

SAPPHIRE

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EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

JANUARY, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

**Our New Series.**

WE send this number out as an earnest of our endeavour to provide a high-class monthly for stamp collectors. As time goes on we shall doubtless be able to introduce many improvements and correct defects.

As we have already announced the *Philatelic Record* will be circulated through the ordinary publishing channels, and will be obtainable readily through any bookseller or newsagent. Those of our readers who find it inconvenient to get it through these channels can, as before, send their subscription to the publishers direct, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C. The new yearly subscription will be 7s. for a copy post free.

We need hardly say that we shall be most grateful to our foreign and colonial readers for the earliest possible information concerning New Issues, and the information will be doubly valuable if a specimen for illustration is sent at the same time.

**Philatelists' War Relief Fund.**

AT a Meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, held on the 1st of December, 1899, the following resolution was passed: "The Society cordially approves the suggestion that stamp collectors resident in the United Kingdom should be invited to present postage stamps for sale by auction, the proceeds of such auction to be handed over to one of the War Funds, and that a Committee be elected to make all reasonable arrangements, with power to invite the co-operation of other Societies and of the leading Collectors and Dealers and any others interested in Philately, and that such Committee should also have power to add to their number any person or persons whether members of this Society or not."

A Committee has been formed in accordance with this resolution and in co-operation with many of the provincial societies and with the leading collectors and dealers, and we trust philatelic friends will contribute generously from their duplicates to swell the Fund to creditable dimensions.

**Activity in Philatelic Journalism.**

Never has there been such unusual activity in the line of philatelic journalism as there is just now. It is surely a good sign of the times, from a philatelic point of view.

The sale of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* to Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton, we have already noted. We understand that Mr. Duerst retires from the Editorship and that Mr. Kirkpatrick, who is an excellent philatelist, will take his place.

Mr. Ewen has changed his *Weekly Circular* into *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, and the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* has been sold, and will be resuscitated by Mr. Percy Bishop, who has purchased it.

From Mr. Walter Morley we have received the announcement that he intends publishing early in the New Year a "Monthly Journal of a novel character, intended to be of service to collectors of postage, revenue, telegraph, and railway stamps." Mr. Morley's venture is to be entitled: *Morley's Philatelic Journal*, and is to be edited by Mr. A. Preston Pearce, the well known fiscal specialist. We are glad to welcome a journal for fiscal collectors, as we have felt compelled, somewhat ruthlessly, to cut out the fiscal portion from our own pages.

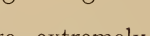
Another claimant for notice is entitled the *Stamp Collectors' Guardian*, a penny monthly, of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* pattern, and quite as bellicose.

Of all these ventures we cordially hope the fittest will survive, and will do much to advance the truest interests of philately.



**A Glasgow Exhibition.**

Major Evans in the *Monthly Journal* calls attention to the fact that a Great Exhibition is to be held at Glasgow in 1901, and raises the question as to the possibility of Philatelists in Scotland getting up a philatelic show. Major Evans suggests that if anything is to be done a start should be made at once. Are philatelists north of the Tweed numerous and strong enough for such an effort? We believe we are right in saying that there is not even a Philatelic Society in Glasgow.



**Our Philatelic Press.**

Some people are extremely fond of playing the "superior person"? and advising the universe in general how it should behave itself in order that it may secure the approving Pecksniffian nod of the said "superior person." To this class apparently belongs the writer of the following paragraph signed "R.P.J." in the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement:*

> The faults of our Philatelic Press are too great a fondness for reprints (not of stamps, but of articles from other journals), and latterly, a huge desire to emulate financial journalists by inserting strongly-worded personal paragraphs, retorts, courteous and otherwise, which can only lower them in the estimation of all serious-minded philatelists who may be old-fashioned enough to want *Philately* in their journals, and not editorial (and publisher's) quarrels.

As the writer does not differentiate we are bound to assume that he brings his charge against the English Philatelic Press as a whole. And we confidently say that it is a barefaced misrepresentation which the publishers of the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement* should have refused to publish. The *Monthly Journal*, the *London Philatelist* and the *Philatelic Record*, our leading philatelic papers, are not in the habit of inserting "Strongly-worded personal paragraphs" such as are calculated to "lower them in the estimation of all serious-minded philatelists." As to reprints of articles, these are more frequently than not of the greatest possible value

and deserving of the widest possible publicity. That a few rags should indulge in personal pars in the hope of securing an amount of attention they could not otherwise command, is no excuse whatever for a wholesale charge against our philatelic press, and we trust that the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement* will be more carefully edited in future than to admit of the circulation of such unmerited abuse of its equally respectable and much more able contemporaries.

Or Advertisement Pages.

We must draw our readers' special attention to our advertisement pages, with particular emphasis on the line at the foot of each page, "kindly mention the *Philatelic Record* when replying to above advertisement." We look to our advertisement pages to furnish us with the sinews of war, to enable us to provide a thoroughly satisfactory, high-class philatelic journal, which shall be a real pleasure to all concerned. The advertiser is quite willing to pay the piper so long as he gets good results, and we trust the readers of the *Philatelic Record* will specially note those who help us with their advertisements. The advertisement pages of a good philatelic journal should be almost as full of interest and as up-to-date as the regular reading matter. In order to insure fresh advertisement matter we freely and gladly change the matter of any advertisement every month without extra charge. We don't want a dull page even in our advertisements.

# The Stamps of Luxembourg:

An Easy Guide to their Collection, with some Notes on Relative Values.

By FRANK H. OLIVER.

THE stamps of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg have always been to me one of the most interesting of my philatelic studies. They certainly are not, in an artistic sense, "a thing of beauty" but, philatelically speaking, they are "a joy for ever." The designs, though plain, are suitable for the purpose they have to serve, and there is something *solid* about them which appeals to me far more than some of the modern "gew-gaws," issued as stamps by petty States and "dying nations," with no other purpose than to add to their Revenues at the expense of one particular class, the long-suffering, and often much-abused philatelist.

The stamps of Luxembourg are rich in varieties of printing, perforation, surcharges, etc., but these are legitimate varieties and were all in existence before postal authorities woke up to the fact that from *their* point of view, as well as from that of the collector-dealer, there was money in Philately. There are sufficient varieties to satisfy even the most ardent of specialists, and as many are extremely difficult to obtain, he will have plenty of philatelic excitement in his search after them, before he can proudly exhibit his collection as complete.

Moreover, there is the added zest, that owing to the very slight knowledge of the stamps possessed, not only by collectors, but by the majority of dealers, most of these scarce varieties may be picked up by diligent searching, at the price of the "common or garden" issues. What greater joy does the collector ever experience than when he has secured a prize from a dealer's selection, at the price of an ordinary stamp. "He goeth on his way rejoicing," while the unsuspecting dealer rejoices also; so both are satisfied.

There is no reason why the general collector should neglect the Luxembourg issues, because of the existence of numerous varieties of perforation, etc. He can, if he wishes, ignore such varieties and be content with one example of each distinct stamp. He can also ignore the minor differences of shade, and be satisfied with "ultramarine" and "blue," leaving "pale ultramarine," etc., etc., to the specialist. In framing the following list, I have endeavoured to satisfy the wants of both classes of collectors, and therefore in those issues which are prolific in varieties of perforation, I have first given the list for the general collector, with the prices for the cheapest variety, and have then divided these issues into perforations, for the benefit of the specialist. The prices quoted are what I consider a fair rate for a collector to pay, unused, in mint condition, and used, fair average copies. The varieties of perforation I have not attempted to price, but have given a guide as to relative value wherever possible.

The following list being intended as an easy guide, I have not burdened it with long accounts of numbers printed, Printers' and Postal Authorities' correspondence, and other minor matters, which do not interest one reader in a hundred, but have endeavoured to make it as simple as possible.



Fig 1.



Fig 2.

1852. Head of King William III. (Fig 1), engraved on steel in *taille douce*. Printed in Luxembourg in sheets of 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps) on yellowish-white wove paper, each stamp being watermarked with a double-lined "W" (Fig. 2). Imperforate. The paper of this issue varies very much in substance; I have found copies on a moderately thin paper, whilst others are found on an extremely thick paper. The texture is coarse, and in some cases has the appearance of "ribbing." This is, however, but the grain of the "web" in the paper-making machine. The gum is yellowish to pale brown, and is very unevenly laid on. There were doubtless several printings of these stamps, which would explain the variation in colour of the 1 silber groschen.

| | UNUSED. S. D. | USED. S. D. |
|---|---|---|
| Dix (10) centimes grey .. .. | 45 0 | 0 8 |
| Dix (10) ,, black .. .. | 50 0 | 0 10 |
| Un (1) silber groschen red.. .. | 40 0 | 2 0 |
| Un (1) ,, ,, deep red .. | 50 0 | 2 6 |
| Un (1( ,, ,, dull red .. | 15 0 | 2 6 |
| Un (1) ,, ,, rose .. | 40 0 | 3 6 |

Unused copies of the 10 centimes value in mint condition are underpriced in the catalogues. On the other hand I have seen a large number of

copies of the 1 silber groschen unused, in the dull red shade in mint condition, and I believe there was a small remainder of this particular shade.




Fig 3.




Fig 4.

1859-60. Arms of the Grand Duchy, for the 1, 2, and 4 centimes values, enclosed in a treble-lined circle, supporting on either side smaller circles containing the numerals of value. Inscriptions above and below in curved labels (Fig. 3). The remaining values have the Arms contained in an oval, the upper portion enclosed by the inscription "G.D. de LUXEMBOURG," the lower portion resting on a curved label containing the word of value, with the numerals of value at either side in circles (Fig 4). Engraved on wood, and printed in Frankfort from blocks, in sheets of 100 stamps on moderately thick white wove paper. Unwatermarked and imperforate. The paper of this issue is fairly uniform, and is of a considerably finer texture than that of the preceding issue. Gum, white to yellowish. The values of 1c., 2c., and 4c. were issued for payment of postage on printed matter, newspapers, etc.; the higher values for payment of postage on ordinary correspondence.

| | | | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *s. d.* | *s. d.* |
| 1 | centime | pale yellowish-brown .. .. | 2 6 | 4 0 |
| 1 | ,, | yellowish-brown .. .. | 2 6 | 4 0 |
| 2 | ,, | grey-black .. .. | 2 6 | 5 0 |
| 2 | ,, | black .. .. .. | 2 6 | 5 0 |
| 4 | ,, | pale yellow .. .. | 4 0 | 6 0 |
| 4 | ,, | orange-yellow .. .. | 6 0 | 8 6 |
| 10 | ,, | pale blue .. .. | 3 0 | 0 4 |
| 10 | ,, | blue .. .. | 2 0 | 0 4 |
| 10 | ,, | deep blue .. .. | 5 0 | 1 0 |
| 12½ | ,, | pale rose .. .. | 2 6 | 3 6 |
| 12½ | ,, | rose .. .. .. | 2 6 | 3 6 |
| 25 | ,, | pale brown .. .. | 5 0 | 8 0 |
| 25 | ,, | brown .. .. .. | 5 0 | 8 0 |
| 30 | ,, | pale red-lilac .. .. | 6 0 | 5 0 |
| 30 | ,, | red-lilac .. .. | 5 0 | 4 0 |
| 30 | ,, | deep red-lilac .. .. | 10 0 | 6 0 |
| 37½ | ,, | green .. .. .. | 6 0 | 5 6 |
| 37½ | ,, | deep green .. .. | 6 0 | 5 6 |
| 40 | ,, | red-orange .. .. | 20 0 | 6 0 |
| 40 | ,, | deep red-orange .. .. | 22 6 | 7 6 |

There is a notable exception to the general rule in paper, gum, etc., of the above issue. It is a distinct printing of the 2c. value on a much softer paper, with a *deep brown* crinkly gum. It is much scarcer than the ordinary copies, and a sharp look-out should be kept for it.

Variety: Softer paper and deep brown gum.
2 centimes black.

I have found considerable difficulty in procuring fine used copies of many of the values of this issue, especially in the 1c., 2c., 4c., 12½c., and 25c. values. There are considerable quantities of these stamps to be had unused in poor condition, *i.e.*, cut close; but fine copies with good margins are really difficult to obtain. This is especially the case with the 40c. The 10c. *deep blue* and 30c. are not to be despised and should not be passed by for the sake of an extra shilling or two. There are a number of so-called

errors in this and the following issues of the same design, such as "Centites" for "Centimes," etc., etc. In my opinion these are unworthy of the attention of collectors, as they are entirely due to defective blocks and printings.




Fig. 5.

In 1865, some of the values of the series for ordinary correspondence began to appear in different colours to those issued in 1859-60. The first to appear was the 10c. in *lilac*, followed during the next year by the 37½c. in *stone*. In 1866, a new value, 20c., appeared in *yellowish-brown*. This series was not completed until 1872, when the 37½c. value was converted into the new value of 1 franc, by being surcharged in *sans-serif* capitals "UN FRANC" (Figure V.) All these stamps were rouletted in colour by means of dotted brass rules inserted round each separate stamp. These rules being slightly higher than the blocks, cut into the paper, thus forming the perforations. Though commonly called *rouletting*, this is quite a different process to the rouletting made by a rouletting machine.

During this period the values used for payment of postage on printed matter, etc., also appeared with rouletting, the 1c. red-brown, 2c. black, and 4c. yellow first appearing rouletted without colour. This was effected by a separate impression of the perforating rules, no ink being used in the operation. In later printings of the 1 centime the plan of a simultaneous printing of blocks and rules together was adopted, as in the case of the higher values. The 4c. value was altered to *green* in 1871.

The paper, gum, etc., is similar to that of the preceding issue. There must have been a considerable number of printings, as there are many wide differences in shades of colour, especially of the 1c., 10c., and 25c. The list I have given contains the most prominent, but this list could certainly be extended; but it is difficult to find colour names that would clearly distinguish the various shades.

1865-71. Plain Roulettes.

| | UNUSED. | | USED. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | S. | D. | S. | D. |
| 1 centime pale brown .. .. | 8 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 1 ,, brown .. .. .. | 8 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 2 ,, black .. .. .. | 0 | 9 | 1 | 9 |
| 4 ,, yellow .. .. .. | 20 | 0 | 20 | 0 |
| 4 ,, yellow-orange .. .. | 15 | 0 | 12 | 6 |
| 4 ,, green .. .. .. | 1 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 ,, deep green .. .. | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 |

Of the above the 4c. yellow is undoubtedly the scarcest stamp, and I consider fine copies at present prices, both used and unused in good condition, to be a good investment. The 1c. is difficult to get used.

*(To be Continued.)*

# The Reprints of Hawaii.

By T. H. R. CROWLE.

IN looking through an average general collection, one is struck by the number of reprints and forgeries that appear in certain countries, and this is especially the case with the earlier issues of Hawaii. I propose in this article to deal with the reprints of this country and perhaps on a future occasion I may have something to say about the forgeries.

The reprints of Hawaii are due to the fact that for many years, sets of the stamps were on sale at the post office, and it was found necessary to replace by reprints, certain stamps of which the supply had run out. These stamps are the 5c. and 13c. of 1853, and the engraved 2c. of 1866.

I shall point out the chief differences only between the originals and reprints, so as to enable the collector to say at once to which class any specimen belongs; having decided this point the student will be able to find out for himself many other differences, the enumeration of which would only needlessly encumber this article.




Reprint. Original.

THE 5C. BLUE.—On medium creamy white paper was reprinted in 1889 from a retouched plate. The reprint is in a brighter colour and on a whiter paper. The distinctive point is in the small square containing the figure 5 in the top right hand corner of the stamp. In the original there are two small dots, one above the other, to the left of the figure and close to the vertical line bounding the square. These dots are absent in the reprint.




Original. Reprint.

The 13c. Vermilion.—This was reprinted at the same time as the 5c., also from a retouched plate. The reprint is in orange-red, whilst the colour of the original is scarlet vermilion, with a rarer printing in rose vermilion. The points of difference are to be found in the figures 13 in the left lower corner of the stamp. In the original the lower parts of the figures are on the same level, and the foot of the 1 does not touch the 3. There is a distinct spur projecting backwards from the lower part of the upper curve of the 3. In the reprint the figures are not on the same level, the base of the 3 being distinctly below that of the 1, and the foot of the 1 is long and touches the 3. There is no spur. The remainder of the originals of both values were overprinted "Specimen" about 1870, and the reprints are found with and without the word "Reprint" on them.

The 2c. of 1864.—The design of this stamp is similar to the earlier issue lithographed on vertically or horizontally laid paper, being a portrait of King Kamehamka IV. in the centre, with Uku Leta in a curved label above, and Elua Keneta in a straight label below. This stamp is the greatest stumbling-block to the collector, as not only is there a reprint of it, but also an official facsimile, due to the fact that the original die could not be found when required in 1885. A fresh plate was therefore engraved by the American Bank Note Co., and from this 10,000 stamps were struck off, one-half of which were overprinted "Specimen." Two years later the original die was found, and after being retouched was used to form another plate, from which 37,500 stamps were printed in two batches. Some of these were marked "Specimen" as before, and in 1892 those remaining in the post office which were not marked were overprinted "Reprint." It is with these three—the Original, the Facsimile, and the Reprint—that we have to deal.




Original.




Facsimile.




Retouch.

The Original.—There are 15 stamps on the sheet; the paper is a white wove of thin texture, the gum is yellowish and often slightly tints the paper. The two curved lines above Uku Leta are uniform in thickness and evenly curved. The straight line between the central design (the portrait) and the leaves in the left border of the stamp turns inwards to the right $\frac{1}{3}$ of a millimeter from the horizontal line above Elua Keneta. The two A's in these words are identical.

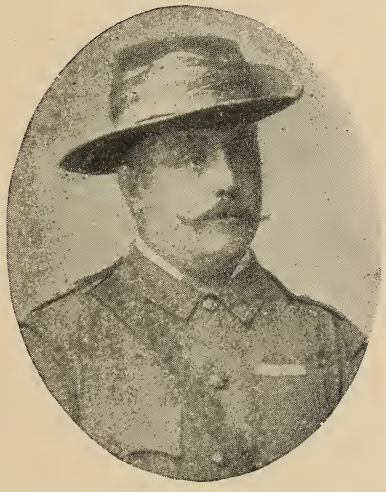
The Facsimile.—There are 50 stamps in the sheet, the paper is much thicker and distinctly yellow, and shows a watermark A.B.N. Co. at each corner. The gum is yellowish brown. The line on the left of the central design runs into the horizontal line above Elua Keneta. The A of Elua has the cross-bar distinctly lower than the A of Keneta, and

the K of the latter word has the upper oblique stroke shorter and the lower stroke much longer than in the Original and Retouch.

The Retouch.—This is printed on a paper which is slightly yellow in tone, and midway between the other two in thickness. There are 20 stamps in the sheet, which shows the watermark, "Standard No. 1, R. & M.," in two lines in the centre. The gum is yellowish. The two curved lines above Uku Leta are not uniform, the upper being distinctly flattened at the top of the curve, so that for a short distance it runs parallel with the horizontal lines forming the outer frame of the stamp. The lower of the two curved lines shows a thickening above the LE of Leta. On the right side of the face (left of the stamp) are three parallel lines running downwards and outwards from the inner angle of the eye to the tip of the nose, and outlining this organ. These lines are only found in the Retouch.

In examining a copy of the 2c. one should proceed as follows:—First, look at the vertical line to the left of the portrait; if this runs into the horizontal line above Elua Keneta you have the Facsimile; if it does not, then look at the two curved lines above Uku Leta; if the upper of these is flattened at the top, and the lower one is thickened over the LE you have the Retouch, but if these two lines are uniform in curve and thickness you have the Original.

# South African War and Philately.



Colonel W. D. Campbell Williams.
(Principal Medical Officer, N.S.W. Contingent.

FROM a philatelic point of view the war in South Africa is a momentous one. The changes which it portends in the postal issues of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State are already creating an abnormal interest in the issues of those States.

Amongst the philatelists who have gone to the front we note the name of Colonel W. D. Campbell Williams, the well-known President of the Sydney Philatelic Club, who is officer in command of the Army Medical Corps embarked with the New South Wales Contingent.

The *Australian Philatelist* trusts he will reach the Transvaal in capital time to preside over the first meeting of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society after the close of the war, and humorously suggests that perhaps he may even be consulted as to the design for the new British Transvaal stamps.

Colonel Williams presided at the September meeting of the Sydney Philatelic Club and on that occasion exhibited his specialised collection of the Stamps of France from 1849 to 1871. Describing the display the *Australian Philatelist* says, "This collection was formed by Sir Daniel Cooper in 1873 and contains a magnificent range of shades in both used and unused condition. Pairs, strips and blocks are shown in most varieties, but the gems which most attracted the attention of the members were the tête-bêche varieties. These included the 20c. black and 1 franc carmine of 1849, used, the 30c. blue of 1853, unused; the 4c. grey of 1864, and the 1871 Republic 10c., bistre and 20c. blue. Of the 10c. brown on rose there was a block of 9 unused, the centre stamp tête-bêche, and two pairs tête-beche used, one being on the original cover. Of the first empire type the La russe perforations were complete, and there were also a pair of 1c. and the 20c. and 30c. of 1864, *perce en pointes*. The Bordeaux 1c., 5c. and 40c. were shown *perce en lignes*, and the 20c. *perce en pointes*. In addition to these there were three of the first issue 10c. of New Caledonia, and a large number of the other early French Colonial issues. The collection is mounted in one of Wilson's philatelic albums with *quadrille* pattern leaves."

Philatelists at home will cordially join his colonial friends in wishing Col. Williams a safe return from the Campaign, and many honours.

# How to run a Stamp Exchange.

By G. JOHNSON, B.A.,

*Hon. Sec. of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.*

THERE are at present known to me upwards of eighty stamp exchange clubs in the British Isles, and I think it will be admitted that out of this number all grades of success and non-success will be shewn.

They may be divided into two sections :

*(a)* Those which are parts of *town Societies*, governed by a Committee elected by the members, but the actual working usually left to a Honorary Secretary, also elected by the members, such as the Birmingham, Bristol, Herts., Manchester, Plymouth and Sheffield Societies ; the Birmingham Society, however, exchanges several times more than all the rest combined.

*(b) Private Societies*—the Secretary being the promoter and sole representative of each. These form the very great majority of the total number. By far the largest of these are the Northern and Suburban, although many of the smaller and little-heard-of Societies are doing, and have done for years past, excellent work. I know several whose titles even

have never yet appeared in any printed list of Societies but which nevertheless are far superior to many which are always included, and whose packets would put to shame many of those which are reported as "very fine."

When it comes to what we shall consider a successful club it must be borne in mind that very good work can be done in a comparatively unpretentious way; and although the size of a club and the amount of its turnover usually give a fair idea of the benefits it renders to its members it would be absolutely impossible for many Secretaries to give the time necessary to carry on the exchanges mentioned.

But it will be useful to take the largest as types of what should be done to achieve success.

(1) The first thing to do is to get members, and great care must be taken in admitting them or there will soon be trouble. If there is the slighest hitch there must be no hesitation whatever in refusing the one who causes it the privilege of seeing the packets.

(2) The most important factor after the formation of the Society is that returns should be made promptly on the return of the packets, cash being sent with the sheets. It will be considered satisfactory if returns are made as soon as the accounts are collected in (unless someone is out of town), but it is greatly to be recommended that cash be always sent within 3 or 4 days of arrival. This will not entail any risk if the first condition has been observed, and the amount out of pocket for the few days will not be very much as many pay straight away.

Whenever this has been done for any length of time you will find good sheets sent in and although the Society may be small to suit the Secretary's time the packet will be creditable as there will be plenty of applicants to select from. Look at the unsuccessful societies and see if there is one of them where returns are made within a month of the packet getting back, and even when the sheets are returned the money is not sent with them in many instances.

(3) Rules must be carefully framed and then strictly adhered to, not always with an iron hand, but allowance made for circumstances. If members know that they will be quickly looked up when rules are broken it is surprising how soon they learn to observe them.

(4) Dealers and Collectors alike should be admitted. Much has been written about dealers being excluded but to me the idea seems ridiculous. In the first place it is somewhat difficult to distinguish the one from the other. Many of course never buy to profit by their purchases, or they only buy for pleasure combined with an idea of investment, and a capital idea too in very many instances; but in most cases the border line between collector and dealer is too faint to be readily discerned. Then the larger dealers at least have plenty of some varieties to spare for good sheets, and what is still more important they have customers' wants to supply. They therefore frequently buy largely even after dozens of collectors have had their choice and were afraid to give the price. Now as buyers are always better than sellers in any club this is a very important factor, for if sales do not show a fair percentage members will not send good sheets at reasonable prices. Of course sheets are even sent occasionally to the best Societies and a very low percentage is sold. This is due to the fact that the owners have "notions of their own" as to the value of their stamps.

(5) Foreigners are always a welcome addition to a club, although the Birmingham Society is the only one which specially caters for them and

has attracted more than all the others together—over 90 of its 269 members being colonial or foreign. They readily supply in fair numbers many varieties which would be a long time coming round if left to the duplicates of local members.

(6) Packets must circulate every month. I know it is possible in a small Society to stop them for the summer months, but this accounts to some extent for the small size of some of the town and private Societies. It no doubt sometimes keeps the Secretary at correspondence when he wants to be looking at the waves; but where one has a conscientious lot of members, they let you know well in advance their change of address, and then it does not take much time. Of course you occasionally get a member who thinks (if he ever thinks at all) that you are in the box and can alter the address even when it is on the way to him, and then he writes on the list: "sent contrary to instructions"; but this is only one of the ripples that make you enjoy life better.

(7) Postcards must be sent by at least every third member on the postal list so that the Secretary may keep in touch day by day with each packet, and it should be distinctly understood that any member who neglects sending the postcard or who delays the packet from any cause whatever must be responsible for the expenses incurred in sending telegrams or letters to the members before and after him.

(8) If you can add to the above additional benefits in the shape of meetings at a convenient centre, use of a philatelic library, etc., it will add to the interest, but they are not so essential to success as the previous requirements.

I think the above exhausts all that will enable anyone to form and maintain a most successful stamp exchange and as a proof of what may be done in this way I may mention that the returns of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, which has circulated and sold more than any other Society in the world, show that during the four years ending June 30th, 1899, the total amount circulated was £119,025 14s. 2½d., of which £17,795 1s. 7d. was sold without the loss in any way whatever of a single penny.

# The Forum.

CAN COLLECTORS, BY THE PUBLICATION OF A COLLECTOR'S PRICED CATALOGUE, REGULATE THE SELLING PRICE OF STAMPS?

**Affirmative Opening. By an Old Collector.**

I AM asked to open a discussion on the question, "Can Collectors, by the publication of a Collector's Priced Catalogue, regulate the selling price of Stamps?" and I unhesitatingly respond in the affirmative. From my point of view, dealers have too long dominated the pricing of stamps, and dictated to stamp collectors what they shall pay for their indulgence in a hobby of their own choice.

How has the situation been created? In the first place a few who imagined some recreative pleasure was to be obtained by collecting postage stamps started the collecting idea. Then there obtruded themselves a class of persons who imagined, in their turn, that they could screw some profit out of the business of relieving collectors of the pleasure of doing their own collecting by doing it for them. So they fished around, and bought up all they could find, or obtain, that collectors wanted; and these stamps they offered to collectors at prices fixed by themselves. Gradually the most desirable stamps found their way into dealers, instead of into collectors' hands, and collectors were compelled, by the sheer force of circumstances, to buy from professional collectors who had obtruded their services unasked, instead of collecting for themselves, as they unquestionably must have intended doing.

Therefore, in the first place the dealer is an obtruder in the arena of stamp collecting. He does nothing that the collector could not do for himself. In fact, he curtails the actual pleasure of collecting by drawing across the collector's track the commercial red herring. He has reduced the pleasure of collecting to a sordid business of buying and selling. And now, perforce, it is considered an impertinence for the collector to claim any voice in the matter of prices.

I am not one of those who are inclined to submit to this situation. Consequently I welcome a free and open discussion on the right to price stamps. That collectors should tamely surrender the making and pricing of catalogues entirely into the hands of dealers is to me simply incomprehensible. They say, in effect, any Tom, Dick, or Harry, so long as he deals, must know a great deal more about our hobby than we ever can know, therefore, we accept and, without murmur, pay his demanded prices, no matter what they may be.

That, in my opinion, is a *reductio ad absurdum*. It surely is ridiculous to claim for dealers that their knowledge of the relative rarity of stamps surpasses, or even equals, that of the specialist collector who makes a life study of the stamps of a particular country. No one, I venture to think, will dare traverse the contention that the specialist must know a great deal more about the relative rarity of the stamps of his particular country than any dealer or combination of dealers. And if that is so, surely a combination of specialist collectors should be able to price a catalogue more accurately and more justly than any combination of dealers. But our friends who will take

the other side in this discussion will probably repeat the parrot cry that relative rarity has nothing to do with the price of a stamp, that the price depends more on the question of supply and demand. I admit the force of that reply, but then it must not be forgotten that the first item in the question is that of supply. Besides, the question of relative rarity may be very pertinent in discussing the relative prices of different countries, some of which may be low priced by reason of their unpopularity amongst collectors, and others high priced because of their popularity, but in the pricing of the stamps of one country relative rarity should be the dominating factor in the relative prices of the various issues and stamps of that country. And who is better qualified to do that pricing than a body of specialists of that country. They are supremely the best qualified to undertake the task by their intimate knowledge, not only of the stamps issued but also of the stocks available, for between them they will have ransacked most, if not all, the principle stocks in dealers' hands.

Hence, I contend that the collector can price with more knowledge, and therefore more accurately than the dealer, and, that being so, that a collector's priced catalogue would be accepted by buying collectors as a more reliable guide to the correct price of a stamp than a dealer's catalogue which is confessedly priced mainly on his own stock, or copied from some catalogue so priced.

Just imagine for a moment the ridiculous position of the stamp trade governed as it is by a catalogue confessedly priced on one dealer's stock. The anomalies of such pricing are continually cropping up. Place against such an authority the authority of a collector's catalogue priced by eminent specialists, and published under the imprimatur of, say, the leading philatelic society, or better still the combined imprimatur of the leading societies.

### Negative Opening. By Edward J. Nankivell.

Our indignant friend, "An Old Collector," who opens on this interesting topic is very plausible. He would be convincing but for the fact that the roots of the question go deeper than he would have us believe. And the difficulties that surround it are far more formidable than he seems to conceive. His view, indeed, is very superficial. He apparantly thinks that collectors have only to say the word, and the deed is done. If he had been present at the reading of a proposal I had the hardihood to make to the premier society that it should undertake the compilation and publication of an unpriced catalogue for collectors he would better understand the difficulties that stand in the way of the compilation of a priced catalogue. An unpriced catalogue was held to be a task far too herculean for the finite brains of collectors to even dream of attempting. If an unpriced catalogue was a veritable nightmare, what would a priced catalogue be? It would bring the grey hairs (what there is of them) of the eminents down with heartrending sorrow to the grave.

