that only five minutes ago a well-known dealer told us that he did not believe in exhibitions, and always found trade worse after one, and yet we want to see more of them, one or two a year in some town or another, inaugurated if possible by the local societies. As we have already stated in these columns, the Continent is ahead of us in congresses or gatherings and in the number of exhibitions, though they may not be as interesting and important as the last London one was, or as we expect the Manchester one will be.

"Post Office," Mauritius.

The discovery of another of the one penny "Post Office" Mauritius stamps on original envelope, which has come into the possession of M. Lemaire, and is the fourth within twelve months, now raises the number known to twenty; twelve pennies and eight twopennies. Only a few years ago the red one was considered the better stamp of the two, but the "finds" have more than equalised matters, and yet the price rises! This is the part we cannot understand. It is only a few years ago that a 2d. blue on the envelope was voted dear at £200, and now the supposed value is £1,000. One thing, of course, is in favour of the price being maintained, and that is that they are all in good hands, and probably none could be bought at anything like £1,000, if at all, except perhaps the recent discovery. We prophesy that another 2d. blue will be discovered shortly.

NOTE.—Owing to a difficulty about the illustrations, the continuation of Mr. Forbes' article on the stamps of Persia is postponed until next month.

Editorial Interviews.

BY THEODOR BUHL.

M. THEOPHILE LEMAIRE.

THE International Philatelic Exhibition at Manchester being held this month, we thought it a fitting opportunity to commence the international character of our interviews by giving our readers a short history of the career and business of one of the largest French dealers, and as the conversation took place in that language, we shall put it more in the form of a history than "questions and answers."

We have known M. Lemaire for many years, and as he is now only 34 years of age he must have been very young when we first made his acquaintance. He first collected stamps at school when nine years old, and kept this up until he was sixteen, from which time he owns to being a "collector and dealer."

"Your first dealings were not alone?" we asked.

"No," said M. Lemaire. I first went into partnership with M. P. Fontête until he left, and afterwards I was for some time with M. Charles Schaupmeier."

"And when did you commence dealing alone?"

"In 1892," said M. Lemaire; first in the Faubourg St. Denis, then in Rue de Chateaudun; until recently at 30, Rue de Provence, and now I am here."

This "here" consists of a magnificent suite of rooms in the Avenue de l'Opera, one of the best parts of Paris, and is a great improvement on M. Lemaire's former premises, although he has now no shop.

"And what is the principal part of your trade?" was the next question, the answer to which was, perhaps, not logical, but certainly emphatic. "Everything," said our subject, and it was about correct.

It is well known that M. Lemaire purchased the celebrated collection of Dr. Legrand, for which he paid 300,000 francs, and out of which he sold the two "Post Office" Mauritius for, as he informed us, 46,500 francs (£1,860), but besides this he has purchased a French collection for 40,000 francs, the "Marconnet" collection, without France and Colonies, for 60,000 francs—and a collection of France and Colonies only of M. Renourd for 25,000 francs, all of these having been purchased since 1896.

"Have you a private collection of your own, M. Lemaire?" we queried.

"Yes, I collect unused European that are catalogued up to 10 francs each, to see how they will go in ten years," was the reply, and we think the idea a very good one.

"You do a large business in *depôts*, making up sheets and packets for shops; if it is not a secret, how many of these depôts have you?"

"Eight hundred," was the reply, "and all in France, as I do nothing in that way abroad, but I send out approval selections anywhere, and have at present about 800 of these all over the world."

"You employ a large staff?"

"Yes, I have 21 clerks and 5 workmen always employed."

"And your publications?"

"Consist of the *Philateliste Francaise*, which I started in May, 1892, my catalogue, of which a third edition will shortly appear, and my albums, which are now in their second edition, and can be had at all prices."

"You have secured a few medals at exhibitions during the last five years," we said, more as an assertion than a question, and M. Lemaire pointed to a sheet of his note paper, which shows 10 medals gained in Paris, The Hague, Geneva, and Utrecht, since 1894; and now our friend is coming to Manchester, where he is exhibiting some fine things. A bold question was our next one, but M. Lemaire answered it cheerfully by informing us that the value of his stock was from 800,000 to a million francs (£40,000), and that trade is very good in the ordinary and medium stamps up to £1, but slow for rarities; the takings for the first three months of this year exceeded any previous three months by 31,000 francs, the turnover being half a million francs per month, and in 1897 amounted to 831,000 francs.

We have been worrying our friend for his photograph by letter and telegram, and personally, but it has not come to hand in time for this number. We are, however, promised it in time for next month, when it will be presented to our readers. In appearance M. Lemaire is a typical French gentleman; he is always smiling, and we have never yet seen him bad tempered, which is a good deal to say when one considers his responsibilities. Since the above interview we have had the pleasure of meeting him again, in Paris, when he showed us, among other fine old Mauritius, *another* recently purchased penny "post office" Mauritius, on the original envelope, and in fine condition. We hope to renew our acquaintance with the owner and the stamp in Manchester.

The Stamps of Persia.

BY

C. FORBES (Librarian and Secretary, Central Philatelic Club).

(*Continued from page* 113).

NOTE.—On page 89, the note with reference to the die varieties of the 5 krans should read:—The 5 krans were printed from dies "A and D" of the 8 shahi, and not A, B, and D. The dies B and C were used later for printing the reprints of the 8 sh. green.

Sixth Issue.
June 1881.
Lithographed.
Size 22½ by 26½mms.
Paper: White wove (medium thickness).
Perforated 7.
French money.
Values: 5, 10, and 25 centimes.

NOTE.—As the dies of the 1879-1880 issue were now getting somewhat worn, it was decided to have a new issue of stamps. The design is an entire change from any previous issues, and in the writer's opinion is one of the most beautiful that has ever been issued by any country up to the present time.

Design: A shining sun, surrounded at the top and sides by a Gothic arch, beautifully decorated; underneath a scroll, containing the words "Persian post" in French on one side, and Persian on the other; and below this a circle on a coloured ground, containing the figures of value in Roman characters. In the top corners are circles containing Persian characters, denoting the different value and country of origin.

Perf. 12.
5 centimes violet or purple.
10 ,, rose or pink.
25 ,, green.
Perf. 12½.
5 centimes violet or purple.
10 ,, rose or pink.
Perf. 12 by 13.
5 centimes violet or purple.
10 ,, rose or pink.
25 ,, green.
Perf. 12½ by 13.
5 centimes violet or purple.
10 ,, rose or pink.
Perf. 13.
5 centimes violet or purple.
10 ,, rose or pink.
25 ,, green.

Colours: There are two distinct shades of the 5 and 10 centimes, violet and purple for the 5 centimes, and rose and pink for the 10 centimes value; the 25 centimes is green, but in all the three values the border surrounding the stamps is always in a much darker shade than the rest of the stamp.

January 1882.

Same *values* and *design*, but engraved from *copper* plates.

Perforated.

The *engraved* series is easily distinguished from the *lithographed* series, as the Roman figures of value are printed on a groundwork of horizontal lines, whereas, in the *lithographs*, the inside of the circle containing these same figures, is printed on a solid ground.

Colours: The 5 centimes is printed on purple, with the border in *pale* or *lilac blue*.

The 10 centimes in *carmine*, with a *scarlet* border, and

The 25 centimes green, with dark green border.

Perf. 12.

5 centimes purple.
10 ,, carmine.
25 ,, green.

Perf. 12½.

5 centimes purple.
10 ,, carmine.
25 ,, green.

Perf. 13.

5 centimes purple.
10 ,, carmine.
25 ,, green.

Perf. 12 by 13.

5 centimes purple.
10 ,, carmine.
25 ,, green.

Perf. 12½ by 13 or 13 by 12½.

10 centimes carmine.
25 ,, green.

The above series of stamps were designed in Paris, and printed from copper plate dies by the Austrian Government State Printing Works in Vienna. The lithograph series was merely a temporary issue, and they were in use only a few months, the reason being that the Persian officials were very anxious for the new series of stamps, as they were running short of these particular values, and as the copper plates were not yet ready for use, a lithographic impression was hurriedly made and printed from. Of these stamps 10,000 of each of the 5 and 10 centime values were printed, and about 5,000 of the 25 centimes green. Now, if we take into consideration the small number printed of each value, we cannot but come to the conclusion that these stamps are considerably rarer than the majority of collectors and dealers imagine; as after eight years there cannot be more than half that number in existence, and we think that the catalogue price, especially for the 5 and 10 centimes, is ridiculously low.

Note.—In this and the following issues the French standard of currency was brought into use, and the values denoted on the stamps are in francs and centimes. This drastic change was brought about through the visits of the Shah at this time to the various European capitals, the idea being to bring the Persian post office more in touch with the European postal system. The change, however, did not meet with the approval of either the people in general or the Persian postal officials, and in 1885 the post office again returned to the Persian currency of krans and shahi, and has continued to do so until the present day.

(*To be continued.*)

International Philatelic Exhibition.

MANCHESTER, JUNE 29th to JULY 6th, 1899.

HELD IN THE CITY ART GALLERY:

To be opened by H. HENNIKER HEATON, ESQ., M.P

PROSPECTUS.

FEW pursuits have undergone greater changes or seen more extensive developments in recent times than that of Philately, which from being almost entirely monopolised thirty or forty years ago by schoolboys, now occupies the serious attention of collectors of all ages and all classes in every part of the civilised world.

This was amply demonstrated by the general enthusiasm aroused by the London Exhibition of 1897, and as the unparalleled success of that undertaking convinces the members of the Manchester Philatelic Society that the time is fully ripe for one of a similar nature in this city, they have decided, after careful consideration of ways and means, to hold an Exhibition of an International character.

It will consist of specimens of the Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post Cards, Wrappers, &c., of the whole world, Proofs, Essays, and other Objects of Interest connected with Philately and the Postal Service, as well as Albums, Books, and Philatelic Appliances of every description.

It will be opened on THURSDAY, JUNE 29th, 1899, and it is hoped that the numerous promises of support which the Committee have received from many eminent collectors at home and abroad, will be so augmented as to make the Exhibition thoroughly representative of Philately in all its phases.

The Committee have obtained the use of the MANCHESTER CITY ART GALLERY, which possesses the advantages of ample space and good light from above, without the risk of undue exposure to the rays of the sun, as well as a commanding position in a leading thoroughfare in the centre of the city, and is therefore in every way most suitable for an Exhibition of Stamps.

All the stamps will be shown under glass in locked or sealed frames and cases, and every possible precaution will be taken to ensure the security of the Exhibits, including the employment of day and night watchmen, but no personal responsibility will be undertaken by the Committee.

The provisions against risk by fire or theft are specially mentioned in the Rules and Regulations which follow, and to these the attention of intending Exhibitors is particularly drawn.

Special arrangements will be made for the passage through the Customs of Exhibits from foreign countries without risk of damage.

The Exhibition will remain open to the public for one week, a charge being made for admission, which will afford a better opportunity for supervision by the members of the Committee (two of whom at least will always be in attendance during the time that the Exhibition is so open), thus securing additional safety.

The Exhibits will be returned to their owners as soon as possible after the close of the Exhibition.

To facilitate the work of the Committee, and to assist them in the preparation of the Official Catalogue, Exhibitors are earnestly requested to send full particulars of their Exhibits as early as possible before the date stipulated in the Regulations.

In the scheme of the Exhibition, which will be found below, the Committee wish to draw attention to the fact that whilst every provision has been made to secure keen competition amongst advanced specialists, the interests of general collectors have been carefully protected. It is with the first object in view that more divisions have been made in the prospectus than was the case in London, and for the latter purpose that certain favourite and most difficult countries have been introduced twice, in the first instance as a country complete, which the advanced specialists can exhibit, and secondly, after omitting the earlier and usually rarer issues, for the benefit of those who specialise in these countries, but are not strong enough in such issues to compete with collectors of the first rank.

The Exhibition will be subject to the following Rules and Regulations, of which all Exhibitors will be held to have had notice :—

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1.—Exhibits in Classes I., II., and III. must be mounted on cards or loose pages. Although no special size of cards or other material is obligatory, it is hoped that Exhibitors who mount their stamps especially for the Exhibition will, as far as possible, endeavour to assist the Committee in securing uniformity, for the sake of economizing the space at their disposal. This object will be attained by the use of cards of the following sizes, viz., 10 inches by 9 inches, or $9\frac{5}{8}$ inches by $11\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and, if desired, cards measuring $9\frac{5}{8}$ inches by $11\frac{1}{8}$ inches, can be supplied, on application to the Secretary, at a trifling cost. *The sizes in centimetres will be* $25\frac{1}{2}$ *by* $22\frac{3}{4}$, *or* $24\frac{1}{2}$ by 28 1-5th. *The size of the frames will be* 40 *inches by* 36 *inches (inside measurement), so that each frame will carry* 16 *sheets* 10 *inches by* 9 *inches, and* 12 *sheets* $9\frac{5}{8}$ *inches by* $11\frac{1}{8}$ *inches.*

2.—A charge for space will be made on the following scale :—

For each frame or part of frame occupied in Classes I. and II.	4/-
For each Exhibit in Class III.	5/-
For each album or volume shown in Classes IV., V., VI., VIII., and IX.	5/-
For each Exhibit in Class X.	5/-
Class XI.—Charge will be made according to nature and size of Exhibit, minimum charge...	2/6

Class VII.—No charge will be made.

Arrangements have been made by the Committee for insurance against loss by fire or theft of Exhibits while in the custody of the Committee, either before or during the continuance of the Exhibition and after the close of the Exhibition, until despatched for return to the owners. An inclusive charge of 2s. 6d. will be made for each £100 insured. Owners of Exhibits desiring to insure, and paying the prescribed amount, will have the benefit of the policy effected by the Committee to the extent of the value at which such Exhibits are accepted for insurance, but no personal liability is in any event incurred by the Committee in regard to loss.

The charge for space and insurance (if any) will be payable by the Exhibitor on sending in his Exhibit.

All Exhibits will be returned free of charge to their owners, by post or otherwise, but transmission will in all cases be at the sole risk of the owner, insurance in course of transit (if any) being paid by him.

5.—The right of refusing any Exhibit without assigning any reason for such refusal, is reserved by the Committee, as also the right of showing such part of any Exhibit as the Committee may decide, in case of there being insufficient space available for showing the whole.

6.—All Exhibits entered for competition must be *bona-fide* the property of the Exhibitor. Joint collections must be shown in the joint names or firm name, as the case may be, but no combination made solely for the purposes of the Exhibition can be admitted for competition.

7.—Albums and volumes of stamps will be exhibited open at the most interesting pages, to be varied from time to time during the Exhibition by a member of the Committee. No albums will be allowed to be inspected (excepted by the Judges) without the written permission of the owner and at his risk, and then only in the presence of a member of the Committee.

8.—No price or other notification that it is for sale may be fixed to any Exhibit. No Exhibit can be removed before the close of the Exhibition.

9.—The Judges will be appointed by the Executive Committee, and their decision will in all cases be final. They will be seven in number, of whom it is proposed that three at least shall be chosen from representatives of foreign countries.

10.—No Exhibits by any of the Judges can be entered for competition.

11.—The following scheme of competition has been adopted by the Committee; but all Exhibits which the owners may desire to enter as "Not for Competition" will be so marked in the several classes in which they may be shown. *In making their awards the Judges will be requested to take into special consideration, not only the rarity and completeness of the Exhibit, but also the neatness and accuracy of arrangement, method of mounting and condition of the specimens submitted, and the Philatelic knowledge displayed by the Exhibitor.*

CLASS I.

Will consist of Special Collections of Postal Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain.

Division 1.—Postal Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain, unused only.
" 2.— " " " " (Single Specimen Collections).
" 3.— " " " " used only.

Awards in this class.—DIVISION 1.—One Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.
" 2.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.
" 3.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

CLASS II.

For Special Collections of Postal Adhesive Stamps of any one of the Countries or combinations of Countries named below:—

DIVISION 1. A.—BRITISH EMPIRE, including Protectorates, etc.

British Guiana
Cashmere and Native States of India (any two).
Ceylon.
Mauritius.
New South Wales.
New Zealand.
Queensland.
South Australia.
Victoria.

Awards.—One Gold and 2 Silver Medals.

B.

Canada.
Cape of Good Hope.
India.
Natal.
Newfoundland.
New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Vancouver.
Straits Settlements and Dependencies.
South Australian Departmental Stamps.
Tasmania.
Trinidad.
Western Australia.

Awards.—One Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

C.

Barbados.
Fiji Islands.
Heligoland.
Labuan.
Nevis.
St. Lucia.
S. Vincent.
Turks Islands.
Ceylon, from 1863.
New South Wales, from 1860.
Victoria, from 1862.
Western Australia, from 1861.

Awards.—Two Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

D.

Bahamas.
British Bechuanaland and Protectorate.
,, Honduras.
Cyprus.
Grenada.
Griqualand.
St. Helena.
British Central Africa.
,, East ,,
,, South ,,
Oil Rivers and Niger Coast.
} any two.
British Guiana, from 1863.
Mauritius, from 1863.

Awards.—One Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

E.

Any two of the following—

Antigua.
Bermuda.
Cook Islands.
Dominica.
Falkland Islands.
Gambia.
Gibraltar.
Gold Coast.
Hong Kong.
Ionian Islands
Jamaica.
Lagos.
Leeward Islands.
Malta.
Madagascar.
Montserrat.
North Borneo.
Prince Edward Island.
St. Christopher.
Seychelles.
Sierra Leone.
Tobago.
Virgin Islands.
Uganda.
Zanzibar.
Zululand.

Awards.—One Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

Division 2.—Europe.

A.

Austria, Austrian Italy, and Hungary.
France and Monaco.
Greece.
Roumania with Moldo-Wallachia.
Russia, Finland, Russian Levant, Livonia, Wenden and Poland.
Spain.
Switzerland.
Turkey.

Awards.—One Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

B.

Germany (any two of the following):—

Baden, Bavaria, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire (including Alsace and Lorraine), Hamburg, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Thurn and Taxis, Wurtemburg.

Italy (any two of the following):—

Italy, Modena, Naples, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, Sicily, Tuscany.

Awards.—One Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

C.

Bulgaria, Southern Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, Servia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina (any three).

Roumania.

Russian Locals.

Switzerland (including Federals, but excluding the Cantonals, Orts-Post and Poste Locale).

Germany (any three of the following):—

Baden, Brunswick, German Confederation and Empire, Alsace and Lorraine, Hanover, Lübeck, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Strelitz, Prussia, Thurn, and Taxis.

Italy (any three of the following):—

Italy, Papal States, Parma, Romagna, Sardinia, San Marino, Sicily, Eritrea.

Awards—Two Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

D.

Belgium.
Denmark and Iceland.
Holland.
Luxemburg.
Norway.
Portugal.
Sweden.

Awards.—Two Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

Division 3.—A.

Asia and Africa.

Afghanistan.
Japan.
Philippine Islands.
Portuguese Indies.
Transvaal.

Awards.—One Gold and 1 Silver Medal.

Azores and Madeira.
Egypt and Suez Canal.
New Republic.
Persia.
Shanghai and China (no locals).

Awards.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

C.

Any four French Colonies or Possessions.
Orange Free State or Swazieland.
Any four Portuguese Colonies or Possessions.

Any four of the following :—
Congo, Liberia, Dutch Indies, Sarawak, Siam, Corea, Formosa, German Colonies.

Awards.—Two Bronze Medals.

Division 4.—A.

America.

Brazil.
Buenos Ayres.
Bolivia.
Colombian Republic (including various States).
Hawaii.
Mexico (including locals).
Peru and Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
San Domingo.

Awards.—One Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

B.

Confederate States of America (including Postmaster stamps).
United States of America (including Postmaster stamps).
United States Locals.

Awards.—One Gold and 1 Silver Medal.

C.

Argentine Confederation and Republic.
Chili.
Cuba, Porto Rico and Fernando Poo.
Uruguay.
Venezuela and La Guaira.
Hawaii, from 1864, and Tonga.

Any two of the following :—
Corrientes and Cordova, Costa Rica, Curacao and Surinam, Danish West Indies, Ecuador, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Samoa.

Awards.—One Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.

Division 5.—A.

Any three countries in Europe.

B.

Any three countries in Asia or Africa.

C.

Any three British Colonies or Possessions in Australia, North America, or Asia.

D.

Any three British Colonies, Protectorates, or Possessions in Europe, Africa or West Indies.

E.

Any three countries in America or elsewhere, and not coming within the definition of sub-divisions.

A.B.C.D.

Awards.—One Bronze Medal in each sub-division.

N.B.—Division 5 is not intended for the advanced Specialist, and no one who has gained a medal at the Exhibition in London in 1897 is eligible to compete.

Class III.

For Collections of Rare Stamps.

Division 1.—Each Exhibit to consist of not less than 75 nor more than 100.
,, 2.— ,, ,, ,, not more than 50 stamps, and each stamp in Division 2 not to exceed catalogue (Stanley Gibbons) value of £2 each.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Gold and 1 Silver Medal.
,, ,, 2.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

N.B.—In Division 1 pairs or blocks of the same stamp will be counted as one; where blocks or pairs are shown, however, the total Exhibit must not contain more than 200 stamps) each stamp in the block for this purpose being counted separately).

Class IV.

Will consist of entire General Collections of Postal Adhesives with or without Envelopes, Postcards, &c., in albums or volumes, not less than 10 countries to be shown in any Exhibit in Divisions 1, 2, and 3.

Division 1.—Without limit as to number.
Awards.—One Gold and 1 Silver Medal.
,, 2.—Total number not to exceed 10,000.
Awards.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.
,, 3.—Total number not to exceed 5,000
Awards.—Two Bronze Medals.
,, 4.—Collections of British Railway Stamps.
Award.—One Bronze Medal.
,, 5.—Special Collections of a single Country.
Awards.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.
,, 6.—Special Collections of any three of the British Colonies, all of whose stamps are obsolete at the date of this prospectus.
Award.—One Silver Medal.
,. 7.—Special Group Collections.

N.B.—In the grouping of Collections in Division 7 regard must be paid to considerations of either a Geographical, Historical or Political character.
Award.—One Silver Medal.

Class V.

Division 1.—For Collections of entire Envelopes and Wrappers, one or more of the Countries or combination of Countries enumerated below:—

Austria, Hungary, and Lombardy.	Mauritius.
Great Britain.	Russia, Finland and Poland.
Germany and all States.	United States of America.

Division 2.—Not less than three of any Countries not enumerated in Division 1.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Gold and 1 Silver Medal.
,, 2.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.

Class VI.

Will consist of Collections of entire Post Cards and Letter Cards.

Division 1.—One or more of the Countries, or Combinations of Countries enumerated below :—

Russia and Finland.	Belgium.
Germany and all States.	Mexico.
Jamaica.	Roumania.
Japan.	Spain and Colonies.
Luxemburg.	

Division 2.—Not less than three of any Countries not enumerated in Division 1.

Awards.—Division 1.—One Silver and 1 Bronze Medal.
,, 2.—One Bronze Medal.

Class VII.

For Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers of Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps.

N.B.—Stamps shown by any person, firm, or company in this Class must be limited to specimens of their own work, and may comprise Stamps as issued, Proofs, or Essays, or all three.

Awards.—Two Silver Medals with Diplomas.

Class VIII.

For Philatelic Literature and Works.

Division 1.—Current Philatelic Journals Exhibited by the Publishers.
,, 2.—Philatelic Works published since 31st October, 1890, and shown by the Publishers.

N.B.—In the case of serial publications in Division 1, *the last volume published only to be shown.*

Awards.—Division 1.—Two Bronze Medals with Diplomas.
,, 2.—Two ,, ,, ,,

Class IX.

For Albums, &c.

Division 1.—The most suitable Album or Book for a special collection.
,, 2.— ,, ,, ,, ,, general ,,

Awards.—Division 1.—Two Bronze Medals with Diplomas.
,, 2.— ,, ,, ,,

Class X.

For Philatelic Accessories and Appliances for use by Collectors.

Awards.—Two Diplomas.

Class XI.

Special arrangements of Stamps, Stamps on Original Letter Sheets or Envelopes, Proofs, Essays, Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connection with Philately and the Postal Service (including engravings).

Awards.—Two Bronze Medals.

A Special Gold Medal, being the Grand Prize of the Exhibition, will be given for the most meritorious Exhibit of Adhesive Postage Stamps shown in the Exhibition.

No exhibitor can take more than one prize in each Class (exclusive of Special Prizes) except in Class II., in which Class not more than two prizes may be taken by one Exhibitor.

The Judges shall be at liberty to withold any prize if from insufficiency of competition, or for any other reason, they shall think that it should not be awarded.

The following Special Prizes will also be Awarded :—

Manchester Philatelic Society.—One gold and one silver medal for the two best exhibits in Class II. shown by a Philatelist resident out of the British Isles. One silver medal to the Society whose members figure most numerously in the list of exhibitors.

The Philatelic Society, London.—One gold medal for the finest special collection of any one country, having regard to the difficulty in forming it, apart from the monetary value. One silver medal for the best special or general collection shown by a lady.

Herts Philatelic Society.—One silver medal for the best Exhibit by a member of the Herts Philatelic Society in Class II.

Leeds Philatelic Society.—One silver medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Leeds Philatelic Society.

Mr. H. A. Stamford (President of the Sheffield Philatelic Society).—One silver medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Sheffield Philatelic Society.

Mr. W. T. Wilson (President of the Birmingham Philatelic Society).—One silver and one bronze medal for the two best exhibits shown by a member of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Mr. J. H. Abbott.—One silver medal for the best exhibit from Scotland. One silver medal for the best exhibit from Ireland.

Mr. W. Dorington Beckton (President of the Manchester Philatelic Society).—One gold medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those which have gained a silver medal in the open competition in Class II. One silver medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those who have gained a bronze medal in the open competition in Class II.

Mr. William Brown.—One silver and one bronze medal for the two best collections of stamps issued since 1890, and shown in Class IV., Division 3.

Mr. J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.—One gold medal for the best exhibit of West Indies. One silver medal for the best exhibit in Class IV., shown by an exhibitor under 21.

Mr. W. H. Peckitt.—One gold and one silver medal for the two most meritorious exhibits, regard being paid primarily to the question of condition, in Class III. One gold and one silver medal for the two most meritorious exhibits in Class I.

Mr. Ernest Petri.—One silver and one bronze medal for the two best exhibits shown by a lady resident within a radius of 15 miles from the Manchester Royal Exchange.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.—One gold and one silver medal for the two best collections of Australian Stamps. One silver and one bronze medal for the two best collections shown by a youth under 21 in Class IV., in an album of English manufacture.

Mr. Vernon Roberts.—One gold medal for the best exhibit shown in Class II., Division I. One silver medal for the best exhibit of St. Lucia. One silver medal for the best exhibit from Wales.

Mr. George H. Callf.—One silver medal for the best exhibit of Sydney Views.

Mr. Adolf Rosenberg.—One silver medal for the best exhibit shown by a German resident in Germany.

Mr. Thomas Beckton.—One silver medal for the best exhibit by a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society failing to obtain a medal in the open competition. One silver medal for the best exhibit in Class II., Division 5.

Mr. Arthur H. Harrison —One silver medal for the best collection of either Sweden, Norway, or Denmark, and Iceland, shown in Class II., Division 2 D., by an exhibitor resident in any of these countries.

Mr. G. Fred H. Gibson.—One silver medal for the best exhibit in Classes I. or II., shown by a member of a Provincial Philatelic Society (Manchester excluded).

Mr. D. Ostara.—One silver medal for the most meritorious exhibit of adhesives on entire shown in Class IV.

Mr. G. B. Duerst.—One silver and one bronze medal for the two best exhibits shown by an exhibitor resident within a radius of 20 miles of the Manchester Royal Exchange, and not a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society.

Two silver and two bronze medals will be placed at the disposal of the judges, to award all or any as they think fit to exhibitors whose exhibits display the most philatelic knowledge, regard being had to individual research.

Fiscal Notes.

CONTRIBUTED BY A. PRESTON PEARCE.

Of late I have had several occasions to refer, elsewhere, to the private proprietary stamps now being issued by Uncle Sam in his endeavour to obtain the wherwithal for playing the most expensive of all games.

I have found that several inexperienced collectors of fiscals are not at all clear as to the actual status of these labels, which certainly occupy a most extraordinary position, and, if so desired by two or three readers, I shall be pleased to give such particulars as may serve to elucidate the matter.

* * *

The humble seeker after the despised fiscal has hitherto quietly pursued his inoffensive way, untroubled by many of the dangers that beset the path of his more favoured brother, but with increasing popularity comes increasing care, and, as our section of the hobby comes into greater prominence, we shall have to face the fact that pitfalls designed to entrap the unwary will as certainly be prepared for us as for other riders.

A sign of the times has been noticed by Mr. Walter Morley, who desires me to warn collectors against the wily device of an individual who is manufacturing *tête-bêche* pairs of such British stamps as first issue *Customs*, *Chancery Fee Fund*, &c. These stamps have a black separating line, and advantage is taken of this fact to obtain a cloak for the concealment of a skilful join.

The S.S.S.S. had not a very successful career, but another alliterative association with a strong Fraud Fighting Fund, to which every Secretary of a Society and Club should be invited to belong and to contribute an annual shilling on behalf of each member, might effect a wondrous reformation if it carried on a vigorous campaign.

* * *

The announcement has been made that Canada has emitted a new *series* of *Weights and Measures*, but according to advices received from Mr. H. G. La Mothe this is not quite correct. Up to the time of writing, only the 50 cents has appeared in its new and more ornate form, but a supply of 20 cents and of 70 cents (this latter a new denomination) has been ordered, and may be expected to come into employment ere long. There are still large stocks in hand of some of the values, so a complete set in the new type will not adorn our albums for a long time to come.

In the extremely handsome design prepared by the American Bank Note Co., for the *Supreme Court* (reproduced in Feb. *Stamps*) only the 10 cents value has appeared, and no other is likely to be seen for some months.

The same valued correspondent informs me that fresh supplies of the 25 cents and 50 cents *Gas Inspection* have been ordered, and, although he does not say so, I presume that these also will appear in a new dress.

The engraver to the lively Republic of Hayti appears to have been paying attention to the surprisingly pacific study of arboriculture, for, according to *La Revue Phil. Francs*, the 2 cents *Quittances* and the 70 cents *Timbre* have been seen with an alteration in the outline of the palm tree; a reduction in the size of the figures of value is also noticeable.

* * *

The disturbance caused by our American cousins in the *status quo ante* existing in some of the Spanish Colonies has been abundantly manifested in the New Issues columns ever since the beginning of the end. As regards the revenue stamps of those places, the authorities have lamentably failed to produce that prolific supply of provisionals so anxiously desired by a small but earnest group of philatelists.

How different things would have been had we only been a little more obtrusive. But doubtless the day will come when needy governments will vie with one another in the production of monthly series of artistic Bill Stamps, taxing the skill of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons in the reproduction of the masterpieces of Wiertz, or of Jan Van Beers.

* * *

I am very desirous of obtaining the names and addresses of all who are interested in the collection of fiscals; there are a good many of us, but widely scattered, and with but few rallying points.

All communications in respect of this page should be addressed to 98, Alexandra Road, Mutley, Plymouth, and correspondents are requested to make a note of the change that has been occasioned by the renumbering of the streets in this suburb.

Catalogues and Prices.

(*From the Philatelic Journal of India*).

AS we have occupied ourselves considerably of late in the study of the stamps of those Indian Native States which use Indian stamps surcharged, it has occurred to us that it might be useful to examine some of the catalogues recently issued with a view to ascertaining whether any one of them has adopted any visible method in its pricing. The catalogues which we have selected are Messrs. Stanley Gibbons', Whitfield King's, and Bright's. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' prices as corrected in the *Monthly Journal* are given.

We began by looking up those of the *early* issues of those States which are rarest; for, of course, recent issues, no matter how limited, are on a different footing. This was the result :—

Date of issue.	Numbers printed.		S. G. & Co.	W. K. & Co.	Bright.
1884	240	Nabha, 8 as. 1st issue	2 10 0	1 10 0	0 15 0
Do.	240	1 rupee	1 10 0	1 5 0	0 17 6
1885	450	red surcharge ...	0 15 0	0 12 6	0 9 0
1884	480	Patiala, 8 as. 1st issue ...	1 10 0	1 5 0	1 5 0
Do.	480	1 rupee	0 17 6	0 17 6	0 15 0
Do.	480	Jhind, 8 as.	2 10 0	1 10 0	1 5 0
Do.	480	1 rupee	2 10 0	1 10 0	1 5 0

Not much help here. In fact, the whole performance reminds one of a sort of Chinese puzzle. Let us try again, and take this time the three highest value stamps, all issued about the same time, all obsolete, and all to remain so.

Date of Issue.	Numbers Printed.		S. G. & Co.	W. K. & Co.	Bright.
July 1897	288	*Jhind*, Rs. 2 ...	1 5 0	1 0 0	0 4 0
Do.	192	,, 3 ...	1 15 0	1 10 0	0 6 0
Do.	192	,, 5 ...	3 0 0	2 10 0	0 10 0
Jan. 1897	576	*Nabha*, ,, 2 ...	0 10 0	0 12 6	0 4 6
Do.	576	,, 3 ...	0 12 6	0 11 0	0 6 9
Do.	576	,, 5 ...	0 16 6	1 7 6	0 10 0
Nov. 1895	450	*Patiala*, ,, 2 ...	...	2 0 0	...
Nov. 1895	400	*Patiala*. Rs. 3 ...	.....	3 0 0	.....
Do	300	,, 5 ...	.....	4 0 0	.....
Dec. 1895 and Oct. 1896	672	*Chamba*, ,, 2 ...	1 0 0	0 17 6	0 3 9
Do.	672	,, 3 ...	1 10 0	1 5 0	0 5 6
Do.	672	,, 5 ...	2 0 0	1 15 0	0 9 6
May 1896	2,496	*Gwalior*, ,, 2 ...	0 12 6	0 10 0	0 4 0
Do.	2,396	,, 3 ...	0 16 0	0 15 0	0 6 0
Do.	1,240	,, 5 ...	1 10 0	1 5 0	0 9 6

This table shows us only that Messrs. Whitfield King are desirous of underselling Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, and Messrs. Bright did not know that these stamps were obsolete. But the ratio of the price of one stamp to another remains a mystery. Now let us take the grey rupee stamp surcharged for ordinary and for service use, taking in all cases the commonest variety of surcharge. We shall also note this time the date on which the stamps become obsolete, as this should help us in judging of their comparative variety. Here is the result:—

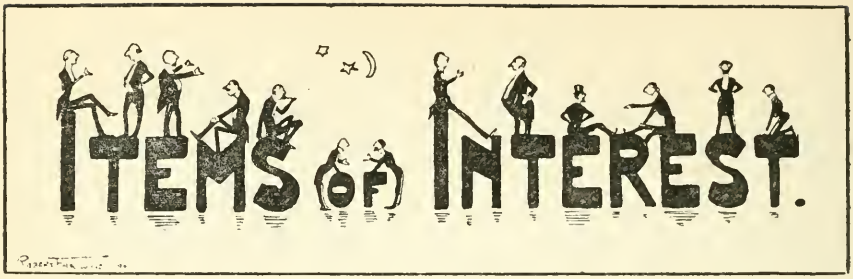
Became obsolete in.	Numbers.		S. G. & Co.	W. K. & Co.	Bright.
Dec. 1895	2,281	*Chamba*, Ord. ...	0 15 0	0 10 0	0 6 6
Sept. 1898	1,819	Service ...	0 17 6	0 15 0	.....
Aug. 1893	1,560	*Faridkot*, Ord. ...	0 10 0	0 7 6	0 10 0
Dec. 1898	1,320	Service ...	0 10 0	0 15 0	0 15 0
Oct. 1897	2,400	*Jhind*, Ord. ...	0 8 6	0 6 6	0 3 0
Do. 1893	2,640	*Nabha*, Ord. ...	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 4 6
Jan. 1897	1,000	Service ...	0 10 0	0 7 6	0 3 0
Current ...	24,000	*Patiala*, Service ...	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 4 0
May 1896	24,155	*Gwalior*, long, black surcharge	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 9 0

Here indeed is confusion worse confounded. A *current* stamp of which 24,200 have been issued is worth from three to four times its face value, while one of which only 1,000 ever existed, and which has been obsolete for two years, is worth from a little over double to seven times its face value. Messrs. Bright are actually prepared to sell the latter for 25 p. c. less than the former! (The same firm, by-the-way, value the Gwalior grey rupee, *short* black surcharge—the rarest stamp of this State—at 10s., against 7s. 6d. for the fairly common one of the *long* surcharge!) But it is unnecessary to do more than simply call attention to the astounding figures given above.