I will not trouble to discuss our friends peculiar summary of the situation, for, even accepting it as correct, even admitting the possibility that the specialist may be more competent to price than the dealer, I say the difficulties that remain are, by collectors themselves, held to be insurmountable. The premier society has discussed the question of a catalogue by collectors. The reception of the suggestion may be gathered from the pages of the *London Philatelist.* Was ever a poor editor more seriously disturbed than Mr. Castle by the proposal? If then the premier society is opposed to the undertaking where are you to find a sufficient and acceptable authority for pricing from the collector's point of view.

Again, even if the premier society were an industrious society of all the talents, are not specialists just as human, just as keen on the main chance, just as unreliable when self interest intervenes, as the poor dealer with all his sins of omission and commission. If your specialist has a good self satisfying page of a rarity, is he likely to underprice? If there is some rarity which he has not been able to secure, is he likely to place it still further out of reach by over-pricing? Not he. A few may be honest enough to cut their own throats, but not many. The old Adam is strong in most of us. Just as strong as it is in the dealers of the Strand.

Again, if the collector prices, who is to compel the dealer to accept those prices. The dealer sells what he buys. He has rent, rates, taxes, salaries and other expenses to add to his expenditure before he can determine the price at which he can sell any stamps that he may buy. Will your collectors' catalogue also fix his rent, rates, taxes and salaries.

An old collector holds that the specialist gets to know all about available stocks. He may get to know the stocks held in his own country, but scarcely those in the hands of foreign dealers. But your dealer is in touch with stocks all over the would. There is a constant inter trade amongst dealers. Their travellers, or, more frequently the principals themselves, are continually buying or selling from each other's stocks. The shrewdest dealer is he who knows how, and where, and when, to buy in the cheapest market.

The domination of one particular catalogue which meets with such condemnation from "An Old Collector" is more apparent than real. All that can be said of it is that it leads the way. Where it is sound it dominates, as it deserves to do, but when it is wrong it is set aside in most dealings. A dealer who finds he can sell at a good profit under catalogue does not lose the opportunity of scoring.

Besides, it is a well known fact that the leading catalogue is the result very largely of a happy combination of dealer and specialist, and stock.

I am afraid I must come to the conclusion on this question that collectors cannot by the publication of a collectors' priced catalogue, regulate the selling price of stamps, because collectors cannot agree to face the task, and even if they could be got to face it, self interest would give rise to quite as many anomalies in their pricing as are to be found in current dealers' catalogues.

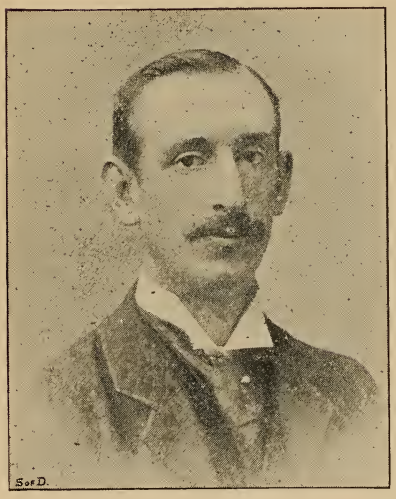
# Index to last Volume.

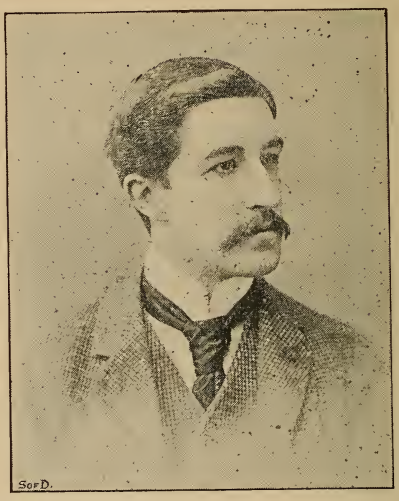
## NOTICE.

The Title Page and Index to the last volume of the *Philatelic Record* will be sent post free on receipt of penny stamp by our publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1, Amen Corner, London, England.

# Editorial Interviews.

By The Editor.




Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton.

A NEW firm of stamp dealers of some pretension has recently opened offices at 202, High Holborn, London. The firm is new, but the individual partners are by no means new hands. Mr. Kirkpatrick comes from Bournemouth and is widely known as a good all round philatelist. Mr. Loines Pemberton is a son of the ever to be remembered E. L. Pemberton of philatelic fame.

With the view of keeping our readers in touch with what is going on we called upon the new firm, and found the two partners full of business, overhauling stock books and pricing a very fine collection of Danish West Indies which they had just purchased.

You think, queried I, there is room in this little village for another large firm of stamp dealers? Undoubtedly, the more we see of the business the more we are convinced that there is plenty of room to increase the dealings all round, and the more dealers there are the more temptations there will be for collectors to take up the hobby.

But why not open in Philatelic Avenue? We considered it better to open up in a part where a large business had not been fully tried. Besides, as you know, rents are high in the Strand.

Do you propose to go in for any particular lines? No, at present our object is to deal in all classes of stamps, used and unused and in all philatelic publications and accessories.

But I presume you have your strong points in the matter of stock? Oh yes, our stock is much stronger in European stamps, especially unused, and if we have any particular fancies, it is in such countries as Shanghai, China, Persia, Japan, Transvaal, in which there is still much to learn.

Shanghai, China, Persia! Humph! Rather unsaleable, are they not? We have not found them so, but perhaps having a fairly good stock, we have

been able to show a good variety, which, as a rule, induces a sale ; Shanghais are perhaps the least saleable ; but we have no doubt they will again come to the fore. Perhaps a little political trouble bye and bye will have the desired effect.

Ah ! Has the "political trouble" had the "desired effect" in the case of the other country you mention—Transvaal ? Undoubtedly, the demand for Transvaal and Orange Free States, has been exceedingly brisk, and collectors who would not look at them three months ago, are now anxious to fill up their gaps. And they are much surprised now to find how difficult it is to do so, and are still more surprised to learn that full and above catalogue prices in many instances are asked, and paid without a murmur, even Tonga and Samoa have come in for their share, and are readily sold on account of the little political changes there.

Of all classes for which do you find the greatest demand ? At present we find the demand is fairly general all round, taking out of account the abnormal demand for Transvaal and Orange Free States. As regards used and unused stamps our experience is that unused, undoubtedly, still more than hold their own, and we cannot help noticing on the return of our approval books, that it is generally the unused that have disappeared.

How about catalogue quotations. Are they still inflated ? Generally speaking, we think catalogue prices at present are on a more equitable basis than ever they were. Of course the catalogue is merely the quotation of the firm which publishes it, and there are always circumstances and events taking place that have an effect on the prices of certain issues and particular stamps that cannot be foreseen.

Our friends in the trade are hoping for an exceptionally good year—a big recovery from the dull seasons. How do you feel ? We believe there are good grounds for the opinion, certainly the number of collectors has largely increased during the past two years, which in the ordinary course, is bound to have some effect in the future.

What about Australians ? Presumably the political events that are looming there are having their effect on the collection of the stamps of Oceana ? The sale for Australians is much better than it was two years ago. There is always a ready sale for fine old unused stamps, which are most difficult to obtain in mint condition. The prospect of one set for the whole of Australia already has had the effect of increasing the demand.

Harking back to the question of prices ; you say that catalogue quotations are only those of their publishers. Do you mean that every dealer is a law unto himself ? Is their no market level of prices ? Are you not influenced by the catalogue prices in fixing your own ? It cannot be denied, that Stanley Gibbons' catalogue is the leading standard of prices, in this country. In fact, in the world, if, there were no catalogues, Stamp Collecting would never be in the flourishing condition, that it is to-day, as no single collector, or dealer, would have sufficient knowledge to know if he was obtaining fair market value for his money, therefore would not risk paying shillings or pounds for stamps, that he might be offered the same day for so many pence. Auction prices have certainly had an effect on the prices, but on the other hand, catalogues in their turn have had a still more important effect, on the prices realized at auction, as a purchaser always bears in mind, the standard catalogue price and must to a certain extent be guided by that. This of course refers to the higher class of stamps. Publishers of catalogues cannot help being influenced by their stock and of stocks that are known to exist, but we have no reason to believe that the prices are arranged in anything but a fair way.

# More U.S. Post Office Jobbery.

THE postal authorities of the United States seem bent on prostituting the postal service of the great republic for the purpose of jobbery in postal issues, after the manner of the most contemptible of the rag-tag-and-bob-tail of the Central American Seebeck States.

The Washington correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* writes:—"Danger is again threatening on the philatelic horizon, once more there is talk of a special set of U.S. stamps for advertising purposes. From present indications it is quite likely that the Postmaster-General will order a special set to commemorate the Buffalo exposition. The matter is being pushed by promoters of the scheme and the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, Mr. Madden, is favourably impressed with the idea, provided it does not cost too much."

The *Washington Star* says, "There is almost certain to be considerable opposition to the issue from philatelists, who are opposed as a general proposition to the issuance of any new varieties of stamps. When the proposition to issue a distinctive set of stamps for the Omaha exposition came up, there was a vigorous protest from stamp collectors, but it was of no avail. It is represented that the issuance of stamps descriptive of an exposition is the best possible advertisement, and its results are far reaching. The entire world learns of the exposition, and the attention of the people generally is called to it."

General Madden, Third Assistant Postmaster-General, said to a reporter, "The whole subject is in embryo. My attention has been called to the advisability of issuing a Buffalo series of stamps to commemorate the exposition, and I can see no objection at this time to it, provided, of course, the cost is not too great. The Omaha exposition had a series of nine stamps, and I suppose the Buffalo directors would want as many. I know there will be objections from stamp collectors, but that must be expected. The stamps will be of great benefit to the exposition as an advertising medium, and up to the present time I am in favour of them."

Against this further scandalous attempt to pick the pockets of collectors we hope our philatelic friends on the other side will raise an emphatic and effectual protest. When the Omaha swindle was perpetrated we felt that it was only the first of a series, already our worst fears are being realised. At this rate every pettifogging provincial exhibition in the United States will be entitled to its special issue of postage stamps. On this side we are quite prepared to hear of any stamp swindles from the poverty stricken central American States, but we are not a little surprised to find an important department of the administration of a great country like the United States lending itself unblushingly to such deliberate jobbery.

We trust no English philatelic journal will chronicle the issue of the proposed stamps. We certainly shall not do so.




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**British Honduras.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles the following high values, conforming in design to the lower denominations of current set.

*Adhesives.*

50c. green and red.
$1 green and red.
$2 green and blue.
$5 green and black.

**Ceylon.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says the 2c. and 4c. now appear in their old design, but in chocolate-brown and yellow respectively, and that the 3c. is now in a pretty dark green and the 5c. a bright blue. The *P.J.I.* adds that the high values are being issued in a new design.

*Adhesives.*

2c. chocolate.
3c. dark green.
4c. yellow.
5c. bright blue.

*New Design.*

1r. 50c. rose.
2r. 25c. dull blue.

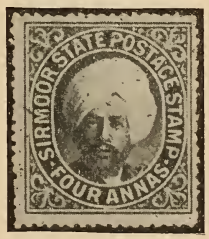
**Great Britain.**—The *London Philatelist* is informed on high authority that the ½d. stamp is to be issued shortly in dark green, with the design unchanged, and that the 1s. will be printed in bicolour, probably of a new design; both values to be on ordinary white paper. No indication is forthcoming as to the 1d. stamp being changed.

**Grenada.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* has seen the ½d. and 2d. values in the current bicolour series.

*Adhesives.*

½d. lilac, *value in green.*
2d. ,, ,, brown.

**India.** *Simoor.*—We illustrate a slightly altered design of which we have received three values.




*Adhesives.*

3a. yellow.
4a. dark green.
8a. blue.

**New Zealand.** — According to the *Australian Philatelist* regulations have been gazetted directing that special postage due stamps are to be issued for the collection of unpaid or insufficiently paid postage, on all classes of correspondence in lieu of dockets as at present used.

The *A.P.* also states that the English prints of the 1d., 2d., 4d. and 6d. appear to be exhausted, and that recourse has again been had to the old plates of the De la Rue types. These stamps are perf. 12, and present a worn appearance.

The *A.P.* chronicles the following high values remarking that they are really fiscals, but are available for postal or telegraph purposes, if required: —

*Adhesives.*

£3 10s. rose
£4 10s. olive-brown
£15 light-brown
£20 yellow
£25 (?)
£30 dark brown-lake
£40 bright-rose
£45 (?)
£50 olive-grey
£100 mauve

**Queensland.**—In our last number (p. 220) we quoted a report that the ½d.

value was to be issued with larger figures of value in the corners. Instead we have received from Mr. Hadlow the ½d. value in an entirely new design, which we illustrate. The design and engraving are somewhat rough. It is evidently a colonial production and to that extent is of far more philatelic interest than if it were of the stereotyped design so common to most of our colonies.

We have also received the 5d. value with figures in all four corners.

Paper, wove; wmk. Cr. and Q; perf. 13.




*Adhesive.*

½d. dark green.
5d. brown, *figures in four corners.*

**Straits Settlements.**—The *Philatelic Monthly* says an entire sheet of the 8 cents blue surcharge "4 cents" in black has passed through the post office in Singapore with a double surcharge.

*Adhesive.*

4c. on 8c. blue, *double surcharge.*

**Selangor.**—The *Philatelic Monthly* says the 10 dollars stamp, catalogued ever since 1895, has only just been issued and that contrary to former reports it is green and lilac, the design being the same as the other values.

*Adhesive.*

$10. green and lilac.

**Virgin Islands.**—Messrs. Cameron & Co., inform the *Monthly Journal* that the two errors in the sheets of the ½d. stamps, and another which is stated to have existed in the 4d., were removed from the sheets when discovered and destroyed by order of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

## Foreign Countries.

**Abyssinia.**—The *Morning Post* states that the Emperor Menelik has lately had a series of postage stamps printed at the French National printing establishment. The series is composed of seven stamps of different values and colours, and has been printed on Gaumel machines in the same way as the French stamps.

So runs the newspaper information, which is somewhat vague. It may refer to a new issue, but it may equally well refer to the further printing of a supply of the current series which were designed, engraved and printed in seven values by the French National printing establishment.

**Afghanistan, 1 abasi; varieties.**—The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following formidable list of varieties of the 1 abasi of 1893. If this sort of thing continues there will have to be a special colour chart for Afghanistan.

1 abasi, black on green.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ,, | ,, | blue-green. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | yellow-green. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | pale rose. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | bright rose. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | lilac-rose. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | magenta. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | yellow. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | orange. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | orange-salmon. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | blue. |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | violet. |

Mr. D. P. Masson sends the *Monthly Journal* specimens of the Registration Stamp of 1898 on thin *green* paper, he adds that these stamps are printed in sheets of 49, and even rows of seven, and that he believes this type has superceded that of 1894.

*Registration Stamp, 1898 type.*

2 abasi, black on green.

**Austria. *Bosnia.***—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following changes.

We have the 1 nov. in *pearl-grey*, perf. 10½, and the 25 nov. in a *redder* shade than before, perf. 11½; the latter also has a figure "5" in the right upper corner resembling that of variety B of the 15 nov., the head being smaller than before, and the space in the lower part wider. We have also a partial set of values perf 12½, the 1 nov. and 20 nov. of which are practically identical in colour by artificial light, though quite different by daylight.

*Adhesives.*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | nov., | pearl-grey | ; perf. | 10½ |
| 25 | ,, | reddish-purple | ,, | 11½ |
| 1 | ,, | pearl-grey | ,, | 12½ |
| 2 | ,, | deep-yellow | ,, | ,, |
| 3 | ,, | green | ,, | ,, |
| 5 | ,, | red | ,, | ,, |
| 10 | ,, | blue | ,, | ,, |
| 15 | ,, | brown | ,, | ,, |
| 20 | ,, | olive-green | ,, | ,, |

**Bolivia.**—We illustrate the design of the new series chronicled by us last month (p. 221).




**Chile.**—The *Post Office* (U.S.) says the Postage Due Stamps have been withdrawn from use, and that a hand stamp is to be employed in future to mark the amount of postage due.

**Colombia.** *Cartagena Provisional.*—We have received from Messrs. Bright & Son and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. copies of a provisional which appears to have been issued under stress of local disturbances. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s correspondent at Cartagena writes:—

> These stamps were made and issued here on November 8th. As this country is in revolution since October last, and there is no communication with the interior of the Republic, it has not been possible to obtain from the Capital the current stamps, consequently the G.P.O. at Cartagena were obliged to issue these provisional stamps. The surcharge of 3 stars is put on as authenticity and no stamp is good without it, only 5000 of each value were issued.

Messrs. W. K. & Co. add that the letter in which specimens of the stamps were sent them was prepaid with two of the 5c. and a 10c. registration stamp.

Messrs. Bright & Son have sent us a complete sheet of each stamp. They are printed in sheets of 10 stamps, in two rows of 5 each. They are mostly ungummed.

The stamps are roughly drawn imitations of the current 1c. of Colombia and are lithographed on soft buff paper and are imperforate. What the correspondent calls "3 stars" appear to us to be a design of three ivory leaves with stem and tendrils. This is handstamped in violet ink at the post office.




*Adhesives.*

5c. red on buff.
10c. blue on buff.

**France,** *Indo China.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the 5c. in the new colour, yellow green.

*Adhesive.*

5c. yellow-green.

*Reunion*, and the same change for this Colony.

*Adhesive.*

5c. yellow-green.

*Zanzibar.* Also for this Colony.

*Adhesive.*

5c. yellow-green.

**Holland.**—Mr. Oliver informs us that he has made a discovery in this country. In the 1867 issue there are generally understood to be two perfs. one is $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ large clean cut holes, and the other $13\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 small punctured holes, something like a pin perforation. He has found the 5c. perfs. measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$, but in the clean cut perforation of the former. He has shown it to several specialists and they have never heard of it before. He found this copy in a parcel of 5,000 he went through.

*Adhesive.*

5c. grey, $13\frac{1}{2}$ *clean cut perfs.*

*Dutch Indies.*—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* (U.S.) says the Post Office Department of the United States has received the following values of the new issue of Holland surcharged "Red Indie" and value.

*Adhesives.*

10c. grey-lilac.
12½c. blue.
15c. yellow-brown.
20c. yellow-green.
25c. carmine and blue.
50c. bronze-green and red-brown.
2½gld. brown-lilac.

*Curacao.*—Also the following values surcharged "Curacao" and values:—

*Adhesives.*

25c. carmine and blue.
1.50gld. on 2.50gld. brown-lilac.

*Surinam.*—And the following values surcharged "Surinam" but without additional value:—

*Adhesives.*

50c. bronze-green and red-brown.
1gld. bronze-green.
2½gld. brown-lilac.

**Mexico.**—We illustrate, from a set received from Messrs. Bright & Son, the new series of stamps issued on the 1st November last.































Mexico: New Issue, November, 1899.

They are, we understand, engraved and printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., London, the printers of the Queen's Head issue of the Transvaal, Falkland Islands, &c. The sheets are watermarked, diagonally, with the words "Servico—Estados—Mexicano."

Engraved in *taille douce*; paper, white wove; perforation, 14.

*Adhesives.*

1 centavo national coat of arms, emerald-green.
2 centavo national coat of arms, red.
3 centavo national coat of arms, light brown.
5 centavo national coat of arms, Prussian blue.
10 centavo national coat of arms, orange on lilac ground.
15 centavo national coat of arms, crimson on pearl gray ground.
20 centavo national coat of arms, Prussian blue on bright red ground.
50 centavo 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 with blue frame.
5 peso national coat of arms, view of Cathedral of Mexico City in black with carmine frame.

**Siam.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a used copy of the new issue to which we referred last month. The framework is much the same as in the last issue the principal change being in the portrait which on the new issue is in profile with head to left instead of full face. Messrs. W. K. & Co. inform us that the series is as follows:—

*Adhesives.*

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

**Spain.**—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the current 5c. changed from ultramarine to green.

*Adhesive.*

5c. green.

**United States.** *Cuba.*—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says the error "immediata" has been corrected to "inmediata" in the Special Delivery Stamp. We quote from the *M.P.*:—

The portion containing the word "Immediata" was the only thing altered in the original die. Probably the impressions will show that a change has been made in the engraving. This necessitated a new transfer roll and of course a new plate. The old one will be destroyed. As it is not probable that the supply of these stamps sent to Cuba will be recalled, it may take a very long time before a further supply of special deliveries will be needed for the island. 100,000 have been sent there.

**Guam.**—We suppose we must chronicle the latest speculative set issued by the United States postal authorities for this small possession.

*Adhesives.*

1c. blue.
2c. carmine.
3c. purple.
4c. dark brown.
5c. chocolate.
6c. marone.
8c. puce.
10c. pale brown.
15c. olive.
50c. orange-red.
$1 black.

*Special Delivery.*

10c. indigo.

**Venezuela.**—A correspondent sends the *American Journal of Philalely* some new provisional stamps for this country and states that recently, owing to a shortage of certain values of the official stamps, the 50 centimos and 1 bolivar officials were surcharged with new values, respectively, 5 and 25 centimos.

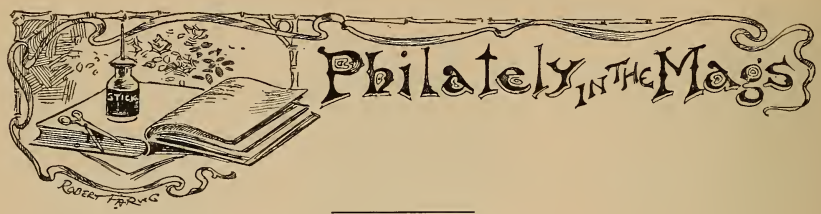
The surcharges are in two colors and we are shown two of them *tête bêche*. The surcharge consists of the date "1899" at the top of the stamp, and the value in each lower corner with "Cms." between.

The *A.J.P.* adds: "There is reason to suppose that most of this interesting issue is held by officials of the Post Office Department."

*Adhesives.*

*Official Stamps.*

5c. in carmine on 50c. black and yellow.
25c. ,, 1b. ,, mauve.
25c. ,, 1b. ,, ,, *tête bêche.*
5c. in violet on 50c. ,, yellow.
4c. ,, 50c. ,, ,, *tête bêche.*
25c. ,, 1b. ,, mauve.




### Wei-hai-Wei Stamps.

THE following very interesting information concerning the issue of Wei-hai-Wei stamps published by the *Monthly Journal* has been supplied by an army officer on the spot at the time when the stamps were in use.

When first Wei-hai-Wei was taken over by the British the Hong Kong Post Office refused to make any provision for the delivery of mails direct to the place; all letters addressed to Wei-hai-Wei were consequently left at Chifu "until called for," and at Chifu the mails were often delayed a week or ten days before one of H.M.'s ships could call in for them and bring them on. This delay was naturally considered a hardship by the residents of Wei-hai-Wei, and as Chifu was only fifty-eight miles distant overland, some of the more enterprising among them determined to try to start a Courier Post Service in conjunction with the Chinese Post Office at Chifu.

This plan received the sanction of the Commissioner of Liu-kung-tao, who gave the promoters permission to issue a sufficient number of 2c. and 5c. stamps to cover the probable cost of the couriers. The 2c. stamps were intended for ordinany letters, the 5c. for parcels, bundles of papers, and bulky articles. Mr. Fergusson, of Messrs. Cornabe and Co., consented to act as Hon. Postmaster at Liu-kung-tao.

The next step was to obtain the co-operation of the Postmaster-General at Chifu, and in the beginning of December last year he telegraphed to say that he would provide two couriers a week, to be paid for by the Courier Post, and that the first courier would start next day. This necessitated an immediate issue of stamps, and as it was found impossible to get wood blocks cut at Wei-hai-Wei an "impromptu" issue was made about December 8th, 1898, by stamping Messrs. Cornabe and Co.'s "dollar chop" on some red "dark room" paper belonging to one of the officers, the values being written on the stamps afterwards. At the same time 4000 2c. and 4000 5c. stamps were ordered from Messrs. Kelly and Walsh at Shanghai.

This temporary issue lasted for about one month, until the Shanghai stamps arrived on January 9th. Stamps were struck as required, and about 800 to 850 2 cents and 300 5 cents stamps were made in all. All the stamps of this issue were signed across the back by Mr. Fergusson, so as to prevent forgery.

The Courier Post lasted till the end of March, 1899, when the Chinese Government determined to start a Post Office at Wei-hai-Wei city, and took over the couriers.

The total numbers of stamps issued were—

1st Issue (provisional) { 2 c., from 300 to 850.
5 c., 300.

2nd Issue (Shanghai) { 2 c., 4000.
5 c., 4000.

When the Courier Post ceased some $50 (Mexican dollars) worth of "Shanghai" 5c. stamps remained over, and these were sold to a gentleman who wrote for them from Shanghai.

After all expenses of the couriers, &c., were paid, it was found that there was a profit of some $110, and this was handed over to the Commissioner of Liu-kung-tao for the improvement of the place.

The main interest of this Courier Post is that it was unique, in running from British territory into Chinese territory without using stamps of both countries on the letters. For this reason it can hardly be classed as a "Local Post." The post was, moreover, run entirely for convenience, only so many stamps being issued as were considered necessary for the needs and expenses of the Courier Service. The fact of there being any "remainders" was due to the sudden intention of the Chinese Government to start a Post Office in Wei-hai-Wei city.

A British Post Office has lately been opened at Liu-kung-tao, so that the struggling Courier Post of a year ago has now been replaced by the Chinese Imperial Post Office at Wei-hai-Wei and its British rival in Liu-kung-tao.

Some forgeries of the 5c., second issue, have been seen in Shanghai, printed in *olive-green*; all the originals are in *emerald-green*.

### Antioquia Commemoratives.

IT seems that the stamps which we chronicled last month are simply commemorative rubbish. Had we known this at the time we certainly should not have chronicled them as we have no intention to lend our space to the free advertisement of issues designed for milking stamp collectors. The *Timbres Poste* gives the numbers printed of this rubbish as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| ½c., deep blue .. .. | 30,000 |
| 1c., dull ,, .. .. | 30,000 |
| 2c., deep brown .. .. | 25,000 |
| 3c., vermilion .. .. | 25,000 |
| 4c., brown .. .. .. | 20,000 |
| 5c., green .. .. .. | 140,000 |
| 10c., vermilion .. .. | 80,000 |
| 20c., deep violet .. .. | 20,000 |
| 50c., olive .. .. .. | 10,000 |
| 1p., greenish grey (2 varieties) | 4,000 |
| 2p., bronze-green .. .. | 2,000 |
| *For Registered Letters.* | |
| 2½c., light blue .. .. | 20,000 |

### Perak Service Stamps.

WE take the following newspaper cutting from the *Monthly Journal* con-

cerning the Service stamps of Perak, which, it seems, are to be discontinued.

The *Service* stamps introduced by the Perak Post Office will cease to be used after the 30th inst. The stamp originated in this way: Parcels posted from one part of the State to another on purely Government service were charged five cents a lb., and to obviate the necessity of keeping a supply of postage stamps by heads of departments, some of the five cents Perak stamps were surcharged "Service" and were issued for use by Government offices free of charge, but on the condition that an account was kept of parcels despached in a special book, which had to be produced at the post office each time a parcel was being forwarded. The first lot of stamps surcharged was on the five cent *blue*, with the springing tiger, and when the supply of this stamp was exhausted the *beastly Tiger Head* had to undergo the surcharging operation. We understand the *blue* stamps surcharged were few in number, and consequently will increase in appreciation by collectors. It is said that every care was taken by the Government printing office that the surcharges were to be uniform and no mistake made, as in the days of the Straits Settlements stamps, when the number of surcharges and errors was legion. With all the care bestowed, we hear that there are double impressions on some of the later issues, and these are now in great demand, and command fabulous prices.

### Spain, 1851, 2 reales blue.

We quote the following interesting announcement from the *Monthly Circular* which will presumably settle an old question:

The late Mr. Westoby was a strenuous defender of the status of the 2 reales, blue, as an error, in spite of the body of expert opinion which declared it an essay. So great an authority as M. Moens maintained the contrary opinion. It now appears that it has been found attached to the 6 reales, blue, the pair having been cut from a block of fourteen stamps. It is the property of a Barcelona dealer, who expects that it will create a great sensation at the forthcoming exhibition in Paris.

### Dutch Regulations for Sale of Postage Stamps.

The following interesting letter is published in the *Post Office* as the result of a request of the publishers for a block of four of the new 5 gulden stamps. The *Post Office* says it took three letters and two months before the block could be got in the shape it was wanted:

The high values are only on hand at the Central (Head) Post Office, and not at the stamp window! We have orders to give no more than five of the 2½ and 5 gulden stamps, to each of the assistants who sell stamps. These men can never sell a *block* to any one. An official myself, I must always ask favors of the employees, as they are not obliged to sell pairs, blocks, strips, or well centred stamps to the public. It is only by the courtesy of one of the chiefs (Under Directors), that one can obtain postage stamps in the shape asked for.

### Even Used Seebecks are Frauds.

Most collectors have been accepting used Seebecks as the genuine Simon Pure whatever, the original may have been. Even this crumb of consolation is to be destroyed under the new *a la* Seebeck contract. Mr. Andreini says:

It might be alleged with some semblance of justice that if some of these labels are legitimately used as postage stamps that it would be safe to collect them in used condition. But here we approach slippery and dangerous ground, because we know for a fact that under a recent contract which is patterned after previous Seebeck contracts 50,000 cancelled sets are to be furnished by the contracting government to the contractor, and that disagreeable fact alone renders all attempts to collect used Seebecks philatelically ridiculous to say the least.

The only safe course with speculative rubbish is to cut it out of the album altogether. These rotten Central American Republics can very well be omitted from a collection. There are plenty of genuine issues of other countries.

### Status of Porto Rico, Philippines and Cuba.

Our Catalogue makers have terribly anxious times before them. They must be at their wits ends where to place the ex-Spanish Colonies. But the following announcement in the *Weekly Philatelic Era* may help them:

The International Postal Union at Berne recently asked the Postmaster General for a definition of the status of the new possessions of the United States with respect to postal affairs. It has been decided to represent that Porto Rico and the Philippines are a part of the United States and that Cuba should be treated as a separate member of the Union, since the United States was merely exercising a guardianship over the island.

### Seebecks: Pro. and Con.

The *Weekly Philatelic Era* reports a debate which was arranged at the Brooklyn Institute in the Section devoted to Philately on the question, "Shall we collect Seebecks." Mr. Crawford Capen, formerly editor of the *Post Office*, who has always advocated the collection of all sorts of speculative rubbish, championed "Seebecks" and is said to have contended that the postal issues of nearly every country were more or less speculative and "Seebecky" until the element of speculation had left them, when they became more legitimate and collectable.

We are afraid we are not equal to grasping such Capen logic.

Mr.Andreini, speaking on the negative side, denounced the so-called "Seebecks" in most emphatic terms, expressing his honest conviction that collectors should not collect them, saying that unused they were not postage stamps in any sense, but merely labels emitted by some of the poverty-stricken countries of South America. Used legitimately for postal purposes, he said that these stamps were collectable, but not otherwise. From a long personal acquaintance with Mr.Seebeck, after whom these South American stamps were named, Mr. Andreini was able to speak with correctness as to the dealings and methods of this famous huxster of labels.

### France: 1862-70, 4c. sheet.

According to the *Philatelic Monthly*, "a Paris merchant has recently obtained possession of an entire sheet of 150 of the 4 centimes postage stamps, Napoleon III., laureated head, containing one *tête-bêche*. The price asked for this sheet is $500. One other sheet only is known to exist and this is in the collection of M.Ferrary, who paid for it somewhere between $800 and $1000."

### Mexico: Maximilian Stamps.

A paper on the Maximilian issue of Mexico, read before the Philatelic Society of London by Mr. Rudolph Frentzell, a well known specialist of Mexican stamps, is published in the November number of the *London Philatelist*. The following extract will be read with interest:—

The first emission of the stamps of Maximilian is a series of six engraved stamps on wove and ribbed paper, imperforate, known as the "Eagle" issue, of the following values—

3 centavos, ½, 1, 2, 4, and 8 reales.

issued soon after the arrival of Maximilian in 1864, and continued till about the middle of 1866.

The 3 centavos used is no doubt the rarest and most valuable of all Mexican stamps, Locals excepted. Excepting the first supplies during a few months, all these stamps have control-numbers, and they are—

1864. Nos. and date in large type from Nos. 118 to 179.
1864. ,, ,, in small ,, ,, 180 to 244.
1865 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1 to 225.
1866. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1 to 131.

The second issue, lithographed on wove paper, with portrait of Maximilian, dated 1866 and 866, also with control-numbers, consists of four values—

7, 13, 25, and 50 centavos.
Control-numbers 1 to 139.

This issue was soon superseded by the third emission, engraved, also on wove paper, being of the same design and values, with control-numbers, dated 866 and 867.

Control-numbers (1)866. Nos. 101 to 139.
,, (1)867. ,, 1 to 19.

The "Eagle" issue and the engraved stamps of Maximilian are undoubtedly the finest issues of all Mexican stamps, and what makes them particularly attractive to advanced collectors is not only the great variety of shades of some of the values, but also the new departure of adding dates and control-numbers to the usual surcharge of the names of the chief districts for which they were issued; many of the stamps are found with an additional date, or number and date upon them, denoting the sub-district for which they were finally issued.

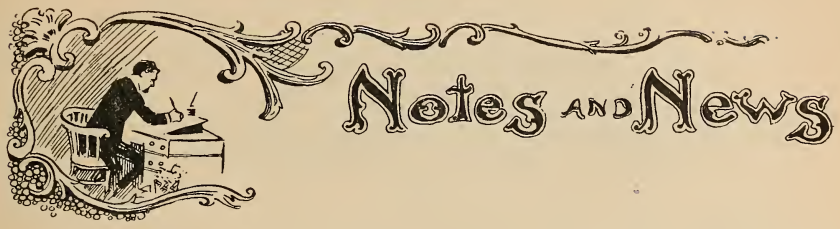
This style of control was discontinued in the issues that followed, and only a special number with date for a certain district was adopted, but the original number was by no means always sustained for the same district. The surcharging system was altogether discontinued after 1883, though in the 1884 issue there are still a few stragglers to be found.

### The Ideal Philatelist.

The *American Journal of Philately*, moralising on ideals, says:—

The ideal philatelist is one who collects for the sake of collecting, not for speculation—who views his stamps, from time to time, with more or less pleasure, according to their number, class and condition, not according to catalogue fluctuations; who is in philately to stay, and not constantly estimating the probable net cash value of his collection at a forced sale. The man who goes in for the moment or for speculation must expect his whim, or "flyer," to be as expensive and risky in this line as in any other; the man who takes a real pleasure in the stamps themselves will thereby be amply repaid for his outlay, and, in addition, will find, to his probable delight, that, over longer periods of time and excepting lines unduly boomed, good specimens always increase in value.

But collectors should not be too easily discouraged by low prices. The business depression of recent years affected all commodities. There was no reason why stamps should be excepted. But it is a remarkable fact that prices for stamps ruled high when other business had long been suffering from bad times, and nothing was more prompt to show signs of recovery. There is every reason to anticipate improved prices in this and succeeding years and we may expect the financial thermometer, as recorded in the catalogues, to once more mark high. Perhaps it will be as well if it does not again reach fever heat.




### The Tapling Collection.

Mr. E. D. Bacon has completed, for the Trustees of the British Museum, the arrangement of the Tapling Collection of postage stamps. In a communication published in the *London Philatelist* he gives us the welcome information that preparations are now being made to allow of the collection being inspected by anyone desirous of examining the stamps. He says:

The system it is proposed to adopt consists of employing a number of cabinets with shallow drawers. Each of these drawers will be covered with plate-glass, and will only pull out sufficiently to allow of the examination of the sheets of stamps it contains. In fact, the cabinets will be built upon precisely the same lines as those which are now in use at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, for the display of butterflies and moths, except that the drawers will be shallower. These cabinets, when finished, will be placed in the King's Library, and anyone entering that part of the Museum will be allowed to inspect whatever portion of the collection he chooses; and this he will himself be able to do by simply pulling out and shutting the drawers containing the stamps of the countries he desires to see. I doubt whether it would be possible to devise a more perfect plan than this for preserving a collection of stamps, inasmuch as it provides ample protection in every way for the specimens, including that of danger from exposure to the light; and it also affords economy of space. Collectors will, at the same time, be able to inspect any of the stamps with perfect facility, and without the least delay.

It will necessarily be some months before the cabinets are ready to receive the sheets of stamps, but I trust no undue delay will now take place in completing the proposed scheme.

### Philatelists' War Relief Fund.

A Committee has been formed under the auspices of the London Philatelic Society, acting in conjunction with other Philatelic Societies and many of the leading collectors and dealers, for the purpose of inaugurating a special subscription from philatelists for the War Relief Fund.

Collectors generally throughout the United Kingdom are invited to contribute gifts of stamps (in collections or otherwise), or other articles connected with Philately, which will be sold by public auction, and the proceeds divided between one of the Mansion House Funds and the "Daily Telegraph" Fund.

Arrangements have been made with a well-known firm of philatelic auctioneers to conduct an auction sale, which will be held early in February, and will be free of all charge whatever, so that the entire gross proceeds can be handed over to the Funds.

All gifts of stamps should be sent, if possible, before the 25th January, 1900, to H. R. Oldfield, c/o Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel St., Strand. It is proposed to apend to the Catalogue a list of the names of all the contributors. The Committee hope that this scheme will receive the support of collectors and dealers all over the Kingdom, and will result in the addition of a substantial sum to the War Funds, and we earnestly bespeak the active co-operation of all British readers of the *Philatelic Record*.

### Westoby's Stamps of Europe.

We are glad to learn from the *Bazaar Philatelists' Supplement* that Mr. Westoby's "Postage Stamps of Europe" was finished (with the exception of the final revision of a few of the last proof-sheets) some short time before his death, and that the book will therefore be completed without the intervention of a stranger hand.

### Mr. J. W. Jones.

We regret to learn that Mr. J. W. Jones has been compelled to retire from the position of Shop Manager to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., in order that he may take a much needed rest. He has been out of health for some time, and has at last very wisely decided to follow medical advice and take a rest of a month or two. Mr. Jones is one of the best informed men in the stamp dealing ranks. As a detector of forgeries he has few equals.




### The Scott Catalogue for 1900.

*Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, giving the date of issue, colour, shape and value of every postage stamp that has ever been issued by any government in the world, with illustrations of nearly every stamp, and giving the prices at which most of them can be purchased, used or unused, of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd. Fifty-ninth edition.* 1900. *Thoroughly revised and corrected, and fully brought up to the day of going to press. Price,* 50 *cents. New York: The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Limited,* 18, *East 23rd Street.*

After a judicious delay occasioned by the unsettled state of the stamp market in the matter of prices, the Scott Catalogue is issued for 1900, thus missing 1899 altogether. The number of new issues that have to be added render an annual edition almost a necessity, both from the dealer's and the collector's point of view. The catalogue gathers up into permanent form the scattered chronicle of the year's issues, and prices those issues. Hence, it a necessity quite as much to the collector as to the dealer, but the Scott Company may be forgiven their lapse of 1899, for prices were strangely unsettled, as the result of impulsive, unwise and utterly uncalled for inflation.

The pricing of the British Colonial issues closely follows the last Gibbons' catalogue in the matter of reductions. In other countries there are also needed reductions, more especially in stamps which have been subjected to speculation. The drop in U.S. Columbians is not so great as we should have expected. South Australia 5d. of the current set, perf. 15, at 6s., seems cheap. On this side it is worth more than three times the price. Gibbons does not even price it. In Chili the 10c. of the first issue on blued paper is left unpriced, while the blurred local print is priced as low as 5d. used. In our experience the former is a fairly common stamp used, and the local print a fairly scarce stamp. Gibbons price the local print according to shade from 2s. to 4s. Amongst the strangely unobtainable, that cannot be priced, are several of the German Colonials, notably German New Guinea, German South-west Africa and Marshall Islands. These stamps are so difficult to get that practically no dealer can pretend to stock them, and Scott does well not to price them.

We must not close this brief notice of an excellent catalogue without heartily congratulating the Scott Company upon still being ahead of all English competitors in the general excellence of their illustrations. They are clean and serviceable, and in no case do they seem to have illustrated the back of the stamp in mistake for the face, as some of our English cataloguers have done.




### Waterlow Perforations.

DEAR SIR,—Will someone settle for us the collectability of the Waterlow Perfs. I am thinking for the moment of the perfs. of New Zealand picture series In this series the perfs. are almost numberless in their variations and combinations, and what is true of the New Zealand series applies alse to other countries supplied with stamps by Waterlow.

Anything more beautiful than the engraving of Messrs Waterlow I have never seen. The work of the American Bank Note Engraving Co'.s is not fit to hold a candle to it. But the perforation is very indifferent. Indeed I am surprised that a firm turning out such grand engraving can tolerate such inferior perforation.

Our chroniclers tell us that many of the compound perforations are the work of one machine and are due probably to constant repairs to the needles. And not a few tell us that such compounds are not worth attention because they are the work of one machine. But if you turn to another country, those same generous advisers list as separate and collectable varieties, perfs. that are similarly due to defective machinery.

I wish someone would draw up a list of the perfs. of the picture series of New Zealand and publish it for discussion, in order that we may decide what to collect and what to reject while the stamps are in circulation, or later on when the stamps are obsolete, and someone will discover for us that some perforation is very scarce.

Yours truly,

PERPLEXED PERF.

London, 12th Dec., 1899.

### Philatelists' War Relief Fund.

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, held on the 1st of December, 1899, the following resolution was passed :—

"The Society cordially approves the suggestion that stamp collectors resident in the United Kingdom should be invited to present postage stamps for sale by auction, the proceeds of such auction to be handed over to one of the War Funds, and that a Committee be elected to make all reasonable arrangements, with power to invite the co-operation of other Societies and of the leading collectors and dealers, and any others interested in Philately, and that such Committee should also have power to add to their number any person or persons, whether members of the Society or not."

A Committee has been formed in accordance with such resolution and co-operation with many of the provincial Societies and with the leading collectors and dealers.

The Committee has made arrangements with a well-known firm of auctioneers to conduct a sale by auction of all stamps given to the Committee, and such sale will be free of all expense, so that the entire gross proceeds may be available, and these will be divided between one of the Mansion House Funds and the *Daily Telegraph* Fund. It is proposed to append to the catalogue a list of the names of all the contributors.

We enclose copy of a circular which is being sent to collectors, and are requested to invite your co-operation and support in making this scheme as widely known as possible.

All gifts of stamps should, if possible, be sent to the undersigned, care of the London Philatelic Society, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, W.C., on or before the 25th January, 1900.

Yours faithfully,

WALTER BULL,

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

*Joint Hon. Secs.*




### Birmingham.

*Hon. Sec.*—G. Johnson, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

On December 7th, 1899, Mr. W. G. Wilson showed his superb collection of unused Mexican stamps, with used copies on originals in the case of those varieties which are much rarer used than unused, such as the 1863 issue.

In his explanation of the various issues, Mr. Wilson dealt with the arrangement and re-arrangements of the plates as shewn by the different spacing between the horizontal rows of the 1856 issue; the sub-consignment numbers of the 1864-7 issues, the reasons and necessity for the surcharge of town and district names on all the issues down to comparatively recent years.

### Bristol and Clifton.

*Hon. Sec.*—Mr. Dalton.

At a recent meeting of this Society, Mr. Dalton, the Hon. Sec., in a paper on South Australians, threw out a hint for testing the surcharges of the "TEN PENCE" which should be useful in testing most surcharges. His test took the form of a transparent film, on which is printed a facsimile of each type, which can be so placed as a gauge on the surcharge that the type thereof can be determined precisely.

### British African Stamp Exchange.

*Secretary.*—Charles J. Endle, Kingsburgh Cottage, Boscombe, Hants.

The object of this Society is to provide facilities whereby collectors of the stamps of the British colonies in Africa may obtain suitable exchange for their duplicates, etc.

There are two sections: Section A circulates stamps of the British African colonies only; Section B circulates stamps of all other countries.

Membership is open to *bona-fide* philatelists in all parts of the world.

Annual Subscription, 2/-, payable in advance on the 1st January. Members joining after the 1st May will pay to the end of the current year at the rate of 3d. per month.

### Cardiff.

*Hon. Sec.*—W. A. Jutsum, 371, Cowbridge Road, Cardiff.

This town now boasts a Philatelic Society in which membership is restricted to residents of the County Borough of Cardiff, or within ten miles thereof.

The President is Mr. Walter Scott, and its Vice-Presidents, Mr. E. W. Shackell, J.P., and Alderman W. J. Prounce.

### Herts.

*Hon. Sec.*—H. A. Slade, Ingleside, St. Albans.

A General Meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, on December 5th, 1899, at 7 p.m. At the conclusion of business Mr. Edward J. Nankivell displayed his unique collection of stamps of the British Occupation of the Transvaal, prefaced by a description of the series surcharged "V.R." Mr. Nankivell stated that only one dangerous forgery existed, that there were but two differences of roulettes, and that the inverted surcharges were accidental and not numerous. He added that the error "Transvral" was the rare stamp of the series and advised collectors of unused to take nothing but absolutely mint specimens.

### International Philatelic Union.

*Hon. Sec.*—T. H. Hinton, 5, Paultons Square, Chelsea, London.

The International Philatelic Union claims to be the oldest Exchange Club. It circulates monthly exchange packets and holds meetings in London from October to May for displays, discussion and exchange. The following is the programme for January-May, 1900:

Jan. 31.—Display or Paper.
Feb. 28.—Display and Notes on United States of Colombia. Mr. H. R. Oldfield.
Mar. 28.—Display or Paper.
Apl. 25.—Display or Paper.
May 30.—Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, and Paper or Display, to be announced.

### Palmerston North, New Zealand.

*Hon. Sec.*—M. A. Elliott, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

A MEETING of gentlemen interested in philately was held recently at the Royal Hotel. Mr. W. Welch was in the chair. After several of those present had explained the object of the meeting it was unanimously decided to form a Society to be called the Palmerston North Philatelic Society, for the purpose of (*a*) the study of matters appertaining to philately; (*b*) the drawing together of collectors; (*c*) the detection and exposure of forgeries and frauds; (*d*) the mutual exchange of duplicate stamps.

The rules of the Wanganui Society, with several slight amendments, were adopted.

The subscription was fixed at 2/6 per annum, and the following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. E. Hall; Vice President, Mr. W. Welch; Committee, Messrs. Aris and Hutton; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. M. A. Eliott.

The names of fifteen members were handed in, and no doubt a number of others interested will be glad to become members of the Society now it is established.

Mr. J. E. Hall kindly offered a room free to the Society for their meetings for twelve months.

The ordinary meetings were fixed for the first Wednesday in each month.

### Surrey.

*Hon. Sec.*—C. B. JAMES, Cyprus Villa, Sutton, Surrey.

THE Sutton district held a successful auction on Monday, November 27th, at which 76 mixed lots were disposed of, mostly at prices very favourable to buyers.

On December 11th, Mr. R. S. Furden gave a display of his French stamps and explained the various postmarks. The French, he said were very systematic in their postmarks, the collection and study of which he found very interesting, but regretted that there were so few opportunities of exchanging duplicates.

### Warrington.

*Hon. Sec.*—HERBERT WOODS, Moore, Warrington.

THE Annual General Meeting of this Society was recently held at the Old Academy. The President, Mr. John P. Reynolds, was in the chair. The Hon. Secretary's report showed that the membership is steadily increasing, there being now 24 members, and that good work had been done during the past year. The balance sheet showed a satisfactory balance in hand. The sales on the exchange packet averaged 19 per cent.

Mr. John P. Reynolds was re-elected President, and Mr. J. D. Fairclough and Mr. Percy Silcock as Committee, with Mr. Herbert Woods as Hon. Secretary. The change of headquarters of the Society to the Old Academy was approved.

## Ladies' Stamp Exchange.

MISS LOUISE HAYNES, of 70, Jeffrey's Road, Clapham Road, London, S.W. as Hon. Sec., writes that she has just started "The Ladies' Stamp Exchange Club" for ladies only. She adds, "accounts are settled promptly each month and prices are nett. Each member sees the monthly packet first in turn. Fees are very moderate and dealers are not admitted."

We shall be delighted to hear of the success of the "Ladies' Stamp Exchange," a larger leaven of ladies in stamp collecting circles would be an undoubted gain.



# Echoes from the Mart.

### Gibbons' 1900 Catalogue.

We are to have a new Gibbons' Catalogue for 1900 in January. So runs an announcement in the *Monthly Journal*. For this new addition an entirely and much needed new set of illustrations have been prepared at a cost of £400. The publishers hope to have Part I. ready in January, and Part II. in March. In Part I. there will be some important alterations necessitated by the so-called "Remainders" of old Colonial stamps, that have been doled out with a generous hand, for some time past. As to pricing we quote the following explanation:

The greatest attention will be given to the question of the *prices*, and we fix these in the following manner:—For some months before we begin the Catalogue we put on a competent staff of philatelists to rearrange our stock and stock books of each country, in the order that it is intended to adopt in the forthcoming Catalogue; we then find out what varieties we are short of, and seek to buy them from the best sources at home and abroad, basing the new prices on the price at which we can buy, and not upon what we may consider the relative rarity.

### Sale of the Tamsen Collection.

The second portion of the well known Tamesen collection of Transvaals will be offered for sale by Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper, on January 9th and 10th, 1900. The Tamsen sale will also include a fine lot of provisional Orange Free State in blocks and strips, a superb lot of triangular Capes in blocks, strips and pairs, and fine wood blocks.

### Sale of the Thorne Collection.

The celebrated Thorne Collection, said to be one of the best in New York, has been sold to the New England Stamp Company for £10,000.

Mr. William Thorne is a member of the Philatelic Society of London and secured the Gold medal in class III. for collections of Rare Stamps in the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897.

### Philippine Remainders.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says:

Mr. C. H. Sleeper, 1st Lieut. U.S.V. and Collector of Internal Revenue in the Philippine Islands, has sent circular letters to the dealers in this city soliciting bids on some 35 million Philippines tamps of obsolete issues, comprising 85 varieties which includes a number of surcharged stamps as well as postal cards.

Evidently Uncle Sam will have to be included in the next Trade Directory of Stamp Dealers.

# Notices.

**Subscriptions**:—In future please order from your Bookseller or News Agent.

All Editorial Communications and all inquiries concerning Advertisements must be addressed to Mr. Edward J Nankivell, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon, England.

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

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THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

FEBRUARY, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

**Brooklyn Philatelic Exhibition.**

THE Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences is doing excellent philatelic work in encouraging and fostering the collection of postage stamps. Its official recognition, as a scientific body, of the educational value of stamp collecting can scarcely fail to have a far reaching and excellent effect. The Institute has already held one Philatelic Exhibition, and it proposes, in March next, to hold another. Its first exhibition it threw open to schools, and gratuitously distributed packets of stamps with a view of creating an interest in the collection of stamps, and a similar course is to be followed during the next exhibition. The committee can proudly boast that many a stamp collection had its beginning at their exhibition.

Here, we are too lethargic, too apathetic, to do any such work; our so-called leading philatelists, if appealed to for such an enterprise as the stimulation of collecting amongst the junior portion of the community, would at once set to work, most assiduously, trotting out difficulties. We have the finest supply of Philatelic "wet blankets" that can be exhibited in any country in the world. They are past masters in the art of finding out how not to do any desirable work.

Therefore, the energy displayed by the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences comes as refreshing evidence that better counsels prevail elsewhere, and generates the hope that some day the influence of a stirring example may stimulate able philatelists on this side into similar action.

In the classification of exhibits more attention has been paid to geographical grouping than to philatelic importance. This, from an educational and scientific point of view, is a step in the right direction, for grouping by philatelic importance results only in endless confusion. The hopeless search that visitors at the last London Exhibition made for countries in which they were interested, convinced many that philatelic grouping converted the exhibition into a philatelic conundrum.

The Exhibition will be held in the Art Rooms of the Brooklyn Institute, which afford good light and security from exposure to the sun. It will be open from March 3rd to March 11th, 1900, inclusive, and admission will be free. Should any of our readers desire further particulars the address of the Secretary is Mr. John D. Carberry, 1125, Putnam Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Illustrations in Colour.

Philatelic Journalism is certainly abnormally active. Our own journal has opened the year with a new series in greatly improved form, the *Monthly Journal* has been enlarged, the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* has been resuscitated, the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has changed hands, but the surprise of the day comes from Senf of Leipzig, who sends us No. 1 for 1900 of his excellent *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*, now in its twenty seventh volume of publication, enlarged by the addition of many pages, in a new cover, and an overwhelming array of old and new issues all gaily resplendant in their natural colours. First comes an article on the stamps of British Guiana, 1850-1860, with the circular, sugar paper, and other old issues all gloriously illustrated in their natural colours. Then come the new and recent issues with nearly a hundred stamps all in colour. Even the bi-coloured stamps are properly represented in their natural colours. In most cases the matching of the colours is very well done. In the case of new and recent issues a defacing bar is printed across each stamp, which effectually prevents these facsimile reproductions being frauduently used.

This is of course by no means the first attempt in this direction. Pemberton tried colour illustration in his *Philatelical Journal* in 1872; and others have tried it since, but none have kept it up. New colour processes of printing three or four colours at one operation considerably cheapen the colour printing of stamps, but, even so, the cost must be heavy. Thanks to our arrangement with the Post Office and the Inland Revenue authorities we are limited in this country to reproductions in black, and, therefore, are insured against any temptation at runious expenditure in colour printing. It is pretty, it is temptingly attractive and most effective, but—it is ruinously expensive.

Catalogues and Discounts.

*Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*, discussing the question of the inflation of prices, tells a few plain truths of about Catalogue quotations which would not occur to the average collector in the street. It holds that "the apparent inflation of prices of the past few years may be directly traced to the introduction of discounts," and informs us that "the cataloguers were forced to stiffen up prices of such stamps as would not stand a discount to enable the dealer to give a uniform discount." But those who got the discounts, like Oliver Twist, have been asking for more. They have been cutting each others throats as gaily as possible. They have been offering stamps at twenty, fifty and even seventy-five per cent. off catalogue prices. The wholesaler who supplied such harpies would need to "inflate" liberally to keep the pot boiling.

The moral of all this is put in a nutshell by the journal quoted when it says that "there ought to be some relation between the buying and selling prices of an article, even if one does not look at philately from a speculative side," and we would add that until such a rational relation is established there will be a growing want of confidence between Collectors and Dealers.

It is all very well for the *American Journal of Philately* to tell us that "the ideal philatelist is one who collects for the sake of collecting, not for speculation—who views his stamps, from time to time, with more or less

pleasure, according to their number, class, and condition, not according to catalogue fluctuations; who is in philately to stay, and not constantly estimating the probable net cash value of his collection at a forced sale."

To all this we reply that there is not one important collector in a thousand who can afford to sink the money he does in stamps regardless of the question of investment and the satisfactory realization of his investment is case of emergency. The day that this basis of the expenditure of money in the pursuit of stamp collecting is seriously undermined, dealers may assuredly prepare to put up their shutters. There has already been too much widening of the difference between buying and selling prices, and it will be well for the stamp trade if it can do something to restore confidence in this direction.

**Philatelic Libraries.**

Where is the Philatelic Society in this country that can boast of a comprehensive Philatelic Library? We know of several fine private collections, but we do not know of one society which can show a decently comprehensive philatelic library. Mr. Sellschopp, of San Francisco, who has recently been the guest of the Dresden Society, tells us that this old society meets in a splendid hall, the walls of which are covered with immense bookcases containing a superb library, said to be largest in the world.

Mr. Castle has publicly promised to leave his philatelic library to the Philatelic Society of London—at his death. But, then, Mr. Castle shows no sign of hastening his departure to the Regions of Eternal Praise, and philatelists of the earthly persuasion are by no means anxious that the London Philatelic Society's library should be enriched at such a cost.

Meanwhile, something should be done to remove the stigma attaching to the fact that no Philatelic Society in this country—not even the premier Philatelic Society of London—can boast of a comprehensive, well arranged and well-housed philatelic library.

There have been many opportunities of remedying this defect in our philatelic arrangements, but they have been allowed to pass without notice. Another opportunity will be afforded by the sale of Dr. Westoby's library. Will no one move in the matter? If the London Society's funds are not equal to the needs of the case, surely the members would come forward, as they did in the furnishing of the present rooms, and subscribe to a special library fund. Anyway, we throw out the suggestion.

**Marginal Watermarks.**

In our reviews and extracts from our leading contemporaries under the heading of "Philately in the Mags" we have drawn attention to a peculiarity in the watermark on the first issue of Belgium, which Mr. Jules Bouvèz, in the *American Journal of Philately*, describes as a "very special peculiarity," to which, he says, the attention of philatelists appears not yet to have been drawn, although it is of capital importance for collectors of varieties." This "very special peculiarity" consists of the words "ministere des travana publics, Bruxelles, Belgique, Postes," an inscription "placed at the lower corner of the sheet 5mm. below the watermark 'LL' of the last row of stamps.

This "very special peculiarity" seems to us to be neither more nor less than a marginal watermark, and we have not yet raised marginal watermarks to the rank of watermarks on the stamps. That portion of the watermark intended to fall on the margin is clearly on a par with the inscriptions and control numbers printed on the margins of most sheets of stamps. Such inscriptions are undeniably interesting, they are largely collected by bloaters who can afford large strips of stamps with margins attached. But they scarcely come into the category of watermarks on the stamps.

# The Stamps of Luxembourg:

AN EASY GUIDE TO THEIR COLLECTION, WITH SOME NOTES ON RELATIVE VALUES.

BY FRANK H. OLIVER.

*(Continued from page 6.)*

In 1865, some sheets of the 1c. value were issued imperforate. Possibly these escaped the separate impression of the perforating rules by accident. I have not seen a used copy.

Variety : Imperforate.

| | UNUSED. S. | D. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 centime brown .. .. .. | 10 | 0 |

1865-72. Rouletted in Colour.

| | UNUSED. S. | D. | USED. S. | D. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 centime orange .. .. .. | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 ,, red-orange .. .. | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 ,, orange-vermilion .. .. | 10 | 0 | 12 | 6 |
| 1 ,, pale red-brown .. .. | 0 | 9 | 0 | 8 |
| 1 ,, red-brown .. .. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 10 ,, pale mauve .. .. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 10 ,, red-lilac .. .. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 10 ,, grey-lilac .. .. | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| 10 ,, lilac .. .. .. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 10 ,, deep lilac .. .. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 12½ ,, rose .. .. .. | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 12½ ,, deep rose .. .. | 1 | 6 | 0 | 4 |
| 20 ,, grey-brown .. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 20 ,, yellow-brown .. .. | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 20 ,, deep yellow-brown .. | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. | 4 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 25 ,, pale ultramarine .. .. | 6 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 25 ,, ultramarine .. .. | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 25 ,, deep ultramarine .. .. | 8 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| 30 ,, red-violet .. .. | 10 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 37½ ,, stone .. .. .. | 30 | 0 | 12 | 6 |
| 40 ,, orange .. .. .. | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 franc (UN FRANC) on 37½ centime stone | 12 | 6 | 7 | 6 |

The orange vermilion shade of the 1c. is a very scarce stamp. The 37½c. is also difficult to get in an unused condition ; but used, I consider it to be over-rated in the Catalogues. The 40c. is scarce, both used and unused, especially *fine* used copies. The 30c. is not a stamp to be despised, and should not be passed by if an opportunity arises of purchasing it at a fair price.

The stamps of the last two issues were the first surcharged "OFFICIEL" for use in Government offices. I shall, however, deal with Official Stamps after the regular postal issues.

In 1874, the contract for the printing of stamps was given to a printer in Luxembourg. The first stamps issued by him were the 4c. and 10c. imperforate. In the "Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe" Mr. Westoby states that this was owing to the Perforating Machine ordered by the printer not having arrived. The 5c. yellow is also found imperforate, but is so scarce that in my opinion a sheet or two only was issued in error with the perforated sheets.

The printing of this issue is very roughly done and it is not surprising that the contract with the Luxembourg printer was not continued for very

long. Blocks of from four to twelve copies show great variation in shade, and the stamps are often very badly perforated.

1874. Types as last. Printed in Luxembourg in sheets of 100 stamps, each stamp being 1½ to 2 mm. apart. Fine white wove paper, imperforate. White gum.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 4 centimes green .. .. .. | 2 6 | 5 0 |
| 10 ,, lilac .. .. .. | 6 0 | 10 0 |
| 10 ,, grey-lilac .. .. | 6 0 | 10 0 |

On greyish wove paper.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 4 centimes green .. .. .. | 3 6 | 5 0 |
| 5 ,, yellow .. .. .. | 50 0 | — |




Fig. 6.