We need not dwell either on the stamps of these States which never existed, but yet are found priced in one and another of the current catalogues. The stamps which we are discussing are only just emerging from absolute obscurity, and must, we suppose, put up with what treatment they can get.

We have, however, we hope, shown that the method used in pricing these stamps is not one which produces results likely to be of any use to an amateur collector desirous of exchanging his wares for stamps of countries better known and better catalogued.

Why, by-the-way, is the *current* 6 annas stamps, Indian, priced in *all* catalogues at three times its face value or more, while other current stamps are priced at only 25 to 50 p. c. over face value?



The *American Journal of Philately* gives the following as a complete list so far of this year's Guatemala Provisionals, with the numbers of each printed:—

1 centavo on	5c. postage	100,000
1 ,, ,,	25c. ,,	30,000
1 ,, ,,	5c. ,,	50,000
1 ,, ,,	75c. ,,	50,000
6 centavos on	5c. ,,	100,000
6 ,, ,,	10c. ,,	10,000
6 ,, ,,	20c. ,,	20,000
6 ,, ,,	100c. ,,	20,000
6 ,, ,,	150c. ,,	20,000
6 ,, ,,	200c. ,,	20,000
10 ,, ,,	20c. ,,	20,000
1 centavo on large revenue stamp		150,000
2 centavos on 1c. large rev. stamp		110,000
1 centavo on 10c. small ,,	,,	150,000
2 centavos on 1c. ,,	,, ,,	40,000
2 ,, ,,	5c. ,, ,, ,,	103,500
2 ,, ,,	10c. ,, ,, ,,	22,200
2 ,, ,,	25c. ,, ,, ,,	14,000
2 ,, ,,	50c. ,, ,, ,,	10,000
6 ,, ,,	1 peso ,, ,,	20,000
6 ,, ,,	5 pesos ,, ,,	10,000
6 ,, ,,	10 ,, ,, ,,	10,000

Among the Continental dealers who will visit Manchester during the International Philatelic Exhibition, we already know of Messrs. Bernichon, Lemaire, Stock, Monclus, and Singer.

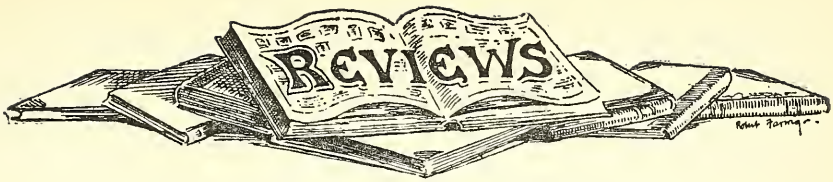
Mr. Andreini sends to the *Metropolitan Philatelists* the following official list of the 1896-1897 series of postage stamps, surcharged.

"Habilitado para 1898 y 1899."

200,000 of	1 milésima.
500,000 of	2 milésimas.
100,000 of	4 ,,
300,000 of	1 centavo.
300,000 of	2 centavos.
2,000,000 of	3 ,,
100,000 of	4 ,,
300,000 of	5 ,,
300,000 of	6 ,,
70,000 of	8 ,,
50,000 of	20 ,,
25,000 of	40 ,,
6,500 of	80 ,,

No other stamps have been surcharged in San Juan, Puerto Rico, since 1873, so that the so-called "Provisionals" are fraudulent; while the changes in value other than the changes to 2 and 5 centavos on the War Tax stamps are likewise fraudulent, and the surcharged 4 milésimas on the 5 milésimas, 1898-99 type, is the greatest fraud of all.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for March contains, as a supplement, a large map or diagram showing the progress of the Indian Post Office from 1853 onward. It is very interesting, but of no philatelic value, as, in the ordinary course of events, it is only to be expected that the population, and consequently the postal communication, should increase.



A Colour Dictionary, with about two hundred names of colours used in printing, &c., specially prepared for Stamp Collectors by B. W. Warhurst. London: Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

Most philatelists know the "colour chart" published some years ago by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company. It had a large sale at the time, and it is yet frequently referred to by writers who wish to describe a particular shade of colour. At the time of its appearance it was severely criticised in many quarters, and we anticipate that the work now under notice will not fail to receive even a larger share of attention. A first glance at the book gave us a favourable impression, but when we look closely into it from a stamp collector's point of view, we fail to see its utility. True, it is more of a history and description of colours and their origin than a "colour chart." Mr. Warhurst is at times scientific, and at others he turns to quotations from the poets, such as "blue violets" and "purple violets." If he will go to the vegetable market he will find that a red cabbage belongs to the genus "greens." The volume commences with a title page in purple on something—we are afraid to give it a name for fear of making a mistake; once upon a time we should have called it buff. Then we come to "plate No. 1," a kaleidoscopic arrangement something like a star, consisting of an arrangement of twelve colours and six minor varieties, which is pretty. The six primary colours, being the longest points of the star, are all right; but we don't like the look of that orange red. Then we come to the literary part of the work, which is printed on different coloured papers, and is undoubtedly excellent in its way, so much so that we regret that space will not permit a more extended review. We are told that it would be just as nice and correct to speak of "reddish blue" as to use the terms "red violet" or "violet red," and the following anent mauve will undoubtedly speak for itself.

"Professor Church,

whose opinion should be authoritative on this matter, writes in *The Technical Educator*, issued about 1870:—'The aniline dye known as mauve may be taken as somewhat *near* the normal violet . . . which usually appears much redder by gaslight than daylight.' In a previous table he assumes (for another purpose) the equivalents of yellow as 3, of red as 5, of blue as 8; and for bluish-violet = 1 Red + 2 Blue; [Purple or] reddish-violet = 2 Red + 1 Blue. We may therefore be justified in considering mauve as = $1\frac{1}{2}$ R. + $1\frac{1}{2}$ B; or, using the figures of the primaries named, we get *purple* as 10 for red + 8 for blue = 18; *mauve* as $7\frac{1}{2}$ for red + 12 for blue = $19\frac{1}{2}$; and *violet* as 5 for red + 16 for blue = 21."

We have copied it verbatim, and regret that we must now pass on to a "map of Colourland." It is printed in black on blue (?) in the shape of a pansy—one of our author's "purple pansies" we suppose, or perhaps it is a clover leaf with six petals. It is arranged in "countries," the colours radiating from the centre of each petal (which represents a primary colour) in accordance with their degrees of importance, and then we come to the illustrations of colours. There are only forty of them, and our author admits they are not a third of the actual shades used for stamp printing, but they are to be used as "fingerposts." The "magenta" is hardly the magenta of our boyhood, and the "yellow green" appears to us to be a particularly bilious looking yellow; the "emerald green" is exactly the shade of our old triangular friend of the Cape, bu the buff is hardly the buff of postcards There is an alphabetical list of colour names, in which we miss the celebrated "Kanarienvogelgelb," and in which, although we notice a Prussian green, our old friend "Prussian blue" does not appear—a probable omission which is made up for by "red currant;" and, though "strawberry" does not appear as a colour, we have "apricot," "Havana," and many others. The author states that black *is* black (the italics are his), and we are glad to hear it, as we have heard of people who would swear that it is white. Seriously the work should be useful to the student of colours and to many philatelists, besides which we notice that it is advertised as "suitable for use in schools."

Priced Catalogue of the local postage stamps of the world (1899)—London: Stanley Gibbons, Limited. Price 1/-, Post free, 1/3.

This is the third part of the celebrated "Gibbons' Catalogue," and, we believe, the first publication of its kind devoted entirely to locals. In size it is uniform with the

other parts and, to our surprise, it makes quite a respectable volume, being almost as thick as the British Empire section. The paper and printing and the illustrations are equal to parts I. and II., which is satisfactory, except in some cases of illustrations, which is, however, partly due to their being too small to show up the details of the designs. The volume commences with the English "Railway Letter Stamps," which have now found a new and perhaps permanent home as "locals," probably much to the surprise of many of our readers. Of the 122 pages which constitute the volume, Russia occupies no less than seventy-two, or more than half, and the United States sixteen. As to the prices we will make no comments; locals are an acquired taste, and their relative values have never hitherto been properly defined.

Our Monthly Packets of New Issues.

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

The June Packet contains :—

SEVERAL VARIETIES all unused,

No. 2, price 5s. (postage extra).

The June Packet contains :—

SEVERAL VARIETIES, all unused, including :—Panama, 10c. Registration ; Guatemala, 1c. in red on 5c. violet, &c.

These packets are on sale until the supply is 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., postage extra; No. 2 packet, 60s., postage extra.

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

"Williams & Co."

Now that the "Williams" bubble is burst, we hear some details. Thus the *Revue Philatelique Postale* :—

"A friend of ours has just returned from Peru, and has given us some definite information about the great firm of Williams & Co., Lima, Peru, which for months past has been filling with its enormous advertisements the philatelic publications of the whole world.

"We may say at once that the news which reaches us is not reassuring, as the following will show :—

"First of all, *Willlams* does not exist, and never did exist. He is a myth.

"The Co., more fortunate than his partner, is in the land of the living, and bears the name of *Casnough*.

"Mr. Casnough holds a post at the Cable Office of Barranco (a suburb of Lima), and lives in a little room on the ground floor of the Hotel Cardinal.

"Mr. Casnough has two employés : first, a Mr. Farrant, who looks after the German correspondence ; and second, a parrot.

"This room in the hotel, which alone constitutes the 'stock-room' and 'offices' of the important firm of 'Williams & Co.', is so small, and the parrot fills it so completely with its discordant cries, that the few persons who wish to interview Mr. Casnough do so from the street outside, through the window, which thus serves as a sort of *guichet*.

"When this *guichet* window opens, it is generally to let in the air which Mr. Casnough needs for the task of writing his advertisements ; the parrot, too, wants it, as he perches, screeching at the philatelists of Europe."—*Philatelic Journal of India*.

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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Quarter Page	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0	0 12 0

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

All letters for the editor should be addressed: The Editor, Philatelic Record, care of Buhl & Co., Limited, 11, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C

M. TH. LEMAIRE,

of Paris,

Can be seen any morning during the Philatelic Exhibition at the

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Fine Selection of Stamps

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INCLUDING THE

ONE PENNY "POST OFFICE."



M. THEOPHILE LEMAIRE.

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

JULY, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

AFTER every great effort in the direction of a Stamp Exhibition, certain minds of a philosophic cast ruminate over the old question "How has the Exhibition affected Stamp Collecting?" Up to a certain point the reply is simple enough. Immediately before the Exhibition intending exhibitors are looking up dealers and examining stock books in all directions, in the hope of completing some series, or filling some gap, and consequently there is, before the opening of an Exhibition, an abnormal and active demand for stamps. This demand is by no means confined to rare stamps, for your specialist has, in such cases, more often to complete his series of modern issues than to fill up gaps in old rarities.

After the Exhibition.

After the Exhibition is quite another matter. Theoretically, an Exhibition should bring in a lot of recruits, and there is no doubt it does have some effect in this direction; but the effect, we are persuaded, is out of all proportion to the effort. And the reason is obvious. Apart from showing the stamps there is no attempt whatever to gather in recruits.

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Exhibitions as Recruiting Grounds.

The lull that too ominously follows every Stamp Exhibition compels the question "Can Exhibitions be used as Recruiting Grounds?" We see no reason to doubt their great value as recruiting grounds, under efficient and intelligent management. Hitherto Exhibitions have been run and patronised for the main purpose of enabling a few well known and wealthy specialists to make a public display of their marvellous philatelic wealth to an admiring philatelic crowd. There has been no special attempt whatever to extend the pursuit of the hobby, to further popularise it. In ordinary exhibitions you are flooded with literature of an instructive character, designed to interest you in the articles or goods exhibited, and there are often lectures delivered and papers read with the same excellent purpose.

Some day we may return to this topic. Meanwhile we throw out the suggestion for rumination.

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More Society Exhibitions Wanted.

Better than all the great International Philatelic Exhibitions, in which the distribution of a plethora of medals is a foregone conclusion, is probably the purely local exhibition of a local society, when every member shows, for comparison and study, all he possesses of a particular country. The educative value of such shows is probably more enduring than the confusion of a great International display. There is not enough of the business of comparison and study in our Society gatherings. In the old days, in the meetings of the Philatelic Society of London, every member was required to bring his possession of the country set down for study, and so important was this requirement regarded, that any member who failed to comply with the rule subjected himself to a fine of a shilling. But specialism gradually elbowed this excellent rule out of the Society's statutes. And now some specialist reads a paper and passes round his grand possessions and the rest of the members look on in wonder and rarely even mention their own endeavours. Yet, so great is the variety of stamps now-a-days in shade, perforation, or watermark, that in all probability many useful lessons are lost by this latter-day prevalence of one man shows.

Catalogue for Collectors.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on March 17th, 1899.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

(From the *London Philatelist.*)

IN setting forth a proposal for the compilation of a Catalogue for Collectors, I do not wish to undervalue the splendid price lists published by dealers, which have hitherto served the double purpose of trade price lists and guides to collecting.

What I wish to emphasize is the fact that stamp collecting has now taken such a firm hold upon all classes of the community as to be regarded as one of the most delightful of the many hobbies which serve to divert the attention of the busy man and provide a pastime for the man of no occupation. Its adherents now include some of the keenest business men of the day, some of the most exalted in the State, and some of the most studious. The result is that we are every year more and more efficiently gathering up and piecing together the postal history of every stamp-issuing country. Hence it follows that Philatelists have become the real historians of the introduction and the development of the Postal Service of the world.

Under these circumstances I submit that it is somewhat of an anomaly that we should continue to depend solely upon dealers' price lists for the publication, in catalogue form, of the results of our studies and researches.

The excellent price lists which the leading dealers now publish have unquestionably been brought to a most commendable state of perfection—as price lists. But as Catalogues for Collectors, as guides to collecting, they are lacking in not a few very important essentials.

The dealer provides a price list for the sale of his goods, and he naturally compiles it with that view.

In some countries we have a wealth of detail in the matter of perforation, printing, and surcharge; in other countries but little attention is paid to these matters. There is, in fact, and in the nature of the case, an utter lack of proportion in the price lists of the day, regarded from the purely Philatelic standpoint. This is so apparent to the most ordinary collector that I need not labour the point by drawing invidious comparisons.

What the collector wants is a Catalogue that shall deal exhaustively with every country, whether it be a popular selling country or a much-neglected State.

A dealer may justifiably economise space when dealing with countries for the stamps of which there is no commensurate demand. But the Philatelist can have no such excuse, and it somewhat reflects upon us as Philatelists that we have not before this set to work to remedy an admitted defect.

The need of a Catalogue for Collectors by collectors is every day becoming more and more pressing. In the price lists there is an undue straining after varieties in the case of popular countries, a multiplication of infinitesimal oddities, that is doing much mischief to the true interests of collecting.

Given a popular country and an enthusiastic specialist with a microscopic vision, and you may ruin the most promising and enjoyable country by over-elaboration. More than one splendid country has been smothered with infinitesimal varieties. If we follow the road some specialists would lead us, we shall some day come to collect by microscope. We shall have Die. I., Die II., Die III., and dies innumerable, till we die altogether, prematurely hastened into our graves by racking endeavours to differentiate between varieties which even the most powerful microscopes fail to make satisfactorily clear.

Can we remedy this state of things? I contend that we can, and that we should do so without further delay by the publication of a Catalogue prepared and issued by Collectors for collectors, and published with the authority and *imprimatur* of the Philatelic Society of London.

My proposal would embody the production of a Catalogue that should be unpriced, that should deal exhaustively and in proper proportion with every country, and that should serve alike the purposes of the beginner, the advanced collector, and the specialist. This may seem a large order, but, properly managed, it may easily come within the scope of a Society which commands so much Philatelic talent as our own Society embraces within its roll of membership.

As to the *modus operandi*. I would form a large committee of, say, a dozen or twenty of our leading members, including, of course, the members of the Publishing Committee. The committee should be large, so as to be able to delegate portions of the work to sub-committees of its own body. This committee should have its elected chairman, an editor, and an energetic secretary.

The duty of the committee would be to prepare a draft of a Catalogue which, as I have said, should deal exhaustively, and in proper proportion, with every country down to the end of 1900. This draft should be set up in type and supplied in proof form to the regular attendants at our meetings, and to any other members or collectors whose desirable co-operation could be secured. The recipients of those proofs should examine, criticise, and make suggestions. To further revise the lists and ensure their accuracy I would reinstitute our reference list meetings. At those meetings the lists should be examined in detail, and members having had the opportunity of previously examining and criticising the proof should be able to help materially in the work of perfecting the details of the Catalogue. The co-operation of specialists should be invited in order that the Catalogue should be as comprehensive as the closest study could make it. The work of final revision and the examination of suggestions and corrections would of course rest with the committee, who would finally decide what to omit and what to include after taking note of the evidence gathered together as the result of the circulation of the proofs.

In order to make it available for the beginner, the advanced collector, and the specialist alike, the normal issues should be set up in large type, say long primer, and the varieties in small type, say nonpareil. The beginner would collect by the large type the normal issues, and the advanced collector and specialist would take in the small type as well.

The illustrations should all be of the very best quality, and specially done for the Catalogue, each stamp being in its natural size, and every type, whether of design or surcharge, should be clearly illustrated.

The cost of production will no doubt bulk up heavily. The printing of proofs and the subsequent correction of those proofs, and the preparation of the thousands of illustrations which would be necessary, would total up to a very considerable item. I do not wish to minimise either the labour or the expense which it will entail.

But despite all these drawbacks, properly managed it would be a source, not of loss, but of very considerable profit to our Society. Taking it from the strictly pecuniary point of view, it would not be too much to say that it would be certain to secure a very large circulation. Personally, I should be disappointed at anything under a circulation of 5000 copies, for it would be in demand wherever there is an English-speaking collector. It would therefore have an unquestionable value as an advertising medium, and I estimate that the advertisements would cover the cost of production, and that the sales would be net profit.

Finally, the question arises, "Is the game worth the candle?" It seems to me that it is.

To a Society like ours the effort should be worth the making. It would be no small gain to Philately if we produced a work that should truly and comprehensively register the high-water mark which we have reached in the study of the postal issues of the world; that should set out, in form as serviceable to the beginner as to the specialist, the normal issues and the true varieties of every country; that should include all true type varieties and weed out the infinitesimal and the accidental; and that should discriminate between genuine postal issues and worthless speculative issues.

Such a Catalogue, I venture to say, would satisfy the cravings of the beginner and the specialist alike, would settle disputed points of varieties, once and for all, for dealer as well as for collector; for the *imprimatur* of the Society to such a work would in the end establish an undeniable authority for the dictum of the Catalogue.

I feel certain that it would redound to the credit of this Society, that it would establish more firmly than ever its claim to the sympathy and respect of the Philatelic world. And there is no question that it would give stamp collecting an impetus that would be felt in the years to come. It would put an end to perplexities that puzzle us; it would settle questions that vex us, for it would be the final court of Philatelic appeal. We should free Philately from the thraldom of the price list, from the domination of the trader, and give it a better and truer and freer status as a pleasure-yielding pursuit.

New Stamps for Tasmania.

From the *Australian Philatelist.*

SEVERAL correspondents have kindly sent us the following newspaper paragraphs:

"HOBART, Tuesday.—Collectors of postage stamps all over the world will be glad to know that Sir Edward Braddon has ordered the Secretary of the General Post Office to send to England for a new set of stamps similar to those lately issued in New Zealand. These stamps will be illustrated with views of different places of interest in Tasmania.

"The decision of the Government to lay in a new stock of stamps, letter cards, and other saleable postal goods, may be regarded as an indication that the public officials connected with that department are waking up to a sense of the importance of letting the colony appear before the world in its best clothes. Since the question of more effectively advertising Tasmania has been under discussion—a period covered approximately by the time that has elapsed since an industrial policy was outlined in our columns in 1897—a distinct desire to move ahead has been apparent. It is evidently beginning to dawn upon those to whom the idea previously seemed preposterous that by more enterprise in certain directions, and more efficient organization, some departments of the public service hitherto regarded as encumbrances can be made reproductive, and that comparatively little expenditure is needed to do it. Brains rather than money are wanted to put the colony on something like a fair footing with its neighbours as regards dissemination of information concerning the island and its natural resources. The adoption of stamps and letter cards as mediums for advertising the attractions of the colony is a step in the right direction. If the illustrations are well done they will help to convey to thousands of people beyond the shores of Tasmania some idea as to the charms of its scenery. Now the penny postage system is becoming general throughout the empire, the question of stamps of uniform color and size is being debated. It would certainly be an advantage to know that a green stamp represented the same price all over the empire, and that other colored stamps were similarly of equal value wherever bought. When we get federation it will be possible, of course to have a uniform postage system throughout the Commonwealth, so that a Tasmanian halfpenny stamp will be the same color as one obtained in any other colony."—

Daily Telegraph, March 3rd.

Mr. P. Malone informs us further that the following is an approximate list of values, colors, and designs:

½d. green, Lake Marion, Du Cane Range.
1d. red, Mountain Lake, Huon Road.
2d. lilac, Cataract Gorge, Launceston.
2½d. dark blue, St. Columba Falls.
3d. claret, Lake St. Clair.
4d. orange, Russel Falls.
5d. light blue, Mount Gould.
6d. violet lake, Dilston Falls.

Doubtless this list is incomplete, none of the higher values being represented. It will be seen that the ½d., 1d., and 2½d., are to be in the Postal Union colors, from which we may infer that the current ½d. and 2½d. will not be changed in color.

A number of illustrated post and letter cards are also to appear, the latter with impressed 2d. stamp in lilac. The cards are to be tinted, in size $5\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and will bear the following views:—Hobart, Launceston, Great Lake, River Derwent (New Norfolk), St. Mary's Pass, and Mount Ida (Lake St. Clair). The order for the stamps has been placed in the hands of the engravers, and it is expected that they will reach the colony and be ready for issue in the course of a few months time.

Mr. F. Bourne sends us the following letter he received from the Premier's office:

6th March, 1899.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I am instructed by the Right Honourable the Premier, to inform you that the designs for the new issue of postage stamps have already been chosen. Whilst they are scarcely intended to be permanent, they will last until there is a reason for a change in the same.—I have, etc.,

Signed, Geo. Steward, Secretary to the Premier.

From this letter we gather that the issue is not officially regarded as a strictly permanent one. Nevertheless there must be a "reason" before any change will be made. Let us hope that the only reason will be the federation of the colonies.

Fiscal Notes.

By A. PRESTON PEARCE.

THROUGH some mischance no proof of my May Notes reached me, and I have, therefore, to apologize for various printers' errors of a more or less noticeable kind, and to correct one stupid blunder that not only disguises my meaning, but creates the painfully erroneous impression that I must be a multi-millionaire. Will readers kindly turn to page 104, and strike out the personal pronoun appearing as the third word in the ninth line from the bottom ?

* * *

Referring to the *Marine Policy* stamps, the extended employment of which was recently under consideration, Mr. A. White informs me that he recently saw a specimen affixed to a Power of Attorney, the irregularity being caused by the fact that the stamping machine was out of order.

* * *

According to *L'Ami des Timbres*, the Brazilian Budget for the current year provides for the imposition of stamp duties on perfumes, candles, and boots. It also quadruples the duty on tobacco ; so it is quite on the cards that specimens belonging to four new series will soon be coming over.

Perfumes and candles are familiar objects in our lists, but a tax on footgear is a decided novelty.

* * *

If some enterprising publisher would get together the material, and issue a small annual containing the Budget proposals of all countries, the compilation should prove most interesting reading.

It has always been one of the charms of revenue stamp collecting that the varying economic needs and resources of different localities are so frequently displayed by the objects of our search, and it would appear that the wide range of things dutiable is only circumscribed by the ingenuity of the imposing powers.

* * *

A few months ago I had occasion to make some comments in *Stamps* on the paucity of ha'penny revenues available for our collections. Of my own knowledge I could only enumerate one British, two Cape, and one Victorian, but added, on the authority of Continental catalogues, the ½d. rose newspaper stamp of New Zealand, overprinted "Stamp Duty" in black. The genuineness of this last is now questioned by Mr. A. Hamilton, of Dunedin, so if any reader possesses a specimen I should be grateful for the opportunity of examining it.

* * *

Reference was made in the May Notes to the care necessary to fustrate the aims of the forger, and I am constrained to revert to the subject by the appearance of the set of Portuguese *Bills* for 1899, which are without indication of "Semestre."

A couple of years ago some serious frauds were discovered in Portugal, which pointed to the necessity for more careful supervision, and to facilitate this the dated portion of the design was changed each half-year. Collectors then had to choose between considerably extending their lists and ignoring the innovation, and, as one's natural impulse is to retain all distinct varieties that are encountered, it is probable that only the most strong-minded of general collectors adopted the alternative course. It is, therefore, quite a relief to find that this modification has been abandoned, and we are now free to hope that Uruguay may soon be able to dispense with the similar *quarterly* precaution that in her case has been in force ever since July, 1891.

For the information of beginners it may perhaps be as well to state that the biennial dates so frequently found on stamps seldom imply that the period of service is one of two years, for in the great majority of such cases they merely indicate the financial year commencing on July 1st.—1894-1895, 2do. Trimestre (Uruguay), covers the period October-December, 1894; and the date 1887-1888 on the Mexican issues denotes a period of twelve months, commencing July 1st, 1887.

* * *

"A horrible nigger's head" is the uncomplimentary description in *Le Timbre Poste* of the principal feature of a stamp received by Monsieur Moens. It is inscribed "Republic of Hawaii—Internal Revenue—One Dollar," and is printed by the American Bank Note Co., in deep blue on white paper, perf. 12.

Doubtless some American reader can furnish information as to the fiscal position in the Sandwich Isles, and can tell us what revenue stamps are now current there. The specimen just described can hardly have been issued since the annexation, and the fact that it has remained unknown for some time is most readily accounted for by its non-appearance on Foreign Bills.

Philately in the Mags.

Queensland Zig-Zag Perfs.

THE *Australian Philatelist* gives the following information concerning recent vagaries in Queensland Perforations :

"The zig-zag perforation was a fiasco, principally on account of it being necessary to perforate *before* gumming. The gum then fastened up the holes made by the steel rule. It was impossible to perforate after gumming, and about 3,000 out of the 5,000 sheets printed and issued to the General Post Office were returned to the Government Printing Office, to be perforated in the ordinary way by the comb machine. There are thus four varieties of this latest perforation, viz. :

1. Serrated.
2. Serrated in black.
3. Serrated and perf. 12½.
4. Serrated in black and perf. 12½.

The explanation given for the existence of the serrated in black variety is that the machinists (this work being done on an ordinary printing machine), in order to get the perforation to register properly, ran several sample sheets through the press and so arranged it that the frame did not perforate, but, with the judicious application of a little printers' ink, simply left a black impression. Where this impression encroached on the coloured design of the stamp, the register was altered, until at last all the lines of the perforating frame fell between the rows of stamps, then the 'sampling' was discontinued, and the perforating proceeded merrily."

Belgian Telegraph Stamps.

THE *American Journal of Philately* publishes the following from its Brussels agent concerning Belgium Telegraph stamps said by Mr. Bouvèz to have done service as postage stamps.

"Telegraph" stamps, as Special Delivery stamps (the 25c. excepted) are nonsense; Bouvèz, Senf., etc., to the contrary notwithstanding.

In their time the 25c. telegraph stamps were used for special delivery letters; in the majority of cases, on such letters, they were found cancelled with a hexagonal stamp. When, however, they were cancelled at a sub-station or a smaller office, which had only the circular cancellation stamp, this was necessarily employed. In the less important telegraph offices too, particularly where the telegraph and post offices were combined at the railroad station, either cancellation stamp was used according to the convenience of the moment, and consequently 50c., fr. 1.00 and fr. 5.00 telegraph stamps, on the telegraph blanks, are also found with circular (postal) cancellations; unscrupulous individuals describe these as having been used on special delivery letters and sell them as such — just as others endeavour to sell postal packet stamps, cancelled at small stations with the circular cancellation stamp, as postage stamps.

At present only postage stamps are used to prepay special delivery fees, 25 centimes for each letter (the single or plural postal rate not included); and this charge is the same for every post office or railroad station in the country, 25c. equally for Ostend or Verviers. Should the destination of the letter be beyond the limits of the office, the receiving office collects the rate in cash according to a distance tariff (per kilometre) established for each locality, and enters it to the credit of the delivering office. Consequently no 50c., fr. 1.00 or fr. 5.00 stamps are to be found on special delivery letters.

It is necessary to be cautious even with the circular cancelled 25c. telegraph stamps, at one time actually used on special delivery letters; the dark green (including the dark yellow green) only is genuine. The light green and the emerald green are too recent; these colors appeared after the use of postage stamps exclusively for special delivery letters had begun. The best criterion is an old date-stamp.

The best way to get 5c. and 10c. telegraph stamps, "postally used," is to prepay a local letter with such stamps and drop it in the post box, or in one of the boxes found on omnibuses or street cars, instead of handing it over the counter as prescribed. The cancelling clerk will note "found in the box" and let the letter pass, since the Government loses nothing by the operation."

German Colonials.

SOME day the Specialist will take up German Colonials. Meanwhile the following information from the *Philatelic Monthly and World* will help to their better appreciation :

"The new 'China' series of surcharged German stamp dates from January, 1898, for the values of 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 pf. The 3 pf. postage stamp was not issued at first and only since January of this year a small quantity of stamps of 3 pf. was sent to Shanghai and Tsintau. This value can only be employed in sending circulars or newspapers between the two cities just mentioned.

German East Africa was the first German colony to receive postage stamps of its own, mainly because of the different currency

used in that country. The first issue—1893—without the name of the colony consisted of the following values: 2 pesa on 3 pf. brown; 3 p. on 5 pf. green; 5 p. on 10 pf. red; 10 p. on 20 pf. blue; and 25 p. on 50 pf. red-brown. The second issue—1896—consist of the same values surcharged "Deutsch Ostafrika," and a new value diagonally across the stamp.

There is but one Post Office on the Marshall Islands Archipelago, Jaluit. This explains, why 3 and 25 pf. stamps are entirely superfluous. As a matter of fact only the 10 and 20 pf. stamps have ever been seen used, and it is not known definitely whether the 5 and 50 pf. have ever reached the Islands. Since the Spanish-American conflict the former mail route from Ponape (Carolines) has ceased to exist and Jaluit has now only irregular and occasional steamer connection with Sydney. There is only one steamer every two months between Jaluit and German New Guinea.

Of German South-west Africa there are two distinct issues. The name of the colony in the first reads "Deutsch Sud-west-Afrika," in the second "Deutsch Sudwestafrica." Of the former—1897—only the 3, 5, 10 and 20 pf. were ever issued in that colony. There was no use for a stamp of 25 pf. and a 50 pf. postage stamp was only ordered after the second issue was circulated. The second issue was prepared in the fall of 1898. The first values to appear with the second line of the inscription in one word were the 10 and 50 pf., in October, 1898 and the 28 pf. on December 7th. No 25 pf. postage stamp has ever been introduced into the colony and the 3 and 5 pf. postage stamps have not as yet been issued to the colonies for their is a sufficient stock of the first issue on hand. Full sets of the second issue were obtained from the Berlin Colonial office and cannot come from the colony; yet some German catalogues quote this set new or used."

U.S. Periodical Remainders.

Mr. John N. Luff, in his very exhaustive series of articles on "The Postage Stamps of the United States" tells the story of the Periodical Remainders and Reprints. He writes:

"This issue is largely due to the efforts of one or two short-sighted dealers who, valuing a present small profit more than the future good of philately, persuaded our post office officials to make the issue as a source of revenue. That the result has been a disappointment to collectors and an injury to philately there can be no doubt, and stamp peddling is not an expedient which is commendable in any government, least of all in a great and wealthy one. To add to the unpleasant features of the case, the reprints were not placed on the market as such but under the pretence that they were remainders.

When it was proposed to sell to the public, at a nominal price 50,000 sets of remainders of this issue, it was found that there was not on hand a sufficient quantity of five of the values, so reprints were made to supply the deficiency. The five values were the 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 dollars. The reprinting was done in February, 1899, from plates 137, 138, 139, 135 and 140. The quantities were:

	Remainders.	Reprints.
5 dollars	155	49,845
10 dollars	11,640	38,360
20 dollars	8,780	41,220
50 dollars	16,245	33,755
100 dollars	7,685	42,315

It is said that eventually 5,000 originals of each of the four higher values were used and 45,000 reprints.

The reprints are on the regular paper, watermarked U.S.P.S. They have a smooth white gum, while the gum of the originals is yellowish. The colours lack depth and richness and look cold and thin. They are:

5 dollars slate-blue.
10 dollars grey-green.
20 dollars lilac-grey.
50 dollars brownish-rose.
100 dollars bluish-purple.

A "Stamp Hunter's" haul of U.S. Periodicals.

The following "stamp hunter's" story is from *Stamp Talk*, U.S.—"I haven't much to report anyway this time, except a little story on the Government that came nearly to getting me into serious trouble. You know the use of Newspaper stamps, as vouchers for newspaper postage, has been abolished. Well the Government called in all the remainders and were to destroy them, but several of the leading stamp dealers petitioned the department to sell them to stamp cranks at a nominal sum. The Attorney General passed down an opinion that they could be sold at any price they cared to make on them and the Post Office Department finally decided to offer for sale 50,000 sets at $5.00 a set, and at the end of the year if there were any remaining, destroy them with all the plates and dies. These stamps run from 1c. to $100—1c., 2c., 5c., 10c., 25c., 50c., $2.00, $5.00, $10.00, $20.00, $50.00 $100—twelve stamps of a total face value of $187.93.

"I have a stamp-collecting friend over in the western part of the State who wanted these stamps and requested his Postmaster to send and get him a set. He planked up his $5.00 and the Washington authorities wrote on for 10c. more for registration fee and postage, which was forwarded. In due course of time my friend called for his stamps and was given, by the Postmaster, a big parcel what the department had sent for his $5.00.

"I came along the next day, and my friend gave me the whole bunch, with the request to sell them and divide with him. If I had thought twice I wouldn't have taken them, but I jumped to the conclusion at once that the Department knew what

they were doing, and I took them and left town with ninety-eight sets of these stamps a face value of $18.314.14. In other words my friend kept two sets and gave me the balance. The authorities sent him one hundred sets instead of one for his money.

"I immediately sent them out, or most of them, around the country to my stamp customers, but I hadn't more than done so when the mistake was discovered and they were after me, and the Assistant Postmaster himself caught me in Quincy. Just as soon as I found that he was to be held for them I assured him, of course, that he would get them all back or their equivalent. But either he wasn't satisfied or for some other reason I was nabbed in Kansas City, by an Inspector, and asked to turn over the stamps, which I refused to do, but agreed to make it good to my friend from whom I had received the stamps. That evening there came trooping up to my hotel, the Chief Inspector, his Assistant, and the United States Marshall, with a writ of replevin and a summons that Wm. McKinley, President of the United States, commanded my appearance in the United States Federal Court, for wrongfully and illegally taking away from the —— P. O., ninety-nine sets of Newspaper stamps to the value of $495.00, etc. They didn't get any of them, however, but as I tell you, Doc., I had felt before, it wasn't exactly right to keep the stamps, and have made it good to the satisfaction of all concerned.

"I admit right here I was hasty in taking them in the first place and should not have done so. But I felt this way, perhaps the Government are going to sell these stamps at any old price; they represent nothing of value to the Government: they are not redeemable: they are, in fact, only worthless bits of paper, and it is still a question before the law if I could be held liable for the fictitious value placed on them by the United States authorities, with the circumstances under which they came into my possession."

Recent Philippine Surcharges.

Madrid Filatelico presents in its most recent number a reproduction of an entire sheet of surcharges of the 1897 issue which is indeed wonderfully and fearfully made. The sheet is composed of the 25c. brown stamps of the 1890 issue, which were surcharged with various values in 1897. This particular sheet shows a number of inverted surcharges, the varieties being mixed on every line. The sheet is composed of the following:

58 stamps with surcharge 20 centavos.
12 ,, ,, ,, 20 ,, inverted.
10 ,, ,, ,, 15 ,,
10 ,, ,, ,, 5 ,,
10 ,, ,, telegraph surcharge.

The *American Journal of Philately* surmises that this sheet is in the nature of a trial. Let us hope it may prove to be so and that the trial has been confined to one sheet.

British Guiana.

Mr. B. O. Smith, an employee of the Post Office, has sent the *American Journal of Philately* a number of varieties of the recent surcharges—2c. on 10c. and 2c. on 15c., indicating the quantities issued of each kind.

	No. issued.
2c. on 10c., inverted surcharge,	60
Small "E" in "CENTS,"	500
No period and narrower "C" in "CENTS,"	1,600
"GENTS," instead of "CENTS," no period after "CENTS,"	500
2c. on 15c., comma between "T" and "S" in "CENTS,"	2,000
Dash between "2" and "CENTS,"	2,000
Comma between "N" and "T" of "CENTS,"	1,800
Double surcharge,	50
No period after "CENTS,"	2,100

Philatelic Gossip.

Jamaica and Imperial Penny Postage.

JAMAICA has decided to join in the Imperial Penny Postage arrangements, and will become a member of the union on the Queen's birthday. The new stamps will bear a view of Jamaican scenery. It is estimated that there will be a loss for the first year of about £1,500.

Jamaica has held off for a good while, and even when giving in she cannot, if report speaks truly, resist the opportunity to make a little out of the business. Apparently the loss is to be collected, as usual, from the Stamp Collector.

Australian Federation.

DISCUSSING the question of Australian Federation, Mr. A. F. Bassett Hull writes: Of course the influence of Federation on Philately will be far-reaching indeed; the separate issues of the six Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia will give way to a uniform series for the whole Commonwealth, and a convenient stopping place will be provided for specialists who wish to limit their sphere of collecting.

Stamps for Decoration.

ACCORDING to the *British Realm* a lady philatelist boasts of a bedroom suite which is entirely covered by stamps. They are secured to the various articles by the aid of glue, and then covered with thick varnish. They can be washed in their present condition, without injury. The beginning of this strange collection, numbering nearly two million, dates back many years.

Postal Union Statistics.

FROM the headquarters of the Universal Postal Union come the 1896-97 statistics of the postal services of the various countries comprised in the Union. The following interesting comparisons have been made:—

The largest numbers of post offices in the various countries:—

1.	United States ..	72,278
2.	Germany	41,028
3.	Great Britain ..	21,202
4.	India	11,989
5.	Canada	9,371
6.	France	9,066

The largest numbers of letter-boxes in use:—

1.	United States ..	139,435
2.	Germany	108,897
3.	France	67,684
4.	Great Britain ..	51,595
5.	Japan	40,984
6.	Italy	40,096
7.	India	20,990

The greatest lengths (in kilometres) of the various "postal lines":—

1.	United States ..	752,360
2.	Russia	254,968
3.	India	198,529
4.	Germany	153,285

Miscellaneous.

HIS HONOUR Judge Philbrick, Q.C., has been re-elected to "Grand Office" in that cabalistically-named masonic brotherhood, "the Order of the Secret Monitor."

HERR LINDENBERG has now definitively retired from the post of Director of the Postal Museum of Berlin. His successor, according to the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, will be Herr Püschel.

Notices.

Advertisement Rates.—Per Insertion, net.

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Small Advertisements—5s. per inch, in double column, prepaid.

SPECIAL POSITIONS BY ARRANGEMENT.

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

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

AUGUST, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

THE Manchester Exhibition which was opened on the 29th June and closed on the 5th July last has been pronounced on all hands to be a thorough success from every point of view, excepting only, perhaps, the financial. In the financial part of the scheme the Committee was heavily handicapped in not being able to admit stall holders for the sale of stamps. However, it is to be hoped that despite the serious loss of such a source of revenue, the financial loss on the Exhibition will not be a serious one, for from all other aspects it not only deserved but it secured the most unquestioned success. In every possible way it was well arranged and well conducted. The promoters started out with the hope that Manchester would be able to make a good second to the great London Exhibition of 1897. In the opinion of the most competent judges it was quite equal if not superior to the London show. As in the London, so in Manchester there was a plethora of medals, such a plethora as to materially reduce the value of most if not all, but the one medal given to the one best Exhibitor as the blue ribbon of the gathering.

Manchester Exhibition.

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Major Evans in the *Monthly Journal* confesses his inability to say whether the S.S.S.S. is dead or only sleeping. Perhaps it will be most charitable to all concerned to say that it is dormant. Let us label it so, and encourage the fiction that it is a slumbering volcano which on the slightest provocation may break out with renewed vigour and start swearing soundly once more at offending governments. As there is very little to swear at just now the S.S.S.S. and all that it represented as a revolt against official swindling, may very well take a rest and cease from troubling. It has served its purpose for the time being. It has convinced certain governments that Stamp Collectors are not such tame fools as they are sometimes represented to be, and that they can kick and bite and scratch as well as other members of the body politic once they are roused. They don't want to fight, but, by Jingo ! if they do, etc.

The Fate of the S.S.S.S.

Duty on Postage Stamps.

For a considerable time Stamp Collectors in India have been agitating for a removal of the Customs Duty, levied by the Indian Government on Postage stamps passing between collectors and dealers.

The Indian Government has now replied to a memorial that it "Sees no sufficient reason for granting the exemption applied for."

Here, again, we have another proof of the need of more cohesion amongst Stamp Collectors. If we had a real live Philatelic Society that would take up these matters at home, much might be done to protect the interests of philatelists.

Meanwhile, as the memorialists pointed out in their memorial, the duty may, and, we will add should, be evaded by sending books and sheets of stamps under ordinary registered cover.

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Rarity and Prices.

On another page we quote some very pertinent words from Major Evans on the question of rarity as effecting the market price of a stamp. There are numbers of collectors to whom Major Evans explanation will be useful. The average tyro cannot imagine why a stamp of which many are known should fetch enormous prices whilst a very much rarer stamp from the point of scarcity should be almost unsaleable. Our old friend fashion steps in and settles the matter.

But after all has been said Major Evans will, we imagine, admit that there are many discrepancies between rarity and value that are attributable to other causes than fashion. We have often known a certain stamp of a country priced and boomed under the impression that it was the scarcest and therefore the rarest of a series of that country where in reality it was the common variety. The specialist sees much of this sort of thing.

Our Trade with India.

THE following letter from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., speaks for itself. It discloses a serious condition of matters as affecting a branch of our trade with India. If all our trade with India were subject to such vexatious barriers, we fear matters would assume a serious aspect. Dealers should make a joint representation and lay the facts before the Secretary of State for India. We can suggest no other remedy, for the collectors of India seem to be able to make no impression on the Indian Government. We have never heard of a more scandalous threat than that mentioned in the letter, that the postal authorities would stop all delivery of letters till the duty on a certain letter was paid. The postal arrangements of India must be on the most curious basis if the authorities possess the power to carry out any such outrageous threat.

SIR,—A great deal has been written on the subject of approval consignments of stamps sent to India by post being charged customs duty on the full value, but we venture to think our experience in one particular case puts in the shade anything else yet recorded.

On October 27th, 1898, we sent a small book of stamps, value £22 12s. 8d., by registered letter addressed to a collector in India. The letter was opened in India by the customs officers, and our customer was informed he could have it on payment of 17 rupees (£1 2s. 8*d*.) for duty.

He declined to pay unless he could first see the contents of the letter, whereupon he was told that he would have to sign the receipt for the letter before he could be allowed to inspect its contents. This he did, and after examination, finding he would not be likely to buy enough to justify payment of duty on all, he refused to pay, and handed the letter and contents intact back to the postman.

As our *confreres* in India have failed to get any rational adjustment of this old grievance of Government checks upon our trade with India in postage stamps, it becomes a question whether English collectors and dealers here should not put their heads together and combine to get up a joint deputation to the Secretary for India. We feel sure that if the facts were properly placed before the Home Authorities some good results would accrue. It only wants some public spirited individual to see the business through.

Manchester Philatelic Exhibition, 1899.

THE Manchester Philatelic Exhibition was opened on the 29th June and closed on the 5th July, 1899. And it has been a grand success. The Exhibition was held in the Art Gallery, situated in the centre of the City of Manchester.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., of Imperial Penny Postage fame, performed the opening ceremony, and delivered a philatelic speech, in which he dilated upon ; 1, the most valuable collection in the world, which he allotted to Herr von Ferrary, and valued at £250,000 to £300,000 ; 2, the greatest number of stamps collected, setting down a fairly large collection at from 50,000 to 80,000 stamps ; 3, the decoration of walls with stamps *a la* Mr. Whitfield King ; 4, the highest price paid for a stamp, which fell to the 10 cents United States Postmaster stamp issued in Baltimore, of which only one specimen was known and which was sold by a Parisian dealer two years ago for £910 ; 5, the greatest price paid for a collection, which he credited to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., for the purchase of the Mr. M. P. Castle's Australians at £10,000 ; 6, the largest stock of stamps held by a dealer, a strangely curious item upon which to hasard an opinion, but which, taking Stanley Gibbons own figures, he credited to them at £90,000 ; 7, the best known forgeries, the first four issues of Spain, the Moldavia Circulars and the Swiss Cantonals ; 8, finds of old stamps, *i.e.*, British Guiana, Moldavias and St. Louis ; 9, the highest face value of a stamp. *i.e.*, Australians at £100 ; and 10, the smallest value of a stamp printed, *i.e.*, Spanish Colonials of ½ mil de peso, equal to the fortieth part of a penny, and then he finished up with a few chestnuts, evidently supplied to order, in the shape of anecdotes.

A Dinner to the Judges on the 1st July was a pleasant function. Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, the tireless originator and promoter of the Exhibition, presided, and all concerned toasted each other with the good humour that is begotten of success. Mr. Gibson, the energetic Secretary, set the tables in a roar when he informed them that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue had sent in forms to be filled up showing the salaries and profits of the Exhibition.

Another pleasant gathering was the Conversazione at the City Art Galleries on the 4th July. The company present included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and many of the prominent citizens of Manchester.

LIST OF AWARDS.

Postal Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain, *unused* only.

Gold Medal	..	Harold J. White.
Silver Medal	..	W. T. Willett.
Bronze Medal	..	Edgar H. Selby.

Great Britain Adhesives, *unused*, single specimen collection.

No Competition.

Used Postal Adhesives of Great Britain.

Silver Medal	..	J. E. Heginbottom.
Bronze Medal	..	Wm. Brown and S. C. Skipton.

For special collections of Postal Adhesives of British Empire (selected Colonies).

Gold Medal	..	Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon.
Silver Medal	..	Harvey R. G. Clarke, for New South Wales.
Silver Medal	..	H. J. Duveen, for British Guiana.
Gold Medal	..	Vernon Roberts, for Cape of Good Hope.
Silver Medal	..	H. J. Duveen, for Newfoundland.
Silver Medal	..	C. Stewart Wilson, for India.

Bronze Medal .. F. Ransom, for Trinidad.
Silver Medal .. Edgar H. Selby, for Barbados.
Silver Medal .. W. T. Willett, for Nevis.
Bronze Medal .. H. M. Hepworth, for Barbados.
Silver Medal .. Leslie L. R. Hausberg, for Grenada.
Bronze Medal .. J. W. Mercer, for Grenada.
Bronze Medal .. J. C. North, for Cyprus.
Silver Medal .. Leslie L. R. Hausberg, for Jamaica and Hong Kong.
Bronze Medal .. Vernon Roberts, for Gambia and Gold Coast.
Bronze Medal .. Baron A. de Worms, for Lagos & Sierra Leone.
Ext. Bron. Medal G. Fred H. Gibson, for Gibraltar and Malta.

For Special Collections of European Countries.

Gold Medal .. W. Grunewald, for France and Monaco.
Silver Medal .. W. B. Avery, for Switzerland.
Silver Medal .. W. Dorning Beckton, for Roumania with Moldo-Wallachia
Bronze Medal .. L. Einstein, for Switzerland.
Ext. Bron. Medal Lieut. Georges Dumont, for France and Spain.
Gold Medal .. Ernest Petri, for Modena and Tuscany.
Silver Medal .. Oswald Gillett, for Modena and Tuscany.
Silver Medal .. J. H. Abbott, for Servia, Bulgaria, Southern Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.
Silver Medal .. Herbert R. Oldfield, for Servia, Bulgaria and Montenegro.
Bronze Medal .. G. B. Duerst, for Roumania.
Silver Medal .. Hubert Buckley, for Norway.
Silver Medal .. J. N. Marsden, for Portugal.
Bronze Medal .. A. H. Harrison, for Norway.

For Special Collections of Asia & Africa.

Gold Medal .. T. Wickham Jones, for Japan.
Silver Medal .. Major Hancock, for Afghanistan.
Ext. Silver Medal C. F. Larmour, for Portuguese Indies.
Ext. Silver Medal Baron A. de Reuterskiold, for Philippine Islands.
Ext. Bron. Medal Hyman Marks, for Transvaal.
Silver Medal .. J. N. Marsden, for Azores and Madeira.
Bronze Medal .. J. H. Abbott, for Egypt and Suez Canal.

For Special Collections of America.

Gold Medal .. Herbert R. Oldfield. for Columbian Republic and States.
Silver Medal .. R. Fretzel, for Mexico.
Silver Medal .. W. T. Wilson, for Mexico.
Bronze Medal .. Evan T. Roberts, for Brazil.
Gold Medal .. Stanley M. Castle, for United States.
Silver Medal .. W. B. Avery, for Confederate States.
Silver Medal .. T. W. Hall, for Argentine Confederation and Republic.
Bronze Medal .. Edw. S. Davidson, for Cuba and Porto Rico.
Bronze Medal .. T. W. Hall, for Corrientes and Cordova, Curacao and Surinam.

For any three Countries in Europe.

Bronze Medal .. F. A. von Sobbe, for Greece, Germany and Italy.

Any three Countries in Asia or Africa.

Bronze Medal .. F. J. Beazley, for Gambia, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone.

Any three British Colonies (Australia, with America or Asia).

Bronze Medal .. J. E. Heginbotton, for Ceylon, Queensland and Victoria.

Any three British Possessions in Europe, Africa or West Indies.

Bronze Medal .. J. E. Heginbottom, for Barbados, St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

Any three Countries in America (not in A, B, C or D.)

Bronze Medal .. D. M. de Heer, for Peru, Argentine and Curacao.

For Collections of Rare Stamps.

Not less than 75 nor more than 100.
Gold Medal .. Vernon Roberts
Silver Medal .. Lachlan Gibb
Extra Sil. Med. .. Prince Doria Pamphily
Extra Sil. Med... Ph. Kosack
Extra Sil. Med... A. S. Tomson.

Not more than 50 stamps—No stamp catalogued at more than £2.

Silver Medal .. J. H. Abbott.
Bronze Medal .. F. W. Lake.

For Entire General Collections, with or without Postcards, etc.

No limit as to number.

Gold Medal .. A. H. Jefferis.
Silver Medal .. D. S. Garson.

Total number not to exceed 10,000.

Silver Medal .. Franz Reichenheim.
Bronze Medal .. Lawrence M. Harris.

Not to exceed 5000.

Bronze Medal .. C. H. Coote.
Bronze Medal .. C. S. Milner.

Collection of British Railway Stamps.

Bronze Medal .. C. F. Dendy Marshall.

Special Collections of a single Country.

Silver Medal .. H. R. Oldfield.
Bronze Medal .. W. B. Thornhill, for Shanghai.

Special Collections of any three British Colonies (all obsolete Stamps.)

No Competition.

Special Group Collections.

Silver Medal .. W. Dorning Beckton, for West Indies.
Ext. Silver Medal Mrs. Hetley, for Australia

For Collections of Entire Envelopes and Wrappers (Selected Countries.)

Silver Medal .. Oliver Firth, for Registration Envelopes of Great Britain.
Silver Medal .. Th. Lemaire.

Not less than three Countries not in Division 1.

No Competition.

For Collections of Entire Postcards and Letter Cards.

Selected Countries.

Silver Medal .. T. Ridpath, for Belgium, Roumania, Mexico, Spain and Colonies.
Bronze Medal .. W. Brown & S.C. Skipton for Mexico & Belgium.

Any three Countries not in Division 1.

Bronze Medal .. J. L. Van Dieten, for Ceylon, Gibraltar Turks Island, and Virgin Islands.

For Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers.

Silver Medal and Diploma
Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.
Silver Medal and Diploma
Compania Sud Americana de Billetes de Banco.

For Philatelic Literature and Works Current Philatelic Journals by Publishes.

Bronze Medal and Diploma
Hugo Krotzsch.
Bronze Medal and Diploma
Societe Francaise de Timbrologie.

Philatelic Works Published since Oct. 1890.

Bronze Medal and Diploma
Berlin Philatelisten Club.
Bronze Medal and Diploma
Stanley Gibbons Ltd.
Extra Bronze Medal
Bright & Son.
Extra Bronze Medal
Philatelic Society of India.
Extra Bronze Medal
Sociedad Filatelica Santiago, Chili.

Album for a Special Collection.

Bronze Medal and Diploma
Richard Dalton.
Bronze Medal and Diploma
Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Album for General Collection.

Bronze Medal and Diploma
Paul Kohl.
Bronze Medal and Diploma
W. T. Wilson.

For Philatelic Accessories for use by Collectors.

Diploma .. Army and Navy Co-operative Society, London.
Diploma .. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Special arrangements of Stamps, Proofs, Essays, &c., &c.

Bronze Medal .. M. W. Jones.
Bronze Medal .. B. M. Warhurst.

The extra medals mentioned in the above list are given at the recommendation of the Judges.

SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL,

Being the grand prize of the Exhibition
Harold J. White, for Great Britain.

SPECIAL MEDALS.

Manchester Philatelic Society.—For the best two exhibits in Class II. shown by Philatelists resident out of the British Isles.

Gold Medal. D. P. Masson, for Cashmere.
Silver Medal. Baron A. de Reuterskiold, for Philippine Islands.
Silver Medal to the Society whose members figure most numerously in the list of Exhibitors.

London Philatelic Society.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.—Gold Medal for the finest Special Collection of any one country, having regard to the difficulty in forming it, apart from the monetary value.

Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon.

Silver Medal for the best Special or General Collection shown by a lady.

Mrs. Baynes, for Greece.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA,—Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Indian Stamps, including the surcharged British Indian Issues used in Native States.

C. Stewart Wilson.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits from residents in Yorkshire.

Silver Medal. T. K. Skipwith, for Seychelles and Uganda.

Bronze Medal. Eugene Egly, for 50 Rare Stamps.

HERTS PHILATELIC SOCIETY. — Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a member of the Herts Philatelic Society in Class II.

H. R. Oldfield, for Columbia.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY. — Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Leeds Philatelic Society.

H. M. Hepworth, for Barbados.

LIVERPOOL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best exhibits from Liverpool and District.

Silver Medal. F. A. von Sobbe, for Greece, Germany and Italy.

Bronze Medal. C. S. Milner, for collection under 5,000.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit of uncatalogued varieties shown in Class II., consisting of Stamps issued up to the end of 1896, and not catalogued by Stanley Gibbons or Scott.

R. Frentzel.

NEDERLANDSCHE VEREENIGING VAN POSTZEGELVERZAMELAARS, AMSTERDAM.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a native of Holland.

H. M. de Heer, for 50 Rare Stamps.

SOCIETE FRANCAISE DE TIMBROLOGIE, PARIS.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit of the Stamps of France or French Colonies.

W. Grunewald.

SOCIETY FILATELICA LOMBARDA, MILAN. —Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit of Italian States in Class II.

E. Petri, for Modena and Tuscany.

Mr. W. DORNING BECKTON.—Gold Medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those which have gained a Silver Medal in the open competition in Class II.

H. J. Duveen, for British Guiana.

Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit amongst those which have gained a Bronze Medal in the open competition in Class II.

G. B. Duerst, for Roumania.

Mr. H. A. STAMFORD.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a member of the Bradford Philatelic Society.

Oliver Firth, for Great Britain Registration Envelopes.

Mr. W. T. WILSON.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits shown by members of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Silver Medal. Stanley M. Castle, for United States

Bronze Medal. W. Hadlow, for Queensland.

Mr. J. H. ABBOTT.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Scotland.

R. S. Richardson, for Cape of Good Hope, Newfoundland and Canada.

Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Ireland.

Hugh Higginson, for collection under 5,000.

Mr. THOMAS BECKTON.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit by a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society failing to obtain a medal in the open competition.

John Cooper, for general collection.

Silver Medal for the best exhibit in Class II., Division 5.

F. A. Von Sobbe, for Greece, Germany and Italy.

M. JULES BERNICHON.—Gold Medal for the best collection of French, *tete-beche*, shown either alone in Class III., or forming part of an exhibit of France in Class II.

W. Grunewald.

Messrs. BRIGHT & SON.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Holland in Class II.

No competition.

Mr. WILLIAM BROWN.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two collections of Stamps issued since 1890, and shown in class IV., Division 3.

Silver Medal. C. S. Milner.

Bronze Medal. Hugh Higginson.

Mr. GEORGE H. CALLF.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit of Sydney views.

Harvey R. G. Clarke.

Mr. G. B. DUERST. One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits shown by an exhibitor resident within a radius of 20 miles of the Manchester Royal Exchange, and not a member of the Manchester Philatelic Society.

Silver Medal. A. H. Jefferies.

Bronze Medal. A. R. Stelling for general collection.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.—One Gold and one Silver Medal for the best two collections of Australian Stamps.

Gold Medal. Harvey R. G. Clarke.
Silver Medal. M. Z. Kuttner.

One Silver end one Bronze Medal for the best two collections shown by youths under 21 in Class IV., in an album of English manufacture.

Silver Medal. J. S. Higgins, Junr.
Bronze Medal. A. R. Stelling.

Messrs. Butler Bros.—Bronze Medal for the best collection of not less than 2,000 varieties shown by a boy or girl nnder 16 and attending school.

J. S. Higgins, Junr.

Mr. G. Fred H. Gibson.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits in Class I. or II., shown by members of a Provincial Philatelic Society (Manchester excluded).

Silver Medal. Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon.
Bronze Medal. Stanley M. Castle, for United States.

Mr. Arthur H. Harrison.—Silver Medal for the best collection of Sweden, Norway, or Denmark and Iceland, shown in Class II., Division 2, D, by an exhibitor resident in any of these countries.

Hubert Buckley.

Mr. J. E. Heginbottom.—Gold Medal for the best exhibit of West Indies.

W. Dorning Beckton.

Silver Medal for the best exhibit in Class IV., shown by an exhibitor under 21.

J. S. Higgins, Junr.

Mr. D. Ostara.—Silver Medal for the most meritorious exhibit of Adhesives on entire shown in Class IV.

No competition.

Mr. W. A. Peckitt.—One Gold and one Silver Medal for the two most meritorious exhibits, regard being paid primarily to the question of condition, in Class III.

Gold Medal. Vernon Roberts.
Silver Medal. Lachlan Gibb.

One Gold and one Silver Medal for the two most meritorious exhibits in Class I.

Gold Medal. H. J. White.
Silver Medal. W. T. Willett.

Mr. Ernest Petri.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal for the best two exhibits shown by a lady resident within a radius of 15 miles from the Manchester Royal Exchange.

Silver Medal. Mrs. Harrison.
Bronze Medal. Mrs. Vaudrey.

Mr. Vernon Roberts.—Gold Medal for the best exhibit shown in Class II., Division 1.

Baron A. de Worms, for Ceylon.

Silver Medal for the best exhibit of St. Lucia. W. Pimm.

Silver Medal for the best exhibit from Wales. J. R. Jones.

Mr. Adolf Rosenberg.—Silver Medal for the best exhibit shown by a German Resident in Germany.

L. Einstein.

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

Silver Medal. F. A. von Sobbe.

Messrs. Winch Bros.—One Bronze Medal for the best and most accurate Colour Chart, consisting of genuine government postal issues, with colours named—Seebecks, Reprints, Locals, and Forgeries being excluded.

B. W. Warhurst.

Philately in the Mags.

U.S. 30c. orange, 1851-6, Imperf.

THE 30c. orange of the U.S., 1851-6 series in an imperforate state has always been set down as a *proof*, but the *Post Office* tells us that Mr. Power on a recent visit to England obtained a *used* copy on the original cover.

"The letter is addressed to a firm in Lyons, France, and is cancelled NEW YORK, OCT. 2, PAID 24 in a large circle, partly covering the stamp with the regular additional bar cancellation also partly covering the stamp; the receiving cancellation on the back reads: LYON 16 OCT. 60 in small circle. There is an additional small circular cancellation on the face of the cover bearing the words ET. UNIS SERV. BR. A. C. 15 OCT. 60. G.

The stamp itself is from the centre of the sheet as the left hand margin bears the dividing line as well as part of the adjoining stamp; the margin on the right is so large that it is not possible that the perforations can have been clipped; the margin is good at the bottom, but the stamp has been cut close at the top. The cover has been submitted by us to such excellent judges of United States stamps as H. G. Mandel, John N. Luff and Henry Calman, all of whom pronounce it as unquestionably genuine, and exceedingly valuable as settling the contention in regard to this stamp.

The color of the stamp also differs materially from that of the perforated 30 cent stamp, as well as from that of the proofs. The catalogue date 1851-56, should however be changed, as no 30 cent stamps were issued to the public before 1860. In this connection it may be well to remind our readers of a fact that has not yet received sufficient publicity, viz., that 30 cent stamps were originally printed in black and issued in an imperforate state to the public. Copies of this stamp 30 cent black imperforate are known to exist in the collections of at least two well known New York collectors."

Stamps of the Malay States.

MR. A. F. BASSET HULL contributes the following interesting note on the Stamps of the Malay States to the *Monthly Journal*: "Until the end of the year 1898 the postage on correspondence from the Protected Native States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, and Pahang, for places beyond the colony could only be prepaid by means of stamps of the Straits Settlements, those States having always been treated in their foreign postal relations as forming part of that colony. Mr. P. J. Nelson, Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs of Perak, acting on behalf of the Federated Malay States, made arrangements with the Straits Settlements Postal Department for the labels of the different States to be recognised as valid for prepayment of postage on correspondence for all parts of the World. The arrangements having been approved by the imperial and colonial authorities and by the Resident-General of the Native States, was brought into operation on the 1st January, 1899. The postal status of the States remains in other respects practically unchanged. A similar arrangement has been made for the recognition of the postage stamps of His Highness the Sultan of Johore. In bygone years Straits postage labels were used to prepay a considerable amount of correspondence emanating from the Philippine Islands and the whole of that from Siam, North Borneo, and Sarawak, but henceforth those labels will be used nowhere outside the colony. The value of postage stamps for international service supplied to the different Malay States during 1898 was as follows: Perak, $6519; Selangor, $5605; Negri Sembilan, $1008; Pahang, $1011; and Johore, $290."

Postal Union Colours.

IT will be remembered that at the last Postal Union Congress a recommendation was agreed to that each country should print its stamps for foreign postage in *blue*, for inland postage in *red*, and for printed matter in *green*, *i.e.*:

½d. green.
1d. red.
2½d. blue.

Mr. Eustace B. Power has compiled a list of the various countries already in line and of those that still stand out. We quote these interesting lists from the *Post Office*.

The following countries now issue their stamps in the regulation colors.

Argentine Rep.,	Austria,
Bahamas,	Barbados,
Bavaria,	Bermuda,
Bosnia,	Br. E. Africa,
Br. Honduras,	Bulgaria,
Cape Good Hope,	Cuba (U.S.),
Cyprus,	Denmark,
Dominican Rep.,	Egypt and Soudan,
Eritrea,	Finland,
Gambia,	Germany & Colonies,
Gibraltar,	Gold Coast,
Greece,	Hungary,
Grenada,	Italy,
Iceland,	Lagos,
Japan,	Luxemburg,
Leeward Isles,	Malta,
Macao,	Montenegro,
Mexico,	Natal,
Morocco Agencies,	Newfoundland,
New S. Wales,	Paraguay,
Norway,	Philippine Isles (U.S.),

Peru,
Porto Rico (U.S.),
Russia,
St. Vincent,
Seychelles,
So. African Rep.,
Sweden,
Turkey,
United States,
Portugal and Colonies.
St. Helena,
Servia,
Sierra Leone,
Straits Settlements,
Trinidad,
Turks Isles,
Virgin Isles,
Wurtemburg,
West Australia.

The following countries have stamps in issue whose colours do not conform with the plan.

Belgium, 10 centimes is red-brown.
Bechuanaland Prot. on Great Britain.
Brazil, 300r. green and black.
500r. blue.
British Guiana, 2c. mauve and orange.
Canada, 2c. violet.
Ceylon, 6c. on 15c. green.
Chili, 10c. orange.
Columbian Rep., 10c. bistre on rose.
2c. green.
1c. orange and yellow.
Congo, 50c. green on black.
10c. blue on black.
1c. brown and black.
Corea, 25p. brown-carmine.
10p. deep blue.
Costa Rica, 10c. green.
2c. yellow.
Danish West Indies, 10c. brown and blue.
3c. blue and lake.
1c. green & magenta.
Ecuador, 10c. brown.
2c. vermilion.
Falkland Islands, 1p. red brown.
Fernando Po, 25c. carmine.
10c. brown.
Fiji, 2½p. brown.
1p. lilac.
½p. gray.
France and Colonies, 25c. black on rose.
10c. black on lavender.
Great Britain, 1p. lilac.
½p. vermilion.
Guatemala, 10c. red.
2c. brown.
1c. blue.
Hawaii, 5c. rose.
1c. yellow.
Hayti, 10c. orange.
3c. green.
2c. orange.
Honduras, 1c. brown.
India, 1a. purple-brown.
Jamaica, 1p. lilac and violet.
Labuan, 8c. rose and black.
3c. bistre and black.
2c. blue and black.
Liberia, 8c. brown.
3c. red and green.
1c. violet.
Mauritius, 18c. green and ultramarine.
4c. lilac and green.
2c. lilac and orange.
Monaco, 25c. green.
10c. brown on yellow.
5c. blue.
Netherlands, 12½c. gray.
Netherlands, 5c. blue.
2½c. brown-violet.
Curacao, 25c. blue.
Dutch Indies, 25c. red-violet.
2½c. yellow.
Surinam, 5c. blue.
2½c. carmine.
New Zealand, ½p. black.
Nicaragua, 10c. purple.
2c. slate.
1c. brown.
North Borneo, 8c. lilac and black
3c. lilac and green.
1c. brown and black.
Orange Free State, 1p. violet.
½p. orange.
Persia, 12s. rose.
5s. yellow.
3s. violet.
Queensland, 2½p. violet on blue.
1p. orange.
Roumania, 25b. violet.
5b. blue.
3b. brown.
St. Lucia, 1p. lilac.
Salvador, 13c. brown-red.
5c. green.
San Marino, 25c. blue and brown.
10c. green.
5c. olive.
Sarawak, 8c. green.
3c. lilac and blue.
1c. lilac and slate.
Siam, 12a. lilac and carmine.
4a. on 12a. lilac and carmine.
South Australia, 2½p. violet-blue.
½p. green.
½p. brown.
Spain, 10c. red-brown.
5c. ultramarine.
Switzerland, 25c. green.
Tasmania, 2½p. red-violet.
½p. orange and violet.
Tunis, 25c. black on rose.
10c. black on lavender.
Uruguay, 10c. red.
2c. violet.
1c. blue.
Venezuela, 25c. magenta.
10c. blue.
5c. red-brown.
Victoria, 2½p. carmine on yellow.
1p. orange-brown.
½p. rose.
Zanzibar, 1a. black, blue and red.

The following countries issuing stamps have not yet entered the Postal Union, according to the latest report of the Post Office Guide :

Abyssinia.
Afghanistan.
British Central Africa.
China.
Cook Islands.
New Hebrides.
Niger Coast.
Rhodesia.
Samoa.
Tonga.
Uganda.

Philatelic Gossip.

Australian Federation.

THE *Australian Philatelist* for June anticipates that the first Federal Parliament will meet about January 1st, 1901. Of the effect upon the issue of Australian postage stamps Mr. Basset Hull, the Editor says:

"It is early yet to indulge in anticipations as to the probable design of the Commonwealth postage stamps, but it may be taken for granted that the occasion will be considered one calling for the exercise of great care and judgment not only in the selection of beautiful and effective designs, but in the adoption of the most advanced methods of production."

Then follows the question, "What will become of the 'remainders' of the separate Colonial issues after the momentous Act of Union has come into force?"

The date of the coming into force of the Act of Union will, however, presumably be known many months beforehand, and that being so there should not be any overstocking, and, therefore, no consequent 'remainders' left for speculation. If there are large stocks of 'remainders' we shall know that some one has blundered—or worse.

Mr. A. E. Cousins, Stamp Engraver.

THE name of Mr. A. . Cousins is well known as an Australian stamp engraver, and the following biographical note, "from the pen of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, in the *Monthly Journal*, will be read with interest.

"Mr. A. E. Cousins, who engraved the dies for some of the New Zealand stamps, the first two issues of Tonga, the current Samoans, Cook Islands, &c., is now residing in Sydney, and I had the pleasure of an interview with him the other day. Mr. Cousins is a comparatively young man, and was for some time in partnership with Mr. Alfred Bock, the engraver of the Tasmanian St. George and Dragon stamps. The firm turned out the dies for the first issue of Tonga in 1886, and Mr. Cousins subsequently severed his connection with Mr. Bock and carried on the engraving business on his own account. He engraved the dies for the 1891 issue of Tonga, having been furnished with a copy of the arms of the kingdom embossed in colour and a portrait of King George I. as designs. The framing was his own drawing, and it must be admitted that the work is very creditable, the portrait being excellent, and the whole stamp effectively produced and well balanced in each case.

Mr. Cousins engraved the dies for the Cook Islands stamps of 1893. He produced a single die for the portrait of Queen Makea, and engraved the frame for each value separately. I saw a set of his progress proofs of this portrait, forty-five in number, showing the gradual growth of the head from a few outlines to the completed picture. The new issues are also from bis bureau. The material furnished him for making the design consisted of a large photograph of a misty looking-island and a very rough woodcut heading from a local newspaper, entitled: "Te Torea," and representing a species of tern flying. But one die was engraved for this series, the values being produced by means of an overprint forme which prints the denominations in figures in each of the four angles.