1874-80. Types as last. Printed in Luxembourg in sheets of 100 stamps, the stamps being 1½ to 2 m.m. apart. White wove paper, rather coarse in texture, certainly not so fine as in previous issues. White gum. Perforated 13. The surcharge "Un Franc" is in block capitals and lower-case (figure 6), the surcharge of the 1865-72 issue being all in capitals.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 centime pale brown .. .. | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 1 ,, brown .. .. .. | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 2 ,, black .. .. .. | 1 3 | 0 5 |
| 4 ,, green .. .. .. | 1 3 | 1 0 |
| 5 ,, yellow .. .. .. | 2 0 | 1 6 |
| 5 ,, deep yellow .. .. | 2 0 | 1 6 |
| 5 ,, olive-yellow .. .. | 20 0 | 10 0 |
| 5 ,, orange-yellow .. .. | 7 6 | 1 0 |
| 10 ,, drab .. .. .. | 1 6 | 0 6 |
| 10 ,, grey .. .. .. | 1 0 | 0 2 |
| 10 ,, slate .. .. .. | 1 0 | 0 2 |
| 10 ,, deep slate .. .. | 2 0 | 0 2 |
| 10 ,, greyish-mauve .. .. | 2 6 | 0 6 |
| 10 ,, bright mauve .. .. | 5 0 | 2 0 |
| 10 ,, red-lilac.. .. .. | 7 6 | 2 0 |
| 12½ ,, deep rose .. .. | 12 6 | 1 0 |
| 12½ ,, carmine.. .. .. | 11 6 | 1 6 |
| 12½ ,, dull rose .. .. | 6 0 | 1 6 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. | 10 0 | 0 8 |
| 25 ,, Prussian blue .. .. | 15 0 | 0 9 |
| 30 ,, pale claret .. .. | 10 0 | 10 0 |
| 37½ ,, stone .. .. .. | 35 0 | — |
| 40 ,, orange .. .. .. | 3 6 | 4 6 |
| 40 ,, yellow-orange .. .. | 3 6 | 4 6 |
| 1 franc (Un Franc) on 37½c. stone .. | 10 0 | 5 0 |

Error: "Un Pranc."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 franc (Un Pranc) on 37½c. stone .. | 60 0 | — |

I think the prices I have appended to the above list may be taken as fairly accurate. I must, however, call special attention to the 5c. *olive-yellow*, used and unused, and the 25c. *Prussian blue*, unused. Possibly these are, if anything, underpriced. The 37½c. stone are from sheets that have escaped the over-printing of "Un Franc."

In 1880 the contract for printing stamps was given to a printer in Haarlem. The same firm being also the manufacturers of the stamps

of Holland, the Luxembourg stamps printed by them are similar in paper and variety of perforation to the contemporaneous Dutch stamps. Although produced by the same process they are much better productions than the locally-printed stamps. This is due to superior workmanship, ink and paper. A new value, 20c., was added to the series, but the 4c., 40c., and 1 Franc were not printed, there being sufficient stock.

1880. Printed in Haarlem in sheets of 100 stamps, the stamps being 2¼ to 3½mm. apart. White wove, to pale bluish paper, fine in texture, white gum.

The following list includes prominent shades but ignores varieties of perforation. The prices given are for the commonest variety of perforation.

| | | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 centime | reddish-brown .. .. | 0 9 | 0 5 |
| 1 ,, | yellowish-brown .. .. | 2 6 | 1 0 |
| 2 ,, | black .. .. .. | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 5 ,, | yellow .. .. .. | 2 0 | 0 6 |
| 10 ,, | grey .. .. .. | 2 0 | 0 2 |
| 10 ,, | lilac-grey .. .. | 2 0 | 0 2 |
| 12½ ,, | pale rose .. .. | 6 0 | 4 0 |
| 20 ,, | pale brown .. .. | 8 6 | 1 0 |
| 25 ,, | light blue .. .. | 5 0 | 0 9 |
| 25 ,, | blue .. .. .. | 6 6 | 0 3 |
| 30 ,, | red-violet .. .. | 2 6 | 4 0 |

Varieties of Perforation :

Perforated 13 to 13½ and compound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | yellowish-brown |
| 2 | ,, | black |
| 5 | ,, | yellow |
| 10 | ,, | grey |
| 10 | ,, | lilac-grey |
| 12½ | ,, | pale rose |
| 20 | ,, | pale brown |
| 25 | ,, | light blue |

Perforated 11½ by 12. (variety).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | reddish-brown |
| 2 | ,, | black |
| 5 | ,, | yellow |
| 10 | ,, | lilac-grey |
| 12½ | ,, | pale rose |
| 20 | ,, | pale brown |
| 25 | ,, | light blue |
| 25 | ,, | blue |
| 30 | ,, | red-violet |

Perforated 12½ to 13 by 12.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | reddish-brown |
| 2 | ,, | black |
| 5 | ,, | yellow |
| 10 | ,, | lilac-grey |
| 12½ | ,, | pale rose |
| 20 | ,, | pale brown |
| 25 | ,, | light blue |
| 25 | ,, | blue |
| 30 | ,, | red-violet |

Perforated 12.

20 centimes pale brown

Some collectors may at first find a difficulty in distinguishing between the locally-printed stamps, perforated 13, and the Haarlem printed stamps, perforated 13 to 13½. Apart from the difference in quality of printing and paper, the locally-printed stamps *always measure 13 all round;* the Haarlem prints always vary from 13 to 13½. Again, the local perforation 13 has rather small punctures with the result that the points between are wide and blunted. The Haarlem perforation 13 to 13½ has large punctures, and the points between are quite sharp.

I believe the above list to be complete, although some authorities give other varieties, such as 13 by 13½, 13 by 12 etc.; I consider these varieties to be simply variations of one perforating machine and not worthy of serious attention. The 20c. perf. 12 is undoubtedly a distinct variety, I have found the same perforation in several of the stamps of Surinam, these being printed at the same establishment. Collin & Calman in their "Advanced Catalogue" give the 1, 2, and 12½c. in this perforation, but I have never seen these, but they omit the 20c., which I have in my possession.

*(To be Continued.)*

# Cataloguing Commemoratives.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

THE collapse of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps has convinced many persons that it is not possible to get collectors and dealers to work together in such a manner as to put an end to the profitable production of commemoratives and other purely speculative issues. Time is needed to demonstrate to the foolish purchasers of such rubbish the utter worthlessness of their investment.

Meanwhile, something less drastic than the revolt attempted by the defunct society may be acceptable and workable.

Why not recognise the inevitable, and acknowledge that the philatelic public, as well as the general public dearly loves to be gulled, and will buy commemoratives and speculatives of all sorts and conditions regardless of all warnings and cautions? And recognising this indisputable fact why not provide accordingly?

The great body of collectors prefer to confine their attention to adhesives. But others collect postcards, or envelopes, or wrappers, or locals, or revenue stamps. Our cataloguers recognise these idiosyncrasies, and separate them into classes. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., for instance, divide their catalogue into four parts, one for the British Colonies, another for Foreign countries, another for envelopes, wrappers, and postcards, and another for Local postage stamps. The adhesive sections have been considerably and wisely lightened by the transference of purely local stamps to a separate publication.

Why not go a step further, and weed out the worthless, uninteresting and purely speculative jubilee commemoratives, and other issues of a similar character, and relegate them also to a separate publication? The task of separation would not be more difficult than that which has been accomplished so satisfactorily in the case of local postage stamps.

Such a weeding out of speculatives from the pages of the general catalogue would gladden the heart of the general collector, for it would rid his philatelic garden of its most objectionable and rampant weeds. It would materially reduce the alarmingly increasing bulk of the modern album, and it would settle many doubts and difficulties as to what to collect. It would remove one of the greatest and most serious of all stumbling blocks to the more widespread of adoption of general collecting, for nothing has been more effective in driving collectors into specialism than the rampant growth of these philatelic weeds and their wholesale inclusion in catalogues and albums.

On the other hand, those peculiarly constituted persons, who have an incurable partiality for bogus issues would no doubt be gratified by the publication of a special catalogue devoted to their particular weakness. The expense involved in the work of separation and separate publication would be repaid over and over again by the re-invigoration of general collecting.

It is difficult to fully estimate the havoc that the flood of Jubilee and other speculative issues have made in the ranks of general collecting. But it is safe to assert that it has materially and seriously affected the stamp trade throughout the world. There are some who contend that the issue of

a popular jubilee series leads to an immediate increase of collectors by generating an interest in quarters hitherto unaffected by the prevalence of stamp collecting. We do not deny that there may be much truth in this, but the recruits so gained have been overwhelmingly counterbalanced by the numbers of collectors who have given up collecting in disgust, or who have retired into the safe, but exclusive, ranks of specialism. The success of the stamp trade depends much more largely upon the increase of general collectors than upon the business arising from specialists. The general collector, in fact, is the back bone of our pursuit, and if general collecting could be efficiently protected from the speculative nuisance we should in all probability witness a most gratifying revival of general collecting.

Such a consummation is most devoutly to be desired, and it is to be hoped that the adoption of some such suggestion as this which we now submit to the publishers of our catalogues may pave the way to the restoration of general collecting to its old pre-eminence.

# The Forum.

## Can Collectors by the publication of a Collector's Priced Catalogue, regulate the selling price of Stamps?

### Affirmative. By J. W. C. Links.

I AM a collector, pure and simple. I have no dealing connections or temptations. I collect for pleasure; not for profit, nor as a speculation. Therefore, I am able to regard this interesting discussion which has been opened in the *Philatelic Record*, without the prejudice that will naturally and perhaps insensibly affect the judgment of a collector-dealer, or an amateur dealer.

At the outset I am prepared to admit that the question is a two-sided one. If it were not it would scarcely have been chosen for debate. But the balance of argument seems to me to be entirely on the affirmative side.

Mr. Nankivell makes a great point of the fact that at a certain meeting of the Philatelic Society of London the members cold shouldered his proposal for a Collector's Catalogue. That proposal, I understand, was for an unpriced catalogue: quite a different thing; so different, in fact, that Mr. Castle, in the December issue of the *London Philatelist*, says that had the proposal included pricing it would have been supported by members who were opposed to an unpriced catalogue.

The whole question seems to me to hang upon three points:—

1. Have collectors the necessary knowledge to enable them to gauge and fix true market prices?

2. Would the collectors and dealers accept the authority of those prices?

3. Is there sufficient and willing authority to undertake and complete the work, and keep it up to date from year to year?

I have stated these points candidly, for I do not believe in burking the difficulties of a position.

Now for the reply, from my point of view. Is it possible that anyone

will gainsay the fact that collectors must in the very building up of their collections acquire the very best kind of the knowledge to enable them to gauge and fix market prices. In their searching for shades and varieties few, if any, specialists confine themselves to one dealer's stock. Most specialists go through all available stocks.

Whether collectors and dealers would accept the authority of collector-fixed prices is, no doubt, a question which time only could solve. But for the purpose of this discussion it must suffice for us to reckon up the probabilities. And are not these undeniably strong in favour of acceptance, provided of course the pricing be done by, say, such an authority as the Philatelic Society of London. No dealer would have the hardihood to deny that the specialists of that Society possess the knowledge that would enable them to price. Indeed, I am told that the pricing of even dealers' catalogues is largely influenced by the co-operation of those very specialists. Prices fixed by such an authority would presumably be at all events accepted by the collectors, and if accepted by the collectors, their ultimate acceptance by dealers could scarcely be withheld. If resisted they would form a stumbling block to business, so that for peace sake, for business sake, the dealer would be driven to accept the dictum of the collectors' authority.

As to a sufficient and willing authority, I presume no one will say the Philatelic Society of London is not an all-sufficient authority. Whether it is, or would be, willing to undertake the work would presumably depend upon the demand for such a work on the part of collectors.

### Negative. By A. W. Robinson.

Theoretically, it is possible to make out a very fair case for the affirmative side in this controversy. That has been already demonstrated by "An Old Collector."

Still, no amount of theory can get rid of the practical objections that stand in the way of practical success.

Theoretically, most people would concede that if you could get specialists of authority, with ample up-to-date knowledge of available stocks and dealers' prices, you should be able to get, not only a priced catalogue, but a very much better priced catalogue, than any dealer, or combination of dealers, could turn out. But I challenge anyone to produce the evidence that such specialists even exist, to say nothing about their being available for the work. A specialist, while he is hunting for particular varieties, does, no doubt, get a more or less comprehensive insight into stocks and prices. But when he has secured what he wanted he does not bother himself further, unless, indeed, he is a Specialist-Collector-Dealer. As our friends apparently rely upon the premier society we must take it for granted that the great specialists of the Society are not of the class of the specialist-collector-dealers. Therefore, having acquired what he needed the specialist no longer keeps in touch with stocks or prices, or does so only in a casual way. Hence, he would not possess the necessary up-to-date information concerning stocks and prices to enable him to price accurately and up-to-date.

Then, again, a Collector's Priced Catalogue to be effective and workable would have to be revised periodically, probably as often as dealers' catalogues, *i.e.*, every year. Where is the Society, or combination of specialists, or collectors, who can, or will, face such a task? It does not exist, and it is not likely ever to be created. The work would be largely, if not entirely, unpaid work, and I am one of those sceptical individuals who do not believe in unpaid work (except in very rare cases), being effective, thorough, or sustained. In this scepticism I do not think I stand alone. In this relation, as a case in point, note the backwardness of the Philatelic Society of London in the production of its much prized

monographs. The excuse, I am told, is that men available for that work are too busy. Too busy! Offer them, personally, a good fat remuneration, and what would be the result? You would probably be assured that if you want good, efficient, and prompt work you must go to the busy man. Human machines, like all others, they work best when well oiled, and some human machines wont work at all unless they are lubricated most liberally. The work entailed in the production of a Collector's Priced Catalogue would need a tremendous amount of lubrication for the very simple reason that the great specialists are mostly men of such means that only big fees would induce them to take off their jackets and face so much downright hard work. Upon this ground alone I am certain that collectors never will, by the publication of a Collector's Priced Catalogue, regulate the selling price of stamps.

# The Army Post Office.

*From "The Times" of 27th December, 1899.*

THE postal system has become so closely interwoven with the varying interests of every section of the community that it may almost be said to be part and parcel of our daily life. It will be readily understood, therefore, that the letter-post is as much a necessity to the soldier, more especially when on active service, as it is to the civilian. The military authorities, recognizing this fact, now regard a Post Office corps as an indispensable factor of the Army when in action, and the little band of a hundred Post Office men now with the expeditionary force in South Africa is an important as well as an interesting feature of the present war.

This is not, however, the first occasion on which the corps has been under fire, so to speak, for, being formed in 1882, it accompanied the expeditionary forces which were sent to Egypt in that year, and subsequently in 1885. But even that was not the first experience of Post Office men in active warfare, as some attempt was made to provide for letter traffic during the Crimean War. On that occasion, however, the whole of the necessary arrangements were left in the hands of the Post Office, no military organization whatever being attempted. The staff was selected from among members of the Post Office, and consisted of six officers and eleven sorters, who were assisted by a certain number of non-commissioned officers from the Army and some native (Levantine) clerks. The work performed by this small force was connected entirely with letters, and the service they rendered appears to have been much appreciated. No doubt it was the experience of that campaign which suggested to the War Office the advisability of attaching a postal corps permanently to the Army. The subject remained dormant, however, for a considerable number of years, and it was not until 1876 that any active steps were taken in the matter.

In that year the War Office appears to have become alive to the fact that much assistance could be rendered by the Post Office in the postal and telegraphic arrangements pertaining to an army in the field operating outside the United Kingdom. It also naturally occurred to the military authorities that such duties could probably best be performed by Volunteers connected with the Post Office, and as the 49th Middlesex Regiment of Volunteers

was composed wholly of Post Office men that department was accordingly approached on the subject, with the result that a committee of War Office and Post Office experts was appointed to inquire into the matter. But, although the matter was fully gone into, and a plan on the basis of the Crimean experience formulated, no result seems to have followed the enquiry, and for the time being the subject dropped, not to be revived until 1882.

The question was once more brought up in connection with the expeditionary force which the War Office authorities had in July of the year just mentioned decided on sending to Egypt. Lieutenant-Colonel du Plat Taylor, once a member of the Post Office, had long had in his mind a plan for the formation of an Army Postal Corps, to be raised from the Post Office Volunteers, which should undertake all the postal duties connected with the Army in the field, and as a matter of fact it was his scheme that was submitted to the committee of 1876 already mentioned. This plan Colonel du Plat Taylor again brought under the notice of the authorities, and he advocated it so energetically and with such good effect that a Treasury warrant authorizing the formation of such a corps was issued on July 22nd, 1882. It was announced that the Army Postal Corps would consist of two officers and one hundred rank and file, of which one-half were to be prepared at once for foreign service. Some difficulty arose as to the statutory legalization of the corps, but this was overcome by the simple expedient of enlisting all the men in the Regular Army for a period of six years, three being in the Army service and three in the Reserve. It was arranged, however, that the men should not be kept in the Army longer than six months after the cessation of hostilities during time of peace, and, of course, they were to retain their position in the London Post Office. The plan seems to have found much favour amongst the Post Office Volunteers; so much so, indeed, that all the officers and 350 of the men volunteered their services. This number was, however, narrowed down by subsequent regulations, which rendered married men and men over 30 years of age ineligible, while some of the men were medically disqualified, and in the course of a few days the required strength—100—of the corps was attained and the Volunteers duly enlisted. Of the number, two officers and 43 men were immediately got ready for active service, the establishment comprising an Army postmaster and an assistant Army postmaster, ranking respectively as captain and lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, and 35 privates. The usual military allowances were made to the officers and the men while on active, service, in addition, of course to their Post Office pay. As may be supposed, active preparations had to be made for providing the necessary equipment and apparatus, including sorting tents and appliances for five camp post-offices. All was ready, however, by July 26th, 1882, when the company was paraded at the General Post Office before the Postmaster-General, and 13 days later they embarked for Egypt on board the British Prince at Portsmouth. The corps arrived in Egypt on August 21st, and an Army Post Office was at once established at the Tribunal, Alexandria, a field post-office being shortly afterwards opened at Ramleh. A detachment being left at Alexandria, the corps proceeded to Port Said, where another post-office was established, and thence to Ismailia, where the men and stores were disembarked and the sorting and other tents were pitched in the public gardens. The Army postmaster, with one sergeant and three men, and the necessary field tent and appliances proceeded then at once to Tel-el-Mahuta, and from that time a daily service to and from the front was maintained, tent parties being moved forward with the advance, and men from the Reserve at Ismailia placed at the various stations along the line according to the strength of the detachments left at each place. Post-offices were established at both Kassassin aud Tell-el-Kebir, and at the former place several mem-

bers of the Post Office Corps were during the battle exposed to the enemy's shell fire, this being the first occasion on which English Volunteers have been under fire. As soon as the campaign was at an end every outlying party, except that at Alexandria, was called in, and soon afterwards the corps, with the exception of a small detachment left with the portion of the Army remaining at Cairo, returned to London, where they naturally received an enthusiastic public welcome.

The success of the experiment was unqualified, as may be gathered from the high terms of praise bestowed upon it by Sir Garnet Wolseley, as he then was. The manner in which all the members of the Post Office Corps carried out the important duties entrusted to them "left nothing to be desired," wrote Sir Garnet in one of his despatches. "Their services have been so valuable," he added, "that I hope a similar corps may be employed on any future occasion on which it may be necessary to despatch an expeditionary force from this country." These brave Post Office officials did not, of course, go unrewarded, and the officer in command of the corps, Captain Sturgeon—the Army postmaster—was promoted to the rank of major in the Reserve of Officers and received the Egyptian medal from the hands of the Queen. The honour of receiving this medal from the Sovereign was also conferred on one non-commissioned officer—Sergeant Sherwin—and one private, while the remaining members of the corps received their medals from the Duke of Teck, their honorary colonel. Medals in recognition of the occasion were also bestowed on the members of the corps by the Khedive. It is not to be doubted that these honours were thoroughly well deserved by the corps, for it is to be remembered that the members who went abroad endured all the hardships of the campaign, and cheerfully underwent all the privations and dangers necessarily accompanying the expedition. The complete success of the scheme must have been a source of much gratification to Lieutenant-Colonel du Plat Taylor, who for so many years had advocated a trial of the plan. It met with a further trial three years later, when, in 1885, an expeditionary force under General Graham was sent to Suakin. One officer (Major Sturgeon) and 20 non-commissioned officers and men were ordered to accompany the forces, and accordingly embarked for Suakin on March 3rd, 1885, returning in July the same year. The plan proved in every way as successful as on the former occasion, General Graham expressing his satisfaction at the manner in which the postal duties had been performed by the Army Post Office.

The whole strength of the Army Post Office Corps has been called into requisition in the present war, and three officers and 100 men are now in South Africa for military postal duties. The corps is composed of men who are members of the Post Office Volunteer Corps (24th—formerly 49th—Middlesex) and who are experienced in some of the various duties required of Post Office officials. On volunteering to join the Army Reserve, they are medically examined, and if found physically qualified are duly enlisted in the orthodox manner. For the purposes of drill and discipline the Army Post Office Corps is attached to the 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers. The great usefulness of the corps in connection with the Egyptian campaigns having demonstrated the high importance of such a corps is an accompaniment of every military expedition, the War Office have wisely taken every opportunity of giving the corps experience of postal work in the field. Thus their services have always been utilized for duty on the occasion of the manœuvres which have been held of late years at Aldershot and Salisbury Plain. The Post Office men who are now with the forces in South Africa have thereby gained much valuable experience, which will, no doubt, stand them in good stead in the present campaign, and the three officers having been favourably reported on for the marked ability they have displayed in

the manœuvres at home, there is every ground for anticipating that the corps will distinguish itself, as on former occasions, in South Africa.

Without going into the details of the organization and arrangements of the Army Post Office, it may very briefly be said that the duty of the corps is to establish and maintain postal communication between the base and the several detached portions of the Army in the field. Thus at the base of each column there will be what is practically a head post office, while field or subordinate offices will be established with all the different divisions of the column. All incoming correspondence will be received at the respective head offices, and there sorted and conveyed to the various sub or field offices, where the letters will be handed over to the orderlies of the regiments and corps, no postmen being employed. In like manner the outgoing correspondence will be collected at the field offices and thence transmitted to the head offices, whence it will be despatched to the places of destination. The respective postmasters have, as may be gathered, to be in constant communication with the field offices, and it is, no doubt, in view of this fact that these officers are mounted. At all the post offices, stamps, registered letter covers, postcards, &c., are sold, and postal orders are issued and paid. The issuing of postal orders is found to be a great convenience to the soldiers, who like to transmit their money home as soon as it is received. Parcel-post business is also conducted, and it falls to the duty of the post-masters to keep all the records and accounts in connexion with the various branches of post office business in the orthodox manner. In the transaction of this business all the necessary appliances are, of course, employed, and amongst other articles in use ingenious collapsible sorting tables have been designed for the purpose.




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**Great Britain.**—The ½d. and 1s. in the much talked of change of colour have not yet been issued, and there is said to be no probability of any change being made in the 1d., as the Inland Revenue authorities regard the colour of that stamp as the best protection against fraud by cleaning that can be had.

According to *Morley's Philatelic Journal* the 2½d. "Army Official" is to be withdrawn from issue.

**British New Guinea.**—Mr. Thurston informs the *Philatelic Journal of India* that British New Guinea is shortly to have stamps of its own instead of the Queensland stamps which it now uses. He says it is likely that only stamps of low values will be issued, to begin with at least.

**Ceylon.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says the new 6 cents has already appeared in two varieties. Plate No. 1 is light-rose and has no "jubilee line" round the sheet. Plate No. 2 is a rich rose colour and has the "jubilee line" in rose.

**Cape of Good Hope.**—The Capetown Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* under date of 3rd Jan., 1900 says:—

> The new Cape penny postage stamp is issued to-day. It is neat in design, but is unfavourably criticised, because of the entire absence of any indications of the Imperial connection, contrasting badly, in that respect, with the recent issue of the Canadian 2 cent stamp, bearing a world-map.

The London *Daily Mail* Capetown Correspondent says that the Boers have surcharged Cape stamps with the letters "S.A.R." for use in the "annexed" portions of Cape Colony, that several specimens of these stamps have reached Capetown and fetched long prices.

We strongly suspect the stamps are a speculative fraud. In the first place the Boers would not use the letters "S.A.R." but Z.A.R. for they spell "South" with a "Z," and in the second place any stamps surcharged would probably be their own, as in the case of Swazieland.

**India, *Gwalior.***—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says there are *no* errors in the new 3 pies stamp except a small "A" in Gwalior. There are some cases where insufficient or too much ink has made certain of the Hindi letters look like others, but this is all.

**Cook Islands.** — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the new ½d. value in the flying bird type. Wmk. N.Z. and star, perf. 11.

*Adhesive.*

1d. blue.

**New South Wales.** — The *London Philatelist* has had the current 9d. with double surcharge, perf. 11.

*Adhesive.*

9d. on 10d. red-brown, *double surcharge.*

**New Zealand.**—Mr. J. W. Jones informs us that he has received the 5s. value of the current picture series printed locally. He says the colour is deeper in the local than in the London printing. No wmk., perf. 11.

"Pelure" in the Otago witness, writes:—

> The 4d., printed in the same design as the penny, seems to have been on issue only in Wellington for one day, and was withdrawn as soon as possible owing to the confusion arising by reason of its similarity to the penny. This bi-coloured fourpenny should become a rare stamp, seeing that so few were sold. Most probably if they are ever re-issued they will be surcharged with a large 4.

According to Mr. L. A. Sanderson (*Australian Philatelist*) the postage due stamps were to be issued in December.

The values were to be ½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 10d., 1s. and 2s.

**Niger Coast.**—We learn on good authority that the stamps of the current series are being "suitably overprinted" to mark the transference of this territory to the Government. We cannot say what the overprint will be, but we presume it will be "Nigeria."

**South Australia.** — Mr. Frank H. Oliver (Bright & Son) sends us a variety of the "O.S." surcharge on the 1d. green, and 2d. orange, current type, in which the stop is omitted after the "S." As the stamps are perf., 13, this is evidently a recent setting up of the surcharge, or we should have heard of it before this.

Mr. Oliver also sends us a double "O.S." surcharge on the 4d. mauve, current type, perf. 13. In the double impression one "O" falls on the "S" of the other impression.

*Adhesives.*

Surcharged "O S."
1d. green, *stop omitted after "S"*
2d. orange ,, ,,
4d. mauve, *double surcharge.*

The *Monthly Journal* has received the 2½d. value changed in colour from blue lilac to deep blue, and perf. 13, as before.

*Adhesive.*

2½d. deep blue, *perf. 13.*

**Straits Settlements, *Johore.***—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the 4c. in a new colour, a change from green and carmine to yellow with carmine labels.

*Adhesive.*

4c. yellow, carmine labels.

## Foreign Countries.

**Belgium.**—According to the *Timbres Poste* the current 10c. value has not appeared in carmine and will not be issued in that colour, for a new design is in preparation with a portrait of the King.

**Brazil.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* chronicles the 700 reis newspaper stamp of 1899, surcharged in error with the same value and "1898" in green.

*Adhesive.*

700 on 700 reis, orange-yellow, *error.*

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

**China.**—Mr. Frank H. Oliver (Bright and Son) informs us that in looking through some Chinese stamps recently, he found a pair of 1c. on 1c. vermilion, small figures (Bright's Cat. No. 20), with surcharge inverted.

*Adhesives.*

1867, surcharged in small figures.
1c. on 1c. vermilion, *sur. inverted.*

**Colombia.** *Cartagena.*—Mr. Frank H. Oliver (Bright & Son) sends us a further issue, made on December 8th, 1899, of the provisionals described in our last issue, evidently a second printing from the same plates. The 5c. is printed in brown on pale green wove paper, and the 10c. in vermilion on a pink, wove paper. Both stamps are pin perf., possibly with a sewing machine. Seven violet horizontal wavy lines printed across the stamps are said to be for control purposes.

Yet another provisional reaches us from the same source in the shape of the current Bolivar 1c. black, of which some 3500 are said to have been impressed into service as Cartagena provisionals to take the place of the exhausted stock of Colombia 1c. and 2c. The Bolivar stamps have been overprinted with the so called wavy lines.

*Erratum.* Owing to a printer's error in our last issue "ivory leaves" was substituted for "ivy leaves," in our description of the peculiar overprint on the first printing of these provisionals.

*Adhesives.*

1c. black (Bolivar stamp).
5c. brown on pale green paper.
10c. vermilion on pink paper.

**France.** *Dahomey.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 25c. current Colonial type with "Dahomey et Dependances," printed in red in the label.

*Adhesive.*

25c. black on rose.

*Madagascar.* Also a 5f. of the Colonial type with "Madagascar et

Dependances," printed on blue in the label.

*Adhesive.*

5f. mauve on pale mauve.

*Morocco.* Also the 5c. of the current French type surcharged "5—centimos," in two lines, in red, for use in Morocco.

*Adhesive.*

5c. yellow-green.

*Alexandria.* The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the current French stamps overprinted "Aexandrie."

*Adhesives*

Red *surcharge*

5c yellow-green on *tinted.*
10c. black on *lilac.*
15c. blue.
25c. black on *rose.*

Black *surcharge.*

20c. red on *green.*
30c. brown on *tinted.*
40c. red ,,
50c carmine on *rose.*
1fr. olive-green on tinted.
5fr. lilac.

*Port Said.* The *Monthly Journal* also chronicles current French stamps, horizontally surcharged "Port Said" in tall capitals.

*Adhesives.*

10c. black on *lilac*, red *surcharge.*
25. ,, *rose* ,, ,,
25c. on 10c, black on *lilac, in figures and words.*
25c on 10c. ,, ,, *in words only.*

*Tunis. Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* states it is reported that the perforating of the postage stamp with a large "T," to represent Postage Due stamps, will shortly be discontinued, and that a special issue of Postage Due stamps may be expected before very long.

**German Empire**—We are indebted to Mr. Hugo Krötzsch of Leipzig for a set of the new series which were put into circulation on the 1st, of January, up to and including the 80pf. He tells us the new stamps will be supplied as the old are used up. The lower values are of the ordinary size, but the mark values, which are not yet issued, will be oblong and of the size of the U.S. Columbians. Up to 80pf. the stamps have a bust of Germania in a frame with the word "Reichspost" below and numerals of value in the upper corners. The values from 25pf. to 80pf. have the centre in black and four are on coloured paper.

*Adhesives.*

3pf. brown.
5pf. green.
10pi. carmine.
20pf. ultramarine.
25pf. black and orange on *yellow.*
40pf. ,, ,, *buff.*
30pf. black and carmine on *white.*
50pf. ,, lilac on *buff.*
80pf. ,, carmine on *pale red.*
1 mark, carmine.
2 ,, blue.
3 ,, lilac.
5 ,, carmine, *frame* black.

*Morocco.* We have received a set of the current stamps of the Empire surcharged for the use of the German Post Offices in Morocco. The surcharge, "Morocco—3 centimes" in two lines, is printed diagonally, upwards from left to right and is in sans serif type in capitals and small letters. The surcharge is in black.

*Adhesives.*

3 centimos on 3pf., brown.
5 ,, ,, 5pf., green.
10 ,, ,, 10pf., rose.
20 ,, ,, 20pf., ultramarine.
25 ,, ,, 25pf., orange.
50 ,, ,, 50pf., red-brown.

**Panama.**—The *American Journal of Philately* has a provisional Registration Return Receipt Stamp, made by surcharging the 5c. stamp of the regular issue with "A. R. COLON COLOMBIA," in three lines. The surcharge is apparently made with the hand-stamp ordinarily used to cancel the Registration Return Receipt stamps.

*Adhesive.*

Provisional Registration Return Receipt Stamp.
5c. blue.