The New Zealand stamps engraved by Mr. Cousins are ½d. black, 2½d. blue (1891), 5d. grey-black and the 1½d. letter card. He also recut some of De La Rue's dies of the 1882 issue—the 1d., 2d., 6d. and 8d."

Countries without Stamps.

THE *Illustrated Briefmarken Journal* gives the following list of Countries which have not yet issued postage stamps:—

"*Andorra*, a small republic on the southern side of the Pyrenees; population, 6000.

Liechenstein, a small principality in the Tyrol; population, 9,124.

Morocco.

Muscal, in Southern Arabia.

British New Guinea."

Porto Rico, 1890, 8 m. de peso.

ACCORDING to our American contempories a promising postage stamp as concerns rarity is the 8 mils de peso, bistre, of Porto Rico of 1890. This stamp which is quoted fifty cents in the last edition of Scott's Catalogue and only about half of that amount in European price lists has become quite scarce within the last few months. It is reported that only a short time ago a Porto Rican collector offered a stamp dealer in Porto Rico

400 pesetas ($80), for a block of four of these stamps, but the merchant considering the offer insufficient kept his block.

Rarity and Prices.

Major Evans in an editorial in the *Monthly Journal* discusses the question of rarity as a factor in determining the market price of a stamp. He writes :—

"One of the latest, and not the least hopeless, of the suggestions that we have recently seen put forward for ascertaining the proper prices for stamps, is that they should be fixed in accordance with the numbers known to have been issued of the various stamps to be compared. Ascertain the exact number printed, we are told, and the relative values can be fixed mechanically. But there are a few other circumstances to be taken into account. In the first place our good friends must remember that it is not *supply* alone that regulates prices in any market; *demand* has something to do with the matter also. We know of more than one stamp, as distinct and recognisable varieties as the famous "Post Office" Mauritius, and twice as rare, but if one of them came into the market would it fetch a thousand pounds? We doubt whether it would fetch a thousand pence! But in any case the numbers *printed* afford little guidance. What we want to know is how many are in the market, or in existence. For instance, are we to place those same "Post Office" Mauritius stamps, of which in all probability 95 per cent. have disappeared absolutely, past all hope of recall, on the same level with some mushroom issue of surcharged fragments in, say, the Oil River Protectorate, of which 95 per cent. went into the hands of enthusiastic philatelists? Again, are we to compare an issue of 100,000 specimens in one of our smaller colonies with an issue of that number in Great Britain, France, Germany, or the United States? In one of these countries 100,000 adhesives of the value of a penny, or thereabouts, would be far less than the supply of a single day, and the whole number might be swallowed up without a single collector ever seeing one; in the Colonial Post Office the same number would last for months, and every dealer would have an opportunity of obtaining a supply. Statistics are of very little practical use; it has even happened that, in the case of a stamp which was very difficult to obtain, and had perhaps ceased to be commonly sought after for that reason, a few copies coming into the market have actually caused a rise in price, from the stamp becoming obtainable and thus more marketable."

Turkey: New Design.

The *Philatelic Monthly & World* says the postal authorities of Turkey recently opened a competition for a new design for their postage stamps. Among the numerous proposals submitted the one designed by Nazine Effendi, a civil functionary of the Seraskierate was unanimously selected and being submitted to the Sultan, was equally approved by him. The young, successful official was given a furlough from his official duties in the Ministry in order to prepare the designs for the new plates and to superintend the obtaining of essays and proofs. The nature of the design has not as yet been given out.

Miscellaneous.

The death is announced of Mr. E. Winzer of Dresden. Mr. Winzer was a member of the Dresden Society, and for some years acted as its librarian. He sold his collection in 1894 to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for about £3000.

Princess Charles of Denmark is said to have a very fine collection of postage stamps in which she takes a very keen interest.

A new edition of Scott's Catalogue is promised for October.

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

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

SEPTEMBER, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

A GREAT deal of fuss has been made over the so-called Great Barrier Island pigeon service and the consequent issue of postage stamps. There has been much controversy as to the genuineness of the stamps. But it seems to us that even granting the genuineness of the stamps they are nothing more nor less than small receipts for the private carriage of private parcels. They are in no sense postage stamps. At best they are local labels. If our London carrier companies were to issue books of labels for the payment of carriage of small parcels instead of allowing their van men to collect payment in cash, their labels would be on a par with those Great Barrier Island stamps so long as the service is a private service with no sort of connection or concession from the Government. The service may be excellent and absolutely necessary, but so long as it has no Government concession it can be no other than a private local label. Besides, there is no reason why each family on the island should not have its two or three pigeons, issue its own pigeon labels, and fleece stamp flats on its own account.

Great Barrier Island Stamps.

Poor little St. Helena is gradually, but very slowly, getting rid of its stock of remainders. We are officially informed that its stamp business in remainders is averaging £100 a month, and they have a final consignment now on hand that will last them, at the same rate of sale, for about a couple of years. We must not, however be severe on the little island. It is trying hard to overtake its debts. Its liabilities exceed its assets by £2,486, and its hope of being able to square its creditors rests upon the sale of a stock of £8,800 of obsolete postage stamps. Won't some soft-hearted and wealthy collector take a few sheets? We are nervously anxious to see the stock worked off, for if it is not quickly got rid of, the surcharging fiend may whisper temptations into the ears of the authorities, and then we shall wish that we had bought up the whole lot.

St. Helena Remaiders.

The End of Seebecks.

It is with no little pleasure that we quote on another page an announcement made by the *American Journal of Philately*, that the Seebeck contract is at an end, and that the executors or assigns of the late Mr. Seebeck do not intend to enter into any new agreement. How far the decision of the representatives of the Seebeck interest will affect the pettifogging States which have for so many years reaped the advantages of an organisation for milking stamp collectors remains to be seen. Meantime, it is some consolation to be able to chronicle the end of the Seebeck arrangement.

The Colour Problem

Once more we have the Colour Problem before us in the shape of an attempt at a solution. In our humble opinion almost any solution is better than the ludicrous differences that occur and recur every month in our philatelic journals. We are all sinners alike. We are all tarred with the same brush. We none of us stick even to our own crude ideas on colour. We call a shade by one name one day and by quite another name the next day, and so the farce goes on.

Let us turn over a new leaf and agree to accept the new Gibbons colour chart as a compromise. Let us follow as closely as possible its designations, and then we shall at least get somewhat nearer to a clear understanding of what we mean when we name the colour of a stamp. At all events, for the present, we will do so in the *Philatelic Record*.

Sale of the Hunter Collection.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York, announces that it will in January next, offer the well known collection of Mr. Frederick William Hunter, for sale by public auction. Mr. Hunter will be remembered as having secured the 2c. rose, British Guiana in the De Coppat sale for £252. The Scott Co., say the collection is "the finest that has ever been offered for sale at auction."

The explanation of the cause of the sale is not without interest, and may suggest a way out of a difficult position to one or two of our own very eminent ones. Mr. Hunter, it seems, has not lost his interest in stamps, but, having identified himself a few years ago with a stamp company, he finds it impossible to reconcile his interests as a dealer with his enthusiasm as a collector. Hence he has decided to sell out.

Uruguay, 1866-72: Varieties.

A Paper read before the Philatelic Society, London, on December 9th, 1898.

By ROBERT EHRENBACH.

From the London Philatelist.

THE so-called large-figure issue of Uruguay of 1866-1872, has always commanded a fair amount of interest amongst collectors on account of the numerous shades to be found in these stamps, and also because the 5 cent value affords a decently large field for the specialist in the way of varieties, or, if I may say so, errors. It will hardly be necessary to give a description of the design, which is familiar to all.

The stamps were designed and printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and sent out by them with a duplicate printing stone and a supply of paper. Although one or perhaps two or three printings were in later years made locally at Montevideo, Messrs. De La Rue & Co. continued to print the greater portion of the supply, especially of the imperforate set. Details as to these various printings may be found in the excellent book on Uruguay stamps by Dr. Wonner. The series were issued to the public on the 1st of January, 1866, and consisted of four values, viz. :—

5 cent, blue.
10 ,, green.
15 ,, yellow.
20 ,, rose.

To these a fifth value, the 1 cent black, was added on the 1st October of the same year. The stamps were issued imperforate on a rather hard white paper of medium thickness, which does not vary very much in the four lower values; the 20 cent, however, exists likewise on a much thicker paper.

During the latter part of 1866, the same stamps were issued to the public in a perforated state and apparently on quite different paper, varying from medium thick to thin, in the case of the 5 cent sometimes so thin that one might call it *pelure;* the 10 and 15 are likewise said to exist on this *pelure* paper.

The perforating machine is a so-called guillotine machine, gauging 12 to 13. The values 10, 15, and 20 cents likewise exist perforated in a larger gauge, 10 × 10½, and are all rare.

All values, both in the imperforate and in the perforate state, show a good range of shades, especially in the case of the 5 cent, where the shades range from bright ultramarine to a very deep Prussian blue; this value, however, imperforate, shows a far greater number of shades than the perforate one, while up to the present I have not been able to find the latter in ultramarine.

The paper has no watermark, that visible in some specimens being merely a manufacturer's mark and of no importance to collectors.

Within the last months I have been fortunate enough to acquire an entire sheet with margins of the 5 cent value, and present for inspection likewise an entire sheet of the 10 cent. It is on these two values in particular that I wish to make a few observations, although there may be nothing new to convey to anyone who has studied these stamps.

The stamps are printed in sheets of 200 in 10 vertical rows of 20, and it is clear, as will be seen from the relative positions of the varieties, that the lithographic stone in the last stage is made up of two blocks of 100 stamps each, in 10 rows of 10. How the panes of 100 were made up it seems at present impossible to say.

A curious fact, however, with regard to the sheet of 5 cents now exhibited is that it consists of only 190 stamps, with the sheet of paper showing enough empty space for the missing 10 stamps. It is, to my mind, evident that during the years the plate of this value was in use, something must have happened to the stone.

From marginal stamps of the right and left sides of the imperforate stamps of an early printing I have been able to find out that the first row is missing from my sheet, and as a matter of fact the empty space referred to above is on the left side, showing that sheets of paper large enough to take the 200 impressions were used, and that this first row must have been removed from the lithographic stone. As a matter of interest it would be very desirable to know whether only the perforated stamps exist in sheets of 190, or whether the imperforated ones do likewise, or whether also full sheets of 200 are known of the perforated stamp. Perhaps somebody who possesses entire sheets may be able to settle the point.

Taking all the stamps on the first vertical rows to be missing, I feel justified in giving the numbers of the following list of the most prominent varieties as belonging to the full sheet of 200. They are as follows:—

(1) The head of the numerial "5" is unshaded (white).
Nos. 7 and 17 in the first row of sheet (horizontal).

(2) The first "c" in "CENTECIMOS" is omitted.
Nos. 7 and 17 in the second row.

(3) The "s" in "CENTECIMOS" is smaller than the normal one and a fainter impression than the other letters, as if it had been added.
Nos. 5 and 15 in the third row.

(4) The "s" in "CENTECIMOS" is also smaller than the normal one, but farther away from the "o" than in the variety No. 3.
Nos. 3 and 13 in the fifth row.

(5) The "s," of normal size, is wide apart from the "o," with a full-stop after it.
Nos. 8 and 18 in the sixth row.

(6) The inner curved line of the "5" above "CENTECIMOS" is not finished. Nos. 3 and 13 in row sixth row.

(7) The "s" in "CENTECIMOS" is omitted.
Nos. 2 and 12 in the seventh row.

(8) The "s" in "CENTECIMOS" is omitted, but there is a hyphen after the "o." Nos. 4 and 14 in the seventh row.

(9) The "s" is larger than the normal one, wide apart from the "o," and nearly tonches the outer line of the "5."
Nos. 5 and 15 in the tenth row.

(10) There is no shading in the quartering of the shield below the horse. Nos. 2 and 12 in the tenth row.

(11) The inner curved line of the "5" above "CENTECIMOS" runs into the outer line.

Nos. 3 and 13 in the tenth row.

Besides the varieties mentioned above there are a number of minor ones, as, for instance, in stamps 2 and 12 in the third row, where the quartering of the shield under the horse is only partly shaded, but it would lead too far to enumerate all these minute variations, which are hardly worth collecting.

As to the sheet of the 10 cent., I find only one really prominent variety, and this is the stamp in which the "I" in the word "CENTECIMOS" is omitted. Of this variety there are three in the sheet, viz., 4 and 14 in the third row, and 12 in the seventh.

A second variety which might be taken is the fourteenth stamp in the tenth row, with a very small "S" in "CENTECIMOS."

All the other variations, as stamps where the "T" looks like a "J" and the "E" in "DIEZ" resembles an "I" or a "Z" or a "B," are not worth mentioning.

With regard to the 10 c., certain varieties may be discovered due to the irregular placing of the horizontal background, of "CENTECIMOS," etc., especially below the foot of the figure "1." In many cases two lines are visible below the shading of the foot of the figure; this, however, is not due to an irregularity in the position of the large figure itself, but entirely to the background. The varieties of letters in the background only partially printed, or in some cases apparently omitted, are due only to imperfection in taking the impression.

I know of no prominent varieties on the 15 c. and 20 c. values, but in these cases I am under the disadvantage of not having inspected sheets of these values.

A variety of the 1 c. stamp is known with a small circle on the right of the figure 1, but as this variety does not exist on the sheets which have been seen, the inference is that this must have occurred only in the first printings and afterwards rectified, or that it must be an essay or proof. On the *perforated* 1 c. it is not known. Proofs of this issue exist on cardboard in black and also in colours.

Those Guam Stamps.

EVER since we were informed by our American contemporaries that an officer had sailed with a sealed packet of U.S. stamps surcharged for "Guam" we have been waiting with no little curiosity for some explanation, or official refutation of the story. Our friends across the water have been accustomed to metaphorically pitch brickbats and other missiles at us because of the postal eccentricities of some of our Colonies. We enter no sort of defence, we plead very guilty. But this Guam ! What of it ? And if we add Omahas, and other philatelic monstrosities to come, the balance of our iniquities becomes by the comparison somewhat more bearable.

Still, we are curious to hear more of the nature and the necessity of this issue for "Guam." Spain with all her fondness for many issues of postage stamps, might be forgiven much by reason of her poverty, but even Spain never dreamt of making a special issue of stamps for "Guam."

Our Australian contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist* is equally puzzled. "As the population is *une quantité négligeable*, and the staple production consists of guano," it finds it, "difficult to understand where the necessity for stamps comes in. There can be no necessity for 'internal' posts, and there is no regular service to the island. From the number of ships that enter out for 'Guam' it might be thought otherwise, but the explanation is that the name is used as a polite deception by shipowners who do not wish to publicly disclose the destination of their vessels."

Report says that one Captain of the United States Navy, left on the steamship "Yosemite" about May 10th of the present year with the following U.S. stamps surcharged Guam :—

10,000	...	...	1c.
30,000	...	...	2c.
5,000	...	...	5c.

Captain Leary is to be a sort of jack of all trades. He is to be Governor of the Island and also its postmaster, and for all we know to the contrary, head cook and bottle washer.

Is it possible that the U.S. officer with that secret package of stamps has 'entered out' for 'Guam' as a 'polite deception,' and that he may be expected to turn up elsewhere ?

Any way, we shall be somewhat relieved when he turns up somewhere, and we have some more definite information as to his philatelic intentions.

It is to be hoped that later information will afford us some explanation of the why and wherefore of an issue that seems so utterly uncalled for. It is not an edifying spectacle to see the Great Republic of the West planting unnecessary issues of postage stamps on stray islands, for the natural question will arise where will it end. The new territory is so prolific of islands of the Guam kind that the possibilities are almost unlimited to a department that so readily makes a special issue of postage stamps for a country Fair.

South African Collectors.

From the Johannesburg Star.

LOCAL philately has made great strides during the last twelve months, and establishments for the sale and exchange of stamps are rapidly increasing in number on the Rand. One of the oldest firms of postage stamp dealers in Johannesburg is that of Sallo Epstein and Co., and much interesting information was obtained by a representative of this paper from the head of the firm on the subject of local philately. The head of the firm attributes the "boom" in stamp collecting, which exists at present, to the fact that people here have more time on their hands than in the earlier days of the Rand. He states that the fascination which philately possesses for many people, who have either seen collections or noted the absorbing interests taken by collectors in the subject, has also had something to do with the development of the "craze." The earlier collectors in Johannesburg confined their efforts mainly to securing specimens of African stamps, but latterly they have taken to acquiring stamps of every country in the world.

A Philatelist Society existed here about four years ago, which had the effect of rousing the latent interest of many collectors, who bestirred themselves to enlarge their collections, and it thereby created a healthy rivalry among those members who wished to boast of having the largest collection. Dr. Jameson and his raid, however, upset the apple-cart of the Rand philatelist, and moral, if not material, damage to the Society resulted from his ill-fated expedition. The Society was wound up, but owing to good management on the part of the executive the members were fortunate enough to receive an equivalent in stamps, which was sufficient to repay them for the subscriptions collected from them. So, after all, they really benefited by the knowledge gained through intercourse with kindred spirits at the meetings of the Society, and obtained advantage from exchanging duplicate stamps and picking up bargains without being out of pocket. Individually the members lost nothing ; the Society merely disappeared.

Having regard to the asorbing interest which philately offers to the student, it is strange that even more people do not follow it up. Stamp collecting, from even a base monetary point of view, offers a most profitable field for all those engaged in its pursuit, and it is a well-known fact that stamps increase in value year by year. In Johannesburg, as a matter of actual fact, there are several instances on record of stamp collectors, who had fallen on evil days having been enabled to make a fresh start in life through selling their collections. Stamp collecting thus proved a true friend in need, and at the same time pointing a moral.

South African stamps, from the Cape to the Zambesi, have lately come into great favour with philatelists in Europe and America. Early issues of Transvaal stamps especially are in keen demand, and are likely to rise considerably in value, and the same may be said of all South African stamps, except, of course, current issues. Political complications in the South African Republic, and the attention which Europe and America are giving to the subject, have undoubtedly enhanced the value of local issues of some years back.

Philately in the Mags.

Great Barrier Island.

THERE has been much discussion as to the genuineness of stamps issued for a so-called "Pigeongram" Service for Great Barrier Island off the Coast of New Zealand.

This being so we quote *in extenso* what our excellent Australian contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist*, has to say as to the history and status of the stamps in question.

"Mr. Hagen has shown us a communication he received from New Zealand, written on behalf of 'Mr. Fricker, of the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency,' and covering a description of that Agency's work, and specimens of the stamps used for closing and securing the privacy of the messages. The writer 'understands that a stamp is being sold purporting to be used for this service, but the fact that unused specimens cannot be brought in the place where they are supposed to be used speaks for itself; you can buy them cancelled at face value.' He believes that the authorities have taken steps to stop the sale, and proceeds: 'I am informed by Mr. Fricker that the parties who issued the Barrier stamp could not send a message to and from this island at any price by pigeon, and he, in self defence, issued a *bonâ fide* stamp representing a fee prepaid for the delivery of messages carried by homing pigeons. *This is the only genuine agency, and the people here recognise that by the way in which this stamp is being bought.*' He encloses stamps of two values and forwards the following article descriptive of the Pigeon Post:—

THE GREAT BARRIER PIGEONGRAM AGENCY.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

The above service was started in 1896 for the purpose of carrying correspondence by means of homing pigeons between the island named and the city of Auckland. Having been brought prominently before the public in that colony by the issue of the 'Pigeongram' stamp, a description of the work as carried on by these pretty messengers will no doubt be perused with interest. Our readers will remember that the s.s. 'Wairarapa' was wrecked at this island, and while the whole of Australia was anxiously waiting tidings of the overdue steamer the survivors of this terrible calamity were imprisoned on the island four days waiting the arrival of the fortnightly steamer, there being no cable communication with the mainland, though the distance is but sixty miles from Auckland by water. At the request of several residents on the island W. W. Fricker, of Auckland, whose loft contains some of the elite of the colonial pigeon world, used to send as opportunity offered a basket of birds to the Island for use as required, but in 1896 the gold and silver mines at the Island were opened up, and getting into full swing it was felt that some better means of transit for carrying the correspondence was required and the work of the birds having given satisfaction the 'Pigeongram Agency,' which provided safe and rapid means of communication with Auckland, was thoroughly established. At the outset the birds were only worked from the Island, but after patience and perseverance in training a through team was got to do the journey from the city regularly, thus completing the circuit of communication. During the first three years of the work the cost of a message was 2s. per sheet of tissue paper quarto size, but with the increasing number of messages daily in transit the price has been reduced to sixpence from the Island. This stamp is blue and the shilling fee from Auckland is represented by one in red. These stamps have been found necessary to close the ends of the very fine paper on which the messages are written and are perforated down the side so that by tearing the perforated ends the message is opened. The stamp is quite in keeping with this novel service being three cornered with a homing pigeon in full flight within a circle, the spaces between the circle and the border being filled with scroll work. The figure of value occupies the top corner, the bottom ones have N. and Z. respectively; on the left side of the triangle are the words Great Barrier Isl'd, on the right 'Pigeongram' denoting the service, the whole forming a very neat and pretty design. The messages are covered with a waterproof legging to protect them from wet should the bird meet with bad weather. The difference in the fee for sending a message to the Island (which lies low in the sea and is ofttimes enveloped in mist) is occasioned by the extra work entailed in training the birds for this journey and getting them to leave the city on their long water fly. The birds on arrival at either terminus enter a specially arranged trap, passing between two movable wires which on falling sound an alarm, when an attendant relieves the little carrier of its burden and it is at once forwarded to its address. The service is very much used by all classes desiring quick communication, and the support it receives speaks well for its great usefulness, and the great care and patience required to develop this marvellous instinct (so well known in the homing pigeon)

deserves the popular recognition the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency receives."

We have given a good deal of space to this 'Pigeongram' business, partly because it is really interesting from a postal point of view, but chiefly to show philatelists clearly what is the nature of the 'stamps,' which will probably be freely offered to collectors, unused, used, and on original message before long. The service—that is, the only genuine one, please avoid all dangerous imitations — existed for three years before the necessity (?) for stamps was discovered, and then they were only issued 'in self-defence,' because there was a fraudulent claimant for philatelic favour in the field! There may be a very real demand for rapid and regular communication with Great Barrier Island, but considering that there is at least a fortnightly steam service, and that the carrying for payment of closed letters by any means between points where there is already a Government postal service is expressly forbidden by law, the pigeongram service is *prima facie* illegal. In the second place if messages could be carried for three years without stamps, such labels are not necessary now. However, purchasers will no doubt be found for the stamps, which are decidedly pretty, though somewhat large for the purpose; in fact the two which appear to be necessary for a reply paid message, would be a respectable load for any pigeon, without the letter!

Puerto Principe Provisionals.

ACCORDING to *Mekeel's Weekly*, there is an abundant crop of varieties of these prolific provisionals, our contemporary enumerates the series of this family as follows:—

On Feb. 17th, I ventured to make the following remarks on the subject of these provisionals: "There will be, from all appearances, varieties enough of this prolific provisional to suit the most fastidious hunter after philatelic minutia." My anticipations have been unexpectedly realized, for, according to the information I have been able to obtain in Cuba from authentic sources, there have been about 70 varieties from four printings made from December 19th, 1898, as per copy of the decree published in the WEEKLY, up to the time that the U.S. stamps surcharged "Cuba" were received in Puerto Principe, when the surcharging of Spanish stamps ceased, though Spanish surcharged stamps were continued in use and were actually used on the same letter, together with U.S. surcharged stamps.

The first printing consisted of the following Spanish-Cuba series of 1898-99: "Habilitado—cents" in black in three horizontal lines:

3,000 stamps, 1 cent on 1 milesimas, orange-brown.
3,900 stamps, 2 cents on 2 milesimas, orange-brown.
3,000 stamps, 3 cents on 3 milesimas, orange-brown.
1,000 stamps, 5 cents on 5 milesimas, orange-brown.

Varieties: The stamps were surcharged in strips of five detached from the panes, and every five stamps show two varieties of figures, the second stamp in the case of the 2c., 3c. and 5c., bearing a thinner figure than the other four, while in the case of the one cent a broken figure is shown in one stamp.

Errors: Of the 3,000 one-cent stamps there are some reading 1 cent and others reading 1 cents, the normal, cent, being the rarest, according to expert opinion. I have the following errors of surcharge:

3c. on 1 milesima.
5c. on 1 milesima.
5c. on 2 milesimas.
5c. on 3 milesimas.

Inverted surcharges.—I have the following:—

1 cents on 1 milesima.
2 cents on 2 milesimas.
3 cents on 3 milesimas.
5 cents on 5 milesimas.

The second printing consisted of 800 stamps of Cuba of the value of ½ milesima, blue-green of 1896 surcharged 5c. The printing of the surcharge was done in the same way as before, five stamps to a strip and two varieties of figure in the five. There is a wide and a narrow setting of the surcharge, "Habilitado—cents" in black in three horizontal lines. I have an inverted surcharge of the narrow setting.

Of the third printing there were 7,000 one-cent violet stamps of the Cuba series 1898-99 surcharged as follows:—

"Habilitado—cents" in red in three horizontal lines.

3,500— 3 cents.
3,500— 5 cents.
1,000—10 cents.

The printing was in strips of five and two varieties of figure in each five. There is in my collection a peculiar error in the shape of a vertical surcharge of the 5 cents. I have the following inverted surcharges:—

2 cents.
5 cents.

The fourth and last printing, the most interesting of all, consisted of 800 stamps of the newspaper denominations of Cuba, 1896. These stamps were surcharged, as far as can be ascertained, as follows:—

3c. on 1, 2, and 3 milesimas, blue-green.

They were surcharged on strips of five, two of 5c. on 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 milesimas, blue-green varieties of figure. No trace has been found of any stamps surcharged 3c. on 4 or 8 milesimas, but there is a bare possibility of their existing. The surcharge was "Habilitado—cents" in black in three horizontal lines.

Errors:—There is a very noticeable error: eents instead of cents, which I have thus far found on the following denominations:

3c. on 1 mma.
3c. on 2 mms.
3c. on 3 mms.

5c. on 1 mma.
5c. on 2 mms.
5c. on 3 mms.
5c. on 8 mms.

The only value in which I have not found it being the 5c. on 4 mms., which may, however, exist in some other philatelist's collection.

Inverted surcharges: I have the 3c. on 1 mma., 5c. on 8 mms. cents.

In the foregoing list I have only enumerated the errors and varieties in my collection and I hope that collectors possessing other varieties of these very interesting stamps will not hestitate to come forward and chronicle them in the WEEKLY. I regret to say that very few collectors, however, have taken any active interest in hunting up the stamps of this historical issue, though it is true that their extreme rarity has deterred many from embarking on such an expensive undertaking.

These stamps were mainly used in the city of Puerto Principe, in the station of Minas, midway between the capital of the province, and its northern port, Nuevitas itself. I have stamps cancelled in Nuevitas. I have not heard of any stamps having been used in Santa Cruz del Sur, the southern port of Puerto Principe. The cancellations most frequently seen are with the old Spanish cancelling machine, reading: "Correo de Puerto Principe, Ysla de Cuba," the number 159 appearing on the latter. The dates are generally very indistinct. The American cancellations are rare. I have seen two: a double oval "Mil. Sta. Puerto Principe" on the outside oval, and "No. 11. Cuba" on the inside oval; and two types of a round cancellation, reading "Military sta. No. 11. Puerto Principe, Cuba, N. Y. P. O." in six lines including the date.

I am reliably informed that these surcharges have been counterfeited in Habana, Cuba. I have seen several specimens which differ in the size of the surcharge sufficiently to be readily detected by anyone who has seen the genuine surcharges.

Canadian "Two Cent" Surcharge.

We quote the following official document from the *American Journal of Philately*:

Ottawa, 1st July, 1899.

Owing to the reduction in the Domestic letter rate of postage, the issue of the 3c. letter card, the 3c. stamped envelope, and the 3c. postage stamp from the Department has ceased. Any unused 3c. letter cards, 3c. stamped envelopes, or 3c. stamps, still extant, will, however, continue available for postage purposes, or may be exchanged at any Post Office, at their full face value, for postage stamps of other denominations.

The colour of the Domestic-rate postage stamps, as prescribed by the Universal Postal Union, is red, and it is intended to discontinue the issue of the ordinary two-cent purple coloured stamps as soon as the present supply on hand is exhausted. This will be about the 20th July, 1899. Thereafter the Department will issue two-cent stamps in red, first, however, surcharging down to two cents the unissued remnant of three-cent stamps in red now in the possession of the Department, and as soon as the supply of such surcharged *threes* is exhausted, the issue of two-cent stamps in red will begin. The surcharged stamps will be issued to Postmasters as 2c. postage stamps and be recognized as stamps of that denomination.

Postmasters are requested to exchange, as above mentioned, all unused 3c. letter-cards, 3c. stamped envelopes and 3c. stamps which may be offered them to be exchanged for other postage stamps of an equal value.

Postmasters, who as a result of such exchange, may find the 3c. stamps, &c., unsaleable, are at liberty, in the case of an *Accounting Post Office*, to send them direct to the Department for credit; and in the case of a *Non-accounting Post Office*, to send them to the City Post Office from which it obtains its supplies, asking in lieu of those returned other stamps to an equal value.

It is especially requested that, in the case of stamps sent direct to the Department, under this authority, that is to say, *by Accounting Post Offices*,—Postmasters will be so good as to carry out the following instructions:—

(1) Each transmission should be registered, and accompanied with a brief memorandum, plainly stamped with the date stamp of the Post Office, and indicating the number and value of the 3c. stamps, &c., claimed to be enclosed. If other stamps are required to replace those returned, a separate requisition therefor (not enclosed in the package) should be sent direct to the Department in the usual way.

(2) Single stamps, and stamps that are not in complete sheets, should be pasted on alternate pages of separate sheets of paper with *not more than one hundred stamps on each page*. Any stamps that have stuck together whilst in the possession of the Postmaster, must be taken apart (which can easily be done by immersing them for a few minutes in water) and then pasted on sheets of paper as above directed.

Postmasters of *Non-accounting* Offices are particularly asked to bear in mind that any 3c. letter-cards, 3c. stamped envelopes or 3c. postage stamps which, conformably to this instruction, they may receive from the public in exchange for other stamps and find unsaleable, *must be returned, as above directed, to the City Post Offices from which they respectively obtain their supplies*, and not to the Department.

As only the unissued remnant of 3c. stamps now in the Department will be surcharged, Postmasters must not send in, with a view to their surcharge, any 3c. stamps in their possession, nor accept 3c. stamps from the public for that purpose.

Postmasters must distinctly understand that the exchange of stamps herein permitted applies *only* to the 3c. letter-card, the 3c. stamped envelope and the 3c. postage stamp.

R. M. COULTER,

Deputy Postmaster-General.

End of Seebeck Issues.

STAMP collectors will be pleased to learn, on the authority of the *American Journal of Philately*, that there are to be no more Seebeck contracts, says the *A.J.P.*:—

"We can now definitely inform our readers that the contract which expires this year was not renewed by Mr. Seebeck and that the issue of 1899 marks the end of the interesting period. The executors or assigns of Mr. Seebeck do not intend to enter into any new agreement looking to the providing of stamps under such arrangements as had previously been made, and we consider it extremely doubtful that any one else will attempt to step into his shoes. It may be safely assumed that any such speculation would be a losing one, as Mr. Seebeck's own experience has shown that no money can be made out of such transactions, the countries concerned being constantly on the increase and their postal requirements necessitating such a large supply of stamps for their postal needs as to wipe out all possible profit on the transaction."

English Postage Stamps.

MR. EWEN in his *Weekly Circular* tells us that "of the 123 different kinds of British Postage Stamps which have been issued up to the present time, 79 are adhesives, and 44 non-adhesives (two of the latter would be more correctly described as pictorial covers) and of these 18 and 15 respectively are still in use. The 18 current adhesives have had an average life of over 12 years, the penny value being the oldest (17½ years), whilst the 15 non-adhesives average 14½ years, although it is worthy of notice that the 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- values are practically the same stamps as those originally issued in 1855-59, whilst the 2d. envelope stamp issued in 1841 was only changed in colour 7 years ago, and the current 1d. envelope stamp, except for dating (1860 to 1881) has remained unchanged since its first issue in July 1841. As regards present day values, only eight stamps (all non-adhesive) are more valuable used than unused, a proof that British stamps are only issued to meet a legitimate demand. The cost of a complete collection is £92 12s. 1d. unused (£45 of this is for two stamps) or £15 6s. 1d. used (of which £7 10s. is for four stamps)."

The Last of the Columbians.

WE quote with pleasure the following announcement from the *Metropolitan Philatelist*:—

"An important decision, and one which will be hailed with joy, has just been reached at the Post Office Department. It is one of interest to thousands of collectors and speculators throughout the world. Some time ago we reported having had extended conversations with the officials in regard to securing better perforations on our present issues, and also urging the destruction of all high value Columbians which have been at this office for the past few years. It is well known that the 6c., $3, $4 and $5 have been on sale here since 1893. On Monday last the order was sent to the post office to return to the department all old stock of Columbians which will be immediately destroyed.

Philatelic Gossip.

St. Helena Remainders.

According to a cutting from the *St. Helena Guardian* of June 1st, 1899, stamp collectors are substantially helping St. Helena out of its financial difficulties :—

"By the last mail from England the balance (about £6,600) of the £8,800 odd of obsolete Postage Stamps of St. Helena that were lying at the Colonial Office were sent out, and are now on sale at the Post Office. Since the arrival of the first lot (about £2,000 worth) a large demand has been made, and up to the present the average amount realized for sale of Stamps per month is £100—about £350 worth having been already sold.

The arrival and sale of these stamps have been very opportune for the Government, as at the end of last year the liabilities of the Colony exceeded the assets by £2,486. As a set-off to this we have the £8,800 in obsolete Stamps, and at the present rate of sale the excess of liabilities will soon be recouped."

Death of Seebeck.

The *American Journal of Philately* announces the death of Mr. Nicholas F. Seebeck. It says :—

"After a lingering illness, which had been gradually draining his strength, Mr. Nicholas F. Seebeck expired on Friday, June 23rd, in his 42nd year. Mr. Seebeck was known for many years as a stamp dealer and stamp printer, and it is but justice to his memory to state that in all his business transactions he was guided by the highest principles of honorable dealing. His name for many years has not been held in high favor by stamp collectors on account of certain contracts, entered into in 1889, between him and the governments of some of the Central American States, by virtue of which Mr. Seebeck was to supply them with a new issue of stamps in each of the ten succeeding years, receiving in payment therefore, on the delivery of each new issue, the remainders of the stamps of the preceding one. From his standpoint the contract was an ordinary business transaction and, if it had not been for the jealousy of many other parties, no such odium would have attached to his stamps as has been the case for the past four or five years. We do not attempt to defend the action of the governments who so unnecessarily increased the number of stamps in existence, but, as far as the late Mr. Seebeck was concerned, he was certainly not to be blamed and did what any other business man would have done if a similar opportunity had offered. He sold out his business in postage stamps early in the year 1884, and since that time had not appeared in the field as dealer. He could therefore not be expected to take the same view of unnecessary stamp issues that a collector or an active dealer would have taken, but simply regarded the matter from the standpoint of a business man who was entering into a favourable contract."

Notices.

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SPECIAL POSITIONS BY ARRANGEMENT.

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

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

OCTOBER, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

THE *Philatelic Record* has changed hands. It has been purchased from Messrs. Buhl & Co. by the "Philatelic Record and Stamp News Company, Ltd.," and will in future be conducted as an independent philatelic journal, free from all trade trammels. It will not be tied, or allied, to any stamp dealing firm, or to any one philatelic society. It is now owned by philatelists who have no stamp trade connection of any sort or kind to hamper their control.

The Philatelic Record's New Proprietors.

For the sake of uniformity the remaining numbers of the present volume will be completed on the lines of the numbers already published.

But an entirely new series will be commenced with the first number of the new volume, to wit, the January number, which will commence the volume for 1900.

Many improvements will be introduced to add to the attractiveness of the new *Philatelic Record*. Indeed, we can promise for the new Company that neither effort nor expense will be spared to make the journal a worthy representative of all that is best in the philatelic pursuit. Ample capital has been provided for all possible emergencies, in addition to which the new Company will have a strong reserve of uncalled capital for any desirable future developments.

Commencing with the next number the *Philatelic Record* will be published by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, the well-known educational publishers of Paternoster Row, E.C., and it will be obtainable through any bookseller or newsagent in any part of the country.

The new series will be printed in the very best style on superior paper, by Messrs. Pardy & Son, of Bournemouth, whose excellent philatelic presswork needs no commendation from us.

The Stamps of Japan from 1876.

By L. W. FULCHER.

(From the *London Philatelist*.)

AS far as I am aware no one has hitherto attempted to draw up a reference list of the stamps of Japan issued since 1876, *i.e.*, since the process of engraving the stamps on copper plates was given up for the more expeditious and less expensive one of production from electrotypes. The following attempt is the result of four years' work, and is entirely drawn up from a study of the stamps themselves, of which I have examined many hundreds of specimens. From my experience of these stamps I cannot expect that it is complete or final, but I hope that it will serve as a basis for their future classification. I have endeavoured to keep down the number of varieties as much as possible, and I feel sure that any future modifications of this list will be in the direction of expansion rather than of condensation.

I have just a few preliminary words to say as regards (1) paper, (2) perforations.

(1) From 1876-1883 there appears to have been no attempt to secure uniformity as regards paper. The paper used varies considerably in thickness and in texture, but, as far as my experience goes, is always wove. I find it impossible to catalogue the different varieties, and I have therefore contented myself, with one exception, with dividing it into (1) thick, and (2) medium to thin. It seems impossible to draw a line between medium and thin, while very thick papers are readily distinguishable. Though I have ignored the texture of the paper in general, there is one variety, the exception alluded to above, which is so conspicuous that it is certainly worthy of special mention. This is a thin bluish white surfaced paper. It seems to have been in use about 1878. After 1883 the paper becomes more uniform, and may be described as a medium white wove paper.

(2) As regards the perforations, I may say that I have not come to the conclusions below without much labour, although I am aware my arrangement is open to question. I have endeavoured to make the matter as simple as possible, and I hope that collectors will at any rate find it useful in arranging their stamps of this country. Of some of the values I have measured the perforations on all four sides of over one thousand copies, and nearly all the rest of several hundreds. I at first tabulated the results; but finally, after careful comparison, I think all the essential perforations, *i.e.*, those representing different machines, may be arranged under nine groups.

1876 (or earlier) to 1883.	I.	Perf. 9½, large holes.
	II.	(1) Perf. 9 / (2) Perf. 11 — Small holes.
	III.	Perf. 10½.
	IV.	Perf. 11½-12.
	V.	Perf. 12½.
1883-1888.	VI.	Perf. 11 — Large holes.
	VII.	Perf. 9 — Large holes.
1888.	VIII.	(1) Perf. 13½. / (2) Perf. 13.
1893.	IX.	Perf. 11½-12.

I believe that these each represent the average perforations due to one machine, except in the cases of II. and VIII., where I have grouped two perforations together for consideration which appear below. I should also mention that these groups give rise to a number of compound perforations, such as I. with II. and V., II. with IV., and VIII. (2) with IX. All the perforations vary considerably, except III., which, however, only occurs on a few stamps, and is rare. I propose to offer a few remarks on each group.

I. Perf. 9½. Large holes, 1 mm. in diameter. This, I think, must have been intended for the normal perforation of the issues from 1876-1883, as, it was the first to appear, and is found on all the stamps except the 12 sen, rose. I have not seen or heard of a copy of this stamp with this perforation, but I know of no reason why it should not turn up. I find big blocks of these stamps hard to get, but by measurement of the lines of perforations on a sheet of the 1 sen, red-brown, in my possession I obtained a gauge of 9.6 to 9.9, and from a block of 50 of the 1 sen, black, and some of smaller blocks, 9.3 to 9.8. Single stamps will be found to gauge 9, 9½, 10, or any combination of these, but I think the above measurements show that in all probability there is but one machine especially when we take into consideration the extreme variability of the paper on which these stamps are printed. I think it, then, only legitimate to regard all these perforations as due to one machine. There is a little overlapping in this case with VII., but in practice this will not be found troublesome, as the shades of the stamps will, as a rule, readily distinguish the two, since VII. appeared so much later in point of time and the colours of these stamps with perf. VII. are distinctive.

In the list below, then, "perf. 9½" includes 9, 9½, 10, 9×9½, 9½×9, 9×10, 10×9½, etc.

II. There is a small-hole perforation, holes ½ mm. in diameter and irregularly placed, which is common in the lower value. If these are measured it will be found that the vast majority gauge either 9 or 11, or a combination of the two, but also occasionally 9½, 10, 10½, and 11½ may be met with, usually in combination with 9 or 11, but sometimes alone. I have seen a sheet of the ½ sen, grey, of 1874 with this perf. 11, but in no place would it gauge as low as 9, so I am forced to conclude that there are at least two machines. Since they are similar in appearance I have grouped them together. It is possible that anything up to 10 may be found on the 9 machine, and from the appearance of single stamps extremely likely that 10½ and 11½ are on the 11 machine; therefore for the purpose of this list, I propose to call "perf. 9" anything up to 10, and everything over that "perf 11." This perforation frequently fails to penetrate the paper, especially when the latter is thick, and then it often looks very like a pin-perforation. I cannot satisfy myself that a true pin-perforation exists on any of the postage stamps of Japan.

III. Perf. 10½. I have nothing particular to say about this. It is clean-cut, and the holes appear of the same character as those of group II., but possibly slightly larger.

IV. Perf. 11½—12. The earlier stamps may be found 11½ all round, 12 all round, or 12 with one or more sides 11½. I think these varieties must be due to one machine, and different from that which follows, as the tendency of V. is in the other direction. I have never seen a block or even a pair of stamps with this perforation. There is no confusion to be feared between this perforation and IX., as they do not appear on the same stamps.

V. Perf. 12½. This is an old machine, which has evidently been much used on the earlier engraved stamps. It has a tendency to 13, but not commonly.

VI. Perf. 11. Large holes, irregular, close together, varying from 10½ to 11½. It seems as if this were from an old machine occasionally pressed into service at busy times. The 2 sen purple, occurs with this perforation, and therefore it must have been used before January 1st, 1883, when this stamp was superseded. Nearly a whole set of the stamps in the first colours exists with this perforation, and they are tolerably rare, particularly so unused.

This perforation, then, includes such varieties as 10½×11, 11×10½, 11×11½, 11½×11.

VII. Perf. 9. Large holes. This is a well-known perforation. It is mentioned in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, It degenerates to 8½ and even 8. The stamps with this perforation are usually in very deep bright colours, on a smooth white medium wove paper, and hence conspicuous.

"Perf. 9, large holes," then include the varieties 8×8½, 8½×9, 9×8½, etc.

VIII. Perf. 13½ was chronicled by Mr. E. D. Bacon in the *Philatelic Record*, vol. x. p. 209, and at the same time he mentions that some values occur perf. 13. I have not been able to find big blocks of stamps with this gauge, but quite recently there has been a perforation in use which gauges 13 (it occurs, for example, on the "War stamps"), with a tendency to 12½; in fact, some of them gauge 12½ all round, and only in two cases—the 3 sen, lilac-rose, and the 20 sen, *orange-red*—have I found 13½ on quite recent stamps. Again, the earlier stamps occasionally gauge 14 on one or more sides, though I have never found one 14 all round. Stamps may also be found 13×13½ and 13½×13. Hence I am inclined to think that there are really two machines, one gauging from 13 to 14 and the other from 12½ to 13½. Since these perforations are so closely allied I group them together, especially as all the stamps found with 13½ are found with 13, except in the case of the 6 sen, yellow-buff. This stamp I have not found 13. If it is not forthcoming, it will be further evidence that the 13½ machine is different from the 12 machine, as this stamp was only in use from February to the 19th March, 1888. The earlier stamps are also met with, with a blind perforation or torn with a jagged edge, not measurable, which appears to be 12½.

In the list below, then, "perf, 13½" includes the varieties 13×13½, 13½×13, 13½×14, 14×13½; and "perf, 13," 12½, 12½×13, 13×12½, 13×13½, 13½×13.

IX. Perf. 11½ to 12 is the correct perforation. Stamps perf. 11½×12, 12×11½ can be collected if desired.

For convenience of reference I tabulate these perforations, their commoner variations, and the compounds found. In the list which follows I give the stamps according to date of issue, and then classify them by perforations, to which I always attach the same letter as in this table.

I. A. Perf. 9½, large holes. Variations, 9, 9½, 10, 9×9½, 9½×9, 9½×10, 10×9½, etc.

II. B. Perf. 9, small holes. Variations, 9½, 10, 9½×10, etc.
C. Perf. 11, small holes. Varias., 10½×11, 11×10½, 11×11½, etc.
D. Compound perf, 9×11, 11×9, small holes.
E. Compound of A and B, 9½×9, 9×9½,
F. Compound of A and C, 9½×11, 11×9½.

III. G. Perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$.

IV. H. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$—12. Variations, $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}\times12$, $12\times11\frac{1}{2}$, 12.
I. Compound of B. and H, 9×12, 12×9.
J. Compound of C and H, 11×12, 12×11.

V. K. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$. Variations, $12\frac{1}{2}\times13$, $13\times12\frac{1}{2}$.
L. Compound of A and K, $9\frac{1}{2}\times12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\times9\frac{1}{2}$.

VI. M. Perf. 11, large holes. Varias., $10\frac{1}{2}\times11$, $11\times10\frac{1}{2}$, $11\times11\frac{1}{2}$, etc.

VII. N. Perf. 9, large holes. Variations, $8\frac{1}{2}$, $8\times8\frac{1}{2}$, $8\frac{1}{2}\times9$, $9\times8\frac{1}{2}$, etc.

VIII. O. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$. Variations, $13\frac{1}{2}\times14$, $14\times13\frac{1}{2}$,
P. Perf. 13. Variations, $12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2}\times13$, $13\times12\frac{1}{2}$, } $13\times13\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}\times13$.

IX. Q. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$—12. Variations, $11\frac{1}{2}\times12$, $12\times11\frac{1}{2}$.
R. Compound of P and Q, $11\frac{1}{2}\times13$, $13\times11\frac{1}{2}$.

REFERENCE LIST.

1876-77.

1. A. *Perf.* $9\frac{1}{2}$, *large holes.*

(1) Very thick paper.

1 sen, black.
2 ,, yellowish drab.
2 ,, greyish drab.
2 ,, deep bronze-green.
2 ,, bronze-green.
2 ,, pale bronze-green.

(2) Thick paper.

4 sen, bluish-green.
4 ,, yellowish green
10 ,, pale chalky blue.
20 ,, blue.

(3) Medium to thin paper, many kinds.

5 rin, slate.
5 ,, grey.
5 ,, brownish grey.
1 sen, black.
1 ,, grey-black.
2 ,, yellowish drab.
2 ,, greyish-drab.
2 ,, deep bronze-green.
2 ,, bronze-green.
2 ,, pale bronze-green.
4 ,, pale green.
4 ,, green.
4 ,, yellowish-green.
4 ,, blue-green.
5 ,, dark-brown (soft woolly paper).
5 ,, brown.
6 ,, buff.
8 ,, deep purple-green. (soft woolly paper).
8 ,, deep purple-brown (smooth paper).
8 ,, purple-brown.
10 ,, blue.
10 ,, dull blue.
10 ,, pale blue.
10 ,, pale chalky-blue.
10 ,, sky blue.
15 ,, pale chalky-green.
20 ,, blue.
20 ,, deep blue.
30 ,, dull violet.
45 ,, carmine-rose.

(4) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, deep black.
2 ,, bronze-green.
4 ,, pale green.
4 ,, blue-green.
5 ,, brown.

2. B. *Perf.* 9, *small holes.*

(1) Thick paper.

2 sen, greyish-drab.
10 ,, sky-blue.

(2) Medium paper.

1 sen, black.
2 ,, greyish-drab.
2 ,, bronze-green.
10 ,, blue.

3. C. *Perf.* 11. *small holes.*

(1) Thick paper.

5 rin, slate-grey.
1 sen, black.
2 ,, greyish-drab.
2 ,, bronze-green.
4 ,, deep blue-green.*
5 ,, brown.
10 ,, blue.

(2) Medium paper.

1 sen, black.
1 ,, grey-black.
2 ,, greyish-drab.
2 ,, bronze-green.
2 ,, pale bronze-green.

(3) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, deep black.
2 ,, bronze-green.
4 ,, green.

4. D. *Perf. compound of D. and C.*

(*a*) 9×11, (*b*) 11×9.

(1) Thick paper.

* The 4 sen blue-green, with perforations C and D contains a very soluble yellow pigment, which is rapidly removed when the stamp is wetted. Hence used copies are usually blue.

1 sen, black (*a*).
2 ,, greyish-drab (*a*) (*b*).
2 ,, bronze-green (*a*) (*b*).
4 ,, blue-green * (*a*).

(2) Medium paper.

1 sen, black (*a*) (*b*).
2 ,, greyish-drab (*a*) (*b*).
4 ,, blue-green* (*b*).

5. E. *Perf. compound of* A *and* B.

(*a*) 9½ (*large*) × 9 (*small*).
(*b*) 9 (*small*) × 9½ (*large*).

Medium to thin paper.

5 rin, slate-grey.
1 sen, black.
2 ,, greyish-drab.

6. F. *Perf. compound of* A *and* C.

(*a*) 9½ (*large*) × 11 (*small*).
(*a*) 11 (*small*) × 9½ (*large*).

(1) Thick paper.

1 sen, black, (*a*).

(2) Medium to thin paper.

1 sen, black (*a*) (*b*).
2 ,, greyish drab (*a*) (*b*).
5 ,, brown (*b*).
12 ,, pale rose (*b*).
15 ,, pale chalky green (*b*).

7. G. *Perf.* 10½.

(1) Medium paper.

1 sen, black.

(2) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, black.
2 ,, bronze-green.

8. H. *Perf.* 11½ *to* 12.

(1) Medium to thin paper.

5 rin, grey.
1 sen, black.
2 ,, drab.
2 ,, bronze-green.
2 ,, pale bronze-green.

(2) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, black.
4 ,, green.

9. I. *Perf. compound of* B *and* H.

(*a*) 9 × 12, (*b*) 12 × 9.

(1) Thick paper.

2 sen, pale bronze-green (*a*).
2 ,, bronze-green (*b*).

(2) Medium paper).

2 sen, pale bronze-green (*b*).

10. J. *Perf. compound of* C *and* H.

(*a*) 11 × 12, (*b*) 12 × 11.

(1) Thick paper.

1 sen, black (*a*).
2 ,, pale bronze-green (*a*) (*b*).

11. K. *Perf.* 12½ (*inclining to* B).

(1) Medium to thin paper.

1 sen, black.
1 ,, grey-black.
2 ,, deep bronze-green.
2 ,, bronze-green.
2 ,, pale bronze-green.
4 ,, green.
5 ,, brown.
8 ,, purple-brown.
10 ,, pale chalky blue.

(2) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, black.
2 ,, bronze-green.
5 ,, brown.

12. L. *Perf. compound of* A *and* K.

(*a*) 9½ × 12½, (*b*) 12½ × 9½.

(1) Medium to thin paper.

1 sen, deep black (*a*) (*b*).
2 ,, bronze-green (*a*) (*b*).
5 ,, brown (*a*).
8 ,, purple-brown (*b*).

(2) Thin, bluish white paper.

1 sen, deep black (*a*).
2 ,, bronze-green (*a*)

JUNE, 1879.

1. A. *Perf.* 9½, *large holes.*

(1) Medium woolly paper.

3 sen, orange.
3 ,, deep orange.
50 ,, carmine.

(2) Medium smooth paper.

3 sen, dull salmon.
50 ,, carmine.
50 ,, scarlet.

(3) Thin, bluish white paper.

3 sen, salmon-pink.
3 ,, yellow.
50 ,, carmine.

2. C. *Perf* 11, *small holes.*

Thin, bluish white paper.

3 sen, salmon-pink.
50 ,, carmine-rose.
50 ,, carmine.

NOVEMBER, 1879.

1. A. *Perf.* 9½, *large holes.*

(1) Thick paper.

1 sen, red-brown (deep to pale).
2 ,, purple.

(2) Medium to thin paper.

1 sen, red-brown (deep to pale).
1 ,, light red.
2 ,, purple (deep to pale).
2 ,, blue-purple (deep to pale).
2 ,, red-purple (deep to pale).

2. B. *Perf.* 9, *small holes.*
Medium paper.
1 sen, red-brown.
2 ,, purple.

3. G. *Perf.* 10½.
Medium paper.
2 sen, red-purple.

4. H. *Perf.* 11½ to 12.
Medium paper.
1 sen, deep red-brown.
2 ,, purple.
2 ,, lilac.

5. K. *Perf.* 12½.
Medium paper.
1 sen, deep red-brown.
1 ,, light red.
2 ,, blue-purple.
2 ,, red-purple.

6. L. *Perf. compound of* A *and* K, 9½ × 12½
Medium paper.
2 sen, purple.

7. M. *Perf.* 11, *large holes.*
2 sen, bluish purple.

1 JANUARY, 1883.

1. A. *Perf.* 9½, *large holes.*
Medium paper.
1 sen, pale blue-green.
1 ,, blue-green.
1 ,, green.
1 ,, bright green.
1 ,, dark green.
2 ,, carmine.
2 ,, carmine-rose.
2 ,, rose.
2 ,, scarlet.
4 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, grey-blue.
5 ,, slate-blue.
5 ,, ultramarine.
,, ,, greenish blue.

2. G. *Perf.* 10½.
Medium paper.
1 sen, green.
2 ,, rose.
5 ,, blue.

3. H. *Perf.* 11½ to 12.
Medium paper.
1 sen, blue-green.
2 ,, pale rose.

1883-1888.

1. M. *Perf.* 11, *large holes.*
Medium paper.
5 rin, grey.
1 sen, green.
1 ,, bluish green.
2 ,, carmine-rose.
2 sen, rose.
4 ,, green.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, ultramarine.
6 ,, orange.
8 ,, purple-brown.
10 ,, pale blue.
15 ,, green.
15 ,, yellow-green.
20 ,, deep blue.
30 ,, (?)
50 ,, pale scarlet.

I have not seen a copy of the 30 sen with this perforation, but I have heard of its existence, which is highly probable.

1885 (?).

1. N. *perf.* 9 *large holes.*
5 rin, slate.
5 ,, grey.
1 sen, blue-green.
1 ,, pale blue-green.
1 ,, bright green.
1 ,, green.
2 ,, carmine.
2 ,, carmine-rose.
2 ,, rose.
2 ,, scarlet.
4 ,, pale blue-green.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, grey-blue.
5 ,, slate-blue.
5 ,, ultramarine.
5 ,, greenish blue.
5 ,, light blue.
6 ,, deep orange.
8 ,, deep purple-brown.
8 ,, pale purple-brown.
10 ,, pale blue.
10 ,, deep blue.
12 ,, deep rose.
15 ,, deep green.
15 ,, green.
15 ,, pale yellow-green.
20 ,, blue.
20 ,, deep blue.
30 ,, bright lilac.
30 ,, bright mauve.
45 ,, carmine.
50 ,, carmine-rose.
50 ,, scarlet.

FEBRUARY, 1888.

O. *Perf.* 13½. Medium to thin paper.
P. *Perf.* 13. ,, ,,
5 rin, slate.
5 ,, grey.
5 ,, brownish grey.
1 sen, dark green.
1 ,, green.
1 ,, pale green.
1 ,, yellowish green.
2 ,, carmine.
2 ,, carmine-rose.
2 ,, scarlet.
4 ,, pale blue-green.
4 ,, blue-green.
5 ,, sky-blue.

5 sen, blue.
5 ,, light blue.
6 ,, yellow-buff.
8 ,, deep purple-brown.
10 ,, pale blue.
10 ,, blue.
15 ,, dull green.
20 ,, dark blue.
50 ,, carmine-rose.

I have not seen the 6 sen perf. 13.

MARCH, 1888.

Perf. as last.

4 sen, deep olive-brown.
4 ,, pale olive-brown.
4 ,, bistre.
8 ,, lilac.
8 ,, bright lilac.
8 ,, deep plum.
8 ,, lavender.
10 ,, brown-ochre.
15 ,, dull mauve.
15 ,, violet.
20 ,, orange (aniline).
20 ,, orange-yellow (aniline).
20 ,, orange-red (1895).
25 ,, emerald-green.
50 ,, chocolate.
50 ,, chestnut.
1 yen, carmine.

1892. *Perf. as last.*

3 sen, pale lilac-rose.

1893. Q. *Perf.* 11½-12.

Medium wove paper.

5 rin, deep grey.
5 ,, olive-grey.
1 sen, green.
1 ,, pale green.
1 ,, olive-green (1897).
2 ,, carmine.
2 ,, scarlet.
3 ,, pale lilac-rose.
3 sen, bright lilac-rose.
4 ,, pale olive-brown.
4 ,, deep bistre.
5 ,, light blue.
8 ,, lilac.
8 ,, lavender.
10 ,, brown-ochre.
15 ,, bright violet.
20 ,, orange-red.
25 ,, emerald-green.
30 ,, chestnut.
1 yen, carmine.

189(?).

R. *Perf. compound of* P *and* Q.

(*a*) 11 *or* 12½×13, (*b*) 13×11½ *or* 12.

4 sen, pale olive-brown (*a*).
15 ,, violet (*b*).
50 ,, chestnut (*a*).

Possibly a full set occurs with this compound perforation.

1894. SILVER WEDDING STAMPS.

(*a*) *Perf.* 13 (P), (*b*) *Perf.* 11½ *or* 12 (Q).

2 sen, carmine (*a*) (*b*).
5 ,, blue (*a*) (*b*).

1896. COMMEMORATIVE WAR STAMPS.

(*a*) *Perf.* 13 (P), (*b*) *Perf.* 11½ *or* 12 (Q),
(*c*) *Perf. compound* 13×11½ *or* 12 (R).

Portrait of Prince Ketashiragawa.

2 sen, carmine (*b*).

Portrait of Prince Arisugawa.

2 sen, carmine (*a*) (*b*) (*c*)

Portrait of Prince Ketashiragawa.

2 sen, violet-blue (*a*) (*b*) (*c*).

Portrait of Prince Arisugawa.

5 sen, violet-blue (*a*) (*b*) (*c*).

I have not paid much attention to these Commemorative Stamps.

Correspondence.

Railway Letter Stamps.

To the Editor of the *Philatelic Record.*

Dear Sir,

In a recent number of your journal, I notice a few remarks concerning Railway Letter Stamps, which are to some extent misleading.

The statement that the stamps are not Government issues is only correct in that the Government does not pay the printers' bill. The stamps are issued on behalf of the Post Office, and may only be used to frank Post Office letters. In the words of the *Post Office Guide*, "Railway letters will be deemed to be in all respects letters sent by post," and all regulation; appertaining to their transmission are drawn up by the Post Office.

It was originally intended that the Post Office should issue the current threepenny postage stamp with an appropriate surcharge, the companies receiving two-thirds of the revenue derived from its sale. But this was found to be impracticable, owing to the large number of companies and the difficulty of ascertaining their respective shares.

Although it was thus found necessary for the companies to produce their own stamps, the Post Office insisted on uniformity of design, value, inscription and colour, and although irregularities may have been in a few cases overlooked, yet in the most important of such cases—the red stamps of the North-Eastern—the sale was stopped, and the remaining stock ordered to be destroyed, thus showing that the interest of the Post Office in the stamps was greater than that of the issuing company. I maintain that the stamps are in every way local postage stamps, and far more collectable than official stamps, which may not be used by the public at all.

With regard to the second matter, you state: "We are well aware that these labels have been 'boomed' beyond all proportion to their possible value, and we want to know who regulates these fancy prices of 10s. to 30s. each . . . . and who pays them?" This remark is very ill-considered. There are a large number of interested and advanced collectors of these stamps, and it is absurb to say that a variety of which perhaps ten copies or less are known is overvalued at 30s. I am, perhaps, personally responsible for most of the present day quotations for three stamps, but these have only been made with due regard to the state of the market and the demand amongst collectors themselves, and I am open to purchase any varieties with a fair discount on such quotations. Thirty shillings is an extremely low valuation when applied to the rarest varieties, four specimens in my private collection having alone cost me £15 cash.

Unused copies of the earlier issues should be considered very cheap at present rates, as official sources are now exhausted, and as the stamps have never, or very rarely, been sold to the public, no further source of supply remains in existence. After the market has settled down, they must continually become scarcer. Used copies, too, have beed spread over so large an area that it is difficult to collect any considerable quantity.

If any further proof were needed that the Post Office considers the Railway Letter Stamps on a par with its ordinary issues, I may refer to the fact that when such letters pass through a Post office, the railway stamp is cancelled as well as the other, although the Post Office is noted for its avoidance of labels of a foreign nature.

In conclusion, I may state that up to the present 141 "standard" varieties of Railway Letter Stamps have been issued by 97 companies, and that all except 27 are readily obtainable. Four are still unknown, viz.:—

1.—Ayrshire and Wigtownshire.
2.—Finn Valley and West Donegal.
3.—Pembroke and Tenby, rouletted.
4.—Barry Dock and Railways, perf.

The four rarest "standard" varieties known are the following:—

5.—Portpatrick and Girvan Joint (3 used).
6.—Barry Dock and Railways, rouletted, strip of three, unused, known.
7.—Finn Valley, about six, known, used.
8.—City of Glasgow Union, six unused and one used, known.

For the first copy discovered of the latter, I offered £7 10s. which was refused.

Yours faithfully,

H. L. Ewen.

Philately in the Mags.

German Secret Paper Markings.

M. Maury writes in *Le Collectionneur de T.P.*:

Some time ago I remarked that the current German stamps had in their gum a succession of horizontal bars, which become visible, in a pale rose tint, when placed in concentrated ammonia. Just lately I wanted to repeat the experiment so that I might get an exact illustration of these bars, when I found, to my surprise, that a change had taken place. Each of the current stamps had, instead of these bars, four little designs, viz., a posthorn in the upper left and lower right corners, and the German Arms vice-versa. They were only visible for about ten seconds, and were extremely difficult to see, for the ammonia had a very disagreeable effect on the eyes and nose, and the paper being transparent when soaked, the color of the stamp interfered with the appearance of the secret marks.

Commenting on this the *Monthly Circular* remarks:

This, however, is not a new discovery, for it was noted at least as early as 1894. In Westoby's Postage Stamps of Europe the history is given as follows:

"From the commencement of the series down to 1892 the impression was on white wove paper, on the back of which horizontal bars were printed with phenolphthalein, which were quite visible when acted upon by certain chemicals. Since 1892 the sheets have been printed on the face with a design, repeated as often as requisite, consisting of a crown in the upper left and a posthorn in the lower right, whilst in the upper right and lower left are the Arms. This also is printed with phenolphthalein, which, from its name, we conclude to be a compound of phenol and a hydrocarbon."

It is clear that the idea of the marks being in the gum is altogether wrong. But there is a discrepancy in the two descriptions, for M. Maury says nothing of the crown. We have made the experiment with a number of unused stamps, but without being able to distinguish any details of the design, except on the small white spaces which divide the panes on the sheets. Perhaps some other chemical than ammonia would bring out the design more clearly, or it may be that photography might be of use in the case of the 20 pfennig stamp, where the actinic blue is in contrast with the rose.

The New U.S Cubans.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, in its issue of the 26th August, 1899, announces that the first shipment of the new Cuban stamps has been made. It appears that the whole supply could not be finished in time, but as the Bureau had promised to have them ready by the 20th of the month, they shipped on the 19th August—

1,500,000 1c., 2,000,000 2c., 400,000 3c., 1,800,000 5c., 400,000 10c. and 50,000 special delivery stamps, together with the postage due stamps recently chronicled. The balance of this order is to be sent out shortly. The plates are still at press. We complete the list of Cuban plate Nos. by adding the following, which are listed for the first time:

900	10c. Cuba.	904	2c. ordinary.
901	5c. ,,	905	2c. ,,
902	5c. ,,	906	2c. ,,
903	5c. ,,	907	2c. ,,
908	10c. Cuba, special delivery.		
909	2c. ordinary.		
910	2c. ,,		

There are four plates each of the 1c., 2c., 3c. and 5c., but only one each of the 10c. and the special delivery. There will be a comparatively small supply of these latter denominations needed, and for this reason they will be printed on hand presses.

Government Remainders.

We take the following particulars concerning Government Remainders from the *Monthly Journal*:

Jamaica.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies tell us that they are instructed by the Government of Jamaica to dispose of the following stamps, &c. The face values are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
2s. Stamps . . .	856	12	0
1s. ,, . . .	7	5	0
3d. Post Cards . .	149	3	3
1d. ,, . .	6	5	0
1½d. ,, . .	0	9	0

The stamps are printed on "Crown and CC." paper and the post cards are of obsolete patterns, and the majority of both stamps and cards are in good condition. No offer under face value will be accepted.

The following is also from the Crown Agents for the Colonies:—

"We should be much obliged if you would inform us whether there is any market for Jamaica 'OFFICIAL' stamps, and whether, in your opinion, there would be any chance of obtaining face value, to the extent of, say, £1600 (the duties are about ½d., £650; 1d., £570; 2d., £380) for some obsolete stamps of this description.

"The particular stamps in question are ordinary postage overprinted with the word '*Official*' in ordinary type."

MONTENEGRO.

The following is a copy of a letter recentiy received which speaks for itself. Attention should be drawn to the fact that it is mentioned that the Montenegro Government will hand over the dies of their stamps, and therefore reprints are possible. As it does not state that the dies have been cancelled, I should advise my friends to leave these stamps severely alone. The discount will have to be very heavy indeed—practically waste paper price—if the authorities wish to succeed in selling this rubbish.

"*Unused Montenegrin Postage Stamps. Issue* 1896.

"*Jubilee de la dynastie Petrovich-Niegushi.*

"DEAR SIRS,—Our correspondents in Montenegro write us that their Government wishes to sell their stock of the above stamps, to the value of about 2½ million florins, with a heavy discount, and they will also hand over the dies &c., and give a guarantee that these stamps will not be issued again in any form, so that nobody can get them.

"If you are interested in these we should be glad to hear what offer you would be prepared to make for the whole lot or for a part.

"Awaiting your reply,

"_____."

EGYPT.

The following letter from the Postmaster-General of Egypt is rather interesting. It is one of the very few cases indeed that I have met with of a Government offering for sale *used* postage stamps:

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that this Administration will sell, for the benefit of the funds of the Postal Benevolent Society, *obliterated* Egyptian postage stamps, taken off correspondence and parcels despatch notes, which have been destroyed after the prescribed delay.

"The approximate quantity of stamps to be sold is as follows:

Stamps of	10 Piastres . .	10,000
,,	5 ,, . .	95,000
,,	2 ,, Issue 1893	38,000
,,	2 ,, ,, 1879	2,300
,,	1 Piastre . .	120,000
,,	5 Milliemes . .	35,000
	Total . .	300,300

"Offers may be made for the whole lot or for part.

"In the latter case the price per 1000 must be given for each variety.

"The prices will be for stamps delivered in Alexandria only, in the present condition, and not packed.

"Packing and posting to be at buyer's cost. Terms: cash to be paid on delivery of stamps.

"Offers must be sent in sealed envelopes, with the mention, 'Offer for Obliterated Stamps."

Philatelic Gossip.

Asenjos *alias* Seebecks.

As we have anticipated, the pattifogging *States* of Central America are not likely to abandon the Seebeck arrangement for milking stamp flats. According to the *Philatelic Monthly and World*, a contract has been entered into between the Government of Nicaragua and Dr. Maximo Asenjo, which resembles in many respects the Seebeck contract.

It is made for a term of ten years, during which the Doctor agrees to furnish stamps without cost to the number of 3,400,000 every year. There are to be 13 postage stamps from 1c. to 5p., 10 official stamps from 1c. to 5p., 7 postage due stamps from 1c. to 50c., and 8 telegraph stamps from 10c. to 3 pesos. Also cards 2, 4, 6, 12c., stamped envelopes, 5, 10, 20, 30, 50., and bands, 2, 4c.

The government is to supply the design and the workmanship must be of the best quality. The 3c., 6c. and 15c. stamps must be in the Postal Union colors. Each year 1,000 stamps will be issued to commemorate some historical event and they shall be current for one day only.

Each year the Doctor is to receive 50,000 complete sets of all varieties cancelled. This contract may be transferred to any other person or company, and it is said that these stamps will probably be made in Germany. The contract is dated May 11, 1899.

U.S. Twelve Months Supply.

THE *Metropolitan Philatelist* publishes the following detailed list of the stamps which the U.S. Bureau has been ordered to prepare during the coming fiscal year. This order is based on the supply consumed during the past twelve months:—

1c.	875,000,000
2c.	2,900,000,000
3c.	30,000,000
4c.	31,000,000
5c.	53,000,000
6c.	8,300,000
10c.	19,950,000
15c.	3,000,000
50c.	200,000
$1	33,000
$2	13,000
$5	2,000
10c., special del,	6,000,000
1c., due,	7,200,000
2c. ,,	13,080,000
3c. ,,	800,000
5c. ,,	1,950,000
10c. ,,	2,920,000
30c. ,,	5,000
50c. ,,	1,000

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SPECIAL POSITIONS BY ARRANGEMENT.

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

The Philatelic Record

AND STAMP NEWS.

NOVEMBER, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

Honesty in Dealing.

"FOR two years" the J. W. Scott Co., of New York, informs us they have "offered to purchase every uncancelled U.S. stamp issued before 1875, at a discount of 25 per cent. from catalogue price." This they assure us "was not for stamps the Company wanted, but for every stamp collectors desired to sell." They report that the result was that during the entire two years they bought about 500 dollars worth from Europe and less than 50 dollars in the entire United States.

Commenting on this, they very pertinently remark that "all the stamp business ever wanted was confidence among collectors and honesty among dealers," to which we heartily agree.

In a recent issue of their trade organ, the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, the firm go further and announce that they have agreed "to re-purchase any stamps they sell at a reduction of ten per cent. from price paid." To secure the working of this arrangement, they register the stamps and sign a written guarantee to purchase, good at any time.

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A Novel Commission Experiment.

Mr. Hadlow, the well-known auctioneer, of 331, Strand, W.C., whose scrupulous integrity and promptitude have made him friends in all directions, is making a novel experiment in the matter of commissions for buying for collectors at Stamp Auctions. He announces his intention of personally attending the London auctions for the purpose of giving his experiment a fair trial. He believes he can buy, on the average, at a rate which will yield him a fair return on a charge of "10 per cent. on the difference beween the bid authorised by his customer, and the price at which he secures the lot." Example :—

Bid, £5. Purchase, £3.=Commission, 4/-
" £5. " £5.= " Nil.

Envelopes of Tonga.

By A. F. BASSET HULL.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.—I. The Letter Sheet.