**Sarawak.**—We have received 4c. and 10c. values in the current type. Paper, white wove; Perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*

4c. red.
10c. blue.

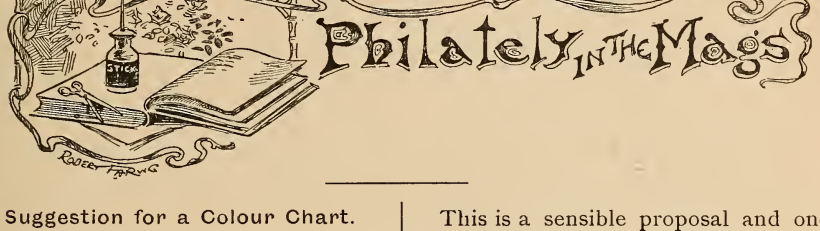
**Siam.** — The *Monthly Circular* has received from its Bangkok correspondent several values of the new issue, which is of the same design as before, except that the head is in profile. The perforation is unchanged, but there is now no watermark.

*Adhesives.*

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

**Transvaal.**—Mr. E. C. Yates sends the following information to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*:—

I have to-night received from Pretoria via Lorenço Marquez a block of three of the 2½d. violet, 1887-90 type, surcharged in green in thick italics "1d.," just above the wagon, and a thick line extending right across the stamp, obliterating the 2½d.




### Suggestion for a Colour Chart.

A PAPER read by Mr. N. W. Jones before the Manchester Philatelic Society is published in the December number of the *Monthly Journal*. After enumerating the difficulties that stand in the way of the production of a satisfactory colour chart, Mr. Jones suggests that all those difficulties might be overcome in time by the appointment of a committee of experts in the colour trade as well as in matters philatelic.

The first duty of such a body would be to draw up a well-defined list of colours, and then to obtain specimens of reliable purity, which after being ground in varnish in the form of printing-ink, and then printed, would be submitted to careful examination for such necessary details as purity of shade and depth of tone, matters in which the quality of the varnish plays an important part. It would not do to tie ourselves down to one shade of each colour, as that would still leave a large loop-hole for individual and unskilled classification; but if we follow a method that holds good in the trade, and show a range of three shades —light, medium, and dark—of the more important varieties of each colour, and two shades—light and dark—of the less important varieties, always being careful that each selected shade answered in every particular to the name attached to it, we should in this way approach somewhere near to the desired end, and possess a range of colour which, without in any way attaining finality, would enable every collector to classify his specimens with an exactitude to which he is at present a stranger. Thus, in the case of *reds* it would be necessary to illustrate the various tones found, which extend from those of a *bluish* shade, through *vermilions*, and *yellower* shades, to the *brown-red*, or *marones*, and it will be seen that in the case of important colours the number of shades to be represented will be many and various.

Even if such a classification were adopted, shades will always be found which lie somewhere between two of the standards; but as we are compelled to regard the adoption of an absolute standard which will embrace every know shade as impossible, would it not be better to face the matter on the lines indicated, and so restore something like order in a region where unutterable chaos is rampant, rather than submit to the present state of misrule, in which every worker has different ideas, and every man scoffs at the labour of his fellows? The work could be done, and would not entail any greater labour than has already been bestowed upon the unearthing and classification of the records relative to the stamps of this and other countries by followers of our hobby.

This is a sensible proposal and one that we hope will be acted on. It would be a pleasant relief to find some philatelic society settling down to serious and needed work instead of wasting its energies in jabbering about "difficulties."

### French 4c. grey, Tete-beche.

MR. PHILLIPS in the *Monthly Journal* tells an interesting story of the discovery of sheets of French 4c. grey, *tête-bêche*.

When our Company was being enlarged some two years ago, Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper were entrusted with an independent valuation of the stock. In the course of this work, which took some weeks, one of the employees of that firm drew the writer's attention to an old drawer near the roof, which was full of unused French stamps in sheets. On examination this drawer, which had probably not been opened for fifteen years, was found to contain, amongst other things, *five* sheets of French 4c., grey, Napoleon, laureated head, with a *tête-bêche* pair in each. Still more curious perhaps than this was the fact that in one of the sheets containing the *tête-bêche* there was in the top row a strip of five stamps, which were accidentally unperforated vertically.

Mr. M. P. Castle happened to look in about that time, and the writer won't forget in a hurry the hunt through some hundreds of bundles of stamps for further *têtes-bêches* of France, which only resulted in one other block of about sixteen stamps, with a *tête-bêche* in them, being discovered.

### British East Africa ½ anna on 3a.

THE *Monthly Journal* gives some further information from a correspondent concerning the provisional ½ anna on 3a. British East Africa. We quote:—

Our correspondent tells us that he was British Vice-Consul at Zanzibar in 1891, and being at Mombasa on July 2nd in that year, he went to the post office to get some British East African stamps; he asked for ½a. stamps, and finding that there were only about a dozen on hand he bought them all, put them on the envelope, and addressed it to himself at Zanzibar. This is the envelope we have before us as we write, and it has upon it a strip of three, a pair, a single stamp, and three stamps that were evidently part of a block of five, a vertical pair of which has been removed. All the stamps are surcharged diagonally in MS., "½ *anna*," with the initials "A.B." below it; they are postmarked "Mombasa, Jy. 2 '91," and there is, further, the postmark of "Zanzibar, Jl. 3" on the other side of the envelope.

Major Evans holds that this should be sufficiently satisfactory, and on looking at the history of the stamp as given in the magazines, he fails to understand how its authenticity came to be doubted. In 1893 it was vouched for by the Postmaster of Mombasa as having been issued in May, 1891.

### Collectors' Priced Catalogue.

Mr. Castle, whose equanimity was painfully disturbed some months since by a proposal that the Philatelic Society of London should compile and publish a Catalogue for Collectors, now fills some half dozen pages of the *London Philatelist* in discussing the *pros* and *cons* as to whether Collectors should publish a Collectors' Priced Catalogue.

The arguments in favour of a Collectors Priced Catalogue he imagines to be as follows:—

(1) The fact that no independent price list has yet been issued.

(2) The knowledge that all existing price lists being those of dealers, *their* interests are necessarily more consulted than those of collectors.

(3) That by issue of a Collectors' Catalogue the true and permanent value of stamps would be better established, and collectors would be encouraged and increased in number.

(4) That a large source of revenue might be obtained by the issue of such a catalogue.

And against, as follows:—

(1) That the existing numerous Dealers' Catalogues already well cover the ground.

(2) That those who issue a price list should be prepared to sell at those prices.

(3) That in order to be a "Standard" the catalogue would require the joint work of all the leading countries of the world.

(4) That the standard of appreciation would be found hopelessly divergent in these different quarters of the globe.

(5) That this catalogue would, however carefully prepared, require to be regularly revised and re-issued in the near future.

(6) That it is impossible to price every variety and condition of stamp—and that the mere pricing of the normal varieties would not be an adequate reason for the issue of such a work.

(7) That the preparation of the lists and of the illustrations, and the issue of the book in several languages, would involve a large amount of expense and labour that would be difficult to procure, and still more difficult to recoup.

(8) That; admitting the existing price catalogues are not all that is to be desired, collectors would better employ their time and money in endeavouring to get the Dealers' Catalogues improved, than in entering into competition therewith.

Clearly, when Mr. Castle puts the question, the "Noes" have it. However, he manages, with great skill, to preserve his balance on the top of the fence.

But he is most amusing when he lets his imagination run riot in "serious contemplation" of the work of compiling and publishing such a catalogue. With marvellous "second sight" he conjures up

An international congress that would be clearly needed to settle general principles, and to ascertain that there were no vital or fundamental points of difference such as would prevent international co-operation.

What international co-operation has to do with the simple publication of an English Catalogue it would probably puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to understand. However, Mr. Castle is dead on it. There would have to be a couple of delegates from each leading country to meet at Paris or Berlin, say 500 delegates, and before it was finished there is no doubt there would have to be a solemn conclave, in conference assembled, of all the Cabinet ministers of all the leading countries, and all these delegates and all these ministers would have to be carried free, and boarded and lodged and feted at the expense of this poor Collectors' Priced Catalogue! No wonder Mr. Castle asks who is going to bell this poor cat. When a fervid philatelic imagination starts off on a Collectors' Priced Catalogue it is abundantly evident that there is no limit to the ghosts it can call up from the "expiring" and the "dawning" centuries.

But what we want are not the ghosts of this century or of that, nor the ability to laboriously construct mountains out of mole hills of difficulties. We sadly want business common sense and the willingness to co-operate in matters philatelic.

### Bolivia: Surcharge "E F 1899."

The *Timbre Poste* publishes the following information in regard to the surcharge "E F 1899" in a rectangle:

Apropos of the surcharge "E F 1899," it appears that this was applied, by virtue of a decree, not only upon these stamps of 1894 but also upon all issues of which there remained a stock, among others, upon the stamps of 1891, but only in small quantity. The decree mentions these last stamps and orders that the surcharges shall be made before a notary (!?) by each post office upon the stock of stamps on hand. It is therefore possible that there are different types of surcharge, as our correspondent remarks. However, the stamps received from La Paz and Sucre are of the same type.

At Sucre it appears that the inhabitants were opposed to federation. To show their discontent at having been vanquished by La Paz, the employees of the post office applied a small oblong seal, in black, over the "E F," in such a way as to cover the letters, leaving only the "1899" visible. Wasn't this naughty?

### Nicaragua: Asenjo Contract.

THE *American Journal of Philately* publishes a translation of the contract entered into between the government of Nicaragua and Dr. Maximo Asenjo for the periodical production of postal rubbish. We reproduce a few of the principal clauses, which we trust will be sufficient to convince stamp collectors that Nicaragua may very wisely be struck out of the list of collectable countries.

Dr. Maximo Asenjo, the new Seebeck, is described as a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery, and a citizen of Nicaragua, residing in the Republic of Salvador.

1. Asenjo agrees to furnish the Government of Nicaragua, for a period of ten years, counting from date of signature of this contract, without any charge, with the stamps and other postal values required by the service of Posts and Telegraphs, up to the quantity of three millions four hundred thousand, which shall be increased when needed by the requirements of the postal service.

The supplies of postal Asenjo rubbish are to be delivered to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs on the first of October in each year, and the stamps are to be placed in circulation on the first of January following. The Government of Nicaragua "is to furnish each year the designs which are to be engraved on steel plates."

5. The plates referred to in the previous article are to be sent by the contractor to his representative at the place where the work is to be done, and this representative is to give notice to the Consul of Nicaragua of the day on which the printing is to be done, in order that said printing may be done in their presence and that the Consul may receive the plates and forward them immediately to the General Treasurer of the Republic.

6. The plates are to be deposited in the General Treasury of the Republic, in order that they may be used by the contractor if the issue should prove to be insufficient, in the judgment of the Government, for the requirements of the service during the year, or to be destroyed at the end of said year in the presence of the Director General of Posts and another employee, to be designated by the Government.

7. All the postage stamps are to be alike in engraving and inscriptions, but they are to differ in some essentials from the previous issues and those of each series are to be of different colours. The stamps of 15, 6 and 3 centavos are to be printed in the colours established by the postal Congress of Washington.

Fearing that the ordinary issue may not be sufficient for milking stamp flats to the full extent of their credulity, there is to be a specially juggled commemorative issue each year.

8. The contractor agrees in each year to remit to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs 10,000 postage stamps, issued to commemorate certain historical events in the history of the Republic, for which stamps the Government is to furnish in due time the respective designs. These stamps are to be placed in circulation only one day of the year and after that day they are to be cancelled by the Director General of Posts. The remainder, if there are any, are to be sent to the contractor and the plates destroyed as prescribed in Art. 6.

The division of the spoils in this arrangement for milking stamp flats is provided for in the following clause.

9. The Government, when it receives the stamps called for in this contract, will deliver over to the contractor in each year 50,000 sets of the stamps, comprising all values and cancelled in advance with the stamp of the General Post Office, in order that they may not be used for postage. Besides, the Government is to deliver over to him the remainders of stamps of the previous year, beginning with the second year of the duration of this contract, these also to be cancelled in the same manner. However, if the contractor should not make the delivery on the day on which he is obliged to make it, he will not be entitled to the remainders referred to and the Government may place them on sale.

We sincerely trust that no respectable English dealer will be a party to this scheme.

### Brazil Commemoratives.

THE *American Journal of Philately* says the Commemorative set, so long announced, is to be limited to four values. The subjects are said to be:—

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

### Belgium: First Issue Watermark.

MR. JULES BOUVEZ in a series of articles on Belgian postage stamps, which he is contributing to the *American Journal of Philately*, draws attention in the December number of the *A.J.P.* to "a very special peculiarity" in the watermark on the first issue, to which he says "the attention of philatelists appears not yet to have been drawn, although it is of capital importance for collectors of rarieties." He explains:—

The first orders to the work-room, for the manufacture of Belgian postage stamps, were issued on the 3rd January, 1860. Art. 5 of these reads as follows: "These sheets intended for postage stamps shall bear at the upper right hand corner the printed inscription 'TIMBRE POSTES,' followed by the serial mark and the number of the sheet. The sheets printed in 1860 shall form the series A; the succeeding series shall be designated in alphabetical order. A new series shall be commenced on 1st January of each year."

Prior to the year 1860 this practice had also been followed, but with this difference — that, besides the inscription, mentioned above, printed on each sheet, there was also in the watermark, in capital letters, on each sheet

the inscription "MINISTERE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS, BRUXELLES, BELGIQUE, POSTES." This inscription was placed at the lower corner of the sheet 5 mm. below the watermark "LL" of the last row of stamps. Each letter was 6½x7mm. It therefore often happens that, besides the interlaced "LL," two of these capital letters were found on a single stamp. This peculiarity is found on the three values issued from 1850 to 1860, and it is quite rare since it occurred only in the proportion of eleven to the hundred.

### Mr. Glasewald's Thurn and Taxis.

MR. SELLSCHOFF, of San Francisco, is one of the most chatty of philatelic globe trotters. He has recently been visiting his fatherland. One day he attended a little exhibition in Leipzig.

Mr. Glasewald, of Goesnitz, had displayed in a large hall his entire collection of Thurn and Taxis. Think of a collection of Thurn and Taxis covering more than three hundred large cartons! It simply contained everything, all the stamps, all the envelopes, and all the 777 possible cancellations on these interesting stamps. In a very entertaining speech Mr. Glasewald explained the beauty and the importance of the different cancellations from the historical standpoint, as well as for frequent comparisons to detect possible forgeries of cancellations on the low-priced unused stamps of the later issues.

On the occasion of the recent jubilee exhibition of the principal house of Thurn and Taxis in Regensburg, this grand collection received the gold medal, and the prince is said to have explained with some dissatisfaction that "all the old faded documents, uniform, and stage-coaches of the Thurn and Taxis post are in our possession, but in a matter of such general interest, a private citizen is way ahead of anything we can show."

### Brunswick: 1g. 1865. Imperf.

DURING a recent visit to Germany Mr. Sellschopp, of San Francisco, was shown an interesting rarity in the shape of an imperforate sheet of Brunswick, 1 groschen, 1865. He writes:—

The ordinary stamp is by no means scarce, and large remainders are to be found in two or three places. The dealer in question had an original package of 50 sheets of 150 stamps each, sewed together in the top and bottom margin and sealed by the department to be delivered in that shape to the various post offices without the necessity of further counting. This package contained two imperforated sheets, one of which I secured. The other will be offered to the postal museum at Berlin. I was told that nearly half of the remainders had been overhauled by the Hannover dealer without result. The other half, in the possession of a Hamburg wholesale dealer, some 240,000 stamps was looked over while I was there, but also without result. The two sheets which I saw are certainly not the only ones in existence, otherwise the stamp would not be known in the American catalogue; but I believe there are not so many more of this rarity floating around.

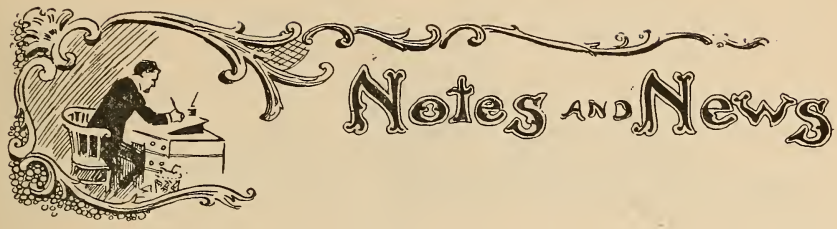
### Official Auction of Chili Unpaids.

CHILI having decided to discontinue the use of unpaid stamps in favour of hand struck stamps on the letters, has auctioned its remainders of unpaid stamps. Mr. Wm. Brown sends the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* the following information which he has received from a correspondent:—

On the 23rd of September a sale of stamps, withdrawn from use, took place at Santiago, at the office of the Director of the Treasury. The stamps which were sold by auction are as under:—

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 830,000 | unpaid | letter, | pink | 1c. | fetched dols. 1,700 |
| 240,000 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 2c. | ,, ,, 800 |
| 790,000 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 4c. | ,, ,, 1,500 |
| 1,800,000 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 10c. | ,, ,, 1,605 |
| 480,000 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 20c. | ,, ,, 3,240 |
| | | | red on | | |
| 80 | ,, | ,, | yellow | 1c. | |
| 787 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 2c. | |
| 6,640 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 6c. | fetched |
| 2,000 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 8c. | dols. 2,305 |
| 6,079 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 10c. | |
| 9,443 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 20c. | |
| 490,000 | telegraph, | one dollar | | .. | ,, 2,320 |
| 139,000 | ,, | five | ,, | .. | ,, 1,500 |
| 20,000 | ,, | ten | ,, | .. | ,, 1,000 |
| 59,634 | ,, | ten cents | | .. | ,, 205 |
| 4,874,016 | Stamps | | | | Dols. 16,175 |

The 5,000,000 stamps realized the sum of 16,175 dollars, equivalent (at exchange 15d.) to £1,010 18s. 9d.




### Death of Mr. Douglas Garth.

We hear with the deepest regret of the death of Mr. Douglas Garth. He has been more or less out of health for some years past and fell a victim on the 6th January, 1900, to an attack of influenza.

Mr. Garth was for many years Honorary Secretary to the Philatetic Society of London. He was an enthusiastic Philatelist. As a collector he was most fastidious as to condition and in the mounting of his philatelic treasures he tried many expensive methods.

In the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1890 he exhibited his collections of British Guiana, Cape of Good Hope and Natal, India and Ceylon, and Transvaal. For the latter country he always had a specialist's fondness, and his exhibit was very fine, especially in unused.

But with the failure of health, though so far as years went still in the prime of manhood, he gradually dropped out of collecting, and sold one after another of his fine accumulations.

### A Philatelic Joke.

According to the *Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung*, the Berlin Club of Postage Stamp Collectors, on the occasion of a winter entertainment, had one hundred current 3 pfennig stamps surcharged "SAMOA$^{ch}$," and circulated them, as a joke, with copies of a "Philatelic Evening Paper," published especially for this occasion, and distributed among those present.

The after results of the joke are said to be noted in the novelty lists of the different foreign philatelic journals which gravely announce these stamps as new German Colonials. In this country the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* is said to have fallen a ready victim. But, alas for German humour, the *P.J.G.B.* was then edited by a German philatelist. No other English paper, so far as we are aware, has fallen into the trap.

### Exclusive Organ Grinding.

The *Monthly Journal* is anxious to be appointed an Exclusive Organ Grinder "to as many philatelic societies as possible." Indeed it puts its back up and gravely announces that it will, in future, publish only reports that are sent to it "direct and exclusively."

We have no objection.

But what will the *London Philatelist* say. The *L.P.* also plays the role of special society organ grinder, and levies a *quid pro quo* in copies for distribution for the enlightenment of the philatelic heathen.

Its a case of "Codlin's the friend, not Short" over again, and we shall watch the little game with an amused interest to see which wins—Codlin or Short,—for evidently the Societies will have to decide between these two worthies.

"J. P. Bacon Phillips."

A wag has coined the above *nom de plume* to a letter published in the *Morning Herald* making the old suggestion that the penny stamp should be perforated through the centre in order that one half might be used as a half-penny stamp, if required. As no doubt anticipated, the *nom de plume* has drawn an amusing disclaimer from Mr. E. D. Bacon and Mr. C. J. Phillips of any relationship with the writer, but this good old chestnut of a proposal is dubbed by Mr. C. J. P. "a novel suggestion."

The *nom de plume* was of course coined to trap the unwary. It is obviously comfounded of "J.P." for Mr. Castle, who happens to be a "J.P.," and Bacon and Phillips.

### Morley's Philatelic Journal.

We have received the first number of *Morley's Philatelic Journal* which describes itself as "a monthly paper for Collectors of Postage, Revenue, Telegraph and Railway Stamps." But its mission seems to be mainly that of catering for collectors of Fiscals. It is

edited by Mr. A. Preston Pearce, a well known writer on Fiscals. The Editor, in his introductory, affirms that:

The ever increasing number of those who are devoting their attention to these last three sections renders it highly necessary that a periodical publication should be available for the purposes of recording discoveries, of disseminating information, and of providing a common ground on which collectors may meet for the interchange of ideas and the discussion of matters pertaining to their hobby."

### Philatelic Society for Beginners.

A NEW society for beginners has been started under the name of "The Junior London Philatelic Society." Mr. F. J. Melville explains its objects as follows:—

We aim at nothing short of taking the premier place among societies for junior collectors and beginners, as the London Philatelic Society has done amongst societies for advanced collectors. Hence our little "Junior London Philatelic Society."

Our subscription (1/6 annually) has been fixed entirely with a consideration for the junior's pocket, and our membership must reach 100 at least to make our venture a success.

One of our methods for introducing new members is by giving free lectures in different districts on "Stamp Collecting," of a character introductory to the proper pursuit of the hobby, and will be illustrated by lantern views. Tickets for these lectures will be given to head masters of all the schools in the neighbourhood together with a request for their distribution to stamp collecting pupils. The first of these free lantern lectures is expected to take place on February 3rd, in Clapham Hall.

Mr. Melville also sends us the prospectus of a journal for beginners entitled "The Young Stamp Collector." Such energy on behalf of the young collector should command success.

### Another Big Sale by Mr. Castle.

MR. CASTLE, the Vice-President of the Philatelic Society of London, has effected another big sale. This time he has disposed of his collection of used Europeans to Messrs. Hamilton Smith & Co., who have disposed of it at a price, which Mr. Castle says in the *London Philatelist*, "will assuredly not cause him to regret his purchase." The collection was mounted in 20 large volumes, and contained practically all the rarities.

### Philatelists' War Relief Fund.

THE following Collectors and Dealers form the Committee of the Philatelists' War Relief Fund which is being got up under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of London. Contributions of stamps to be included in the Auction should be forwarded as early as possible to the Hon. Secs. at the Philatelic Society of London, Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, London.

COMMITTEE:

Avery, W. B., Esq., Oakley Court, Windsor.
Brown, W., Esq., Salisbury.
Castle, M. P., Esq., J.P., Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.
Ehrenbach, Robt., Esq., Brook House, Addlestone, Surrey.
Evans, E, B., Major, R.A., Glenarm, Longton Avenue, Sydenham.
Ginn, F. R., Esq., 143, Strand, W.C.
Giwelb, M., Esq., 4, Northumberland Avenue, Charing Cross.
Gwyer, S. E., Esq., 10, Bishopsgate Street, Within, E.C.
Hadlow, W. Esq., 331, Strand, W.C.
Hall, Thos. W., Esq., 61, West Smithfield, E.C.
Hausburg, L. L. R., Esq., Rothsay, St. George's Hill, Weybridge.
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Peckitt, W. H., Esq., 440, Strand, W.C.
Phillips, C. J., Esq., 391, Strand, W.C.
Reid, Robt., Esq., 19, Chiswell Street, E.C.
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### Scott's 1900 Reductions.

THE result of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co., following Gibbons in making material reductions in their 1900 catalogue seems to have created quite a stir in some stamp circles across the water. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says it seems to be the general impression among dealers that business has been seriously injured by the new catalogue, but the *M.P.* does not share that opinion. The *California Philatelist* published by Mr. E. F. Gambs, a well known dealer, welcomes the reductions as being more true to market values. The injury will probably be amongst the "50 per cent. off catalogue" fraternity. To them the new catalogue must be a vertiable lyddite shell.



# Echoes from the Mart.

### Ventom, Bull & Cooper's Auction.

The following are among the prices realized at Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper's sale of British, Foreign and Colonial Postage Stamps, held at the St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, on the 18th and 19th Jan., 1900: Moldavia, first issue, 54 paras, £11 10s.; ditto, first issue, 103 paras, unused, £48.; ditto, another, used, £19; Naples, ½ tornese blue, "Arms," £9; Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red, £16; Vaud, 4c. black and red, defective, £12; Tuscany, 2 soldi, unused, £14; ditto, 60 crazie, unused, £14 15s.; ditto, 3 lire yellow, unused, £62; Ceylon, 8d. brown, imperforate, £9 5s.; Labuan, provl., 6 on 16c. blue, £9; Cape of Good Hope, 4d. error, defective, £10 10s.; Transvaal, the error Transvral, damaged, £11; British Columbia, $1 green, unused, £10; Canada, 12d. black, £51; New Brunswick, 1/- violet, unused, £40; Newfoundland, 4d. carmine, unused, £10 10s.; ditto, 1/- carmine, unused, £61; ditto, 1/- orange, unused, £62; Nova Scotia, 1/- violet, unused, £35; ditto, 1/- cold violet, £11 15s.; Barbados, provl., 1d. on half 5/-, a pair, £12; British Guiana, first issue, 8c. green, £12; British Guiana, 1856, 4c. black on magenta, £11; St. Vincent, provl., 1d. on half 6d.; a pair, £17 10s.; Trinidad, the Lady MacLeod, £12 15s.; Turks Island, 1/- lilac, £12 12s.; Virgin Island, 1/- error, Virgin omitted, £21; New South Wales, Sydney View, 1d. unused, £11; ditto, ditto, 2d. unused, £12 5s.; Victoria, 5s. blue on yellow, unused, £9 5s.; Western Australia, first issue, 2d., unused, £9 5s.; ditto, 1861, 6d. purple, unused, £10 2s. 6d.

### Sale of Hilckes & Co.'s Stock.

A two days' sale was held on the 16th and 17th January, 1900, by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, at their rooms in Leicester Square, of the stock of postage stamps, &c., of Messrs. Harry Hilckes & Co., late of Cheapside, now in liquidation. The attendance was very large, and high prices were obtained for the various lots, which were chiefly of a wholesale nature. The total realised, including the copyright and effects of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, was £1504.

### The Continental Market.

Mr. Sellschoff the well-known dealer of San Francisco has been visiting Continental dealers and feeling the pulse of the Continental market. He says:—

> With the Leipzig dealers I had a peculiar experience. Those who give the big discounts complained about poor sales, and those who sell close to catalogue rates reported highly satisfactory returns. The first class could only sell to me and not buy, while from the other class I could buy nothing and sell a good deal. Richard Senf told me that October of this year had eclipsed any former month in his business; and the immense mail which came in while I was there seemed to prove this. Undoubtedly Mr. Senf has complete confidence in the future of our hobby, otherwise he would not have invested about one hundred thousand marks in his reserve stock. This reserved stock, completely arranged and stored in two immense safes, is not sold from, but is simply stored away and kept for the future.

### Gibbons' 1900 Catalogue.

This catalogue which was promised for January is not ready yet but will probably be ready about the end of February. It is being looked for with more than ordinary interest, and as it has been whispered that not a few of the colonials that were cut down will have to be increased considerably in price.

### Transvaal and Orange Free State.

What will our Gibbons do with these States? They have been included in Part II. Foreign Countries, but in all probability long before another edition of Gibbons is needed both will be under English rule. Will Gibbons take time by the forelock and anticipate matters by including them in the British Colonial Section?

### Perak Government Stamp Auctions.

We thought the rap over the knuckles that the Marquis of Ripon, when Colonial Secretary, gave certain stamp jobbing postal officials in the East, would have precluded such things as Government Stamp Auctions. But according to a correspondent of the *Monthly Journal*, Perak gathers up such odd lots as used stamps from telegraph forms, &c., and sells them by auction. We read :—

There was accordingly, on the 4th November, a sale by auction of all the stamps used during the months of June, July, August, and September last, and 177 lots were disposed of, we are told, at good prices. This is described in the list sent us as the "1st Quarterly Sale of Stamps," and the number of stamps in each lot seems to have varied from 121 to 339; the denominations, 1c. to $5, are all set out in columns, and the face value of the lots, the totals of which are also given, varied from something under 12 dollars to something over 66 dollars. It seems to have been a little like "buying a pig in a poke," for the lots are stated to have been put up in closed packets, the packets were not to be handed over until the purchase-money had been paid, and nothing except the number and denomination of the stamps in each packet was guaranteed!

### Great Barrier Island.

"Pelure," in the *Otago Witness*, reports unduly large quantities of Great Barrier Island stamps in a used condition.

One collector states that he has seen over 400 of these in the possession of his acquaintances. Either business in the pigeon post line is excessively heavy, or someone with sufficient knowledge of stamps to be a rogue is at work. I really cannot understand any collector even looking at such stuff.

### Australians.

According to the *Otago Witness* the local firm of Wilcox, Smith & Co. has completed the purchase of a very fine collection of Australasians from a Wellington collector. Amongst the treasures are no less than 28 Sydney Views, Victoria almost complete, including the rare 6d. yellow (West Australian), 6d. bronze, South Australia, a fine lot of Government surcharges, and last, but not least, the South Sea Islands (Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, and Cook Islands) complete. The purchase money is said to have run into close on £300.

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THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

MARCH, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

**The Tapling Collection: A Suggestion.**

WE have been officially informed that the work of arranging the Tapling Collection has been completed, and that the collection will, eventually, be made available for reference by any collector who chooses to visit the British Museum. All this is welcome news so far as it goes.

But it is a great disappointment to collectors as a body that no steps are being taken to complete the collection and bring it up-to-date. It can scarcely be expected that the Museum authorities should, out of the small sums they manage to screw out of the Government, make the necessary purchases to fill the gaps. The fact, however, remains that the nation has accepted a very valuable bequest as a trust to be preserved and made available for inspection and study by the public in general, and philatelists in particular. That bequest represents a monetary value of at least £100,000. It forms a splendid basis for a National Collection of the Postal Issues of the World. But it needs completion. It needs the addition of stamps issued since its acquisition by the nation. And it further needs to be kept up-to-date by the addition of all new issues.

We are told that there are no funds available for this purpose. Now, we venture to suggest a way out of this difficulty. Under the regulations of the Postal Union this country, as one of the members of that Union, is entitled to receive, and does receive, a copy of every stamp issued for postal purposes by all other countries that have joined the Postal Union. Why should not these stamps, with the consent of the Post Office, go to the formation of a National Collection, with the Tapling Collection as their basis. Presumably, they are in the keeping of the Post Office, but if they were kept at the British Museum, as part of the National Collection, they would be equally available for public, as well as for official inspection, and they would provide for a National Collection of the Postage Stamps of the World being kept up-to-date, absolutely free of expense to the nation.