THE *Interim Report* contains an entry by Mr. Campbell, under date 1st January, 1892 :

810 Env. Letters. 1d. $16 3 6.

This I believe to be the only supply of this curious letter-sheet obtained. It is of cream wove paper, folded in the shape of an envelope, but unfastened. The flap is pointed and embossed with the Arms of Tonga in carmine, surrounded by an oval band, inscribed "Postage—One Penny" above, and "Tonga" below, in white letters on reticulated ground. The colour of this band is vermilion. On the address side the words

TONGAN
ENVELOPE LETTER

are printed at the top, rather to the left ; and in the left lower corner the following inscription : "This envelope is intended for use within the kingdom only, and must not contain any enclosure." All the inscriptions on the address side are in black. The size of the "Envelope Letter" folded is 119×80mm. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue mentions a variety on *rose*. This I have never seen or heard of otherwise.

1d. Carmine and vermilion on cream.

REGISTRATION ENVELOPES.

In the *Interim Report*, Column A, Mr. Campbell's first entry relating to registered envelopes is :

1891. Oct. 1. Reg. Env., large, 6d. $250 0 0.

The Commission of Inquiry, however, entered in Column B :

1891. Aug. 30. 2,000 Reg. Env., large $250 0 0.
1,000 ,, ,, small 125 8 0.

Here I am faced with a little difficulty, in that I believe the first type, with large arms printed on flap, exists only in one size. Mr. A. M. Campbell, late Chief Postmaster of Tonga, sent me a copy which he stated was issued on the 1st September, 1891, a date which would correspond with the Commissioners' amended entry, but which would be a month earlier than Mr. Campbell's own entry.

The description of this envelope is as follows: The Arms of Tonga (in very large size and coarsely drawn) are type-printed on the flap, with "Tonga Registration" in an arch above, and "6d." at each side. On the address side there is a block "R" in thick outlined oval in the upper left corner ; "Tonga—Registered Letter" in two lines in the centre ; and a rectangular framed space for postage stamp in the right upper corner. Crossed dividing lines separate the N from the G of "Tonga," and "Registered" from "Letter." Arms, inscriptions, and lines are all in the

one shade of red, and were apparently all printed in one operation. The paper is bluish wove, linen lined; rounded flap, with broad brown gum. Size, 154×96 mm.

Moens gives the size of this envelope on bluish as 117×81 mm., but this is evidently an error, as that is his measurement for the little letter-sheet. He also chronicles the same stamp on *white* envelopes in two sizes—153×97, and 225×111 mm. Stanley Gibbons catalogues this first type on blue only, and in one size.

With a view to getting some light on the subject, I applied to Mr. John Sands, of Sydney, the printer of all subsequent issues of Tongan registration envelopes. He informed me that his books unfortunately did not discriminate between stamped and unstamped envelopes, and, therefore, the entries could give no clue; but he stated that the first type in question was certainly not printed at his establishment.

I am of opinion that the amended entry is incorrect as regards quantity, and that the numbers really refer to the supply (hereinafter mentioned) of the new type added to those of the first type. This would account for there being only one size of the stamp on bluish, and also admit of Mr. Campbell's date of issue being considered correct. The numbers would still be 200 short, as $100 would only represent 800 envelopes at 6d.

On the 1st January, 1892, Mr. Campbell entered up an invoice of:

1,000 Reg. Env., small. 6d. $125 0 0.
1,000 ,, ,, large. 6d. 125 0 0.

The copies sent me by Mr. Campbell as having been issued on the 1st January, 1892, are of two sizes. The Arms, in reduced size, are embossed in vermilion on the flap. "Tonga Registration" in arch above and "6d." at each side, are type-printed in the same colour. On the address side is the letter "R" in thin outlined oval, in upper left corner, and "Ton | ga Registered | Letter. This Letter must be given to | an Officer of the Post Office to be Registered, and a | Receipt obtained for it"; rectangular space in right upper corner, inscribed "The Stamp—to pay the—Postage—must be—placed here," crossed dividing lines separating the inscription as shown above. "No....." in left lower corner. The lines and inscriptions are all in red. The type of the inscription on the official size envelope is larger than that on the smaller one. Pointed flap; broad brown gum round flap; white wove paper, linen lined; inscribed under the flap, "John Sands, Printer and Stationer, Sydney, in red." Sizes, 154×95, and 226×101mm.

In 1892 the registration fee was reduced from 6d. to 4d., and on the 9th September, 1892, Mr. Campbell entered up an invoice of—

1000 Reg., Env., small. 4d. $83 1 4.

The Commission of Enquiry noted against this: "No invoices found." In this issue the Arms are embossed in vermilion on the flap, as in the preceding type. "Tonga Registration" is in an arch above, but the value is given in words, "Fourpence," in an arch below the arms. These inscriptions are type-printed in vermilion. The inscriptions on the address side are the same as on the small sixpenny of the previous issue. Pointed flap; brown gum all round; thick white wove paper, linen lined. "John Sands, Printer *and* Stationer, Sydney," in red beneath the flap. Size, 155×95mm.

Mr. Campbell's next entry, as shown in the *Interim Report* was :—

1893. Jan. 1000 Reg. Env., small. 4d. $83 1 4.

But the Commissioners "raised" him to 2000. This printing is almost identical with the preceding, except that it has the date "1.1.93." in red,

above the maker's imprint, which reads, "John Sands, Printer & Stationer, Sydney." The inscription on the address side has been re-set, and the T of "it" falls immediately under the T of "Post." In the previous printing it fell between the words "Post" and "Office." Size, 155×95mm.

The last entry relating to envelopes in the *Interim Report* was :—

Column A.

1893. April. 720 Reg. Env., small 4d. $60 0 0.
1,938 „ „ large 4d. 161 2 0.

Column B.

Invoice, 17th April, 1893, noted as received 30th May, 1893. Numbers given are 1,000 small and large, numbers unspecified.

I have this envelope in two sizes, of thick, silky Manilla paper, unlined. The smaller size has a similar inscription on the flap to the last described issue, and bears the date under the flap, "1.4.93." The large size has the value in figures, "4d.," at each side of the Arms. It is dated beneath the flap "1 April, '93." Pointed flaps. Sizes, 155×97, and 227×102 mm.

Reference List.

1 Sept., 1891. Large arms; bluish, linen-lined paper.
6d. Red. 154×96 mm.

1 Jan., 1892. Small arms; white, linen-lined paper.
6d. Vermilion. 154×95 mm.
6d. „ 226×101 mm.

9 Sept., 1892. Small arms; white, linen-lined paper; undated.
Fourpence. Vermilion. 155×95 mm.

Jan., 1893. Small arms; white, linen-lined paper; dated 1.1.93.
Fourpence. Vermilion. 155×95 mm.

1 June, 1893. Small arms; Manilla, unlined paper; dated 1.4.93.
Fourpence. Vermilion. 155×97 mm.
4d. „ 227×102 mm.

Barbados Notes.

From the *Monthly Journal.*

A FEW months ago Mr. F. Gregory, Secretary of the Barbabos Philatelic Society, sent us some very interesting notes upon the stamps of that Colony, which we put aside until we had time to study them more fully, and which we think may be made use of here, as some of them should lead to further discussion.

The 2d., *dull slate*, or *slate-blue*, on *blued* paper. A stamp of this colour, to which the value 2d. was assigned by tradition, was reported in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* for November, 1865, when the only specimen known was stated to have passed into the hands of a German collector, for the long price of £3 in addition to some German stamps. Nothing more seems to have been heard of this variety until January, 1867, when a note from the former owner of the stamp appeared in the same magazine, stating that "the information which I forwarded" (as to the value having been 2d.) "has been substantiated by a gentleman employed at the Secretary's office,

who kindly referred to the order-book, and told me the colour, value, and time when they were ordered. . . . The postmaster (Mr. Tinling) told me that he recollects perfectly well when the twopenny stamps were used." The writer had also obtained another copy by that time, which he afterwards described in a letter published in July, 1870, as composed of two half stamps, which had been used separately on letters together with 4d. stamps to make up a 5d. rate. Some discussion took place in 1870 and 1871, in which the existence of this stamp, except as a discoloured *blue*, was questioned, and not a single specimen, either entire or halved, seems to have been shown to English collectors, neither did the Barbados correspondent of the *S. C. M.* ever quote the particulars of "the colour, value, and time when they were ordered," which were supposed to exist in the official records. From that time the general opinion seems to have been that, if the grey stamps really existed, they were copies from a proof or trial sheet that had been sent out to Barbados as a colour specimen.

In the Handbook of *The Stamps of Barbados*, by E. D. Bacon and F. H. Napier, these supposed 2d. stamps are alluded to in a note as being in all probability "*blue* stamps sulphuretted," and it is added that "it is a somewhat curious coincidence—but we think it is nothing more—that the great find of unused early colonial stamps that took place some seven years ago did, as a matter of fact, include a number of imperforate Barbados stamps on blued paper, printed in a colour that can certainly be best described as *slate-blue*. There can, however, be no doubt that no stamps in this colour were ever forwarded to the colony."

But Mr. Gregory writes us as follows :—

"With reference to the 2d. value, dull slate, I have made many inquiries and examined many collections. The oldest collector here assures me that Mr. Tinling told him that such stamps were issued, but I have not be able to find a single specimen used or unused.

"*But* all the *bisected* stamps that I can find here, used in 1854, are of exactly the same shade, a decided *grey* with a bluish tinge, and none of them show any signs of having become sulphuretted. All were undoubtedly used for *one penny*, and as I can find no whole stamps in this colour, nor any sulphuretted ones anything like it, I have ventured to put forth the theory that the postmaster, discovering some sheets of *slate-grey* stamps amongst the other colours, placed them aside, *intending* to use them as twopenny stamps, and then when the supply of the penny value ran short he used them up cut in half as penny stamps. All the sulphuretted specimens of the penny *blue* I have seen have turned a *blue-black*, not a *grey-blue*. I have not come across a bisected *blue* on *blued* paper.

"In October, 1857, the ½d. green, ran out, and the 1d. blue on *white* paper, imperf., were cut into halves vertically, to be used as halfpenny stamps. Some of these strips must have been left on hand when the next supply of *green* stamps arrived, as I have seen a *dark blue* vertical pair of halves used as 1d. I have also seen a *pale blue* specimen, divided diagonally, used as ½d."

On receipt of this we sent Mr. Gregory specimens of the *grey-blue* stamps which were found in England, and in a later letter he says: "I have compared the *grey* shade sent with the used halves we have here, and the shade is practically identical. No one here has seen a copy used entire, so there can be little doubt that the postmaster cut up the entire stock of the *grey* shade when the *blues* ran short, thus getting rid of a colour he had no other use for. From the scarcity of the cut specimens I should say very few sheets came here in that colour, and those probably by mistake among the *blue*." This, we suspect, is the correct theory. The specimen first heard of in 1865 was probably an odd copy that had escaped the scissors; it was said

to have been given to its owner by a post-office clerk. Mr. Tinling no doubt was speaking some years after the event, when he said that he "perfectly well" recollected the 2d. stamps; he recollected the *grey* stamps and also the fact that they were reckoned as 2d. when put in use, and it is just possible that some were used entire for that value. We know now that some sheets were printed in *grey*, possibly through some mistake in mixing the ink; the statistics obtained by Mr. Bacon show that no supply of *grey* was sent out, but it is not impossible that a few sheets may have got mixed with the *blue*. Mr. Gregory is certain that the *grey* halves were used as 1d. stamps, therefore they were certainly not halves of the ordinary *blue* stamps. It is not unlikely that, if the *blue* (1d.) stamps ran short, the postmaster might decide to reckon the small quantity of *grey* ones as 2d., so as to make them last the longer.

Mr. Gregory gives us the following list of bisected Barbados stamps which he has seen on original covers:—

Vertical half of *grey* (2d. ?) on *blued*, imperf., used as 1d.
,, *dark blue* (1d.) on *white* ,, ,, ½d.
Vertical pair of the last halves used as 1d.
Diagonal half of *pale blue* (1d.) on *white*, imperf., used as ½d.
,, *blue* (1d.) pin-perf. 14, used as ½d.
,, ,, rough perf. ,, ½d.
Vertical half of ,, ,, ,, ½d.
Horizontal lower half of 1d., dark blue, 1874, used as ½d.
Diagonal half of 1d., grey-blue, 1876, used as ½d.
,, 1d., rose, 1882 ,, ½d.
,, 1d., ,, 1892 ,, ½d.

The last item, he thinks, has the appearance of being "made to order," but the others he considers undoubtedly genuine.

Of the One Shilling, *blue*, Mr. Gregory states that he has seen a single copy in an old collection; the top and bottom of it have turned almost *black*, but the centre is *bright blue*. The postmaster states that there is no record of a 1/- *blue*, in the books of the Post Office, which shows that these stamps were never issued to that office; he adds that they were all destroyed, by order of the Governor, shortly after their receipt.

For the 1d. on half of 5/-, Mr. Gregory has discovered that 100 sheets of the higher value were used, 4800 5/- stamps, producing 9600 of the provisional 1d.; this leaves only 5200 of the 5/- unsurcharged. He has seen an unsevered pair showing Types I. and II. of the surcharge together, also a single specimen without stop after the letter "D," and identical in other respects with the variety shown in Type 26 in the Handbook.

Of the "Jubilee" issue, Mr. Gregory sent us the values up to 2½d. on distinctly *blued* paper, the colour of which seems to be due to the damp climate. He says that the *blue* tint becomes deeper after the stamps have been wetted, and that it was not noticed until they had been nearly a year in use.

Death of Dr. Westoby.

IT is with profound regret that we announce the death of Mr. W. A. S. Westoby, which took place on October 14th, 1899. Born in 1815, he was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his M.A. degree in 1839; and was called to the bar by the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn in the following year.

His philatelic career commenced in 1861-2, when he was in Paris. He was always one of the most fastidious of collectors in the standard which he set up for his own collection. But it is as the most learned and cultured of all our philatelic writers that he will be remembered in the philatelic ranks. In the early days he was a contributor to the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* under the *nom de plume* of "A Parisian Collector." To the *Philatelist* he subsequently contributed valuable papers on the "The Stamps of Turkey, "The Envelopes of Germany," "The Stamps of Mexico," &c. But his most valuable contributions to a philatelic periodical will be found in our own journal, for he edited the *Philatelic Record* from November, 1885 (with an interruption of eighteen months) till the end of 1895. The outgoing editor, Mr. Maitland Burnett, who had edited the *Record* for nearly seven years, introduced Dr. Westoby as "one of the earliest of our scientific collectors, and one of the tersest and most distinguished writers upon philatelic subjects." From 1885 till 1895 Dr. Westoby made the *Philatelic Record* a veritable mine of philatelic learning. He gathered around him as contributors the best philatelists of his day.

He commenced as an adherent of the French school, then the pioneer of advanced collecting, which in its day was sneered at for differentiating between imperforate and perforated stamps, but the pace of the modern specialist outstripped his sympathies, and left him with the feeling that he belonged to another generation. "Varieties that depend on the perforation, the paper, the original plate, the colour of the impression, the gum that was made use of," he accepted as marking something in the history of a stamp, but "mere accidental varieties in a single stamp," he failed to see with "the eyes of the present caterers for specialists."

In conjunction with his old friend, Mr. Philbrick, Q.C., he published a valuable work on "The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain," and at the time of his death he was engaged in the production of a still more important and almost completed work on "The Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe." Both works had their genesis in articles which he contributed to the *Philatelic Record* during his editorship.

New Issues.

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 subscribers 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.*

British Empire.

British Honduras.—The 5c. postage stamp is said to have been surcharged "Revenue" in small caps and used postally. The *Monthly Journal* is informed that the 25c. and 50c. values have been similarly surcharged.

Canada.—There are two types of the recent surcharge of "two cents" on 3 cents. In one type the letters are larger and bolder, the difference being most marked in the case of the letter N. Each type is to be found on both the maple leaf and the figure issues.

We have received the 2c. printed in the Postal Union colour red. It was issued on Aug. 20th.

Adhesive.
2 cents red.

Great Britain.—It is stated that the ½d. will be changed to green and the 1d. to red on the 1st January next, in accordance with the adopted Postal Union colours. The first it is reported will be bi-coloured.

Hong Kong.—According to *Le Timbres Poste*, the 1 dol. on 96c. is now minus the surcharge in Chinese characters.

Adhesive.
1 dol. on 90c. black, *without Chinese characters.*

India (*Duttia*). — According to the *Philatelic Journal of India* this state has started a new issue. The type is described as "Egyptian" otherwise like the previous issue.

The stamps are in strips of eight, and the strip is rouletted all round in black with a rule at the time of printing, in such a way that the stamps are not rouletted vertically, except at the two ends of the strip. Paper, wove.

Adhesives.
½a. black on blue-green.
1a. ,, white.
2a. ,, yellow.
4a. ,, red.

Patiala.—The three pies Indian value has been surcharged "Patiala State." in two lines in black.

Adhesives.
3 pies carmine, black.

Labuan.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* has received the cheering information that, in order to supply the urgent necessities of the corresponding public of Labuan, it became necessary to surcharge nine different stamps with the value of 4 cents, to provide for the introduction of penny postage into that colony.

It is also stated that only one thousand sets of these surcharges were made.

Adhesive stamps.
4c. on 5c. green and black.
4c. on 6c. red and black.
4c. on 8c. rose and black.
4c. on 12c. orange and black.
4c. on 18c. brown and black.
4c. on 24c. lilac and blue.
4c. on 25c. green.
4c. on 50c. red-brown.
4c. on $1 blue.

Malta.—The *London Philatelist* says the current ½d., 1d., 4d. and 1/- postals have been surcharged "Revenue" in black.

New Zealand. — We are officially informed, under date, 4th Sept., 1899, "New Zealand Postage Stamps of both the previous (Queen's head), and new issues are on sale," that "the 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. and 1s., denominations of the previous issue have been reverted to till the new stamps of those issues are printed in the colony, which will not be until special paper already ordered from England is received," and that "the new 1d. is almost used up."

Mr. L. K. Sanderson writes to the *Australian Philatelist* as follows:—

The Colonial prints of the 2½d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 2/- and 5/- values of the recent issue printed in London, were issued in Wellington on June 8th. They have been printed at the Government Printing Office in Wellington, on unwatermarked paper, and perforated 11. The perforations are rough, done with a treadle machine. The stock of unwatermarked paper is now exhausted, and the printers are waiting for a fresh supply of paper, which, it is understood, will be watermarked. The altered plates of the ½d., 1d., 2d. and 4d. values have arrived in Wellington. The designs of these have been

enlarged, the ½d. is to appear in green, the 1d. and 4d. values are to be transposed, the 4d. being the design and colour of the present 1d. value, and the 1d. value is to be that of the present 4d. A few of the present 4d. and 9d. values have been printed locally on unwatermarked paper, but have not yet been issued.

The *A. P.* remarks that, in addition to the perforation—11—which is not found on the English printings, the paper is of a different quality. The English paper is rather thin, surfaced, and a marginal piece held to the light will show very fine diagonal crossed lines. The local prints are on paper of the ordinary plain wove quality, unsurfaced, and thicker than the English. The shades of the stamps also differ from Waterlow's printings.

Adhesives.

Printed in New Zealand.

2½d. pale blue, no wmk., perf. 11.
5d. brown " "
6d. yellow-green " "
8d. deep blue " "
2/- blue-green " "
5/- vermilion " "

The *Otago Daily Times* says the Postal Department, have notified that in order to meet the requirements of the Postal Union it has been decided to alter the colours of the ½d., 1d., and 2½d. The 2½d. however, is already in the Postal Union colour and will not need to be changed.

Queensland.—Mr. Hadlow has sent us the new 1s. in the type of the 5d. with figures in all four corners. Wmk. Cr. & Q. Perf. 13.

Adhesive.

1/- mauve.

Mr. F. Hagen sends the *Australian Philatelist*, the 2d. blue of the unaltered type—(head on shaded ground) printed on the "secret watermark" paper. The *A. P.* says,—"It is stated that a supply was printed before the plate was re-engraved, but the stamps were only recently issued. This is somewhat remarkable in view of the fact that the ½d. and 1d. on the 'secret watermark' were of the second type (head on white ground)."

Adhesive.

2d. blue (old type) "Secret" watermark.

Sarawak.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles two provisionals issued on July 1st, viz., by surcharging the 12c. and 8c. of 1871 with a numeral and the word "Cents," in black or red.

Adhesives.

2c. in black on 12c. red on lilac-rose.
4c. in red on 8c. blue on blue.

Straits Settlements.—The *Philatelic Journal* of India says the 4c. rose, CA, will no longer be rare, for it has been re-issued for "penny postage" purposes.

Tasmania.—The *Australian Philatelist* is officially informed that the projected new pictorial issue will probably be ready towards the end of the current year.

Victoria.—The low values have been changed into the postal Union colours.

Adhesives.

½d. green.
1d. rose red.
1½d. red on yellow.
2½d. blue.

Foreign Countries.

Chili.—We have received a new value, 30 centavos, in same design as the current series.

Adhesive.

30c. carmine.

Cuba.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* an error has crept into the Cuban special delivery stamp. Instead of "immediata" it should have been "inmediata" according to correct Spanish.

Germany.—According to the *Australian Philatelist* we may expect from the German Empire a series of oversea postage stamps of the U.S. Columbus pattern. They are to be issued on the 1st January, 1901, and are to be five in number, viz.: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 marks.

Special attention will be paid to the artistic designs, which will be symbolical and descriptive of German union and of the history of the Imperial house of Hohenzollern. The Emperor is himself superintending the designing of the stamps, which has been entrusted to German artists of the highest standing. One of the stamps for instance, that for the 2 mark, has been designed by Prof. Werner, Director of the Berlin Art Academy; it is divided into three sections with pictures symbolic of German union. The centre picture shows two warriors, a Prussian and a Bavarian, shaking hands, blessed by the figure of Germania which floats in the background; in the side divisions are pictures of the Alps and of the Isle of Rügen. Other stamps will depict scenes of German history, the opening of the first Reichstag under Emperor William II., the Emperor William I. National

Monument, &c. The stamps have all been designed by German artists, the report that some of them had been designed in England having been officially contradicted. They will be printed in the Imperial Printing Office in Berlin by an improved lithographic process.

Samoa.—The *Metropolitan* chronicles the current set of stamps surcharged 'Samoach' in black for use here.

Adhesives.

3pf. black and brown.
5pf. ,, green.
10pf. ,, carmine.
20pf. ,, blue.
25pf. ,, orange.
50pf. ,, red-brown.

Caroline Islands.—It is stated in the *Philatelic Monthly and World* that the Germans will surcharge their current stamps for use in their newly acquired dependency. "Karolinen—Inseln" in two lines, will be the style.

Portugal.— *Lourenço Marques*.— The *Illustrites Briefmarken Journal* has received another provisional from this country which has been so prolific of late in that line. Surcharge in black.

Adhesive stamp.

50r. on 75r. rose.

Russia (*China*). — The *Philatelic Journal of India* has received the following Russian stamps surcharged for use in Port Arthur.

Adhesives.

1 kopek orange *blue* surcharge.
2 kopeks green *red* ,,
3 ,, carmine *blue* ,,
5 ,, mauve ,, ,,
7 ,, dark-blue *red* ,,
10 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Samoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the ½d. and 1d. in new Postal Union colours.

Adhesives.

½d. deep green.
1d. brown-red.

Siam.—The publishers of the *Monthly Journal* have received what appear to be new editions of the interminable provisionals of this country. Major Evans writes:—

We have before us sheets of "1 Att" on 12 atts, "2 Atts" on 64 atts, and "3 Atts" on 12 atts, all with the usual overprint, in English and in Siamese, in *black*. The 1 Att and 2 Atts appear to be printed from the same setting, in which the right-hand half of the sheet has a narrower capital "A" than the left-hand half. We have found no varieties in the figures "1," but the ninth stamp in the top row of that value has the last letter of "Att" upside down, and the seventh stamp in the third row has the figure "1" in that position. The figures "2" are all with straight foot, but those on the right-hand half of the sheet are narrower than those on the other half (to correspond with the letters "A"), and the seventh stamp in the top row is surcharged "1 Atts" in error. On both sheets the periods after the words are frequently invisible, and the same is the case with the cross-bars of the letters "A." The 3 Atts on 12 atts appears to be No. 51 in the Catalogue; the surcharge is in clearer type than that of the other two, and the only variety we can find is a narrower "A" on the fifth stamp in the top row.

We do not think it has been noted that the stamps are in panes of 120, ten horizontal rows of twelve, with the watermark "POSTAGE — SIAM — REVENUE" in outline capitals in the bottom and side margins. Presumably these are half-sheets, and there are others which show the watermark in the top margin instead of the bottom.

Adhesives.

1 att on 12 atts purple and carmine.
1 ,, 12 ,, ,, ,, (error).
1 ,, 12 ,, ,, ,, (,,)
2 atts on 64 ,, purple and brown.
1 ,, 64 ,, ,, ,, (error).

Turkey. — The *Philatelic Monthly* (U.S.) states that the postal authorities of Turkey recently opened a competition for a new design for their postage stamps.

Among the numerous proposals submitted the one designed by Nazim Effendi, a civil functionary of the Seraskierate was unanimously selected and being submitted to the Sultan, was equally approved by him. The young successful official was given a furlough from his official duties in the Ministry in order to prepare the designs for the new plates and to superintend the obtaining of essays and proofs. The nature of the design has not as yet been given out.

Philately in the Mags.

The "Post Office" Mauritius.

M. MOENS in his journal *Le Timbres Poste* recently gave a most interesting history of the ownership of all the known copies of the 1d. and 2d. "Post Office" Mauritius, 19 in all, with the prices at which they have changed hands.

The following synopsis of the article is taken from the *Australian Philatelist*:—

Date.	Owner.	Price. £	s.	d.
	I and II. 1d. *and* 2d. *used*			
1847.	*Borchard		—	
1864(?)	*Coutures	0	8	0
1865.	Gimet		?	
1865.	Moens	8	0	0
1866.	*Philbrick	20	0	0
1881.	**La Rédotière* ..	40	0	0
	III and X. 1d. *and* 2d. *unused.*			
1847.	*Borchard		—	
1866-70	Desbois		?	
,,	*Lalanne	8	0	0
1893.	*Piet Lataudrie ..	480	0	0
1893.	Stanley Gibbons ..	680	0	0
1893.	**Avery*	700	0	0
	IV. 1d. *used.*			
1868.	*Noirel		—	
1876.	Lionnet		?	
—	Moens	4	0	0
—	**Rothschild* ..	20	0	0
	V. 2d. *used.*			
1847.	*Caunter		—	
1869.	*Rac		—	
1889.	Roussin	40	0	0
—	*Perrissim	160	0	0
1890.	Ansbruc	140	0	0
—	*Miraband* ..	150	0	0
	VI. and VII. 1d. *and* 2d. *used.*			
1847.	*Borchard		—	
1869.	Desbois		—	
—	Moens	8	0	0
	*Legrand			
1897.	Lemaire	1200	0	0
—	*Bernichon*	1860	0	0
	VIII. and IX. 1d. *and* 2d. *unused.*			
1847.	*Borchard		—	
1870.	Desbois		—	
—	Moens	12	0	0
—	*Périnelle	38	0	0
1881.	Moens	120	0	0
	**La Rénotière* ..	220	0	0
	X. See III.			
	XI. and XII. 1d. *and* 2d. *used.*			
1887.	*Borchard		—	
1870.	Desbois		—	
—	*Lalanue	? 8	0	0
1893.	*Piet Lataudrie ..	480	0	0
1896.	**Mors*	1680	0	0
	XIII. 2d. *used.*			
1847.	*Borchard		—	
—	*Martineau ..		—	
1872.	Desbois ..		—	
—	Moens	4	0	0
—	**Rothschild* ..	24	0	0
	XIV. 2d. *unused.*			
1847.	*Borchard ..		—	
1875.	Desbois		—	
—	Moens	12	0	0
—	*La Rénotière ..	24	0	0
1890.	*Tapling	? 40	0	0
1891.	**British Museum* ..		—	
	XV. 1d, *used.*			
1847.	*Marquay		—	
1878.	*Evans	30	0	0
1881.	*Topling	75	0	0
	*British Museum ..		—	
	XVI. 1d. *used.*			
1847.	*Borchard		—	
1864.	*Schiller		—	
1897.	*Pouget	4	0	0
	**Kirchner*	400	0	0
	XVII. 1d. *used.*			
1847.	*Duvivier		—	
1898.	Peckitt	600	0	0
1898.	**English Collector* ..	1000	0	0
	XVIII. and XIX. 1d. × 1d. *used.*			
1897.	Howard	50	0	0
1898.	Peckitt	1375	0	0
1899.	**English Collector* ..	1800	0	0

The English collector who purchased the three last discovered 1d. stamps for £2,800 does not wish his name to be made public.

Holland: New Issue, Sheets.

IT is always interesting to know the make-up of the sheets of the various issues of stamps. We are indebted to

*Amateur. Names without asterisk are those of dealers. Names in italics are those of the present owners of the stamps.

the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* for the following particulars concerning the sheets of the new issue of Holland:

The stamps of the new issue of Holland are printed as follows: The values from ½ cent to 20 cent inclusive in sheets of 200, those from 22½ cent to 50 cent inclusive of sheets of 100, and the 2½ and 5 gulden in sheets of 50 stamps.

No stamps issued before 1898 will be available for postage after January 1st, 1900.

Cook Islands Postal Revenue.

We quote from the *Australian Phllatelist*, the following details of the postal revenue of the Cook's Islands Federation from 1892 to 1898:—

		£	s.	d.
1892-3	..	245	5	9
1893-4	..	278	2	3
1874-5	..	228	0	1
1895-6	..	120	8	5
1896-7	..	120	5	3
1897-8	..	179	16	2

Our Australian contemporary commenting on these figures, draws attention to the fact that during this period of six years, three different series of stamps were issued, comprising 13 varieties, not counting the two papers of the first issue.

After allowing for the value of the stamps legitimately used for postal purposes –and there can be no doubt that more than one half of those issued in Cook Islands were so used — the long suffering philatelist appears to have been "bled" to the extent of possibly £500 for 13 new kinds of stamps, or less than £40 worth of each. When the bill for engraving and printing was paid, very little would be left over to be reckoned as "philatelic profit."

Humph!

Western Australia: Inverted Centre.

The following letter from Dr. Westoby in defence of the 4d. blue error of Western Australia, 1885, appears in *Stamps*. We cannot understand what induced Mr. Francis to cast doubt on the genuineness of the "error" seeing that it has long been accepted as a genuine production and has been included in specialist collections at the London Philatelic Society's rooms, and in the 1897 Exhibition:

Dear Sir,—At the end of the portion of an article on the Western Australian stamps which appeared in your number for July, there is the following remark: "This stamp (the 4d. of 1855) is supposed to have been printed with centre inverted, but its genuineness is problematical." Up to the present time I have never heard of the genuineness of this error having been called in question. Not only is it acknowledged in the work of the Philatelic Society, London, on the stamps of Oceania, but by every authority of any importance in France and Germany. I myself purchased a used copy of the error in Paris, in 1896, and there was not a shadow of doubt as to its genuineness. It is easily accounted for; the centre of the stamp was made by a lithographic transfer from the 1d., printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., and the frame was a piece of native work from which transfers were taken. So there were two operations and the lithographer accidentally inverted the frame in one. This transfer of the frame part also gives rise to the variations found in the letters of the inscriptions.

The colouring of the paper of the 2d. was mentioned in the *Philatelic Record* for 1888, vol. x., page 126, for which some 20 copies obtained from dealers were examined.

I am, Yours truly,

Sep. 4th, 1899. W. A. S. Westoby.

Philatelic Gossip.

The Philatelic Protection Association.

Our energetic contemporary, *Stamps*, has been wanting to know why the P.P.A. with large funds in hand did not assist in putting an end to frauds on collectors. To this Mr. Giwelb, a member of the Committee of the Association, replies:

The P.P.A. does not move because, happily, there is no need for it, but you may rest assured that the Association is *not* dead, nor asleep, and should an occasion arise, it will be found the P.P.A. is wide awake and well alive to duty.

At the last meeting of the Members of the P.P.A. *who subscribed the funds*, it was decided to leave the cash balance at the Bank undisturbed and not to levy any further subscriptions from Members until such a time when funds may be required.

Although individually we all are ready and willing to assist in stopping swindles and frauds of all kinds, the P.P.A. as such, cannot undertake to run down individuals, etc., but must leave it to those who please to send out their stamps, to make inquiries respecting the parties to whom they send them.

Our contemporary is not satisfied and apparently thinks the appointment of "an energetic secretary" would make all the difference. When C.J.P. was Secretary, the Association was very much alive, but at present it scarcely seems to have any vitality left.

Scott's Catalogue.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., promises the new edition of their catalogue for October. On the question of prices they say:—

While in our judgment, as we have already expressed it in these columns, the reductions made in the English Colonials by the leading dealer in England have, in many cases, been far too drastic, we feel compelled to accept English authority upon the value of English and British Colonial stamps, as the market for these stamps is dominated by English dealers and collectors, and not on this side of the water. In many cases we shall feel that the quotations are not a fair reflection of the comparative value of the stamps but prefer, on the whole, to accept the foreign notations and leave it for future editions to correct such errors as may have crept in. The prices of many of the commoner kinds of foreign stamps will be reduced to correspond more closely to the rates at which these stamp can be purchased at wholesale, and the same will apply to the common and medium varieties of the stamps of the United States, many of which were unduly boomed by speculators and collectors a few years ago. However, as to the unused stamps of the United States, we shall not allow ourselves to be led astray by the low prices obtained at auction for the straggling specimens which have appeared from time to time, the majority of which were not in extra fine condition and the prices realised for which can form no true basis for an estimate of value. A search among dealers stocks for fine specimens of the United States would soon prove to anyone how scarce these stamps really are, and we feel certain that it will take but a few months to prove to the collecting fraternity that our ideas on this subject are correct and that those who think that these stamps have been wildly overpriced are in error. We, of course, must take into consideration the fact that the present season has been marked by the largest addition to the stamp collecting fraternity that any season has ever shown, and the effect of this is bound to be apparent in an increased demand for stamps during the approaching season. As soon as this demand materializes it will be seen that the supplies of many desirable stamps cannot keep pace with the demand for them, and that a closer approach to catalogue quotations will have to be maintained by dealers than has been the practice during the past two or three years.

Securing U.S. Postage Due Stamps.

In the ordinary course "Postage Due" stamps are affixed to letters by the postal officials to show amount due for insufficient postage. Consequently copies of those stamps are mostly difficult to obtain, but of all the attempts to secure a supply. Mr. *Z.* P. Oppenheimer's story in the *New York Philatelist* of how he collected a supply is the most amusing we have read:—

I conceived the idea, and to the best of my knowledge I was the only one to carry the same into successful operation, to mail to myself large packages of brick, on which the due postage amounted as high as $1000 at a time. But lo! for the poor postmen; how they melted in the heat of the August and September sun. Soon a notice of the Post Office reached me to call at office so-and-so and get my packages, which were held for short postage. And again, in a very short

time a Post Office Inspector from the General Post Office called on me and explained that they had thoroughly investigated my previous record and found out nothing more damaging against me than to be a 'freak' or a 'stamp fiend.' 'But,' he added, 'it does not follow that the Post Office Department of the U.S. should pay homage to the entirely foolish notions of your fraternity, although we appreciate your efforts,' he continued, 'to fill the coffers of the Government to the extent of perhaps $50 to $75 per day for some worthless printed paper. Still,' this U.S. diplomatist urged, 'we don't propose to carry your bricks up town and down town, but after consultation with the General Postmaster, and with his advice and consent, we make you the following proposition: On each and every week-day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and as long as our supply and your foolishness lasts and your money holds out, you can come to window so-and-so (I cannot give the real number), with your bricks duly wrapped up and addressed to yourself, and the employee in charge of this window will hand it out to you again in less than no time with the required due stamps on them; and you, mind you,' he said, 'you will pay the cool cash.' Well, I acquiesced quickly to the treaty, only holding out for lightly cancelled specimens and for such denominations as I chose (30 or 50c.) The bargain was closed, and next morning I began to hand in my 'bricks' at the certain window with such regularity and swiftness that I fairly alarmed my good friend, and he soon begged for an armistic to rest his weary arms. Still, I succeeded on the very first day to count 170 due stamps in a very fine condition, and I continued my work for days and weeks at the General Post Office of this our big city of New York. I also installed sub-agents at the various branch offices.