The care and arrangement of such a National Collection should be entrusted only to an experienced philatelist, whose services should be retained by the Government.

No doubt collectors and dealers would manage between them to supply any gaps that might occur in the omission of minor varieties, and in the issues of countries which have not yet joined the Postal Union.

The collection which could be formed by this amalgamation of the Tapling Collection and the Post Office Collection of Postal Union issues, with the further help of collectors and dealers, could not fail to give us a truly National Collection of Postage Stamps of which, as a country, we might well be proud.

Other countries and States are forming National Collections of Postal Issues, and it is time that we set about the task ourselves. Every day that we postpone the task we render its ultimate accomplishment all the more difficult. To-day, with the amalgamation which I have suggested, and the co-operation of collectors and dealers, we probably could practically complete a National Collection up-to-date. A few years hence numbers of necessary specimens may be absolutely unattainable. Hence the need for prompt action.

But who is to move in the matter? Who is to impress upon the authorities the national importance of what we philatelists contend should be done?

Surely none better than the governing bodies of our various philatelic societies, backed up by representatives of the trading interests. Together, they should be able to produce sufficient evidence of the importance of forming a National Collection of Postal Issues, to secure the co-operation of the postal and other authorities, and their success in their mission would certainly earn for them the grateful thanks of stamp collectors and stamp dealers throughout the country.



**Remainders of Unused English Colonials.**

Mr. Charles J. Phillips, in the *Monthly Journal*, has broken the too long silence which has enshrouded the mysterious leakage of unused remainders of obsolete English Colonial postage stamps from the printing establishments of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., and elsewhere.

He has told us a great deal, but he has obviously left a great deal unsaid. Why?

Whether the matter can be left as it is remains to be seen. Nothing could be much worse than the exceedingly lame excuse of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., "that they ordered their sheets of remainders to be burnt," but that "the job was not properly carried out, and a very considerable leakage took place through a certain Mr. X——, who afterwards distributed the stamps about the world in a reckless and absurd manner." Was all this valuable stuff given to the office boy to be burnt? Did no responsible member of the firm see to its destruction? and if not, why not? And who is Mr. X——? Is he the original thief, or has he been made to disclose the name of the culprit who supplied him? And if not, why not?

Surely the clues that have been obtained are sufficient to enable the parties concerned to follow up the matter to a more satisfactory conclusion. It would be a public scandal to leave it where it is left by the *Monthly Journal*.

# The Stamps of Luxembourg:

An Easy Guide to their Collection, with some Notes on Relative Values.

By FRANK H. OLIVER.

*(Continued from page 38.)*

The perforation 11½ by 12, although only a variety of the machine that perforated the 12½ perforation in the 12½ by 12 stamps, is very interesting. It is evident that the gauge of the machine was originally 11½ in the space of 2 centimetres, but was refitted with new pins (or rather punching tubes) gauging 12½, and by mistake some of the old pins were not removed, with the result that the end vertical row of stamps at the left side received the horizontal perforation 11½, while the other nine rows were 12½. These stamps can therefore be collected in pairs showing both varieties of perforation. A vertical row being 10 stamps, it follows that the 11½ by 12 stamps are nine times as scarce as the 12½ by 12. I therefore advise collectors to purchase this variety if offered at anything like a reasonable figure. The 20c. pale brown is generally a much underrated stamp and is fully worth the price I have stated for the commonest variety. The 5c. Perf. 12½ to 13 by 12 is a scarce stamp and the 12½c. and 25c. *light blue* in both perforations are desirable stamps.

1878. (?) Printed at Frankfort (?) and rouletted in colour.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | *s.* *d.* |
| 40 centimes pale orange .. .. | 3 6 | 4 0 |
| 40 ,, orange .. .. .. | 2 6 | 4 0 |

These two stamps are generally understood to have been printed at Frankfort, but I have not been able to trace any definite evidence to that effect, nor do I see any reason why it should be so. They are, however, an undoubtedly separate omission, and can be readily distinguished from the 40c. of 1865, being printed on a soft, woolly paper, and poor impression. They are supposed to have been issued in 1877, but the earliest date postmark I have yet seen is 1878.




Fig. 7.

In 1882 a new series appeared, the design consisting of the Arms of the Duchy, supported by Allegorical Figures, Mercury and Commerce (Fig. 7). The date and the initials of the designer, M. A. Marc, and the engraver, M. E. Mouchon, appear on the bale upon which Mercury is kneeling. Owing to defects in some of the casts, stamps can be found with the date reading 1832, 1382 or 1332.

1882. Engraved on wood and printed in Haarlem from blocks, in

sheets of 100 stamps. Unwatermarked white wove paper, white gum. The following is the normal list, and prices are for the commonest variety of perforation.

| | UNUSED. s. | d. | USED. s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 centime pale lilac | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 ,, olive | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 ,, olive-brown | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 4 ,, bistre-yellow | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 ,, emerald-green | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 ,, green | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 ,, carmine-rose | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 ,, pale carmine | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 centimes rose | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 12½ ,, slate | 0 | 9 | 0 | 5 |
| 20 ,, orange | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 25 ,, blue | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 30 ,, sage-green | 1 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| 50 ,, pale brown | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 1 franc violet | 1 | 9 | 0 | 8 |
| 5 ,, red-brown | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

Varieties of Perforation :

Perforated 13 to 13½ and compound,

1 centime pale lilac
2 ,, olive-brown
4 ,, bistre-yellow
5 ,, emerald-green
10 ,, carmine-rose
12½ ,, slate
20 ,, orange
25 ,, blue
30 ,, sage-green
50 ,, light brown
1 franc violet
5 ,, red-brown

Perforated 12½ to 13 by 12.

1 centime pale lilac
2 ,, olive-brown
2 ,, olive
4 ,, bistre-yellow
5 ,, green
10 ,, pale carmine
12½ ,, slate
20 ,, orange
25 ,, blue
30 ,, sage-green
50 ,, light brown
1 franc violet
5 ,, red-brown

Perforated 11½ by 12 (variety).

1 centime pale lilac
2 ,, olive-brown
2 ,, olive
4 ,, bistre-yellow
5 ,, green
10 ,, pale carmine
12½ ,, slate
20 ,, orange
25 ,, blue
30 ,, sage-green
50 ,, light brown
1 franc violet
5 ,, red-brown

Perforated 12½.

1 centime pale lilac
2 ,, olive
5 ,, green
10 ,, rose
20 ,, orange
25 ,, blue
50 ,, brown

The following varieties are desirable stamps and should not be passed by.—Perf. 13 to 13½; 10c. *unused*, 12½c. *used and unused*, 20c. and 25c. *unused*, 30c. *used and unused*. Perf. 12½ to 13 by 12; 5c. *used and unused*, 30c., 50c., 1 and 5 francs, *unused*. Perf. 12½; 20c., 25c., and 50c., *used and unused*. The remarks on the perforation 11½ by 12 of the issue of 1880, equally apply to the issue of 1882.




Fig. 8.

In 1891 the Postal Authorities reverted to the more expensive but far more satisfactory line-engraving, and a handsome stamp bearing the full-faced portrait of Grand Duke Adolphus was issued in two values 10c. and 25c. (Fig. 8). For some occult reason these were at first printed in sheets of 25 stamps only, but in 1892-3 they were printed in sheets of 100 stamps together with the remaining values of the series.

1891. Engraved on steel in *Taille-douce*, printed in Haarlem on unwatermarked white wove paper in sheets of 25 stamps. Perforated 11½.

| | UNUSED. s. d. | USED. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 10 centimes carmine .. .. | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. | 0 6 | 0 4 |

1892-3. As last, but printed in sheets of 100 stamps, and Perforated 12½, 11, and 11½ by 11.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| 10 centimes carmine .. .. | 0 4 | 0 2 |
| 12½ ,, slate .. .. .. | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 20 ,, orange .. .. .. | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. | 0 4 | 0 2 |
| 30 ,, olive .. .. .. | 0 5 | 0 5 |
| 37½ ,, green .. .. .. | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 50 ,, brown .. .. .. | 0 8 | 0 8 |
| 1 franc lilac .. .. .. | 1 3 | 0 9 |
| 2½ ,, slate .. .. .. | 2 6 | 2 6 |
| 5 ,, claret .. .. .. | 5 0 | 4 0 |

The following is a complete list of the varieties of perforation issued up to the present date. The 25c., 30c., and 37½c. seem rather difficult to obtain in perforation 12½.

Perforated 12½.

10 centimes carmine
12½ ,, slate
20 ,, orange
25 ,, blue
30 ,, olive
37½ ,, green
50 ,, brown
1 franc lilac
2½ ,, slate
5 ,, claret

Perforated 11.

12½ centimes slate
20 ,, orange
25 ,, blue
30 ,, olive
37½ ,, green
50 ,, brown




Fig. 9.

Perforated 11½ by 11.

10 centimes carmine
12½ ,, slate
20 ,, orange
25 ,, blue
30 ,, olive
37½ ,, green
30 ,, brown
1 franc lilac
2½ ,, slate
5 ,, claret

During the time the preceding issue was in use, the four lowest values of the 1882 series were still being supplied at the Post Office. In 1895 these were superseded by stamps bearing as design the Head of the Grand Duke looking to right (Fig. 9). They are comparatively poor productions and compare unfavourably with the line-engraved issue.

1895. Engraved on wood and printed in Haarlem from blocks in sheets of 100 stamps on unwatermarked white wove paper. Perforated 12½.

| | UNUSED. s. d. | USED. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 centime lavender .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 ,, brown .. .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 4 ,, olive-brown .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 ,, emerald-green .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 10 ,, carmine .. .. | 0 2 | 0 1 |

# Exchange Clubs as Collecting Mediums.

By H. A. SLADE.

*(Hon. Sec. of the Herts. Philatelic Society.)*

THIS is a subject that affords so much matter for controversy, and may be treated from so many standpoints, that it can scarcely be treated with fairness in a single article. Yet as one who has had considerable experience in the direction of such organizations, I make bold to put a few of the *pros* and *cons* before the readers of the *Philatelic Record*. A good deal of the ground may be got over, and several interesting points discussed, without trenching too much on one's patience.

That Exchange Clubs are a favourite medium for the disposal of duplicates and for the acquisition of new varieties is beyond dispute. That they are recognized and appreciated by all sorts and conditions of philatelists is patent from the fact that the London Philatelic Society is engaged in discussing the feasibility of starting an exchange section on the orthodox lines. That there are upwards of sixty such Societies in existence in the United Kingdom, with a Stamp Exchange Protection Society to keep them in order, is sufficient proof of their vitality and popularity. Their aggregate muster roll would show a surprising number of collectors more or less advanced and enthusiastic, and that they come to stay is a fact that few will deny. The fundamental rules regulating their procedure are so simple as scarcely to require elaborate explanation, yet a few words on this point may not come amiss.

On certain specified dates, members send selections of stamps they want to dispose of, priced and mounted on sheets, to the Club Secretary. These sheets, after being numbered and registered, are duly made up into packets (each packet containing about 40 sheets) and circulated among members in the order in which their names and addresses are noted on the postal list. The rules regulating the order of precedence vary in different clubs. Members inspect the sheets, see that no blank spaces exist, take what stamps they desire, initial spaces from which they take stamps, and enter the amount of their takings in the spaces provided for them. On the return of the packets from their wanderings, the sheets are examined, checked, and returned to their individual owners with a statement showing debit or credit balances as the sales or purchases outweigh each other. Such, in brief, is the procedure. Given a Secretary *sans peur et sans reproche* and members of integrity and despatch the advantages are manifold.

In the first place a packet containing say forty sheets with one hundred stamps valued at £5 on each sheet, gives one a selection of 4000 stamps worth £200 from which to choose. As one clear day is generally allowed for inspection, ample opportunity is afforded for looking over the packets, and specimens can be carefully scrutinized as to their condition, etc. Copies of the same stamp will oftentimes carry two or three prices in the same packet: bargain hunters can thus revel in the delights of making their purchases in the cheapest market, and sharp customers look out for stamps improperly described and marked accordingly. Though I am bound to state that the ordinary collector who contributes duplicates to Exchange Clubs does not often make mistakes to his own detriment: one would have to wade through many packets before finding, for example, an Antigua 4 cc. described in error as CA. and so forth.

It seems useless to insist on fixing a standard price for stamps, as collectors decline to be bound down as to what they shall charge for the goods they propose to sell or exchange. 50% under Stanley Gibbons or Bright is practicable in many instances, but could not always obtain. The rarer the stamps the higher the prices to be obtained in proportion is a philatelic maxim. A general rule as to values would work out somewhat as follows :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Very commonest stamps | —Little demand at any price. | |
| Common | ,, | 50% to 75% under catalogue. |
| Medium | ,, | 33⅓% to 50% ,, ,, |
| Rare | ,, | 15% to 25% ,, ,, |
| Very Rare | ,, | Quite optional according to condition and circumstances. |

Of course it should always be borne in mind that catalogue prices mark the prices at which dealers are prepared to *sell*—not at which they would purchase. Therefore the prices are quite arbitrary. Mr. Plumridge very properly states in a contemporary, "The information one gets from catalogues is from an interested source. A philatelist worthy of the name will have sufficient courage and self-reliance to form his own opinion as to values, when once experience has given him a reasonable knowledge." A certain class of common and medium stamps will grow musty on sheets, while rarer stamps in good condition will always find ready sales at reasonable prices.

It is necessary to emphasize the fact that in used stamps condition as regards postmarks, &c., is very much insisted upon nowadays, and that unused specimens will not be taken unless they are absolutely mint: that is to say, the gum and perforations must be perfect, the centering exact, and the colour undamaged. It seems a pity to me that stamps are so rarely marked at less than one penny each on sheets. Sets of common varieties would readily be taken where singles would be passed over, and such sets would be found very useful to beginners starting with a blank album.

The practice of taking off 50% in the computation of monthly cash balances was instituted to compel members to pay up promptly: but the rule is enforced so very rarely that I am strongly of opinion it should be eliminated altogether, and the nett system be made universal. Such a course would doubtless tend to greater clearness and would be a boon to secretaries in making up accounts. Speaking generally, members have sufficiently long credits to pay balances owing without further delay, and, as far as my experiences go, reminders are seldom required.

The commissions charged by the Secretary (5% on gross sales as a rule and nothing on purchases) is sometimes grumbled at, but when one considers the amount of clerical work connected with the circulation of packets, postal and stationery expenses and the like, it seems to me that that hard-working and well abused officer is entitled to every farthing he receives. The labourer is worthy of his hire in this respect. A member selling £50 worth of stamps from his sheets in one year (a very ordinary occurrence) cannot grumble at being asked to pay £2 10s. as commission, and a purchaser cannot expect to have his postage paid for him. That Exchange Clubs do offer advantages in this respect is apparent from the fact that dealers form no inconsiderable minority among members, and are moreover good contributors and purchasers. And these gentlemen are credited with the possession of great acumen in the way of scenting good things. Again, many members will contribute sheets of good stamps with regularity, and will not desire to see the packets; this shows that the prices obtainable compare very favourably with those to be obtained from dealers, at auctions, etc.

*(To be continued.)*

# The Forum.

## Can Collectors by the Publication of a Collectors' Priced Catalogue Regulate the Selling Price of Stamps?

### Negative. By G. Johnson, B.A.

THERE is no doubt that specialist collectors know far more about values, and still more about the minor varieties and the relative rarity of the same, than dealers can do, and that is one of the chief reasons they are employed by cataloguers to help in the publication of our chief catalogues.

But let us grant that a committee can be formed, putting aside the question of expense, which will be considerable, as it is absolutely necessary that it should be international if prices are going to be anything like correct. We will also allow that self-interest in these collectors will not make the slightest difference to their decision. After this generous gift to the opposition, I ask—what is this committee going to do that has not already been done, or that is not being done at the present time?

There is no doubt that each year catalogue prices approximate much more nearly to real values, so much so that publishers at the present time have a considerable difficulty in supplying very many varieties at their own prices, and out of the mass of stuff offered at various discounts off those prices by dealers and collectors, how many stamps are worth the *cheap* prices given for them? It is far better to give a fair price and get a respectable article.

Just lately I have marked on our packets several stamps as cleaned, mended, or forgeries, which the owners fondly believed were bargains, having bought them at comparatively low rates at auctions (I can give names and dates) and off various dealers, but the time is over for getting their money back.

If this committee should raise the prices of stamps above the catalogue, very little notice would be taken of it, because they could be obtained cheaply from the dealers. If they reduce them, which I suppose is the main object of the suggestion, what difference will it make? In the great majority of cases fine copies cannot be bought anywhere at a considerable discount under catalogue. If they reduce them only a trifle, it will be ridiculous, as it will not represent the difference in market price between two average specimens. Indeed, in my opinion, it is extremely detrimental to philately for publishers of catalogues *to tinker* with prices. If, say, the value of a stamp at 2/6 falls to 1/-, or to even 1/6, reduce it by all means, but it will be far better to leave it alone than reduce it to 2/3. If, on the other hand, they make sweeping reductions, those who take any interest in this catalogue will want to know where they can be obtained at the price, and the situation will be more ridiculous still. It will be even worse than an experience I had some five years ago. A new edition of a certain catalogue (not Gibbons') appeared, and there were many stamps very reasonably priced, which I had not been able to get. I immediately made up an order for over £200; but what was the result? They had not a single copy of one of them. What is the good, I ask, of prices which have no

foundation otherwise than an opinion of what they ought to be or what one would like them to be.

I say, without fear of contradiction, that there are *very many* stamps priced by Gibbons of which the publishers would have great difficulty in supplying good copies at the quoted prices. On the other hand, there are some prices which are "mistakes," to say the least about them; but in most cases they are so glaring that they are well known to the very great majority of collectors, and little notice is taken of them. But would there be no mistakes in the collectors' catalogue? What is still more important is the fact that these "mistakes" get considerably fewer every year. Such items as Queensland long P and LA joined at 2/- each have long since disappeared, and I have no doubt that the comparatively few bloated prices that at present exist will also disappear before long. To command the respect of collectors and ensure a sale sufficient even to pay the printer's bill it would be necessary for a priced catalogue to have a more solid foundation than a few collectors' opinions when those collectors have nothing to sell at the prices quoted; and, to make matters worse, the conditions we conceded for sake of argument are not likely to be carried out:—(1) Representative collectors here and abroad would not work to bring out the catalogue and revise it from year to year without good pay, which could not be forthcoming from its publication; (2) Self-interest among collectors would no doubt play its part. Therefore, in my opinion, it would be possible to get certain collectors, but not really representative ones, to do something in this direction gratuitously, and they would be able to make up a fairly good priced catalogue which would approximate market prices, but I do not think the catalogue would pay even the actual cost of production, without paying anything to the committee. And even then there would not be as much confidence in its prices as there is in the dealers' catalogues which are now in existence.

# Early Issues of Natal.

By C. E. LAWSON.

*(From the South African Philatelist.)*

I HAVE experienced great difficulty in gathering information regarding the stamps of Natal, as I found that very few papers had preceded mine, and there were few authorities to which to refer. I have, nevertheless, done my best to give a detailed description of the postage stamps from the first to the last issue.

Before describing the various issues I wish to point out a few facts in connection with the early postal days of Natal and the progress that has been made in the method of dealing with and conveying the mails from the first mail service to the present day.

About 1850, prior to the use of postage stamps, the only two towns of Natal were Pietermaritzburg and Durban. The population of both towns being small, there was very little correspondence, and on the arrival of a sailing vessel from England with the mails, which only took place once in about three or four months, the Postmaster at Durban, whose name was Wilson, known in the early days as "Indigo Wilson," took over the mails

and despatched the Maritzburg portion from Durban by native carriers. There were three changes along the road. The first carrier would convey the mails to a stopping place about twenty miles distant and hand the mails over to a second carrier, who would convey them to a second stopping place about the same distance off and transfer to a third native, who delivered them at their destination ; the whole journey being covered within twenty-four hours.

The sailing vessels on leaving would take a return mail with them, occasionally touching at India or Mauritius for trading purposes, consequently it was often from nine to twelve months before a reply was received from England. See what a great change has taken place within the last forty years, for instead of only receiving a mail once in every three or four months, a mail is received and despatched regularly every week. The letters between Pietermaritzburg and Durban were forwarded by native carriers in the same way as the foreign letters.

This method of conveying mails continued for a number of years, until a person of the name of John Welch started a Postcart, since when the mail service has gradually become more regular. At first, these Postcarts, I believe, ran but once a week, but as population at both these towns increased, the Postcarts ran once a day from each town and continued to do until 1880, the date when a railway was constructed. Since the completion of this railway the postal department has greatly improved, and at the present time three mails are delivered daily at both Pietermaritzburg and Durban, as well as a mail in every place in Natal.

I will now turn back and point out the method in which letters intended for delivery from one place to another were paid for prior to the use of postage stamps.

The Postmaster on receipt of all letters for transmission, to signify that the postage on these had been paid, would stamp the word "PREPAID" in bold letters, within an oblong frame, on the envelope, and in no case would a letter be accepted by him unless the full postage was paid. The rate, I believe, was 8d. per half-ounce, whereas now it is 1d. per half-ounce throughout Natal.

As the time went on it became necessary to use postage stamps, and consequently the Natal Government ordered a die, and on the 1st of June, 1857, the first issue of postage stamps was circulated at Pietermaritzburg and a supply sent to Durban, these being the only two towns with post offices. The stamps were printed in the former town by Messrs. F. Davis and Sons, and took the form of embossed stamps on coloured paper, resembling blotting paper. The design is, "Natal" above, underneath which "Crown," with "V" and "R" on either side of it, value below, a border enclosing the design.

Of the first issue there were four values, threepence embossed on rose paper, sixpence on green, ninepence on dark blue, and one shilling on buff.

Among the 3d. value there are a variety of shades, due, I believe, to exposure or to having been immersed in water, there having been used in the printing but one shade of paper.

Of the four values the ninepence blue is by far the rarest, and it is well nigh impossible to get a complete specimen.

The following year, 1858, it became necessary for a lower value stamp to be used, and the 1d. was issued, similar in design to the other values, but a much smaller stamp with fancy framework. This stamp was printed on three different coloured papers, blue, pink, and buff, the first named being the rarest. At the same time the 1d. fiscal, printed from the same die as the 1d. of the postage issue, was used for postal purposes. It is perforated, with yellow face on white wove paper.

These embossed stamps were in use for about three years. A large number have been reprinted by the Government, who are still in possession of the dies. The last time of reprinting took place in 1892, and these reprints are very deceptive, having been printed on similar paper to the original. The previous reprints are more easily detected, being very clear specimens, and the paper, although of the same shades, rather thicker and slightly glazed.

In 1860, the design was entirely changed to "Queen's Head." From this issue until the present time all the stamps have been printed in England.

The design is:—Inscription above, value in words below, "Queen's Head" slightly to the right in the centre. The values issued in this year were 1d. carmine and 3d. blue, both imperforate, wmk. Star, the latter being a great rarity.

In the same year they were perforated.

In 1862, the 1d. in both carmine and rose, 3d. blue, and the 6d. grey perforated but unwatermarked, were issued.

In 1864, the colour of the 6d. was altered from grey to lilac, and the 1d. carmine and 6d. lilac with wmk. Crown and C.C., perforated 12½ also appeared.

The same year a higher value was issued, the one shilling green. This was perforated 14 and watermark Crown and C.C. The design differs from the lower values, being "Queen's Statue head" to left in an oval, the inscription above and value below in semi-circles.

In 1869 the 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1/- of the previous issue were all surcharged with the word "Postage" in italics across the centre of the stamp, the Government finding this surcharge necessary to distinguish the accounts of the Postal from the Revenue Departments. The length of the surcharge is 12mm., the watermark remaining Crown and C.C.; the 1/- green of this issue is very rare. There are also two other issues of the italic surcharge, the length of surcharge in one case being 13mm. and in the other 14mm.

In the same year, the 1864 issues were again surcharged "Postage," first in Roman letters with full stop after the surcharge, and then in tall capitals. In both cases the surcharge measures 12mm. The 1/- green with the latter surcharge is even rarer than that with the italic surcharge.

Towards the end of the year the 1d. carmine, 3d. blue, and 6d. lilac were once more surcharged "Postage" on both sides of the stamp, reading on the left side upwards and on the right downwards. The 1d. and 6d. were both surcharged in black, while the 3d., which for this issue only is ultramarine instead of blue, was surcharged in red.

In 1870, the 1/- green of 1867 was surcharged "Postage" in a semi-circle, just below the head, in three colours, in red, black, and green. In 1873, the fiscal 1/- lilac, which is of the same design as the 1/- green of 1866, was surcharged "Postage" in black, without full stop, vertically up the centre of the stamp reading upwards. This stamp was also used postally without the surcharge.




## Gibbons' British Catalogue, 1900.

*Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Priced Catalogue of Stamps of the British Empire (1900). 391, Strand, London. Price 2s., cloth.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the still unsettled state of the Stamp Market, the condition of which has not been improved by the War, Messrs. Gibbons have once more issued their Priced Catalogue, the British Empire section lying before us in its familiar red cover. This flower of Philatelic literature has, we understand, now become a hardy annual.

On opening the book, the first thing that appeals to the reader is the improvement in the majority of the illustrations, which are not only clearer, but larger; they are produced by the Photo Process, and are on a more uniform scale, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the original size. Only the actual *print* of the stamp is shown, which does not make them so realistic as is the case when the border or perforation is included. The increased size of the new illustrations are largely responsible for the increase in the number of pages, from 224 in the 1899 edition to 247 in the new edition.

One good feature of the new Catalogue is the exclusion of varieties that have never been issued for postal purposes, but which have been placed on the market for some years past in various shady ways.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Probably the first country a patriotic British philatelist examines is his own. Here we have some startlers. It is rather surprising to find large reductions in unused Great Britain. For instance 1840, 1d. orange-brown, 40/- to 7/6. 1d. small Crown, perf. 16, die II., 25/- to 12/6. 1d. orange-brown, small Crown, perf. 14, 120/- to 25/-, 1d. brown-rose, large Crown, perf. 14, 20/- to 10/-, ditto, orange-brown, 30/- to 10/-, 1d. red-brown, perf. 14, white paper, 15/- to 10/,- 1/- brown, spray, 30/- to 20/-, 2/6 on bluish, 70/- to 50/-, 2½d. lilac-rose, 7/6 to 5/-, 2½d. blue, 7/6 to 4/-, 3d. spray, plate 4, 60/- to 40/-, 1865, 4d. deep vermilion, 15/- to 6/-, and many others in a lesser degree. As regards used copies, Messrs. Gibbons think nothing of quoting at one-third, one-quarter, or even one-sixth of their last prices. Some are increased and help to balance up the fall, but the general result may be taken as follows:—Complete series of 2½d. plate Nos., 11/10 as against 16/1; complete series of 6d. plate Nos., 17/5 as against 25/6, being 25 per cent. to 33⅓ per cent. less respectively.

Are these enormous reductions necessary? Are copies in good condition to be had at these prices? As regards unused, we cannot think that these are the quotations for mint copies. In the case of one stamp, we know that not a copy in mint condition and fairly well centred has been on show lately in the stock books of any leading London dealer, and yet this particular stamp has been reduced in price in the new catalogue. Collectors well

know the difficulty in obtaining fine used copies of English stamps, and we have no hesitation in saying that in many cases double Gibbons' prices would gladly be paid by collectors for lightly postmarked specimens. Do the new prices refer to stamps or to postmarks? In British stamps one generally gets more of the latter than the former. We notice increases in prices of 1d. black and 2d. blue, no lines. These were priced much too low in the last edition, which was not long out before the publishers advertised that they were wanting to purchase the first-named stamp. Government Telegraph Stamps, which have been in good demand, are practically stationary.

West Indies excite general interest, owing to the big reductions in the 1899 Catalogue. There are some increases, but the decreases are again greatly in the majority. From the Catalogue of three years back there must be, in some cases, 50 per cent. or more taken off, and in many cases quite 33⅓ per cent.

As examples of changes, we give the following :—

*Antigua*, 6d. yellow green, no wmk., used, 4/- to 5/-, a deserved increase. 6d., C.C., 12½, unused, 50/- to 40/-. 4d. blue, C.A., unused, 12/6 to 20/-.

*Bahamas*, 1d., no wmk., rough perf. 14 to 16, unused, 60/- to 40/-; 1/-, C.C. 12½, used, 35/- to to 22/6. 1d., C.A. 14, unused, 15/- to 10/-, 4d. on 6d., used, 25/- to 35/-. We are glad to see that sensible prices are now put to the used high values of this country. Most of the copies of the 5/- and £1 values that once were seen, were penmarked copies fraudulently cleaned and postmarked.

*Barbados*, 5/- Star, used, 40/- to 45/-. (Well centred copies are worth more.) Unused show slight decreases on the average. Some used stamps that have been increased might well have remained unaltered.

*Bermudas*. The 3d. compound perf. seems cheap unused at 15/-. We should not call the scarce shade of the 1d. C.A., *rose*. It would appear to most people as brick-red.

*British Honduras*. 1/- no wmk., unused, 45/- to 30/-; 3d. C.C. 12½, 6/6 unused and 8/6 used to 15/- both ways. Has the Spanish surcharge Forger so depleted Gibbons' stock that they are compelled to raise prices?

*Dominica*. 1/- C.C. 12½, unused, 35/- to 25/- We do not understand why the 6d. of this issue should be priced the same unused and used. At least twelve used copies can be found for one unused specimen. "Halfpenny" on half of 1d. lilac, from 6/- both ways to 10/- unused and 7/6 used.

*Grenada*. Broad pointed Star, 2½d. unused, 90/- to 50/-, 4d. unused, £5 to 50/-. General downward tendency.

*Jamaica*. Calls for no particular comment, but the tendency is downwards.

*Montserrat*. Slight increases in some stamps.

*Nevis*. No radical changes, but downward tendency.

*St. Kitts*. 4d. on sixpence, 7/6 both ways to 20/- unused and 12/6 used. With this exception, prices are almost invariably less.

*St. Lucia*. 1st issue, 1d. unused, 25/- to 20/-; 4d., 85/- both ways to 65/- unused and 70/- used; 6d., £5 and 80/-, to 80/- and 85/-; 6d. deep green, £6 and £5 to 90/- and 80/-; 1/- orange, surcharged, unused, £6 to 65/- and many other reductions.

*St. Vincent*. 1/- claret and 4d. dark blue, unused, both £6 to 90/-; 5/- Star, £16 and £18 to £14 and £15. In this country we have had the curiosity to work out the totals of all stamps, with the following results :—1899

catalogue, unused, £153 6s. 6d., used, £77; 1900 catalogue, unused, £135 7s. 5d., used, £70 12s. 5d., being reductions of nearly 10 per cent. on used, and nearly 12 per cent. on unused.

*Trinidad.* 4d. C.A. unused, 75/- to 50/-. Many small reductions.

*Turks Islands.* 1st issue show an upward tendency. 1/- slate-green, unused, 40/- to 50/-.

*Virgin Islands.* Very little change.

Of other countries we have noticed the following. Hong Kong, 96c. yellow brown used, is now 30/- and well worth it. India, 8 annas, Type I., watermarked, used, 5/- to 12/6, much too high; plenty copies can be bought at 7/6 each. The 1, 2, and 4 annas of the 1854 issue, used, are increased in price, and not without justification. In Indian stamps are surcharged for use in the Native States there are considerable increases in price, but not so many as were generally expected. Patiala 1 rupee grey Service, is wrongly priced at 4/-. It can be bought there for 1/4.

Australians generally show many reductions in prices of used copies, and we must confess to surprise at increased prices of some Sydney views, as the stamps have sold very cheap at auction for some time past. The shades of the London prints of the Pictorial issue of New Zealand are duly noted. South Australia, thin O.S. on 5d., perf. 15, is omitted by error.

Natal has a good many increases; a greater interest in this country resulting in a larger demand 6d. violet C.C. 12½, used, at 6d., is surely a mistake. It is much commoner unused, in which condition it is priced at 2/-.

Cape of Good Hope is much the same as before, but reductions are made in unused Triangulars affected by the late "finds," while other Triangulars are increased in price. 5/- C.C. used, has risen from 2/- to 4/6.

For the stamps of Bechuanaland surcharged "Protectorate," very few prices are given, which is, perhaps, the wisest course, considering circumstances.

British Central Africa, 1d. red Provisional, perforated, has fallen to 3/-, showing the advisibility of not paying high prices for Provisionals immediately after their issue. Messrs. Gibbons still persist in listing the stamps of the British South African Company, surcharged "B.C.A.," under British Central Africa. These stamps were used in the Chartered Company's Northern Territories, only a very small portion of which is included in what is now known as British Central Africa.

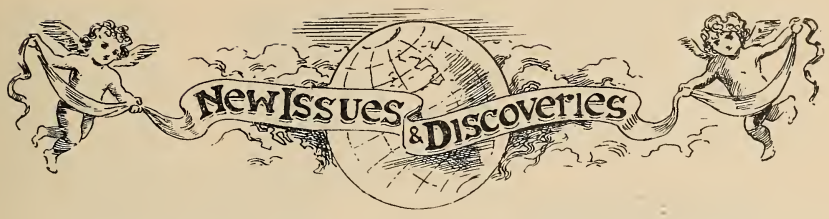
Canada shows a considerable number of reductions, the principal being ½d. on ribbed paper 60/- to 30/-.

Newfoundland has a good many increases in the early issues, the most notable being the 2d. scarlet from 80/- to £6.

Cyprus, 6 and 12 piastres type II., of which considerable stocks are held by speculators, are priced at 12/6 and 30/- unused, while type I, of which far less are to be had, are priced at 7/6 and 10/-.

St. Helena, 3d. mauve C.A., which is on sale at the Post Office, is unpriced, while the deep violet, of which no stock remains, is priced at 6d.

Although we think that in the pricing of the Catalogue many mistakes have been made, of the general get-up of the work and its Philatelic excellence as a book of reference and as a guide to the arrangement of a collection, nothing but the highest praise can be given. There are a few omissions of prominent varieties of shade, etc., but on the whole the work is excellent.




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**Cape of Good Hope.** — We have received the new ½d. stamp, which follows the prevailing fashion in pictures. It is the work of Messrs. De la Rue.

Paper, white wove; wmk. Crown CA.; perf. 14.




*Adhesive.*

½d. carmine.

**Ceylon.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the 12c. in the current design. wmk. Crown CA. perf 14.

*Adhesive.*

12c. olive, label of value in carmine.

**India.**—*Kishengarh.* This State of Rajputana has just commenced the issue of postage stamps. We are indebted to Mr. Wilmot Corfield, of Calcutta, for the ½a. green, and 1a. purple, which we illustrate. The *Philatelic Journal of India* states that they are apparently produced in any colour that comes handy. So far the following have been seen.







*Adhesives.*

½a. yellow-green, *imperf.*
½a. blue ,,
½a. carmine ,,
1a. lilac ,,
½a. yellow-green, *pin-perf.*
½a. blue ,,
1a. emerald-green. *imperf.*
1a. purple. ,,

*Puttialla.* Mr. Wetherell sends the *Philatelic Journal of India* another error. It is the 1 anna "Small Service" Puttialla Stamp with the word "Service" surcharged twice, one surcharge being inverted and coming below the word "State."

*Adhesive.*

1a. small service, double surch., one inverted.

**South Australia.**—This Colony has abandoned its miniature stamp for the ½d. value, and has issued one of a new design and ordinary size instead. We illustrate the new stamp, for a copy of which we are indebted to Messrs. Smith and Nicolle, of Sydney. The design is not a bad one, but the engraving is somewhat indistinct. Paper, white wove; wmk., Crown S.A.; perf. 13.




*Adhesive.*

½d. emerald-green.

**Tasmania.** — We are indebted to Messrs. Smith & Nicolle, of Sydney, for specimens of the first two of the long promised picture series for this Colony.

They are apparently the work of De la Rue. The 1d. value has a view of Mount Wellington, and the 2d. a view of Hobart Harbour. The 2d. is one of the best engraved stamps we have seen from Messrs. De la Rue. We illustrate both stamps. Paper, thickish wove; wmk. TAS diagonally; perf. 14.







*Adhesives.*

1d. lake, Mount Wellington.
2d. purple, Hobart Harbour.

## Foreign Countries.

**Austria.**—We have received several values of the new series in the new coinage, and give the full list from the official circular.




*Adhesives.*

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




*Journal Stamps.*

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

*Hungary.*—The change of coinage here is from *Kreutzers* to *filler* and *korona*. The values from 1 to 60 filler are in one type, depicting an eagle poising above the "Iron Crown" of Hungary. The numerals of all values are in black on an uncoloured tablet below the crown. The high values, 1 and 5k., bear a portrait of the Emperor, or, as he is here, King, wearing the iron crown. The figure of value is in black, as in the lower values. There is also an orange newspaper stamp of a new design. All these stamps have the watermark as in the last issue.







*Adhesives.*

1f. dark grey.
2f. yellow
3f. orange.
4f. mauve.
5f. emerald.
6f. marone.
10f. rose.
25f. pale blue.
30f. orange-brown.
50f. lake-red.
60f. sage-green.
1k. red-brown.
3k. grey-green.




*Newspaper Stamp.*

(No value), orange.

**Bavaria.**—According to the *Monthly Circular*, four new values have appeared of the current type; watermark and perforation as before.

*Adhesives.*

2pf. grey.
3opf. sage-green.
4opf. yellow.
8opf. pale lilac.

**China.**—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* says there is a change in colour of the 5 cents (London print), from salmon to orange.

*Adhesive.*

5 cents orange.

**Colombia.**—*Cartagena.* Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us a couple more provisionals of the type illustrated by us in January (p. 21), viz., 1 centavo and 2 centavos. They have the wavy lines of the last issue (p. 47), are rough lithographs, and are said to be perforated with a sewing machine, but the holes seem to us to be made with square punches.

*Adhesives.*

1 centavo, brown on buff paper.
2 centavos, olive ,, ,,

**Finland.**—It is stated that the Finnish Senate has refused to sanction the decree of the Russian Home Office, in virtue of which the use of Russian stamps alone was allowed after the end of 1899.

We shall be glad to hear what stamps are now current.

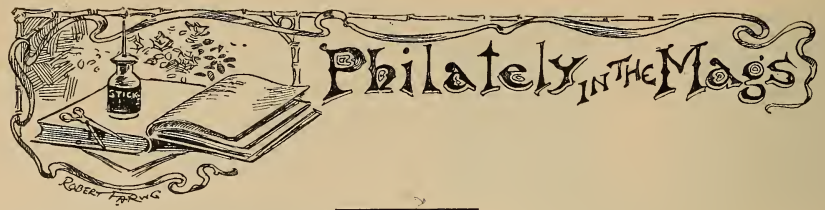
**Holland.**—Mr. J. B. Robert informs the *London Philatelist* that since October 1st the 1 gulden of "the coronation series" has been printed in sheets of fifty, and apparently in slightly altered design, thus constituting a second type. The corner figures are slightly thinner, while the lettering generally appears thicker. In other respects there is no change.

**Turkey.**—According to *Le Moniteur Oriental* the cliches for the new stamps have been completed at the mint. They are of two types: one for the service of the International Postal Union; the other for internal postage. For the first series the Turkish livre will be counted at 100 piastres; for the second, the medjidie will be calculated at 19 piastres.

The stamps for domestic use will consist of eight values: 5, 10 and 20 paras, 1, 2, 5, 25 and 50 piastres. They bear in the centre the imperial toughra, surrounded by rays, with the inscription "POSTAI DEVLET-I-ALIE-I-OSMANIE" (postage of the Ottoman empire), and above, in cufic letters, "DAHLI POSTALARINA MAHSOU SE" (internal postal service). The value is indicated in the corners.

The stamps for the Postal Union comprise the same eight values.

The new stamps will be placed in circulation at the end of the year 1316 (March 1st, 1900).




## English Colonial Remainders

At last we get some light concerning the mysterious leakage of unused remainders of English Colonial postage stamps. Mr. C. J. Phillips tells as much of the story in the January number of the *Monthly Journal* as he dares, or as he cares, to tell. It is obvious that he has left much unsaid.

There seem to have been three leakages: one from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co.'s printing establishment, one from Crown Agents and one from De la Rue stock after the supply had been handed over to other parties.

The worst case seems to be that of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. They say they ordered their sheets of remainders to be burnt, but "this job was not properly carried out, and a very considerable leakage took place through a certain Mr. X——, who afterwards distributed the stamps about the world in a reckless and absurd manner." Did no responsible member of the firm take the trouble to see personally to such an important matter as the destruction of unused postage stamps, and if so how could such a lot have been abstracted. Much more light is needed on this point.

### Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s Remainders.

Here is Mr. Phillips' list of the Perkins, Bacon "leakage" of unused remainders:—

#### Group I. Over 1000 stamps.

Bahamas, 1859, 1d., lake, imperf.
Barbados, 1852, blue on blued paper, imperf.
Trinidad, 1851, blued paper, impf., purple-bwn.
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, blue.
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, grey.
,, ,, white ,, ,, purple-blk.

#### Group II.

#### Between 200 and 1000 stamps.

Barbados, 1852, imperf., green on blued paper.
,, ,, ,, red ,, ,,
,, 1861, perf., no wmk., green.
,, ,, ,, ,, blue.
,, ,, ,, ,, red.
Ceylon, 1861, wmk. star, perf., 9d., deep brown.
Queensland, 1861, wmk. small star, rough perf., 1d., carmine; 3d. brown.
,, ,, "*Registered*," orange-yellow.
St. Vincent, 1861, no wmk., perf., 6d., blue-grn.
,, ,, ,, 1d., rose-red.
,, ,, ,, 1s., slate-grey.
,, ,, ,, 1s., indigo-bl.
Trinidad, 1859, imperf., 1s., indigo.

#### Group III. Between 50 and 200 stamps.

Antigua, 1862, 6d., blue-green, no wmk.
Barbados, 1852, imperf., yellow-green on white.
,, ,, ,, blue on white.
Ceylon, 1861, wmk. star, perf., 1s. 9d., green.
,, ,, ,, ,, 2s., blue,
Pacific S. N. Co., on blued paper, 1 rl., blue.
,, ,, 2 rls., red-brn.

(Only about 80 to 100 of these stamps appear to have been sold; I have heard rumours that they have been offered on the Continent in large quantities, but I have not been able to trace these rumours to any definite source.)

St. Vincent, 1861, *imperf.*, 1d., rose-red.
,, ,, ,, 6d., blue-green.
South Australia, 1855, impf., 2d., dull carmine.
Trinidad, 1851, blued paper, imperf., brown-red.
,, 1859, imperf., 4d., grey-lilac.
Victoria, 1856, imperf., 1d., green.

#### Group IV. Under 50 stamps.

Antigua, 1862, 6d., yellow-green, imperf.
Bahamas, 1861, 1d., lake, no wmk., perf.
Barbados, 1859, imperf., 6d., rose-red.
,, ,, ,, 1s., black.
,, 1861, perf., 1s., black.
Mauritius, 1858, imperf., green.
,, ,, ,, magenta.
St. Vincent, 1869, perf., no wmk., 1s. brown.
Turks Islands, 1867, no wmk., 6d., black.
,, ,, ,, 1s., dull blue.
Antigua, 6d., no wmk., comp. perf. and large perf.
Barbados, no wmk., blue, perf. 11½.

### A Crown Agent's "Find."

Then there was "a highly esteemed retired Civil Service Official who, among other posts, held that of Crown Agent for the Colonies," who in 1896 discovered amongst his private papers "sample sheets" of stamps of Perkins, Bacon and Co., and De la Rue & Co., and sold them to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. This little parcel comprised the following:—

#### Group III. From 50 to 200 stamps.

Cape of Good Hope, 1855, 1d., rose-red.
,, ,, ,, 4d., blue.
Malta, no wmk., bluish paper, ½d., buff.
Mauritius, 1859, 1s., yellow-green.
St. Lucia, 1860, wmk. star (1d.), rose-red.
,, ,, ,, (4d.), blue.
,, ,, ,, (6d.), green.
Trinidad, 1859-61, clean cut and rough perfs.
,, ,, (1d.), rose-red.
,, ,, (4d.), brown-lilac.
,, ,, (6d.), yellow-green.
Western Australia. A number of imperf. proofs, both wmk. swan and no wmk., of the 1861-2 issue, such as 2d. blue, 4d. lake, 6d. purple-brown, and 1s. deep green.

GROUP IV. UNDER 50 STAMPS.

Bahamas, 1861, no wmk., rough perf., 14-16.
,, ,, 4d., rose.
,, ,, 6d., grey-lilac.
Natal, 1862, no wmk., 6d., grey.
,, ,, ,, perf. 14, 1d., rose-red.

DE LA RUE REMAINDERS.

And lastly, we have the De la Rue Remainders. And here at the outset we must note that Mr. Phillips admits that this leakage cannot have taken place from Messrs. De la Rue's establishment, as we all know no stamp printing establishment has ever been hedged round with so many safeguards against fraud and theft. The leakage must have taken place from subsequent custodians of the stock. That being so we venture to say that it is incumbent upon the Colonies concerned and their Crown Agents, to hold an official inquiry and probe the matter to the bottom, and then publish the results.

Here then is the list of these leakages of De la Rue Colonials. Mr. Phillips is not able to divide them into groups by the numbers that have appeared, but he has some reason for thinking that there are not more than some two or three sheets of any variety :—

British Columbia, 1861, no wmk, imperf., 2½d., light brown.
,, ,, 1867, Crown and CC., perf 14, 10c. lake and blue.
,, ,, 1867, Crown and CC., perf. 14, $1 green.
,, ,, 1867, Crown and CC., perf. 12½, $1 green.
Cape of Good Hope, 1863, 1d., red.
,, ,, 4d., blue.
,, ,, 6d., mauve.
,, ,, 1s., green (shades).
Ceylon, 1861, wmk. star, perf., 1s., lilac.
,, 1862, no wmk., 6d., brown.
,, 1863-6, Cr. & CC., perf. 12½, 2d., emerald-green.
,, ,, ,, ,, 4d., rose.
,, ,, ,, ,, 5d., purple-brown.
,, ,, ,, ,, 5d., green.
,, ,, ,, ,, 8d., red-brn.
,, ,, ,, ,, 9d., dark brn.
,, ,, ,, ,, 1s., deep mauve.
,, ,, ,, ,, 2s., blue.
,, 1872, ,, ,, 2r. 50c., lilac-rose.
,, 1883, ,, perf. 14, 16c., lilac,
,, ,, ,, ,, 24c., purple-brown.
,, *Service*, 1869, 1d. and 3d., and possibly the other values.
Grenada, 1881, wmk. large, broad-pointed star, 2½d., claret.
Grenada, 1881, wmk. large broad-pointed star, 4d., blue.
Hong Kong, 1863, Cr. & CC., perf. 14, 96c. grey.
,, 1876, ,, ,, 16c. yellow.
Jamaica, 1863, wmk. pine, 6d., purple.
,, ,, ,, 1s., dull brown.
Montserrat, 1876, C. and CC., perf. 14, 6d., blue-green.
Natal, 1860, wmk. small star, imperf., 3d., blue.
,, 1s., lilac-brown, perf. 14,, without surch.
St. Christopher, 1882, C. & CA., perf. 14, 4d. bl.
St. Helena, 1862, wmk. star, perf., 6d., blue.
St. Lucia, 1864, C. & CC., perf. 12½ (1d.), black.
,, ,, ,, ,, (4d.), yellow.
,, ,, ,, ,, (6d.), mauve.
,, ,, ,, perf. 14 (4d.), yellow.
,, ,, ,, ,, (6d.), lilac.
,, ,, ,, ,, (1s.), orange.
Sierra Leone, 1883, C. & CA., perf. 14, 4d., blue.
Straits Settlements, 1867, 1½c., 3c., 6c., 24c., and 32c.
,, ,, ,, double surch., 12c.
,, ,, 1868, C. and CC., several values.
Trinidad, 1864, C. & CC., perf. 12½, 4d., bright violet.
,, ,, ,, ,, 6d., emerald-green.
,, ,, ,, ,, 1s., purple.
,, 1872, ,, ,, 1s., yellow.
,, 1882, C. and CA., perf. 14, 4d., grey.

## Enter Bussahir.

SOME years ago sweet shop dealers in postage stamps exhibited on the sheets of stamps displayed in their windows an issue credited to Bussahir. Those stamps were cold shouldered by the authorities, and no one came forward to defend them. So they were excluded from the Catalogue.

But Major Evans in the *Monthly Journal* has been looking into their bona fides, and as a result they are in future to be included in our Catalogues, for their genuineness is established. Major Evans writes :—

In January, 1899, Mr. Stewart-Wilson assured me that such was the case, and I supposed that the stamps had only recently been issued. I learn, however, from *The Philatelic Journal of India*, for July, 1899, that Mr. Wilson has discovered specimens postally used as early as January, 1896, and it would now appear that the State Post Office was doing legitimate business for some three or four years, without making any appeal for philatelic assistance, and its once rejected stamps must be acknowledged to have a very strong claim to recognition. Mr. Wilson further states that there are three post offices at present—at Rampur, the capital of Bussahir, and at Rorhu and Chini, which are the chief places of subdivisions of the State ; and he gives a list of used stamps that he had seen, including specimens of all the values, except the 1a. and 2a., postmarked at Rorhu in January, February, April, or May, 1896.

The stamps are lithographed in sheets of six horizontal rows of four stamps, on laid paper, and apparently perforated with a sewing machine.

There are eight values, all differing in design. Upon each stamp is impressed, in a second colour, a monogram consisting of the letters "R.N.S." which

are the initials of a son of the Raja who started the local postage system.

Here is the list for the Catalogue :—

*January*, 1896.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ½a. | pink, *monogram in* | | pale blue. |
| ¼a. | ,, | ,, | mauve. |
| ½a. | slate | ,, | rose. |
| 1a. | red | ,, | mauve. |
| 2a. | yellow | ,, | pale blue. |
| 2a. | ,, | ,, | mauve. |
| 4a. | violet | ,, | pale blue. |
| 4a. | ,, | ,, | mauve. |
| 4a. | ,, | ,, | rose. |
| 8a. | brown | ,, | mauve. |
| 8a. | ,, | ,, | pale blue. |
| 12a. | green | ,, | rose. |
| 1r. | ultramarine | ,, | rose *or* rose-lilac. |

*Varieties, imperforate.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ½a. | pink, *monogram in* | | mauve. |
| ½a. | slate | ,, | rose. |
| 1a. | red | ,, | mauve. |
| 2a. | yellow | ,, | ,, |
| 1r. | ultramarine | ,, | rose-lilac. |

*May* (?) 1899.

½a. slate, *monogram in* rose.

### India 4a. Inverted Frame.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. sometime since purchased a parcel of correspondence consisting of a considerable number of letters from India. Amongst these, Mr. Phillips tells us in the *Monthly Journal*, he was fortunate enough to find two copies of the 4 annas, *inverted frame* on one letter sheet. Mr. Phillips thinks that "these two stamps being on one letter, go very far to prove that an entire sheet had the frame inverted, and not only one stamp as in the reprinted sheet." It certainly does seem very unlikely that a person using the stamps in 1854, the date on the letter sheet, would have had two sheets and cut the identical error off each sheet to use on one letter.

### Argentine: Early Issues.

Mr. T. W. Hall, who specialises in South Americans, contributes an interesting paper to the January number of the *London Philatelist*, on the Early Issues of the Argentine Republic. His paper is based on Senor Marco del Ponto's articles in *The Revista*.

The 5c., 10c., and 15c. of the first issue, we are told, were all printed in sheets of 70 stamps—ten horizontal rows of seven stamps each.

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

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

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

(2) The little cross at the foot of the coat-of-arms

in the 5 cent is placed upright.
,, 10 ,, leans to left.
,, 15 ,, leans to right.

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

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

10 *centavos*. Two distinct printings of this stamp exist. In the first printing, Mr. Hall says, all stamps are accented; in the second printing not only are the stamps not accented, but a line of separation crosses the sheet horizontally and vertically.

15 *centavos*. Only one plate, so far as research goes at present, was made for this value, and only 387 sheets were ever printed. It exists with and without accent. The stamp with the accent is the normal type, and without, the variety. The accent was not on the original die, but was added on the stone by the lithographer. The second stamp of the eighth row is minus the accent.

*Second type of the* 5c. In most catalogues with the 5c. narrow "C" is considered the first type. This, Mr. Hall holds to be incorrect, on the following grounds:—

1. No used copy of the narrow "C" type has ever been found with a dated stamp cancellation earlier than 1864.
2. Of the broad "C" type with (and slightly later without) accent I show copies used from January, 1862, onwards.
3. The only existing stone in the possession of the General Management of the Post Office is of the second type.
4. All known reprintings are of the second type.

Unused genuine originals of the narrow "C" 5c. stamps are scarce. The second type does not vary much in colour, and is only found in slightly different shades of brick red—a colour never used for the first type. The following are Mr. Hall's tests, or chief differences, between the first and second types :—

First Type.

(*a*) Letters regularly formed.
(*b*) Letters "A A" have top part squared.
(*c*) "C" in "CENTAVOS" open and round.
(*d*) "V" in "CENTAVOS" closed.
(*e*) "G" in "ARGENTINA" large and round.
(*f*) "5" small.
(*g*) Comma after "5" slightly separated from it.
(*h*) Circle formed by seventy-four pearls.
(*i*) Cross below coat-of-arms relatively large.
(*j*) Laural branches thick and well formed.

SECOND TYPE.

(*a*) Letters irregular, thinner, and wider apart.
(*b*) Tops of letters "A A" form an acute angle.
(*c*) "C" in "CENTAVOS" closed and narrow.
(*d*) "V" in "CENTAVOS" open.
(*e*) "G" in "ARGENTINA" irregular and smaller than other letters.
(*f*) "5" larger, especially the head.
(*g*) Full-stop after "5" and nearer to it.
(*h*) Circle formed by seventy-two pearls.
(*i*) Cross smaller and thicker.
(*j*) Laurel branches thinner and confused.

### Holland: Unpaid Stamp, 1870.

THE *London Philatelist* has an interesting communication from M. J. B. Robert concerning the 5c. value of this stamp.

Its normal condition is brown on *buff*, both it and the 10c. lilac on blue being normally perforated 13 to 14 in small holes. The latter also exists perf. 12½ by 12, but we have not yet met with the 5c. thus. Specimens of the 5c. have been seen on yellow or lemon paper, which was attributed to chemical action. M. Robert, however, states that specimens which are of considerable rarity really exist on yellow paper, having been printed on the paper intended for the unpaid letter stamp of Dutch Indies (1870). These stamps, says our correspondent, have always been difficult to obtain, not being vendible at the post offices, and really partake of the nature of service stamps. The chemical changelings are easily to be discerned, as the colour has not a true appearance, and the paper has been rendered more porous by its colour transformation.

### Faridkot Native-Printed Stamps.

MR. C. STEWART-WILSON, who has done more to popularise the stamps of the Indian States than any other philatelic writer, has recently been examining a considerable number of the Native-printed stamps of Faridkot, taken off original envelopes and extending over three years, the earliest date being 17th March, 1883. He says:—

*Without one exception* these stamps were the ultramarine 1 folus and the blue 1 paisa, numbered 1, 2, and 5 in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue.

The only varieties were in paper and in shade. The shades vary from the very lightest to the very deepest. I found four very distinct kinds of paper. Two were laid and two wove. Of the *laid*, one is a very superior thick unsurfaced paper, and the other ordinary stout surfaced writing paper. Of the wove, one is a thickish paper of fairly good quality, and the other a thin cheap paper. Among those seen by me the stout wove was much more common than any of the others, and the thin wove the rarest of all. Some at least of these stamps had evidently been gummed before issue.

The so-called "used" stamps of this issue which are ordinarily sold by dealers are usually obliterated with one of the postmarks which came into use with the current surcharged Indian stamps. They generally show either the letter F with bars or else a date-stamp with FARIDKOT STATE in a segment of a circle outside the circle of the date-stamp.

The obliterator used by the State while these stamps were in use was a figure composed of three confocal ellipses of diminishing size and the word FARIDKOT on the major axis.

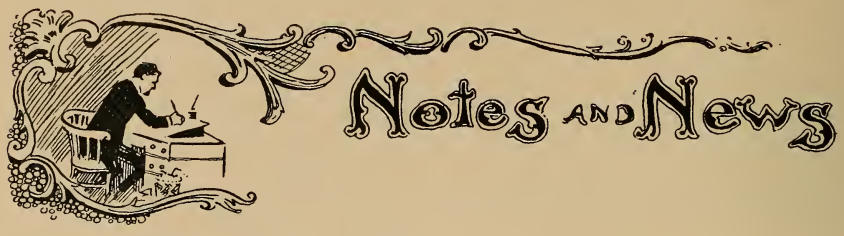
Sometimes, however, the stamps are found obliterated by the British Post Office at Ferozepore or Kharar, and sometimes even by the delivery-stamp of the office of delivery.

Of the two stamps, the 1 folus is much less rare than the 1 paisa, but both stamps appear to have been used concurrently and without distinction.

Mr Stewart Wilson hopes that dealers "will see their way to burning the multi-coloured rubbish which has so long passed current as Faridkot stamps," and he adds, "when they get down to these two types and then further weed out specimens which bear bogus postmarks (for the stamps are still being produced) they will realise how rare genuinely used copies are."

### Resurrection of the "Butterfly" Obliterator.

THE *Australian Philatelist* has received from Mr. C. B. Donne a most interesting curiosity in postmarks in the shape of a pair of the recently superseded 1d. brown, Victoria, obliterated with the celebrated old "butterfly" cancellation. The impression of the ancient cancellator is somewhat blurred, as if it had become somewhat worn. The office of origin is given as Geelong. Our contemporary should look up this old friend and tell us how and why it has been resurrected.




### A Collectors' Priced Catalogue.

Major Evans, commenting in the *Monthly Journal* on the discussion on the question now proceeding in our pages as to collectors issuing a priced catalogue, says:—

In *The Philatelic Record* "An Old Collector" maintains that it is for the collectors to fix the prices of stamps, and that the dealer is an intruder (or as he puts it an "obtruder") whose presence is neither required nor desired. The dealer, we are told, "does nothing that the collector could not do for himself." No doubt if the collector wants a penny stamp of New Zealand he can send a post office order out to Wellington and import a penny stamp for himself, but it is both cheaper and far less trouble to get one from the "obtruding" dealer, who at least has his uses as an importer of new issues; and in the case of old issues and used stamps, there are thousands upon thousands of copies in the hands of collectors which would never have been preserved or unearthed if there were no dealers to buy them wholesale and retail them. As regards prices, the universal rule is for the dealer in articles of any nature to put a price upon them; the price may be a fair one or it may not, but as far as the articles in stock are concerned the prices have some actual basis, as prices at which those articles can really be bought. If, as is the case with the stamp dealer, his customers demand a Standard Catalogue with prices quoted for everything, whether he has it in stock or not, some of those prices must of necessity be fictitious; they may be fair or they may not, but, dealers being human, they are more likely to be too low than to be too high, and in any case they have no real basis. But what solid foundation will the prices fixed by a committee of collectors have? Some of the committee may know where some of the stamps can be bought, some may be willing to buy certain stamps at the prices fixed, but in the case of stamps they neither have for sale nor are prepared to buy their valuations are merely matters of opinion, liable to be upset at any moment. The specialist collector, it is true, may know more about the relative rarity of certain varieties than any dealer; but will he be more willing to publish his knowledge? An experienced dealer, on the other hand, knows better than any collector what stamps he can most readily sell, and demand is as much a factor in the case as supply. And the collector must remember that he always has this advantage: there is no necessity for him to buy stamps, there is every necessity for the dealer to sell them, and the latter must therefore put prices on his stock which he thinks he is likely to get.

### Pilloried.

The day when a writer might safely sweep the philatelic gutters for his facts in ridiculing the issues of the Indian Native States is gone. Mr. Stewart-Wilson has made a special study of these stamps and now, woe betide the unlucky scribe who ventures to think he is on safe ground in "showing them up." In the December number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, Mr. Stewart-Wilson applies the lash to the back of a writer on speculative issues in a German contemporary for writing "unadulterated balderdash" about them. Another German paper has lately been publishing a series of short monographs on the Native Issues of these States, and it is credited with having crammed as much nonsense as it could into those monographs.

Henceforward, philatelic writers will do well to remember that the patient study of reliable authorities alone can save them from the philatelic pillory.

### "J. P. Bacon-Phillips."

A correspondent assures us that "J. P. Bacon Phillips" is a reality "down Canterbury way," and not a conglomerate, as we imagined, of Brighton, Croydon, and the Hotel Cecil. 'Tis a curious coincidence, to say the least. If the Rev. J. P. Bacon Phillips will forward his subscription for the *Philatelic Record* to our publishers we will say no more about it!

### "Please Attach Pigeon."

According to the *Daily Mail*, in an Indian post office was received a letter addressed to a soldier at Ladysmith, marked "To be sent by pigeon post." The postmaster returned the letter to the sender with the remark, "Please attach pigeon."

### Newfoundland Remainders Destroyed.

We are indebted to Mr. F. H. Oliver (Bright & Son) for the following extract from *Royal Gazette* concerning the destruction of Remainders of Newfoundland:—

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
4th January, 1900.