Well, to return to our mutton, or rather 'Dues' I managed to get them by the 100, nay, by the 1000!

And what did I do with them?

Well, for fear of being regarded as a modern Croesus I will frankly state that this was the first and the only time I made any money in the stamp business; neither before nor afterwards was my mania rewarded with anything like profit, but as long as the craze for the Dues lasted I reaped the harvest.

I counted among my cash customers nearly all the wholesale dealers in New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and San Francisco, all of whom took from me for ready cash and with a liberal premium whatever quantities I could furnish.

W. T. Wilson's Galore.

Officially, we have, of course, no knowledge of the existence of more than one "W. T. Wilson," but, somehow, others laying claim to the same initials and surname arise to confuse our philatelic vision. Sometime since one cropped up in the north as a dealer and now we have another present at a meeting of philatelists gathered together in Kimberley, for the purpose of forming a local philatelic Society. Really there must be a truce to this multiplication of minor varieties.

Australian Federation.

The Australian Philatelist assures us that very considerable progress has been made towards the federation of the Australian colonies, Victoria and Tasmania, have accepted the amended Commonwealth Bill by immense majorities; the address to the Queen has been passed by the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, and it has been handed to the Governors of those respective colonies for transmission to the Queen. Queensland and Western Australian are expected to join in the near future, and even in New Zealand there is a strong feeling in favour of joining in the Federation.

"The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain."

The following announcement in the October issue of *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* explains a change of proprietorship:

PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

I have to announce that after December next the Journal will be taken over by Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton, of 202, High Holborn, London, to whom I have sold all rights. I have been obliged to take this step owing to increasing business which prevents my giving the time necessary for the proper conduct of the Journal. I hope that all friends and subscribers who have so long and generously supported me will extend their kind patronage to Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton in whose hands I feel sure I can safely leave the destinies of the old "P.J.G.B."

The title of the "P.J.G.B. Advertiser" will be changed to "Brown's Advertiser."

W. BROWN.

The P. J. of G. B. was started in Feb., 1891. Fiscal stamps were to receive special attention, and for a time they were much in evidence, but they have long since been dropped. The journal has almost from the first been the official organ of the International Philatelic Union. At the start it was edited by Mr. Percy Bishop, then by Mrs. Scott Stokes and latterly by Mr. G. B. Duerst of Manchester.

Societies in Session.

Herts.

Hon. Sec. :—H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

THE Herts Philatelic Society aims at becoming "the biggest and most popular Society in the United Kingdom." It proposes to cater no longer for Herts collectors only, but "for medium collectors and tyros who can neither afford the expense nor understand the technicalities of the premier society."

PROGRAMME.

First Tuesday in October, 1899—Annual Meeting. Election of Officers, Accounts presented, etc., etc.
Second Tuesday in October, 1899—Display, U.S., British N. America, etc. W. B. Avery.
First Tuesday in November—Display, Mexico (first part). R. Frentzel.
First Tuesday in December—Paper and Display, Transvaal. "Stamps of the British Occupation." E. J. Nankivell.
First Tuesday in January, 1900—Display, Brazil or Dominican Republic. R. Ehrenbach.
First Tuesday in February—Paper and Display, Chili. R. Meyer. Paper, "The Line Engraved Issues of Japan." O. Firth.
First Tuesday in March—Display, U.S. of Colombia. H. R. Oldfield.
First Tuesday in April—Paper and Display, Argentine Republic. T. W. Hall.
First Tuesday in May—Annual Dinner. Display, German States. M. P. Castle.

Victoria.

Hon. Sec. :—D. S. Abraham, 243, Collin's Street, Melbourne.

THE Victoria Society is another Society which is not ashamed to publish its Balance Sheet. A balance of £27 17s. 2d. to its credit, the Committee thinks very satisfactory. The exhibition of collections at the meetings was continued during the year with success, and was instrumental in improving the attendance. The Committee inaugurated a system of competitive exhibitions, which have proved of great interest.

At a recent meeting we note that the Deputy Postmaster-General kindly exhibited through the President the new issues of about a dozen countries. The management of other Societies in Colonial capitals should take the hint and make friends with the Postmaster's General and get them to exhibit the new issues, which, under the regulations of the Postal Union, they receive from each country.

Birmingham.

Hon. Sec.—G. Johnson, B.A. 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

THE Birmingham Society may be said to be the great Exchange Packet Society.

The smallest amount circulated was in Aug. 1898 ... £1662 7s. 2½d.

The largest amount circulated was in Feb. 1898 ... £5047 15s. 5d.

Total circulated, Oct. 1st, 1897, to Sept. 30th, 1898, £37,424 10s. 11d.

The following table shows its abnormal growth in membership.

MEMBERS.

Oct. 1st. '92,	to	Oct. 1st, '93,	there	were	26.
,, '93,	,,	'94,	,,		45.
,, '94,	,,	'95,	,,		77.
,, '95,	,,	'96,	,,		156.
,, '96,	,,	'97,	,,		227.
,, '97,	,,	'98,	,,		241.

The secret of its success of course is that it yields its members; country as well as town, a substantial return of priviliges for their subscriptions It is not afraid to publish its balance sheet, for it shows a balance in hand of £62.

PROGRAMME.

Oct. 5th, 1899.	Annual Meeting.
Nov. 2nd ,,	Display, South Australia.
Dec. 7th ,,	Paper, Mexico, with exhibit of collection. Mr. W. T. Wilson.
Jan. 4th, 1900.	Display, with Notes, British North America. Mr. W. Pimm.
Feb. 1st ,,	Paper, Egypt. Mr. G. Johnson.
Mar. 1st ,,	Display, West Indies.
April 5th ,,	Paper. Mr. R. Hollick.
May 3rd ,,	Display, African Colonies.

Echoes from the Mart.

Anticipations.

Dealers are full of hope of a good winter season. Last year the sale of albums here and in the United States was very large—in fact, unprecedented. Consequently the expectation is that the process of filling all the albums bought must swell the volume of trade this winter. West Indians, after being under a considerable cloud as the result of a reaction after a boom, are said to be creeping into favour again, but just now the stamps of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, in anticipation of coming events are selling rapidly. Some dealers have been entirely cleared out of the current issues of the Transvaal.

Harry Hilckes & Co., Ltd.

A Winding up order has been made in the case of Harry Hilckes & Co., Ltd. The Official Receiver will act as Liquidator and a committee of inspection has been appointed to investigate the company's affairs.

A New Firm.

Mr. W. B. Kirkpatrick, of Bournemouth, and P. Loines Pemberton, son of the never to be forgotten, E. L. Pemberton, of Pemberton & Wilson fame, have entered into partnership and opened a place of business as stamp dealers, at 202, High Holborn, London. The new firm have taken over the publication of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, the long winded title of which it is to be hoped they will mercifully abbreviate.

£1,700 For Foreign Stamps.

No less than £1,700 was realised by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale of foreign stamps, which came to an end at the St. Martin's Town Hall last evening.

The stamps which fetched the highest prices were:—1851, 2 reales, red, unused, Spanish, £25 10s.; 2 soldi, unused, Tuscany, £22; 3 lire, yellow, Tuscany, £35 and £43 10s.; Cape of Good Hope, the error 4d., damaged, £34 10s.; British Guiana, first issue 4 cent, orange, £30; and British Guiana, first issue 8 cent, green, £25 7s. 6d.

Big Prices For Stamps.

Stamps fetched large prices in Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's rooms in Leicester Square yesterday. A number of specimens were sold for over £10, while a Vaud 4c. black and red large margin realised £16, and a Straits Settlements first issue 12c. green, a pair, twice surcharged. brought £20.

The gems of the collection, however, were a Cape of Good Hope, woodblock, 1d. blue, with the rare error, which sold for £33, and a pair of Mauritius, post paid, 1d. orange, which fetched £31 10s.

Notices.

Subscriptions.—The Philatelic Record will be sent post free to any subscriber at home or abroad on receipt of 6s. Subscribers' remittances should be sent to the Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C., or 33, Union Square, New York, U.S., or it may be ordered through any Bookseller, News Agent or Railway Bookstall.

All enquiries connected with the Advertisement pages should be addressed to Mr. E. J. Nankivell, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.

All Editorial communications must also be addressed to Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon.

Advertisement Rates.—Per Insertion, net.

Space.	Single.	3 months.	6 months.	12 months.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Whole Page	3 0 0	2 16 6	2 12 6	2 0 0
Half Page	1 15 0	1 10 0	1 7 0	1 2 6
Quarter Page	1 0 0	0 18 0	0 15 0	0 12 6

Small Advertisements—5s. per inch, in double column, prepaid.

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, 1899.

Editorial Notes.

To our Readers.

WITH our next number we shall commence a New Series of THE PHILATELIC RECORD. The size will not be altered; it will be printed from new type throughout, and there will be many other improvements that cannot fail to lend additional value to the new *Record*. There will be a coloured cover and new paper capable of printing the finest process illustrations. We shall indulge in a good humoured cartoon now and again. Excellent first-class articles have been arranged for, and we are in treaty for others, of which more will be heard in good time.

The endeavour of the new editor and the new proprietors will be to provide a first-class philatelic journal, interesting to the Specialist, the Collector, and even the Beginner.

The *Philatelic Record* is now owned and capitalised by Philatelists. It has no dealers' interests—amateur or otherwise—to conserve. Its policy will be directed towards the maintenance of friendly relations all round, believing that much more can be accomplished by the friendly and strong co-operation of those who have most at stake, than by scrabbling in the dustbins of shady reputations.

◒ ◒ ◒

Order of Your Bookseller.

In future the *Philatelic Record* will be published by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Limited, the eminent educational publishers. Hitherto it has been run as a private subscription journal. In future it will be on public sale as a public journal for which we are anxious to secure a widespread and influential circulation. It may be ordered of any bookseller, newsagent or railway bookstall, at home or abroad. There is not a hamlet that our publishing arrangments do not cover, and any difficulty in obtaining it should at once be made known to our publishers direct. Hitherto it has been knocked about and battered and creased in the post. In future it may be obtained in "mint" condition from the bookseller's counter. As the wise bind their *Philatelic*

Records as the best of all Philatelic Reference books the change from the creased and battered copy received through the post to the "mint" copy received from the bookseller will we hope and believe be much appreciated.

As ours will be a *quid pro quo* policy, we do not hesitate to ask every reader to help us to his utmost ability. We aim at a large circulation, and the more we receive the more we shall be enabled to give in return. We shall do our level best to provide for our readers an up-to-date, profitable and interesting, and punctually published journal, and, in return, we ask them to lose no opportunity of doing their level best for us.

Australian Cancellations.

Philatelists will be pleased to learn from a note by "Pelure" in the *Otago Witness* that the Government of New Zealand have just had a trial in Wellington of a new cancelling machine which, while rendering the stamp quite useless for renewed postal use, at the same time leaves them quite presentable, from a collector's point of view. The new machine, which is an American invention, can also get through about the same number of letters as any two men, which is presumably the reason that it is likely to come into general use.

Tasmania is probably the greatest sinner in its utter destruction of a stamp. Its cancellations look as if the letters were sprawled out on a floor and a mob of heavy heeled labourers turned loose to jump on them. The effective obliteration of a stamp is a very necessary operation, but it can scarcely be necessary to so deface the stamp that scarcely a perforation shows under the disfiguring black patch.

New Issues of the Month.

The New Issues which we chronicle this month are very plentiful and may also be said to be very interesting. There are not many of note under the head of "British Empire." Sarawak continues the resuscitation of its old issue of 1871 for the production of provisionals, and New Zealand has made a start with its local printing of the picture series. But in our Foreign Countries Section we chronicle several new series. Argentine has abandoned her excellent portraits and sent out a full series with a symbolical figure of Liberty instead. Bolivia, on the other hand, has sent us a well engraved series with an excellently executed portrait of its first president. The Republic of Columbia, which for postal purposes, is split up into several prolific stamp-issuing departments, supplies for Antioquia a wretchedly lithographed series with a portrait of a military, cadaverous-looking party, and in the Department of Boyaca, the Governor, anxious to have a finger in the Philatelic pie, turned out, *a la Connell*, a portrait of himself on a stamp. This, however, has been promptly suppressed. Of the much-talked-of New German stamps we have some further details. Japan has completed its new series and Persia has reissued its stamps of 1898 with modifications in the paper, designed to frustrate the forgers. Samoa, which will shortly become a German possession and cease from philatelic troubling, is said to have put out a series of Provisionals surcharged "Provisional Govt.," and we have a somewhat slender piece of information from a correspondent of a new series having been issued for Siam.

The Stamps of Persia.

BY

C. FORBES (Librarian and Secretary, Central Philatelic Club).

(*Continued from page* 126).



November, 1882.

Engraved from copper plates.

Perforated. *Value*, 5 centimes.

Colour, green, with dark green border.

Design, printed from plates of a similar design to the 5 centimes of the January issue, with one slight alteration. The Roman figures of value are now printed on a white ground.

There are two type or die varieties of this value; in the *first* type the Persian inscription in the scroll on the right hand begins with three dots.

Type 2: The inscription begins with two dots.

NOTE.—Having been asked on several occasions the meaning of the two dots on this stamp, I would beg to point out to readers of these articles that the Persian inscription is:

nar I hkrabm tsp

p(o)st m(o) bar(e) k(e)h (i) Iran

For Persian characters, see stamp above.

Second: The same translated in Roman letters, this is from right to left but transposed it reads as on third line.

The brackets show where vowels have been added by the writer.

Translated literally it reads:

"Post Persane" or "Persian Post." In type II. the first three dots by the omission of the lower one turns the "p" into a "y" "yst" vowels are never used in Persian, and the word "yest" has no meaning.

This, I think, convincingly proves that the so-called Type II. variety is merely an omission of a dot, caused through faulty engraving of the plate from which these stamps were printed.

I hope I have made my meaning clear with reference to the above inscription, it is rather complicated, but Persian letters are very much so. It is all a matter of where the dots are placed, thus referring to the above, the same character to the right:

A dot on top turns it into "n"; a dot underneath into "b"; two dots on top mean "t"; and two dots underneath mean "y"; three on top turns the same character into "s"; and three underneath a "p."

These are but a few complications of the Persian language.

Perf. 12.

5 centimes green. Type I.
5 ,, ,, ,, II.

Perf. 12½

5 centimes green. Type I.
5 ,, ,, ,, II.

Perf. 13.

5 centimes green. Type I.
5 ,, ,, ,, II.

Perf. 12 × 13.

5 centimes green. Type I.

Perf. 12½ × 13, and 13 × 12½.

5 centimes green. Type I.

Perf. 12½ × 12.

5 centimes green. Type I.

Perf. 11½ × 12.

5 centimes green. Type I.

SEVENTH ISSUE.





January, 1883.

Paper : White paper.

Values and colours :

10 centimes black, buff, orange border.
50 ,, ,, ,, ,,
1 franc blue and black.
5 francs carmine and black.
10 ,, black, buff and carmine.

Printed in Vienna, engraved from copper plates.

Perforated.

Design : Head of Shah, in an oval; figures of value in small circle underneath, with Persian characters in white circles in the two top corners, the rest of the stamp being filled in with beautiful scroll-work.

The size of the 10 and 50 centimes, and the 1 and 5 francs, are about the same ; but the 10 franc is a much larger stamp.

Perf. 12.

10 centimes buff, black and orange.
50 ,, ,, ,, ,,
1 franc blue and black.
5 francs carmine and black.
10 ,, black, buff and carmine.

Perf. 12½.

1 franc blue and black.
5 francs carmine and black.

Perf. 13,

10 centimes buff, black and orange.
50 ,, ,, ,, ,,
1 franc blue and black.
5 francs carmine and black.
10 ,, black, buff and carmine.

Perf. 11½ × 12 and 12 × 12½.

10 centimes buff, black and orange.
5 francs blue and black.

Perf. 12½, × 13, or 13 × 12½.

10 centimes buff, black and orange.
50 ,, ,, ,, ,,
1 franc blue and black.
5 francs carmine and black.
10 ,, black, buff and carmine.

NOTE.—In the 5 centimes green of the previous issues, and in the 10 and 50 centimes buff, black and orange of this issue, the Roman figures of value, 5, 10, and 50, in the white circles at the bottom of the stamp, are

not always in the centre of the circle. If the stamps are examined carefully, it will be seen that a faint outline is shown where the value is to be inserted, and the sheets were put through the press a second time to insert the figures 5, 10, and 50. The object of this was to make the two plates do for printing all the values. The scheme was, however, abandoned, as new plates were engraved for the 1, 5, and 10 franc values, the figures of value being printed on the plates, with a groundwork of black lines across the circles.

Value : 50 centimes grey-black.

Same design, paper, etc., as the 10 and 50 centimes previously described, with the exception that the circles containing the Roman figures of value is now filled in with a groundwork of black lines similar to the 1 and 5 francs. This stamp has been issued in many varieties of perforation, as follows :

50 centimes grey black.
Perf. 11½, 12, 13, 12×13, 11½×12, and 12½×12, or 12×12½.

Note.—The change in the 50 centimes stamp was rendered necessary owing to the difficulty in distinguishing the 10 and 50 centimes stamps, buff, black and orange, from each other.

1883-1884.

Provisional Issues.

The following stamps,

10 centimes carmine.
5 ,, green, Types I. and II.
10 ,, black, buff and orange.

were cut in half vertically and surcharged in Persian characters as follows :

1 sh. in black on each half of 10 centimes pink.
5 ,, in blue ,, 5 ,, green. Die I.
5 ,, ,, ,, 5 ,, ,, Die II.
10 ,, ,, ,, 10 ,, black, buff and orange.
10 ,, ,, ,, 10 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Note.—With reference to these provisions, I would call the attention of my readers to the remarks on the 1877 provisionals (see page 88), which also applies to those just described. They were issued at Teheran by the postmaster for speculative purposes, and were never officially used or sanctioned ; they should, like the 5 shahi of 1877 provisional, be eliminated from all catalogues, as the surcharge is absolutely bogus in every way.

EIGHTH ISSUE.



March, 1885.

Lithographed, designed in Paris and printed in Vienna.

Paper, white wove.

Perforated.

Size, 17 by 22 mm.

Currency.—The French system of currency, francs and centimes, has now been abandoned, and a return made to the Persian monetary system of shahi and krans. The spelling of the word "shahi" is now altered to "chahi," on all stamps of these values up to the present time.

Colours and values :

1 chahi green.
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, bright blue.
5 ,, bluish violet.
5 ,, purple.

Design : A lion resting, surrounded by the sun rays, in the form of an octagonal star, below a small coloured circle, enclosing the Roman figure of value with the letter "C" on one side and "H" on the other. On the left of this the words "Poste Persane," on the right the same written in Persian characters, in the two top corners are Persian characters denoting the value and country of origin, the remainder of the stamp being filled in with intricate scrollwork.

Perf. 11½.

1 chahi green.
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, dull blue.

Perf. 12.

1 chahi green.
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, bluish violet.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, purple.

Perf. 12½.

1 chahi green
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, bluish violet.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, purple.

Perf. 13.

1 chahi green.
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, bluish violet.
5 ,, purple.

Perf. 11½ × 12 or 12 × 11½.

1 chahi green.
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, bluish violet.

Perf. 11½ × 13

5 chahi dull blue.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, bluish violet.

Perf. 12 × 13.

1 chahi green.
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,,

Perf. 12½ × 13.

1 chahi green
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, dull blue

Perf. 12½ × 12.

1 chahi green.
2 ,, rose and carmine.
5 ,, slate.
5 ,, bluish violet.
5 ,, dull blue.
5 ,, bright blue.

EIGHTH ISSUE.—*(continued.)*



March, 1885.

Paper, white wove.

Perforated.

Size, 17 × 20½ mms.

Lithographed, designed in Paris, printed in Vienna.

Values and *Colours*:—

10 chahi, brown.
1 kran grey.
5 krans violet (shades).

Design: Head of Shah in oval, Roman figures of value underneath in white circle, two white circles in top corners, the one on the left side containing Persian characters; and on the right, Persian numerals of value, the sides as in the lower values being filled in with scrollwork, &c.

Perf. 11½.

10 chahi brown.
1 kran, grey.
5 krans violet (shades).

Perf. 12.

10 chahi brown.
1 kran grey.
5 krans violet (shades).

Perf. 12½.

10 chahi brown.
1 kran grey.
5 krans violet (shades).

Perf. 13.

10 chahi brown.
1 kran grey.
5 krans violet (shades).

Perf. 11 × 12½.

5 krans violet.

Perf. 11½ × 12.

1 kran grey.
5 krans violet.

Perf. 12 × 13.

10 chahi brown.
1 kran grey.
5 kran violet (shades).

Perf. 12½ × 13 and 13 × 12½.

10 chahi brown.
1 kran grey.
5 kran violet (shades).

Provisional Issues of 1885 to 1887.

Various values of the 1882, 1883 and 1884 issues surcharged with the word "OFFICIEL" and new value in black.

Note.—It is as well to point out that the various values of this issue were surcharged with the word "OFFICIEL" not as many imagine to enable the stamps to be used for "Official" or "Government Service" but that as it was necessary owing to a change in the postal rates and the reversion to the Persian system of coinage to surcharge the various stamps with new values, and they were also overprinted with the word "OFFICIEL" to denote that the surcharges were absolutely genuine and some by order of the Government.

Secondly, to distinguish them from the previous bogus provisionals of 1877 and 1883 which have been fully described in previous articles 1885 to 1887.

Surcharged with Roman figures of value over those on the original value and Persian characters denoting the same on each side, and the word "OFFICIEL" above.

Values.

1885.	3	shahi on	5	centimes	green,	Type I. and II.
	6	,,	5	,,	,,	,,
	8	,,	5	,,	,,	,,
1887.	12	,,	5	,,	,,	,,
	18	,,	5	,,	,,	,,

Perf. 12.

3	shahi on	5	centimes,	Type I. and II.
6	,,	5	,,	Type I.
8	,,	5	,,	Type I. and II.
12	,,	5	,,	Type I.
18	,,	5	,,	Type I. and II.

Perf. 13.

3 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I. and II.
6 ,, 5 ,, ,,
8 ,, 5 ,, Type I.
12 ,, 5 ,, ,,
18 ,, 5 ,, Type I. and II.

Perf. 12×13.

3 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I. and II.
6 ,, 5 ,, ,,

Perf. 12½×13 or 13×12½.

3 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I. and II.
6 ,, 5 ,, Type I.
8 ,, 5 ,, Type I. and II.

Perf. 12½.

3 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I. and II.
6 ,, 5 ,, ,,
8 ,, 5 ,, Type I.
12 ,, 5 ,, ,, I.

Errors.—Double Surcharges.

Perf. 12½ and 13.

3 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I. and II.
6 ,, 5 ,, ,,

Inverted Surcharges.

Perf. 12.

3 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I. and II.
6 ,, 5 ,, ,,

Vertical Surcharge.

Perf. 12.

12 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I.

Surcharged Diagonally.

Perf. 12.

8 shahi on 5 centimes, Type I.

Values.

1885. 6 shahi on 10 centimes, black, buff and red.
1887. 8 ,, 10 ,, ,, ,,
,, 12 ,, 10 ,, ,, ,,
,, 18 ,, 10 ,, ,, ,,

Perf. 12 and 13.

6 shahi on 10 centimes black, buff and red.
8 ,, 10 ,, ,, ,,
12 ,, 10 ,, ,, ,,
18 ,, 10 ,, ,, ,,

Perf. 12½.

6 shahi on 10 centimes black, buff and red.

Perf. 12×13.

6 shahi on 10 centimes black, buff and red.
12 ,, 10 ,, ,, ,, ,,

Error.

Perf. 12.

10 shahi on 10 centimes, first surcharged as 12sh. and then overprinted 18 on the figure 12.

Value.

1887 8 shahi on 50 centimes grey-black.

Perf. 12, 13 and 12×13.

8 shahi on 50 centimes grey-black.

Perf. 11½, 12½, 11½×12 and 12×12½ or 12½×12.

12 shahi on 50 centimes grey-black.

Errors.

Perf. 13.

Fifty centimes grey, surcharged with the word "OFFICIEL" but without the figures denoting new value.

Surcharge inverted. Perf. 12 and 13.

8 shahi on 50 centimes grey-black.
12 ,, 50 ,, ,,

Value.

Perf. 12 and 13.

1885. 1 toman on 5 francs black and carmine.

Error.—Surcharge Inverted.

Perf. 12.

1 toman on 5 francs.

NOTE.—With reference to the above surcharges there is only one genuine type, many of them have many minor differences and they are found varying slightly in position on the stamps, but this was due to the system by which the surcharging of the stamps was performed. The word "OFFICIEL" and the various new values being simply overprinted by means of a hand stamp.

NOTE.—All surcharges on the 1881 issue are forgeries, engraved and lithographed.

The 5c. purple, 10c. carmine and 25c. green of the 1881, 1882 issue, were never overprinted and all varieties on these stamps are unofficial and bogus.

NINTH ISSUE.

November, 1889.

Paper, white wove.

Lithographed, printed in Paris.

Perforated.

Size, 16×20½mms.

Values and *Colors.*

Perf. 11.

1 chahi rose, pale rose.
2 ,, blue, pale blue.
5 ,, lilac, pale lilac.
5 ,, violet, dark violet.
7 ,, brown.

Perf. 13½.

5 chahi lilac, pale lilac.
5 ,, violet, dark violet.
7 ,, brown.

Perf. 13×13½.

7 chahi brown.

Perf. 11×13½.

7 chahi brown.

Errors.

Perf. 11.

5 chahi pale blue in color of 2 chahi.
5 ,, lilac.
Imperf. between horizontally.
,, ,, vertically.

NOTE.—The 5 chahi value of this issue is found in a great variety of shades.

NINTH ISSUE.—*(continued).*

Same *Paper*, *Size*, etc.

Values and *Colors*, perf. 13½.

10 chahi black, grey-black.
1 kran orange-red.
2 krans rose.
5 ,, green.

Perf. 13×13½.

10 chahi black, grey-black.

Error.

10 chahi imperf.

PROVISIONAL ISSUE.

1, 2 and 5 krans, bisected diagonally and issued provisionally whilst waiting for new issue, these were only in use a very short time, and are extremely scarce.

TENTH ISSUE.

November, 1891.

Paper, white wove.

Lithographed, printed in Holland.

Perforated.

Size, 16×20½mms.

Values and *Colors.*

Perf. 10½.	Perf. 11½.
1 chahi black.	1 chahi black.
2 ,, brown.	2 ,, brown.
5 ,, blue.	5 ,, blue.
7 ,, grey.	7 ,, grey.
10 ,, carmine.	10 ,, carmine.
14 ,, orange.	14 ,, orange.

TENTH ISSUE.—*(continued).*

Same *Paper*, etc.

Size, 19½×23½.

Values, 1, 2 and 5 krans.

Perf. 10½.	Perf. 11½.
1 kran green.	1 kran green.
2 krans orange.	2 krans orange.
5 ,, yellow.	5 ,, yellow.

ELEVENTH ISSUE.

November, 1894.

Paper, white paper.

Typographed, printed in Holland.

Size, 17×22½mms.

Perforated, 12½.

Values and *Colors:*

1 chahi lilac.
2 ,, green.
5 ,, ultramarine, pale blue.
8 ,, brown.

ELEVENTH ISSUE.—*(continued).*

Same *Paper*, etc.

Perf. 11½×11.

Values and *Colors:*

10 chahi orange.
16 ,, rose.
1 kran red, yellow border.
2 krans brown, blue ,,
5 ,, violet, silver ,,
10 ,, rose, gold ,,
50 ,, green ,, ,,

January, 1898.

PROVISIONAL ISSUE.

Surcharged with new values in Roman and Persian characters.

5 ch. on 8 ch. of 1894 issue.
1 kran on 5 kr. ,, ,,
2 krans on 5 ,, ,, ,,

The 5ch. and 1 kran are surcharged in violet, and the 2kr. in carmine ink.

These provisionals were only in use a few months, the surcharges are hand stamped, and the position of the surcharge varies in position, there is only one type for each value.

Error.

5 ch. on 8 ch.

Double surcharge.

TWELFTH ISSUE.

March, 1898.

Paper, white wove.

Perforated.

Typographed, printed in Holland.

Values and *Colors*, perf. 12½.

Type same as 1894 issue.

1 chahi grey.
2 ,, brown.
3 ,, purple.
4 ,, vermilion.
5 ,, yellow.
8 chahi orange.
10 ,, blue.
12 ,, carmine.
16 ,, green.

TWELFTH ISSUE.—*(continued).*

Same *Paper*, etc.

Type as above.

Perf. 12½ × 12.

Values and *Colors.*

1 kran ultramarine.
2 krans rose.
3 ,, yellow.
4 ,, grey.
5 ,, green.
10 ,, orange.
50 ,, mauve.

THIRTEENTH ISSUE.

March, 1898.

Same as last but the various stamps are surcharged in different inks with various hieroglyphic characters.

NOTE.—The official and unpaid letter stamps were never issued; they are purely essays and of no philatelic value.

New Issues.

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 subscribers 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*

British Empire.

Cook Islands.—The *Australian Philatelist* says that on the sheets of the lately issued 'ONE'—'HALF'—'PENNY,' on 1d. blue, two stamps are without a full stop after 'PENNY.' One sheet had the surcharge printed twice. Of this surcharge, made in order to defeat a fraud, £40 worth, or 19,200 stamps, were surcharged. The 1d. brown, perf. 11, and watermarked star and N.Z. is now being used instead of the 1d. blue.

India. *Alwar.*—We have the new ¼ anna, perforated, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The perforation is somewhat roughly done and measures 12.

Adhesive.

¼ anna, perf. 12.

New Zealand.—Mr. L. A. Sanderson sends the *Australian Philatelist*, the new 4d. which was issued on the 29th of August. The *A.P.* says the design is the same as that of the 1d. with the exception of the new value label and figures in the lower angles. Owing to its similarity to the 1d., however, it was withdrawn about a week after issue, but will be re-issued when the 1d. value of the present type is exhausted—probably some months hence. The 4d. stamp was printed locally from a new plate prepared by Waterlow and Son; it is on unwatermarked paper, and is perf. 11. Mr. Sanderson also sends a copy of the locally printed 9d. unwatermarked, perf. 11.

Adhesives.

4d. (new type) brown and blue, perf. 11
9d. dull purple, perf. 11.

North Borneo.—Last month we chronicled a series of Labuan surcharged in black, "4—cents." Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now send us the following North Borneo stamps of the current series similarly surcharged.

Adhesives.

4c. in black on 5c. black and orange-red.
4c. ,, 6c. ,, brown-ochre.
4c. ,, 8c. ,, dull purple.
4c. ,, 12c. ,, blue.
4c. ,, 18c. ,, green.
4c. ,, 24c. blue and lake.

Queensland.—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* says the ½d. value is to be issued with larger figures of value in the corners and the 5d. with the figure of value in each corner.

Sarawak.—Last month (p. 201) we chronicled 2c. and 4c. provisionals, surcharged on the stamps of 1871. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now send us a 3c. of 1871, surcharged "2—cents" in two lines.

Adhesive.

2c. in black on 3c. brown on yellow.

South Australia.—The 1d. value has been changed from green to rose-red, we have the 2d. from orange to violet, and the *Monthly Journal* chronicles some fresh varieties of perforation as per list.

Adhesives.

1d. rose-red; *perf.* 13.
2d. violet; *perf.* 13.
10s. green; *perf.* 11½ by 12½.
2s. 6d. lilac; *perf.* 11½, *large holes.*
5s. rose ,, ,,
£1 blue ,, ,,

Straits Settlements.—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the 4c. stamp has been issued again in rose, as in 1883, and that the 5c. has appeared in a new colour.

Adhesive.

5c. plum; *wmk. Crown and CA.*

Johore.—The *Monthly Journal* has received a 4c. stamp of the current type, etc., in new colours, the design being in yellow, with the value in red.

Adhesive.

4c. yellow and red.

Pahang.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 5c., Tiger's Head type, surcharged "Four cents," in black, with a bar across the value at the top.

Adhesives.

4c. on 5c. lilac and ochre.
4c. lilac and carmine.

Foreign Countries.

Argentine.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new series which we will illustrate in our next number. The portrait has given place to a much less interesting figure of Liberty seated by a shield. The stamps are the work of the South American Bank Note Co. Paper, thickish wove; watermark, Sun; perf., 11½.

Adhesives.

½c. bistre.
1c. green.
2c. indigo.
5c. carmine.
10c. dark green.
12c. sky blue.
16c. orange.
20c. brown-red.
24c. violet.
30c. rose.
50c. Prussian blue.
1p. blue and centre black.
5p. orange ,, ,,
10p. green ,, ,,
20p. carmine ,, ,,

Belgium.—It is said that the current 1f., owing to the 10c. being now carmine, will be changed in colour to green.

Bolivia.—We have received a new set engraved by the South American Bank Note Co. with portrait of Don Antonio Jose de Sucre, first President of Bolivia. Paper, wove; perf. 11½. The *P.J.G.B.* gives the perf. as 12. We have measured several and they all gauge 11½ true.

Adhesives.

1c. slate-blue.
2c. vermilion.
5c. blue-green.
10c. orange.
20c. rose.
50c. chestnut.
1b. violet.

Colombia. *Antioquia.*—This department of the Republic of Colombia has been provided with a lithographed set with portrait, of which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens. Paper, wove; perf. 11½. There is also a Registration Stamp of the oblong pattern.

Adhesives.

½c. blue-slate.
1c. pale blue-slate.
2c. black.
2½c. blue-green.
4c. deep brown.
4c. green.
10c. vermilion.
20c. purple.
50c. olive.
1 peso dark green.

Registration.

2½c. slate-blue.

Boyaca.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that this department of the Republic of Columbia has issued a solitary stamp of the value of 5 centavos, bearing a portrait of the Governor of Boyaca. In consequence of this portrait the Columbian Government suppressed the stamp after it had been in use a few days only, so that its history resembles that of the celebrated "Connell" New Brunswick stamps. Paper, wove; perf. 13; lithographed.

Adhesive.

5 centavos yellow-green.

Dominican Republic.—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., four values of the new set issued to raise the funds for defraying the expense of carting the so-called Columbus bones to a new resting place. Lithographed on white wove paper, perf. 11½. In size they resemble the U.S. Columbus. The 1c. and 2c. are oblong and the 5c. and 10c. long rectangular.

Adhesives.

1c. mauve, voyage of Mendez and Fiesco from Jamaica to S. Domingo
2c. red, Elevation of Euriquill
5c. blue, Tomb of Columbus.
10c. orange, Spain guarding the remains of Columbus.

France. *Indo China.*—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says the 75c. has been discovered with the name inverted. This, it remarks, appears to be due to a misplaced block and not to an inverted sheet, as a pair has been seen with the name inverted on one of the stamps and right side up on the other.

Adhesive.

75c. black on orange, *name inverted.*

Germany.—Mr. Frank sends *Ewen's Weekly Stamps News* particulars of the new issue now in preparation. The values are to be 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, and 80 pfennig, and 1, 2, 3 and 5 marks. The *E.W.S.N.* gives the following detailed description of the lower values:

3, 5, 10, 20 pf., colours as at present, white paper; design, bust of Germania.
25pf., printed in black on yellow, with orange frame.
30pf., black on chamois, frame orange.
40pf., black on white, frame carmine.
50pf., black on chamois, frame violet.
80pf., black on rose, frame carmine.
Design of values 25 to 80pf.: Germania in centre, "Reichspost" at top and value below.

The higher values are to be of pictorial designs, similar to the U.S. Columbus issues.

Guatemala.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 5 centavos surcharged in red, in block type, capitals and small letters, "Un 1 Centavos, 1899," in two lines.

Adhesive.

1c. on 5c. violet.

Japan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us additional values completing the new series. They are perf. 12, on thickish wove paper, unwatermarked. The 1 yen is embossed. The full set is as follows:—

Adhesives.

5 rin grey.
1 sen pale brown,
2 ,, yellow-green.
3 ,, lake.
4 ,, carmine.
5 ,, pale orange.
8 ,, olive.
10 ,, blue.
15 ,, violet.
20 ,, orange.
25 ,, pale green.
50 ,, brown.
1 yen carmine.

Persia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that a fresh issue has been made of the same design as the 1898 issue, but the Shahi values are on a grey tinted paper instead of white, and the kran values are printed in new colours on white paper. Perf. 12½.

Adhesives.

1s. grey.
2s. brown.
3s. violet.
4s. brick-red.
5c. yellow.
8c. orange.
10c. blue.
12c. carmine.
16s. green.
1k. carmine.
2k. green.
5k. lilac.
4k. brick-red.
5k. coffee.
10k. deep blue.
50k. brown-red.

Portugal. *Macau.*—Messrs. Bright & Son send us copies of current Colonial Provisionals as per list. The original value in each case is cancelled with three short bars, and the new value in figures is overprinted in the left-hand corner. The word "Provisario" is printed above the name of the Colony in small sans serif capitals. The overprinting in this case has been done at Lisbon.

Adhesives.

5 avo on 13a. mauve.
10 ,, 16a. blue on blue.
15 ,, 24a. brown on yellow.
20 ,, 31a. purple on pale rose.

Timor.—We have received only two values for this Colony.

Adhesives.

10 avo on 16a. blue on blue.
20 ,, 31a. purple on pale rose.

Samoa.—The *Weekly Philatelic Era* says the current series has been surcharged "Provisional Govt." as follows:

Adhesives.

½d. green, *red surcharge.*
1d. red-brown, *blue surcharge.*
2d. orange, *red surcharge.*
4d. blue ,, ,,
5d. red *blue* ,,
6d. violet ,, ,,
1s. red ,, ,,
2s. 6d. violet, *red* ,,

Siam.—Mr. S. Hood Beng informs us that "new stamps have been issued in all the principal provinces," and that he has "the 2 atts green and 4 atts red; face to right." The information is somewhat scanty.

Spain.—The *Timbres Poste* chronicles the following changes of colour in the current series.

Adhesives.

2c. black.
10c. red.
20c. orange.

United States (*Cuba*).—We illustrate the new designs for Cuba.



Adhesives.

1 cent green; design statue of Columbus.
2 ,, carmine ,, palm trees.
3 ,, purple ,, allegorical figure of Cuba.
5 ,, blue ,, ocean steamship.
10 ,, brown ,, native ploughing. [on bicycle.
10 ,, orange (special delivery); design, messenger

Philately in the Mags.

Mexico : Proposed New Issue.

MEXICO has promised us for some time a very attractive picture series after the prevailing fashion. We quote particulars from *Philatelic Facts and Fancies* the following translation from the Telegraphic Bulletin of Mexico, which will interest collectors of Mexicans :—

Under date of August 10th, M. de Zamacona Y. Inclan, postmaster-general of Mexico, promulgated the following circular of information :—

For the facility of the public in franking correspondence, the department of communication and public works will circulate the postal issues of April 2, 1895, that are now in use, until Jan. 31, 1900, the term fixed in the resolution of July 31st last, quoting at the same time for the information of the public the following rules :—

1. In accomplishment of the provisions of article 43 of the decree of Jan. 26, 1899, and No. 184 of the postal code now in force : *a* Under the head of correspondence is comprehended all articles that are admissable for transmission through the mails. *b* Under the denomination of postal emissions are comprehended stamps, single and reply postal cards, wrappers, single and reply letter cards and stamped envelopes.

2. The postage stamps of 1895 will only be on sale in all post offices until the 31st of October and the new issue will be sold at the same offices from November 1, 1899, until further notice.

3. All correspondence that is deposited at the post office or mailed in letter boxes before November 1st must only be franked with postage stamps of the issue of 1895. Letters deposited from November 1st until January 31st, 1900, may be franked indiscriminately with the stamps of 1895 or those of the issue of 1899. Mail matter deposited after and including February 1st, 1900, must only be franked with the stamps of 1899 until further notice is given.

4. From November 1st until January 31st, 1900, the postal officials will exchange for all who may request it the postage stamps of 1895 for the new issue. Such exchange will be made gratuitously by the postal officials, who will be held strictly responsible that all stamps which are received from the public are genuine, uncancelled, and in perfect condition. Postal and letters cards, wrappers and stamped envelopes bearing addresses, advertisements or illustrations, whether typographed, lithographed or engraved, will also be exchanged, if in condition as before mentioned. Stamps pasted on postals, envelopes, or any kind of documents will not be exchanged. As a general rule there will be given in exchange the same class and values of stamps of the new issue as are received from the public. Only in cases where the post offices may not have the same kinds and values on hand the equivalent will be given in the stamps nearest to those presented for exchange.

5. The values, colours, and designs of the new issue will be as follows :—

STAMPS.

1 centavo national coat of arms, emerald-green.
2 centavos national coat of arms, red.
3 centavos national coat of arms, light brown.
5 centavos national coat of arms, Prussian blue.
10 centavos national coat of arms, orange on lilac ground.
15 centavos national coat of arms, crimson on pearl gray ground.
20 centavos national coat of arms, Prussian blue on bright red ground.
50 centavos national coat of arms, view of the cascade of Juanacatlan in black with pale violet frame.
1 peso national coat of arms, view of Mount Popocatapetl in black with ultramarine blue frame.
5 pesos national coat of arms, view of Cathedral of Mexico City in black with carmine frame.

LETTER CARDS.

2 centavos single, national coat of arms in relief on red ground.
2 centavos with reply card, national coat of arms in relief on red ground.
5 centavos single, national coat of arms in relief on Prussian blue ground.
5 centavos with reply card, national coat of arms in relief on Prussian blue ground.

POSTAL CARDS.

1 centavo single, national coat of arms in relief on light green ground.
1 centavo with reply card, national coat of arms in relief on light green ground.
2 centavos single, national coat of arms in relief on red ground.
2 centavos with reply card, national coat of arms in relief on red ground.
3 centavos single, national coat of arms in relief on light brown ground.
3 centavos with reply card, national coat of arms in relief on light brown ground.

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

2c. national coat of arms, in relief on red ground.
5c. national coat of arms, in relief on Prussian blue ground.
10c. national coat of arms, in relief on lilac ground.

WRAPPERS.

1 centavo, national coat of arms, in relief on light green ground.
2 centavos, national coat of arms, in relief on red ground.

Mexico, August 10th, 1899.

Condition.

Mr. Castle publishes in the October number of the *London Philatelist* an excellent paper which he read at a meeting of the London Philatelic Society in January last. He insists in conformity with the practice of all leading specialists in this country upon fine conditions as a *sine qua non* in the formation of a first-class collection. If a stamp is unused it must be as near as possible to the condition in which it was first issued; if used, as lightly cancelled as possible. In unused he, of course, insists on original gum. But we quote:

ORIGINAL GUM.

There is a great deal of blind faith in the matter of O.G.! Great prices are asked for stamps with a most innocent smooth wash of transparent gum that could be applied by anybody, as in the cases of some of the current stamps and some of the older issues of the Colonies and German States. The presence of such a gum, even if unsuspected of doubtful origin, should not, as frequently happens, double the price of the stamp. Beyond this there are large quantities of stamps that are regummed. Notable instances of this are Belgium with watermark LL, which are frequently faked with a bold, crackly mucilage that looks much fresher than the portrait on the front of the stamp. The discovery of a considerable remainder of French stamps of the First Republic and Empire among the papers of the late M. Hulot, the engraver, that had never been gummed, has led in many instances to their being furnished with a gum that would deceive anyone not having access to considerable quantities of the genuine originally-gummed ones. The substituted gum in this case is whiter, and although well crackled, the cracks are larger, bolder, and cleaner-looking than in the old stamps. I may say here that there are at last two kinds of gumming in the stamps of the Republic besides that named; *i.e.*, a perfectly smooth and yellowish—that probably quite late—and thick yellowish gum, unevenly distributed and laid on in broad parallel horizontal lines.

On the other hand, there *are* other gums the presence of which greatly adds to the value of the specimen, as they are incapable of imitation. A well-known instance of this is the case of Hanover, with its pink-rose or red gum, that once moistened stains the stamp; or the first issue of Brunswick, with pale rose mucilage; or the first issue of Wurtemburg, with its dry crackly cement that the Germans call "white of egg"; or the curious thick compound on the Austrian 1850 series. There is also the original greenish thick gum found on some of the old 1d. and 2d. Great Britain, the first issue of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, etc., that is quite of a marked character, and not reproducable. I have known collectors who prefer a medium clean stamp with O.G. to a brilliant one without, but I think they are wrong. O.G. should really only be accepted *in conjunction with all other points* as the proof of the unused condition of a stamp. In point of fact, a stamp that is not clean or bright is hardly unused at all, but, *au contraire*, is hardly used!

MARGINS.

Mr. Castle reminds collectors that in many cases stamps are printed so closely together that wide margins are impossible. His lists as follows, will be useful:—

Stamps Printed Closely.

Great Britain, 6d., Oct.
Baden, 1st issue.
Buenos Ayres, 1st issue.
Papal States, ½, 1, 3, 4, 8 baj., and all centes. as to outside border-lines of design.
Thurn and Taxis, early issue.
Switzerland. Silk Thread issue
Geneva, small eagle.
Basle.
New South Wales, 3d. and 6d., laureated.
Tuscany, Savoy Cross.
Victoria, 1st issue, 2nd printing.
ditto, 1/-, 1854-61.
Wurtemberg, 2nd issue.
Dominican Republic.
United States, 1c. and 3c. imperf.; ditto, perf.

Stamps printed wide apart, and subsequently thus issued, perforated.

Azores, 1st issue.
Madeira ,,
Portugal, value in curve.
Bremen, 3g. and 5s.g.
Luxemburg, 40c., vermilion (rouletted).
Hamburg, 1st issue.
Transvaal, 1883, 1d. black, and 3d. red.

We may note as to Transvaals that the 1d. black and 3d. red are not exceptions; as a matter of fact all the stamps of the design of the first issue have the same margins.

On the other side of the account in the matter of the demand for fine condition Mr. Castle thinks that the prices

demanded for mint condition as time goes on will considerably "Slacken the enthusiasm of the mint collector."

Those Guam Stamps.

In September (p. 174) we noted a report that an officer had sailed with a packet of three values of U.S. stamps surcharged for Guam. Since then we learn copies of the stamps have been received in the States and that a demand has arisen which the U.S. Bureau is now busily engaged in supplying. In the *Metropolitan Philatelist* Mr. Bartel tells us that "instead of taking a rigorous stand and refusing to supply such unnecessary issues" the Bureau "unhesitatingly sanctions and fills every order sent in." Not only so, but the three values have now been extended to the following list :—

	1c.,	15,000
	2c.,	75,000
	3c.,	5,000
	4c.,	5,000
	5c.,	15,000
	6c.,	5,000
	8c.,	5,000
	10c.,	10,000
	15c.,	5,000
	50c.,	4,000
	$1	3,000
Special Del.	10c.,	5,000

Destruction of New South Wales Dies.

We are glad to learn from the *Australian Philatelist* that under the authority of the Colonial Treasurer the Government Printer has destroyed all the postage stamp dies and plates of New South Wales not required for the production of current stamps. The destruction was effected by means of an emery wheel in most cases, by which the face of the die or plate was ground flat. In some few cases the plate was hammered out.

The following is a list from the *A.P.* of the dies and plates destroyed :

1838.—Embossed letter sheet. Steel die.
1850.—Sydney View, 2d. Copperplate. This plate had already been rendered incapable of producing impressions.
1851.—Laureated, 1d., 2d., and 3d. Steel plates. (These also had been effectively placed *hors de combat*.)
1854-6.—Diadem and Square, 1d. steel plate ; 2d. two steel plates ; 6d. two steel plate ; 8d. steel plate ; and 1s. steel plates.
1856.—Registered stamp. Two steel plates.
1862.—Queen's Head, 2d. Steel die and several electroplates.
1864.—Queen's Head, 1d. Steel die and several electroplates.
1867.—Queen's Head, 4d. Steel die and electroplate.
1872.—Queen's Head, 6d. Electroplate (steel die preserved.)
1876.—Queen's Head, 1s. Electroplate (steel die preserved.)
1888.—Centennial, 1d., 2d., and 5/- Steel dies and electroplate.
1891.—Postal Union, 2½d. Steel die and electroplates.

The *A.P.* says there were also destroyed a number of electros, copperplates, &c., used in the production of the obsolete wrappers, stamped envelopes, and post cards ; the dies and plates of the Telegraph Stamps of 1871, and the die of the first embossed wrapper (1d. oval), There were also similar dies to the last mentioned for 2d., 6d., and 1/-, none of which were put to use in embossing stationery for issue.

Only the dies and stamps actually in current use are now extant, and consequently there can be no more reprints.

Hayti : Perf. 14 and 16 Frauds.

The *Philatelic Chronicle*, our lively Birmingham contemporary, is informed that the Haytian stamps of 1886 perforated 14 and 16, generally considered to be the rarities of this island, are frauds.

This discovery is supported upon undoubted authority. Since August, 1889, when the first stamp perforated 16 was chronicled philatelists have had faith in this stamp, they have looked for it and paid high prices for it, unused it was one of the greatest rarities and now it has been discovered that they were made lithographically by some one at Cap Haitien and used by him to defraud the post office. The forgery is not such a good one after all and it is a great wonder they have not been discovered long ago by philatelists.

Bolivian Watermarks.

Attention having been called to the occurrence of the Bolivia 1894 issue with watermark double lined numeral, Mr. A. H. Weber has gone through his collection and all available stock and sends the result to the *Weekly Philatelic Era*. He says,

I have a block of the four or five centavos green with watermark "10" and "11." The upper pair are watermarked, one number on each stamp, while the lower pair are not. Also a pair of the same value with watermark

"11" followed by a dash, about similarly spaced like the "10" and "11" in the block. In addition I have single copies as follows:

One centavo,	bistre,	wmk.	"11."
Two ,,	vermilion,	,,	"10."
Five ,,	green,	,,	"10."
Five ,,	green,	,,	"11."
Ten ,,	brown,	,,	"11."

The other values 20, 50 and 100, with watermark, will doubtless turn up sooner or later.

All the stamps are on thin hard crisp paper, perforated 14; none of those on thicker paper, perforated 13 or 13½, show a trace of a watermark.

The numerals of the watermark are 10 mm. high. The one is 4mm. wide, base 7mm. and serif, slanting, 3mm. long. The cipher is 11mm. broad with an inner oval of 3mm. The dash is about 7mm. long and the same distance to the right of the middle of the "11."

I have no doubt that the watermark described above, is that of the paper manufacturer and designates a special quality and time of manufacture, as is customary in that trade. The examination of a complete sheet of one of the values will be necessary to establish all the parts of the watermark.

Porto Rico: No more Surcharges.

Mr. J. M. Bartels announces in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that there are to be no more U.S. Stamps surcharged for Porto Rico. He writes,

It has not been possible to ascertain the exact cause for this change of affairs, however, Third Assistant Postmaster General Madden has issued an order stating that hereafter all rates of postage prevailing in this country shall be the same in Porto Rico, including second class matter. At the same time he announces that U. S. stamps without overprint will be recognized in Porto Rico, which virtually means that as soon as the present supply has been used up, all future orders will be filled with regular U. S. stamps.

This contrasts strangely with the surcharging of U.S. stamps for Guam. If unsurcharged U.S. will serve for Porto Rico why not for Guam.

U.S. Small Sheets.

Very dear to the heart of the Specialist are small sheets of stamps. Hence the following announcement in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* will be of special interest: "For the convenience of the public who are in the habit of carrying postage stamps in their pockets, booklets are to be made up of small sheets, containing 24, 48 and 96 stamps each. They will be a convenient shape and probably have wax paper to prevent the stamps from sticking. A trifling charge of about 1c. will be made for the book. Whether or not the Bureau will have to prepare special plates for the stamps to be used in these books could not be ascertained. At any rate it will be quite a startling innovation. This experiment will be made with 2c. stamps only."

If the idea catches on we may expect a wide spread adoption of the plan by all those countries which cater for the stamp collector.

San Marino Printings.

The *London Philatelist* gives the following as an official list of the different issues and quantities of the Republic of San Marino:—

	Copies.
Year 1877.	
2 cent green	100,000
10 ,, blue	50,000
20 ,, vermilion	300,000
30 ,, brown	25,000
40 ,, violet	25,000
Year 1891.	
5 cent yellow	60,000
25 ,, claret	40,000
Year 1892.	
5c. on 30c. brown	10,000
5c. on 10c. blue	20,000
10c. on 20c. vermilion ..	40,000
10c. on 10c. on 20c. vermilion ..	40,000
5c. olive-green	100,000
30c. orange	25,000
40c. brown	25,000
45c. yellow-green	25,000
1 lira red and yellow ..	5000
Year 1894.	
2 cent blue	100,000
10 ,, blue-green	20,000
15 ,, lake	20,000
65 ,, chestnut	15,000
2 lire brown and buff ..	10,000
5 ,, lake and blue	5000
Year 1895.	
2 cent rose-lake	200,000
20 ,, lilac	40,000
1 lira blue	5000
Year 1899 (February.)	
2 cent brown	50,000
5 ,, yellow	50,000
Year 1899 (June.)	
5 cent green	100,000
10 ,, carmine	100,000
25 ,, blue	50,000

Morocco Agencies.

A correspondent in the *Monthly Journal* gives a ready means of distinguishing between the local and the

London surcharge. The letter "g," in the former, has the little curl at the right rising above the top of the circle, whilst in the later type the curl is level with the top of the circle.

Holland : Sheets.

According to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* the stamps of the new issue of Holland are printed as follows : The values from ½-cent to 20 cent inclusive in sheets of 200, those from 22½c. to 50c. inclusive in sheets of a 100, and the 2½ and 5 gulden in sheets of 50 stamps.

Stamps issued before 1898 will not be available for postage after January 1st, 1900.

Uruguay ½c. Provisional.

O Colleccionador de Sellos gives a list of quantities of the Provisional ½ centesimo postage stamps of Uruguay issued.

½ centesimo on 1c. blue (coat of arms) ..	490,000
½ centesimo on 1c. bistre (native)	515,000
½ centesimo on 1c. lilac and black (Suarez)	150,000
½ centesimo on 2c. blue (theatre building) ..	100,000
½ centesimo on 5c. blue and black (Suarez)	50,000
½ centesimo on 7c. green (bullshead) ..	50,000
Total	1,355,000

Philatelic Gossip.

Philatelic Ishmaelites.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* weeps over the decadence of philatelic journalism, and hits out vigorously at all whom it may concern, as follows :—

To write for a philatelic journal now-a-days seems to be a very easy matter ; the less philately a journal contains the better—at least so one should think when perusing some of them. The philatalic public is supposed to like it and to subscribe for such papers in increasing numbers every year—that they can keep their heads above water. In such papers any sort of nondescript without any previous training, in some cases even a non-collector is considered fit to sit in judgment on those who have made the subject a life long study. They have about as much delicacy of perception as a bull in a china shop and about as much judicious restraint as a Dum-Dum bullet. Most of them are rank outsiders whose staple stock-in-trade is impudence and a certain smooth way of saying nasty things, which in a good many cases would land them in the law courts, if anybody would consider them worth powder and shot. These gentry are the enemies of all those who have the real interests of philately at heart. Generally they are either supercilious, splenetic, contentious, or still worse venal.

Is it therefore remarkable, that, what is intended to be criticism should disgust readers by its fulsome commendation of mediocrity and its viperish attacks on merit ?

After all the sort of thing complained of finds its own miserable level, or ends as the *S.C.F.* has ended.

The late Mr. Westoby.

By an error in our obituary notice we labelled the late Mr. Westoby "Dr." Westoby. It should have been "Mr."

On the authority of Messrs. Alfred Smith and Sons' *Monthly Circular* we may now add the interesting fact that Mr. Westoby edited our excellent contemporary for over 20 years past.

Judge Philbrick has written a notice of his friend and collaborator which will appear in the next number of the *Monthly Circular*.

The Surrey Society.

The Hon. Sec. of the Philatelic Society which is in process of organisation for the county of Surrey will be glad to hear from stamp collectors in Surrey who are willing to help. The organisation is to be on the following lines :

1. That membership should be confined to those collectors who are, or have been, resident in the county of Surrey.
2. That regular meetings should be held in, say, four representative or central towns of the county.
3. That each of these towns should be made a centre with a local secretary.
4. That each town should arrange its own programme of meetings.
5. That the dates of the meetings should be fixed by the General Council for the year, or season.

6. That the meetings be held alternately in the different towns.

7. That the Society be governed by a General Council of, say, twelve members ; *i.e.* three members elected by and from the committee of each centre.

8. That each centre be worked by an executive committee elected by the members of that centre, the limits of the centre of residence to be defined for voting purposes, each member's card of membership to state to what centre he belongs.

9. The annual congress of members to be movable and to be determined at each annual meeting.

Such in brief are my suggestions for the general organisation of counties. The details are matters for discussion in committee.

The Hon. Sec.'s address is C. B. James, Cyprus Villa, Sutton Grove, Sutton. The subscription is only 2/6. It is proposed to include Aldershot.

The "Australian Philatelist."

We congratulate our excellent little Australian contemporary the *Australian Philatelist* upon having completed its fifth volume. May its shadow never grow less. For English readers it must always have a special attraction, and in the shadow of coming events its circulation should greatly increase. Its editor is one of the ablest writers on Australian's.

Penny Postage to the Cape.

The following notice was issued by the Postmaster-General on August the 29th :—

On and after the 1st of September next, the postage to be prepaid on letters from this country for the Cape of Good Hope will be 1d. per half-ounce, instead of 2½d. as at present. The postage on letters for the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, and Rhodesia will continue to be 2½d. per half-ounce. These are now the only British possessions of importance which have not adopted the penny postage scheme.

Price Lists.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us their Annual Price List for 1900, a 34 page pamphlet full of information of packets and sets at tempting prices.

We note that W. K. & Co. have practically excluded reprints, but they give a list of a few they have left at "clearing out" prices. To the specialist "Reprints" and "Forgeries" are valuables for detective purposes, hence our friends will be glad to have a chance of securing a small collection while they may. The collector who makes a study of Reprints and Forgeries is far less likely to be caught napping than the collector who eschews them altogether.

Correspondence.

The Philatelic Protection Society.

Sir,

In your "Gossip" in the November issue of the *Philatelic Record* you allude to the letter which I wrote to the Editor of *Stamps* concerning The Philatelic Protection Association. Now I must point out to you, although you must have noticed it in the said letter, that I did not write as "a member of the Committee" because as such a member I should not have felt myself called upon to write the letter in question.

I wrote that letter in defence of the P.P.A., in my capacity as President of the Association, to which circumstance I called particular attention, and which is my excuse for writing said letter.

As to the Secretaryship, you say : "When C.J.P. was Secretary the Association was very much alive, but at present it scarcely seems to have any vitality left." Now I should certainly have thought that such an energetic and esteemed Philatelic journalist like you should have known that Mr. Charles J. Phillips *is* actually the present Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Protection Association. This, Sir, is not "Gossip" but real fact !

Hoping you will find space in your next issue of the *Philatelic Record* for the above correction,

I remain,

Yours truly,

M. Giwelb.

[Well, well ! C.J.P. again Hon. Sec. of the P.P.A. and so quiet and retiring that we had not even heard a whisper of it !—*Ed. P.R.*]

Societies in Session.

Birmingham.

Hon. Sec.—G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

ON Nov. 2nd this Society had a very interesting display and discussion of the Stamps of South Australia, illustrated by the collections of Messrs. W. T. Wilson, W. Pimm, and T. W. Peck. The discussion brought out the fact that many of the varieties cannot be supplied at catalogue values, and that collectors would do well to fill in gaps before the rise, which must inevitably take place in the next catalogue, and which has already taken place in sales.

Herts Philatelic Society.

Hon. Sec.—H. A. SLADE, Ingleside, St. Albans.

A GENERAL Meeting of the members was held at Anderton's Hotel, London, on November 7th, and after the conclusion of business Mr. Frentzel then gave a display of the stamps of Mexico (1856-83). His collection, which was practically complete, was accompanied with explanatory notes giving an account of the different issues, varieties of paper, surcharges, postmarks, &c., &c. The splits of the 1856 issue, the 1861 errors, three superb copies of the 3 centavos Eagle issue, the uncatalogued varieties of the 1866-67 issue, and the Guadalajaras were perhaps the most noticeable.

The next Meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in December, when Mr. E. J. Nankivell has promised a paper and display on the Transvaal "Stamps of the British occupation."

Manchester.

Hon. Sec.—G. H. F. GIBSON, Kersal, Manchester.

AT a recent meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society, the president, Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, read a paper on "The Whys and Wherefores of European Reprints":—

"In these days of advanced specialist collections, aiming at a standard not dreamt of ten years ago, it is not to be wondered at, he said, that renewed interest has been aroused concerning reprints. Reprinting began in early times; for instance, the first issue of Portugal was reprinted in 1864, Austria in 1865, Belgium in 1866, Baden in 1867, and so on. There was plenty of stamp collecting, but little philately in those days. Even reprints as such were looked upon as things to be shunned; a little better than forgeries, but not much. In later years reprints were more vehemently tabooed than ever. Neither the advanced 'generalist' nor the budding specialist would tolerate a specimen in his collection. Now the advanced specialist looks at reprints in a different light. He says a collection is not complete without them, and he will soon say without the different printings of the reprints. It thus behoves us to study the varying conditions under which reprints were made, so as to be able to separate the wheat from the chaff, for there is a great deal of the latter. To be strictly reprints the impression must consist of those of obsolete stamps printed from the same die, plate, block, or stone as that used to produce the originals. When impressions are printed directly from the originally engraved die, or from a new plate or stone from that die they are usually included under the same term. Although the philatelist to-day includes the reprint in his collection he does so in its proper garb, not as a substitute for the original, which it can never be, but as a representative of a class of stamps which his hobby has called into being."—*Manchester City News.*

Surrey Philatelic Society.

Hon. Sec.—C. B. JAMES, Cyprus Villa, Sutton Grove, Sutton.

THIS County Society which is in course of organisation and which is to be confined to Surrey philatelists had a meeting of the Sutton District on the 13th November, when the President, Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, read a paper on Orange Free States stamps and displayed his collection. He contended that despite the number of surcharges the country was an interesting one and it was cheap, but it might be dear in the near future as the result of the present struggle in South Africa. Few stamps had a longer life than the first three issued by the Orange Free State, which remained in use for nearly 30 years. He advised his friends to fill up while they could, especially of the 5/-, which, though issued in 1879, would probably become rare in an unused condition.

The Hon. Sec. will be glad to hear from philatelists in Surrey who are willing to help in the work of organising the county. The subscription is only 2/6, and Exchange Packets are in regular circulation.

Fiscal Notes.

PRIOR to the emission of stamps bearing their names, the Colonial Possessions of Portugal were supplied with fiscals from the Mother Country differing only in colour from the parent issues. This arrangement has been a constant source of trouble and perplexity, and, before passing on to the immediate purpose of this Note, it may be as well to pause for a moment in order to furnish the information so necessary to the beginner.

The earlier stamps of Portugal were all printed in lilac or in brown; those issued prior to 1867 are all in lilac and bear the head of Don Luis, subsequent issues bear as their principal device the arms of the country, and since 1868 the value has been inserted at a second printing, at first in red and subsequently in dull green.

From the same plates impressions were taken in *blue* for use in the Azores, in *vermilion* for Madeira, and in *green* for the African Colonies of Angola, Cape Verde, and St. Thomas and Prince.

The green set issued in 1876—arms, with value above only—was overprinted MOÇAMBIQUE, in 1878, for use in that territory, but, as far as is known, Macao and Portuguese India were unprovided for until the new Colonial type with name of each possession was issued in 1879. At some still later date the set of Cabo Verde was overprinted GUINE' PORTUEZA' and this completed the list until the other day.

In the account of new issues appearing in the June number of *Stamps*, mention is made of the emission of some lengthy series for the Portuguese Colonies, in which the old plan of distinguishing those intended for use in particular countries by colour only has again been adopted, to the certain future confusion of many a tyro.

However, thanks to the information published in *L'Ami des Timbres*, I am enabled to give timely notification of the facts to the fiscal collecting readers of these Notes.

There is only one design, a very simple one showing merely the crowned arms with CONTRIBUÇÃO reading upwards at the left, INDUSTRIAL downwards at the right, and ULTRAMAR in a horizontal frame below. A double upright rectangular frame encloses the whole, and there are slight ornaments in the upper corners and at the extremities of the frame. This design has been printed in eight colours for the places listed below, and in the first six of them the set is composed of the following values:—

2, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 10000 and 20000 reis.

In the remaining two the currency is different and the number of values much smaller, to wit:—

½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 31, 47, 63, 78 and 94 avos.

The Colonies, with their assigned colours are as follows:—

Angola, red.
India, blue-green.
Cabo Verde, blue.
Moçambique, violet.
Guiné, yellow-brown.
S. Thomé e Principe, yellow-green.
Macau, deep brown.
Timor, violet-black.

* * *

A correspondent has been seeking advice as to how best to arrange and mount his revenues, and I am almost tempted to reply—Don't!

Probably 95 per cent. of my stamps are in envelopes, and though this is largely due to lack of time for making other disposition, the fact remains that, broadly speaking, it would be a waste of time to attempt the nice and precise arrangement of the emissions of most countries, for the continual modifications in the lists occasioned by the frequent discoveries of students would cause re-arrangements to be desirable much too often.

I advocate for the present the employment of common books in which the

stamps can be lightly hinged with plenty of space left blank, awaiting the day when the studies of the owner or the publised researches of others may render it less risky to give one's treasures a handsome setting.

Such precaution is, of course, less necessary in the few cases where the fiscals of particular countries have been long and carefully studied. Mr. Morley's Album for British Colonials should be of great service for a long while to come, and the Album for Canadian Revenues, just issued across the Atlantic, should, if properly compiled, exactly supply the needs of those specially interested in that Dominion. It may also well be that after the appearance of the great work on U.S. fiscals, which will shortly be in our hands, the arrangement of the stamps of this most popular country may safely be attempted, but I know that some three or four years ago I ventured to place my accumulation of them into a blank album that was splendidly adapted for their reception, but my feeling of satisfaction at the result has been continually waning, and I am not likely to repeat the experiment for a while.

* * *

Hitherto, Bulgaria has enjoyed an excellent reputation, based upon the fewness of its issues, consistent adherence to one well-designed type, and apparent innocence of minor varieties, but the student of perforations has been devoting attention to the locality with somewhat regrettable results.

The very curious condition of affairs prevailing in connection with the first issue has long been known to the writer, but much of the following information, including the announcement of the seriously lengthy albeit strangely regular sequence of perforations of the third issue, is due to the researches of Mr. F. G. C. Lundy.

Starting with the first issue(May, 1879), and taking the list as given in Moen's catalogue, the first point worth recording is that all normal specimens are on *horizontally* laid paper. The assigned perforation of 13 must be negatived, for, with the exceptions subsequently noted, every specimen examined conformed to the peculiar arrangement of alternate horizontal rows gauging $9\frac{1}{2}$ and 12, the vertical rows being $12\frac{1}{2}$. The result, of course, is that each value is met with, perf. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ and also $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. I have not seen the 10, 20 and 50 francs and can say nothing about them, but a copy of the 100 francs recently examined measured $13\frac{1}{2}$ nearly. The abnormal variety discovered is the 50 centimes on *vertically* laid paper with the perforation characteristic of the succeeding issue.

The stamps of the second (1883) issue are found on both vertically and horizontally laid papers, and are all perforated $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

The two provisionals of 1889 are on remainders of the first issue so exhibit the peculiarity already noted.

Thus far we have only doubled the number of catalogued varieties, but on coming to the third (1889) issue we are confronted with the following string of perforations to be looked for :—

$10\frac{1}{2}$, 11, $11\frac{1}{2}$, 12, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13, $13\frac{1}{2}$

Strangely enough, the perforation of the preceding issue and its complement, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, have only been found on the 50 stot., whereas all the others, with the exception of $13\frac{1}{2}$, have been found on at least three of the six values. The stamps of this issue are printed on thin *wove* paper, and to the list of denominations given by Moens there must be added the 30 stot., orange.

Of the current set (not catalogued) I know the 10s., violet; 10s., mauve; 20s., deep blue; 30s., orange; 40s., dull red; 50s., green; 50s., blue-green. All are on much thicker paper than their predecessors, and those in my possession are perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Echoes from the Mart.

Transvaals at Auction.

The sale of the first portion of Mr. Tamsen's collection of Transvaals by Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper, evidenced the effect of pending events in South Africa, not so much perhaps in a sensational rise in prices as in the briskness of the competition. Dealers who have hitherto fought shy of Transvaals vied with each other in obtaining some of the loot. An improvement in prices was more noticeable in the ordinary run of stamps than in the rarities. Some of the rarities did not go so well as at the Pearce sale, but others fetched advanced prices. The record of the sale was £29 for a used copy of the "Transvral" error. There were of course many bargains. The 3d. lilac and green, surcharge omitted, fetched £15 10s. od., not a Ferrary price; and the 1/- wider apart variety at £6, and 3d. lilac on buff, surcharge inverted, at £5 15s. od. were decidedly cheap. 3d. lilac and green, italic V.R., surcharge inverted, brought a good price at £7.

Orange Free State Stamps.

The South African struggle also generated quite a demand for the neglected stamps of the Orange Free State at the Tamsen Sale. In several cases the catalogue quotation was reached and more than one exceeded. The four types of 4d. on 6d. brought £1 14s. od.; an unused pane of 60 of 3d. on 4d., including all five types, fetched £13 5s. od.; a horizontal strip of four of the rare type (Gibbons' 15), reached £4 4s. od.; but the best prices were 1d. on 5/-, Gibbons' type 7, inverted, £1 12s. od.; and 1d. on 4d. double surcharge, unused, £1 4s. od. These are big prices indeed for modest Orange Free State stamps.

Demand for South Africans.

The war has made sales of South Africans, particularly Transvaals and Orange Free States, very lively, one dealer in the Strand has been completely cleared out of current Transvaals.

The U.S. Columbian, 4c. blue, error.

Our friends across the water set great store by the Columbian 4c. in the blue shade of the 1d. At a recent auction by Messrs. Bogart & Durbin this "error" is priced as having brought $25. This we are told was one of a half sheet sold by a New York dealer last spring for $10 each. Mr. Joseph Holmes in *Mekeel's Weekly* holds the stamps to be a genuine error and believes that unless a new lot turn up it will advance to a round $100 within a few years. As the "error" is strictly one of shade and not of colour the price seems to us to be already a very tall one.

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