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

| Number. | Denomination. | | Face Value. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 49,717..... | 2 cent, | orange ..... | $ 994.34 |
| 40,638..... | 3 ,, | slate ..... | 1.219.14 |
| 104,569..... | 5 ,, | blue ..... | 5,228.45 |
| 34,422..... | 6 ,, | pink ..... | 2,065.32 |
| 92,966.....10 | ,, | black ..... | 9,296.60 |
| 27,162.....24 | ,, | blue ..... | 6,518.88 |
| 69,653.....12 | ,, | pale brown .. | 8,358.36 |
| 2,658 (Cabot | 3 ,, | .... .... .... | 79.75 |
| 11,342[4] issue) | 5 ,, | .... .... .... | 567.10 |
| | Total..... | | $34,327.93 |

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

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

J. ALEX. ROBINSON,
Colonial Secretary.
J. A. McLEOD,
Manager Bank of Nova Scotia.
J. O. FRASER,
Postmaster General.
F. C. BERTAUR,
Comptroller and Auditor General.

### An Australian Griffin.

Mr. J. G. Griffin, of Sydney, said to be a well known Stamp Collector, has written to a Sydney newspaper suggesting that the colonial enthusiasm over the South African War should be manipulated for milking his fellow collectors by the issue of a speculative 2½d. stamp to be sold at 5d. Alas, poor Griffin!

### A Postcard Quarterly.

Mr. Walter T. Wilson, of 16 Cardigan Road, Leeds, sends us No. 1 of a new venture of his entitled "Postal Cards and Covers:" which is a neatly got up little quarterly magazine for collectors of postcards. The pressure of the ever increasing flood of ordinary postage stamps tempts philatelic journals to confine themselves more and more mainly to adhesives. The *Monthly Journal* struggles on manfully and comprehensively, but Major Evans is a philatelic Hercules in the chronicling line.

*Postal Cards and Covers* recognises the inevitable and provides accordingly. It will in future take the neglected postcard collectors under its wing. It promises "to keep *au courant* with all that pertains to our branch of specialism, and to present articles of value as we go along. A little space will also be given to the lighter fancy for pictorial cards aspect of collecting we must not despise."

In Mr. Wilson's hands the new corner should be a success. No. 1. is full of promise.

### Philatelic Wall-Papering.

This question of postcard collecting, and the later demand for pictorial postcards, suggests to those who fancy philatelic walls the use of some of the more pictorial of the ordinary postcards. The ordinary postage stamp is too small to be really effective, but an artistic selection of postcards arranged between bands of coloured paper would yield the effect of a most interesting philatelic gallery of minatures. And it could be done very cheaply.

### The New German Issue.

How long will the design of the new German issue survive the ridicule which is being heaped upon it? No one seems to have a good word to say for it, and the disappointment is all the greater because so much was promised. A Berlin daily, says it is beneath criticism. It was to have been the concentrated essence of the higher reaches of German art. But, alas, it is badly designed, and woefully out of proportion. If it were produced by Waterlow it would probably ruin the reputation of that firm. Germany had better try something "made in England" next time. We still lead the way in the artistic production of postage stamps. No country has ever yet approached the exquisite engraving of Waterlow. Whether it be a portrait, or a more fancy design they lead the way. Their pre-eminence is almost unquestioned.



# Echoes from the Mart.

### The Prospect for 1900.

THE *American Journal of Philately* has been editorially reckoning up the prospect for 1900. In the autumn of 1898 it predicted a considerable improvement in the condition of the Stamp Trade, and it claims that the result of the year 1899 has amply justified its conclusions. And now after a careful survey of the field it feels convinced that "the year 1900 will be one of exceptional prosperity in everything pertaining to philately."

We trust it may be so.

But for the present the outlook in this country is overclouded by the South African War with its many reverses and consequent national anxieties. The season is slipping by, and in all probability any recovery that may follow our eventual and complete success in South Africa will come too late to effect any improvement. With the exception of an abnormal demand for Transvaal and Orange Free State stamps there is an undeniable diminution in home buying all round. But the foreign demand is no doubt very encouraging, and those firms which have a good foreign connection have little to complain of.

### Sale of a Great Russian Collection.

MR. PAUL KOHL, of Chemnitz, has recently purchased the grand collection of Baron Otto von Transche Roseneek. This collection, according to the *Monthly Journal*, was started only four years ago, the wealthy Baron devoting himself chiefly to the great rarities. The price paid for the collection by Mr. Kohl is said to be the highest ever paid for a collection in Germany.

Amongst the gems of the collection were the following:—

*Roumania.* 1st issue circular stamps in fine copies, used, unused, and on letters, and a specialised collection of the later issues, value altogether over £3,000, and contained on 300 large cards.

*British Guiana.* 1850 circular, 2c., rose, a fine unsevered PAIR, used; 4, 8, and 12 cents, fine copies.

*Cape of Good Hope.* Woodblocks, both the 1d. and 4d., *errors*, used.

*Russia and Finland.* As is to be expected from a Russian collector, these two countries are especially fine, both in blocks and in single pieces, and have been carefully and fully specialised.

*Mauritius.* A very fine lot of early issues, especially strong in used and unused fine early impressions.

*United States.* 1869, 15, 24, and 30 cents, with centres inverted.

*Canada.* 12d., on laid paper, used and unused.

*Barbados.* Pair 1d. on half of 5s., unused.

*Hawaiian Islands.* 1st issue, 2c., 5c., and both the 13 cents.

### Gibbons' New Stock Books.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., announce that they have recently arranged the following stock books:—

| | VALUE. |
|---|---|
| Great Britain, unused, ½d. to 3d. value - | £423 |
| ,, ,, 4d. to £1 ,, - | 474 |
| Ceylon (a very fine book) - - | 1,266 |
| South Australia - - - - | 530 |
| ,, O.S. and Departmental | 428 |
| Jammu and Cashmere - - - | 589 |
| Brazil, Vol. I. - - - - | 453 |
| ,, ,, II. - - - - | 132 |
| ,, ,, III. - - - - | 60 |
| Ecuador, Vol. I. - - - - | 112 |
| ,, ,, II. - - - - | 258 |

### Sale of the Westoby Library.

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON sold the Westoby Library on the 14th of February last. Some of the books went very cheaply, especially the London Society's monographs. North America and West Indies, together, fetched only £3 5s. od. A few years since either would have been considered cheap at the price. Oceania and Tasmania brought only £1 16s. od., and India and Ceylon, and the Nesbitt Envelopes and the recently issued *magnum opus* on English only were knocked down for £1 10s. od. The *London Philatelist*, 8 vols., 7 half-bound, reached only £1 10s. od. The *P.J.G.B.*, 9 vols., 16s. *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, a neatly half-bound set of 12 vols., went for £2 6s. od. (dealer's price, £7).

THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

APRIL, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

**The Proposed Victorian War Stamps.**

OUR Colonies have displayed such a splendid enthusiasm, in connection with the struggle in South Africa, that we have refused to credit the sinister rumours that one of the Colonies was going to be mean enough to shuffle off the financial cost on the shoulders of any gullible flats to be imposed upon outside the Colony. But the following extract from the *Melbourne Argus* removes all doubt:—

"It will be remembered that in August, 1897, the then Postmaster-General issued special Jubilee stamps in order to raise money for local charities, and that a sum of £3,000 was secured for that purpose. Mr. Watt, following the example of his predecessor, has determined to issue a special set of War stamps. The Government printer has been asked to call for competitive designs of a military character, and, as on the last occasion, prizes of 5 guineas will be awarded to those who submit the two designs chosen, and 2 guineas will be given for second prizes. 40,000 penny and 20,000 twopenny stamps will be printed, and it is the intention of the department to retail them at the price of 1s. and 2s. respectively. The proceeds derived from the sale of the stamps will, after the amount of their face value has been deducted, be given to the Victorian Patriotic Fund. It is anticipated that the public will avail themselves of this opportunity of securing a unique class of stamps, and if all are sold a net sum of £3,600 should be available."

Collectors at home will be glad to learn that their confrères of the Philatelic Society of Victoria are up in arms against the proposed issue, and have addressed the following letter to Mr. W. A. Watt, M.P., the Postmaster-General:—

"Dear Sir,—I have the honour by direction to inform you that the Committee of the above Society has had under consideration the proposed issue of War stamps to be sold to the public at a premium above the face value, such premium to be given to the well-deserving

Patriotic Fund, and I am desired to inform you of the following resolution passed by them :—'That the Committee of the Philatelic Society of Victoria regrets that the Hon. the Postmaster-General should have decided to issue the proposed War stamps and that it enters its protest against the issue.' I am also desired to give you some of the reasons which have induced my Committee to pass such resolution. Firstly :—The issue of a War stamp has only been made when War is in progress in the country issuing the stamp, and has never been issued in any part of the world except under such circumstances. The issue proposed by you is not even commemorative, but is professedly made to raise money. Secondly :—The issue of a Commemorative Stamp is in direct contravention of the Washington Convention, to which this Colony was a party. Thirdly :—The proposed stamps could only be recognised in this Colony, and the public can obtain no guarantee that foreign countries or even British Colonies would not tax the letters carrying these proposed stamps as unpaid letters, which course the postal departments outside Victoria would have a perfect right to pursue. This was in fact done with the recent similar issue known as 'Hospital Stamps.' Fourthly :—The proposed issue is an attempt to raise money by taxing one body of the community, viz.: Philatelists, a course to which no other body of persons has been subjected, and for an object to which everyone ought to give voluntarily according to their means. The patriotism of Philatelists is not in question ; they belong to all sections of the community, and are as patriotic as any other citizens. Fifthly :—The similar issue in August, 1897, known as 'Hospital Stamps' was discountenanced by Philatelists here and abroad, although it was not opposed by this Society for the reason that it was in aid of charity. The stamps were purchased by speculators owing to the fact that a few of a similar issue in Sydney had changed hands at an increased price. Such speculators have failed to gain by their action, as the stamps sold at 2s. 6d. can now be purchased at 1s. 6d. each, while a large quantity of the stamps sold originally at 1s. can be purchased at 6d. each, and if buyers were forthcoming, even less. At the present time a number of that issue still remain in stock in your department. I respectfully submit these facts for your earnest consideration, and trust that the reasons submitted by me will be sufficient to induce you to alter your decision, and decide that it is inadvisable to issue the proposed War stamps.—I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully, D. S. Abraham, *Hon. Secretary.*"

We trust this protest will be effective, and that it will wake into life on the part of the Postmaster-General some shred of latent self-respect for himself and for his Colony. He must know that if any such issue as he contemplates is to be successful that its eventual sale must be mostly to non-Colonists. The natural inference, therefore, cannot be avoided that the Government of the Colony of Victoria, whilst willing enough to share in the credit of the sacrifices and the heroism of the brave Victorians who have gone to the Front, do not stop short even at a shady transaction, so long as it promises to relieve them of their share in the matter of financial responsibility.

# The Stamps of Luxembourg:

An Easy Guide to their Collection, with some Notes on Relative Values.

By FRANK H. OLIVER.

(*Continued from page* 61.)

HAVING completed the list of the stamps of Luxembourg used for ordinary postage, I will now deal with the stamps used for the prepayment of Government correspondence. At first sight these appear to the beginner to be rather complicated, owing to the varieties of surcharge, but with a little pains they can soon be understood. As a result of the surcharges being printed from movable type, there are much greater opportunities for finding varieties of these stamps, this being the cause of omission of stops, differences of width, dropped letters, etc. I have noted the principal minor varieties, and the collector might well bear them in mind, but the following list is probably not entirely complete so far as regards varieties of position of surcharge, double surcharges, etc. I have given only those varieties that I have actually in my possession, or have seen from time to time, but there may be others to add to this list. The four earlier surcharges were printed in Luxembourg, but I believe the last two were printed in Holland. It will be noticed that I have not affixed prices to all the stamps listed. It is extremely difficult to give prices for some of these varieties that can be considered even approximately correct, and I have therefore thought it best to omit them in some cases.

The illustrations given in this article are the exact size of the originals, and the measurements of the surcharges are therefore absolutely correct.




Fig. 10.

1875. Stamps of ordinary issues surcharged for prepayment of Government correspondence as Fig. 10.

A. Surcharge reads from lower left to upper right-hand corner.

On issue of 1865-71. Plain Roulettes.

| | UNUSED. s. d. | USED. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 2 centimes black .. .. .. .. | 3 0 | 3 6 |

On issue of 1865-72. Rouletted in Colour.

| | UNUSED. s. d. | USED. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 centime red-brown .. .. .. | 1 6 | 2 0 |
| 10 ,, lilac .. .. .. .. | 10 0 | 10 0 |
| 10 ,, pale mauve .. .. .. | 12 6 | 12 6 |
| 12½ ,, rose .. .. .. .. | 5 6 | 5 0 |
| 20 ,, grey-brown .. .. .. | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. .. | 7 6 | 7 6 |
| 25 ,, ultramarine .. .. .. | 20 0 | 25 0 |
| 30 ,, red-violet .. .. .. | 4 0 | 6 0 |
| 40 ,, orange .. .. .. .. | 20 0 | 25 0 |
| 40 ,, ,, (later Frankfort impression) | 6 0 | 7 6 |
| 1 franc (UN FRANC) on 37½ centimes stone | 10 6 | 7 0 |

Variety: Double Surcharge.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 franc (UN FRANC) on 37½ centimes stone | — | — |

On issue of 1876. Printed in Luxembourg. Perforated 13.

| | UNUSED. s. d. | USED. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 centime brown .. .. .. .. | 0 9 | 1 3 |
| 2 ,, black .. .. .. .. | 1 3 | 1 9 |
| 4 ,, green .. .. .. .. | 1 3 | 1 6 |
| 5 ,, yellow .. .. .. .. | 3 6 | 3 6 |
| 5 ,, orange-yellow .. .. .. | 5 0 | 6 0 |
| 10 ,, drab .. .. .. .. | 2 6 | 3 0 |
| 12½ ,, dull rose .. .. .. | 20 0 | 15 0 |
| 12½ ,, carmine .. .. .. .. | 5 0 | 5 6 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. .. | 3 0 | 3 6 |
| 25 ,, Prussian blue .. .. .. | 15 0 | — |
| 1 franc (Un Franc) on 37½ centimes stone | 10 6 | 10 0 |

Variety: Double Surcharge.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 centimes black .. .. .. .. | — | — |

Variety: Treble Surcharge.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 centimes yellow .. .. .. .. | — | — |

On issue of 1880. Printed in Holland.

| | UNUSED. s. d. | USED. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 centime yellowish-brown .. .. | 10 0 | 12 0 |
| 2 ,, black .. .. .. .. | 10 0 | 12 0 |
| 10 ,, lilac-grey .. .. .. | 15 0 | 17 6 |
| 20 ,, pale brown .. .. .. | 15 0 | 17 6 |
| 25 ,, light blue .. .. .. | 10 0 | 12 0 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. .. | 4 0 | 4 0 |

Varieties of Perforation :

Perforated 13 to 13½ and compound.

1 centime yellowish-brown
2 ,, black
25 ,, light blue

Perforated 12½ to 13 by 12.

10 centimes lilac grey
20 pale brown
25 ,, blue

Perforated 11½ by 12 (variety).

10 centimes lilac grey
20 ,, pale brown
25 ,, blue

B. Surcharge reads from upper left to lower right-hand corner.

On issue of 1865-72. Rouletted in Colour.

| | UNUSED. s. d. | USED. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 franc (UN FRANC) on 37½ centimes stone | 12 0 | 10 0 |

C. Inverted Surcharge, reads from upper right to lower left-hand corner.

On issue of 1865-71. Plain Roulettes.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 centimes black .. .. .. .. | — | — |

On issue of 1865-72. Rouletted in Colour.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | *s.* *d.* |
| 1 centime red-brown .. .. .. | 2 0 | 3 0 |
| 12½ ,, rose .. .. .. | 12 6 | 12 6 |
| 20 ,, grey-brown .. .. .. | 5 0 | 7 0 |
| 30 ,, red-lilac .. .. .. | — | — |
| 40 ,, orange (later Frankfort impression) | 10 0 | — |
| 1 franc (UN FRANC) on 37½c. stone .. | — | — |

On issue of 1876. Printed in Luxembourg. Perforated 13.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | *s.* *d.* |
| 1 centime brown .. .. .. .. | 1 0 | 2 0 |
| 2 ,, black .. .. .. .. | 4 0 | 6 0 |
| 4 ,, green .. .. .. .. | — | — |
| 10 ,, drab .. .. .. .. | 12 6 | — |
| 12½ ,, rose .. .. .. .. | — | — |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. .. | — | — |

D. Inverted Surcharge, reads from lower right to upper left-hand corner.

On issue of 1865-71. Plain Roulettes.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | |
| 2 centimes black .. .. .. .. | 10 0 | — |

The inverted position of the normal surcharge is caused by the sheets being placed in the press the wrong way about. There must, however, have been a special setting up to account for the existence of surcharges B and D.

There are many minor varieties of the above surcharges, such as letters above or below their proper level, but they are hardly worth chronicling.




Fig. 11.

1878. Surcharged as before but in thick square type as Fig. 11.

A. Surcharge reads from lower left to upper right-hand corner.

On issue of 1865-72. Rouletted in Colour.

| | UNUSED. | USED |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | *s.* *d.* |
| 1 centime red-brown .. .. .. | 4 0 | 6 0 |
| 20 ,, grey-brown .. .. .. | 5 0 | 6 0 |
| 30 ,, red-violet .. .. .. | 12 6 | 15 0 |
| 40 ,, orange (later Frankfort impression) | 4 0 | 5 0 |
| 1 franc (UN FRANC) on 37½c. stone .. | 15 0 | 12 0 |

On issue of 1876. Printed in Luxembourg. Perforated 13.

| | | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 centime | brown .. .. .. .. | 4 0 | 6 0 |
| 2 ,, | black .. .. .. .. | 2 0 | 3 0 |
| 4 ,, | green .. .. .. .. | 3 0 | 3 6 |
| 5 ,, | orange-yellow .. .. .. | 12 6 | 15 0 |
| 10 ,, | grey lilac .. .. .. | 5 0 | 6 0 |
| 12½ ,, | carmine .. .. .. .. | 4 0 | 6 0 |
| 25 ,, | blue .. .. .. .. | 10 0 | 10 0 |

On issue of 1880. Printed in Holland.

| | | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 centime | yellowish-brown .. .. | 10 0 | — |
| 1 ,, | reddish-brown .. .. .. | — | — |
| 10 ,, | lilac-grey .. .. .. | — | 10 0 |
| 25 ,, | blue .. .. .. .. | — | — |

Varieties of Perforation :

Perforated 13 to 13½ and compound.

1 centime yellowish-brown

Perforated 12½ to 13 by 12.

1 centime reddish-brown
10 ,, lilac-grey
25 ,, blue

Perforated 11½ by 12 (variety).

1 centime reddish-brown
10 ,, lilac-grey
25 ,, blue

B. Inverted Surcharge reads from upper right to lower left-hand corner.

On issue of 1865-72. Rouletted in Colour.

| | | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 centime | red-brown .. .. .. | 6 0 | 8 0 |
| 20 ,, | grey-brown .. .. .. | 10 0 | 10 0 |
| 30 ,, | red-violet .. .. .. | — | — |
| 40 ,, | orange (later Frankfort impression) | — | — |
| 1 franc (UN FRANC) on 37½c. stone .. | | 15 0 | 15 0 |

On issue of 1876. Printed in Luxembourg. Perforated 13.

| | | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 centime | brown .. .. .. .. | 1 3 | 1 9 |
| 2 ,, | black .. .. .. .. | 2 0 | 3 0 |
| 4 ,, | green .. .. .. .. | 10 0 | 12 6 |
| 5 ,, | orange-yellow .. .. .. | — | 25 0 |
| 10 ,, | grey-lilac .. .. .. | 3 0 | 4 0 |
| 12½ ,, | rose .. .. .. .. | — | — |

# Exchange Club Collecting.

By H. A. SLADE.

*(Hon. Sec. of the Herts Philatelic Society.)*

Concluded from p. 63.

TO those proposing to start a general collection who have neither Philatelic friends at home from whom they can beg, nor complaisant ones abroad whom they can worry through the post, I would fain offer two suggestions. Firstly, the purchase of a large packet of stamps; and, secondly, membership of a respectable and well-known Exchange Club. A good packet of a thousand varieties of postage stamps may readily be purchased for a couple of sovereigns "as advertized"; this would form a substantial nucleus, and would make a fairly good show in one's album. One can join one or more of the numerous Exchange Clubs for a nominal sum (2s. annual subscription, or a very small entrance fee, is about the average), and as no commission is charged on purchases, the beginner is able to inspect large selections priced considerably below catalogue. Providing references are satisfactory, there need be no difficulty as regards admission, for buyers are as cordially welcomed by secretaries as are contributors of sheets. The reason for this is obvious.

The packet purchased from the dealer will take care that you are supplied with the very commonest varieties, and the best thing that remains is to fill up gaps from the Club packets as quickly as the length of your purse and opportunity allow. Some beginners are foolish enough to take poor specimens of rare stamps because they are priced cheaply, and they despair of ever being in a position to be able to obtain perfect copies. This is a mistake, as the proposition that a poor copy is better than no stamp at all is a dangerous one, and will not hold water in the eyes of those best able to judge: it should be eschewed accordingly. Take nothing that is discoloured, badly centred, torn or minus perforations, and you will never regret your decision whenever you exhibit your treasures or whenever circumstances direct you to turn them into filthy lucre. Although it is always easier to buy than to sell, yet the purchase of a collection will oftentimes prove a good investment. Beyond the acquisition of new varieties, the duplicates are exceedingly useful for private exchange purposes, or for making up sheets for Club packets. Do not, however, buy a collection from a mere advertisement or from a description of the contents. Look over it first and carefully scrutinize the condition of the stamps. Even so you will sooner or later come into possession of a rapidly-increasing number of useless and damaged specimens that will become a veritable white elephant if they are not consigned to their proper place—one's enemies or the waste paper basket.

A somewhat remarkable reason is given in a contemporary as to why beginners should not join an Exchange Club until dealers' stocks of stamps quoted up to one penny each have been exhausted. The

argument runs that dealers are the first distributors of stamps to collectors, and if their businesses are destroyed by the co-operative methods of clubs, there will be a time when many issues cannot be obtained, because it will not pay the large dealers to import them. This, to say the least of it, seems somewhat ingenious. In the first place, it is taken for granted that the beginner does not begin to hanker for the rarer stamps until he has been supplied with every common or garden variety that does not boast of a greater market value than the modest penny. How many tyros would confine themselves in this manner? Further, it points to a likelihood of Exchange Clubs exercising an injurious and a supplanting tendency towards dealers: this can never be the case to any appreciable extent. Though Exchange Clubs are certainly co-operative, they exist mainly for the disposal of collectors' duplicates and superfluous stamps. The office of the dealer, on the other hand, is to supply the wants of thousands of Philatelists, many of whom have probably never even heard of the existence of such clubs. Were every collector in England to become an active member in an Exchange Club, his contributions for sheets must still be obtained from somewhere. And to whom must application eventually be made if not to the dealer? One cannot purchase from amateurs indefinitely: an increasing number of new issues come over from foreign post offices at first hand, but for the obsolete varieties we turn instinctively to the stamp emporium and the auction mart. And, lastly, I do not think there is much reason to anticipate the dearth of certain issues, because it will not pay dealers to import them. As long as Philately retains its hold on the public so long will the demand keep up the supply. Stamps are now imported like other merchandise, and competition has lowered the rates of profit very much during the past few years: but this does good, and imports a stimulus all round. Doubtless many of the recent speculative issues will be procured with difficulty later on, but they will never become rare in the true sense of the word. Of a surety they will never be missed. They were made for fleecing the collector rather than for postal purposes, and the collector is sagacious enough to term them "wall paper," and to act up to that definition.

I am convinced that if the objects and scope of Exchange Clubs were more widely understood, many Philatelists who now live in outer darkness would hasten to join. With intelligent management they help to knit collectors closely and harmoniously together, and often open up facilities for private exchange and acquaintance that would otherwise be lost. Certainly they create a position in which much may be gained and little can be lost.

# Notes on Transvaals.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

AT last Transvaals are having their day. The croaker, the ignorant, and the unbeliever, are silent. Their prophesies, their cheap sneers, at what they did not understand, are things of the past. They are all now on the rush to secure old and valuable Transvaals at the "knock out" prices of the past, but they are a bit after the fair. Transvaals are appreciating too rapidly for old prices to be maintained. Prices are broken in every direction; even common modern stamps are getting surprisingly scarce. And this is not the result of artificial booming. It is the natural result of the trend of matters political, which any student of history might have foreseen, years and years ago. I have always firmly believed in the ultimate and irresistible incorporation of the Transvaal into the British Empire, and I have stuck to my opinion, and my stamps. Further, I have consistently endeavoured to persuade other collectors that Transvaals were worth collecting from every point of view, the Philatelic as well as the Political. Precious few have taken the advice, and now they probably wish they had, for Transvaals are not only first favourites to-day, they are about the only country for which there is a really active demand in a season otherwise very dull. Their future is assured, as assured as the stability of the British Empire, of which they will now form part. Historically, they have no equals, for no other stamps illustrate on their face such interesting and momentous changes as they do. From the Philatelic point of view, they are crowded with interest in every issue. Even the hungry specialist, whose means are unlimited, will find Transvaals a tough business, and that he will need patience, and perseverance, and long searching, to complete and get tired of its splendid range of issues.

### What Stamps are now in use?

We should all of us like to know what stamps are now being used in the Transvaal. The war has changed most things, and probably it is resulting in many strange and curious makeshifts in current postal issues. When I last heard from Mr. Isaac Van Alphen, the genial Postmaster-General of the South African Republic, an entirely new issue, with new designs, was in course of preparation. The Boer Government had decided in future to print its own stamps. They have for many years, since 1885, in fact, been printed at the Government Printing Establishment in Holland. But some months ago the Volksraad decided to have everything done locally. Hence the engraving firm of Delfos Bros. of Pretoria were commissioned to prepare some new designs, one with a portrait of President Kruger and another of the arms of the State. This new issue was expected to be ready about the end of last year. The war has supervened, and what has happened in the inner world of the Postal Administration of the South African Republic, the outer world of eager, anxious, Philatelists would very, very much like to know, but we must possess our souls in patience till "Bobs" marches into Pretoria.

# The Forum.

## Can Collectors by the Publication of a Collectors' Priced Catalogue Regulate the Selling Price of Stamps?

### Affirmative. By H. R. Oldfield.

WHEN asked to join in this discussion I thought the subject was "Is a collectors' catalogue desirable, and, if so, should it be a priced catalogue or not?"

The question at issue is, I find, slightly different, and yet the subject is practically the same, for IF a collectors' catalogue can be prepared, and IF it is accepted, prices cannot but be materially affected by its figures. The "ifs" represent the difficulties that have to be overcome, but do not touch the point as to desirability. May I deal with the subject, therefore, in the following order :—

1.—Is a collectors' catalogue desirable?
2.—Can the "ifs" be disposed of?
3.—How will prices be affected?

1.—Our hobby possesses the very attractive feature that money expended upon it is not lost, but, on the contrary, *ought* to be productive, and for this reason there are more adherents of Philately than of any other.

There are very few of us who could afford to spend money over our collections but for the knowledge that the eventual loss (if any) cannot amount to a large proportion of the expenditure, and instead of a loss there may be a profit, and that there *must* be a profit for those who will take the trouble to study the subject and who possess ordinary business capacity.

And yet new comers almost invariably have to learn by experience that casual collecting involves financial loss. Why?—because they buy without knowledge and in reliance upon the prices in some one or other of the existing catalogues.

Unfortunately, but naturally, they invest at first in stamps of the common and medium classes, where the value bears a much lower proportion to the price than is the case with rare stamps.

Many a new comer, finding that to realise means a loss of 50%, 75%, or more, upon his early purchases, and knowing that to obtain a fine collection involves considerable expense, naturally hesitates to run the risk, gradually loses interest in stamp collecting and finally leaves our ranks.

He might face a loss of 10 or 20%, and with a reliable guide to values this would be possible even for a collector who did not care to give much time to the study of his subject, but for want of such a guide we lose many a promising recruit.

This is not exaggeration—there is no catalogue price of less than 1d., and yet the actual value of many a stamp catalogued at from 1d. to 6d. is but a very small fraction of the catalogue price.

You all know a rough rule in valuing a collection, viz.—omit all stamps under 6d. and take 75% of the catalogue price of those that are left. Even then, in the absence of rare stamps, the result would very often be considerably above the real market value.

Dealers are not misled by trade catalogues, but many collectors are, and they often find it out when they want to realise their collections.

My contention is that if we had a reliable guide to values many fresh adherents would be secured *and retained* for our hobby, and many discouraging losses now incurred would be avoided.

Broadly speaking, prices in dealers' catalogues represent either "stock *possessed*" or "stock *prospective*"; or in other words, the prices are either those at which they want to sell or at which they wish to buy, modified by their respective feelings of what their duties are to their customers, by the restraining influences of the price lists of their competitors, and in some cases by the necessity for maintaining the reputation any special catalogue may have acquired among collectors generally.

There is no necessity to attack the dealers: there is no desire on my part to do so. Collectors could not get on very well without them, but their so-called *catalogues* are *really* only *price lists*, as many of them very frankly tell us, so that the *extent* to which they subordinate their trade interests to the welfare of Philately is all to their credit.

It is foolish to attack them: they render many and valuable services to collectors; but it is quite another matter to accept their price lists as a standard guide to values.

One of our opponents takes objection that it might not be possible to buy stamps at the prices (he should have said "values") given in the collectors' catalogue, but in so doing he only proves that he does not appreciate what the collectors' catalogue is intended to be, and as he admits that he cannot now (in many cases) buy stamps at dealers' catalogue prices, I hardly see the force of the objection, even from his own point of view.

He also refers to cheap prices and forgeries, but how can an attack on the folly of buying stamps at cheap prices and only securing forgeries affect the question we are discussing? In the absence, indeed, of a reliable guide to values, how can prices be said to be cheap or dear?

Many of the remarks made by this gentleman, and also by Mr. Castle in the December number of the *London Philatelist*, are based on a misapprehension of what a collectors' catalogue should be, and are really in favour of it, for:—the very essence of the idea of a collectors' catalogue is that it will not represent a stock to be disposed of or purchased, but be a *guide to values*. I really think I have said enough, and more than enough, to show the *desirability* of a collectors' priced catalogue.

2.—What about the "ifs"? I, for one, should not be writing if I thought the difficulties were insuperable.

The questions of expense and self-interest must not be put on one side, as one of our "negative" opponents so "generously" offers to do. I can assure him we "affirmatives" do not require any generosity, and he and his friends will find they have quite enough to do to defend their own position without giving anything away. Indeed, it almost makes one smile to see them yield up the points that present the real difficulties, and rely on gratuitous assumptions "that collectors cannot agree to face the task," "that the catalogue *must* be international," and "that periodical revision is impossible," and upon such arguments as those that specialists are not to be trusted, that self-interest would spoil the work, and that specialists, unless they are "specialist-collector-dealers," can be of no help.

Is it to tempt the affirmative writers to deal with such feeble criticism and skip the real difficulties, so as to leave our negative opener an opportunity in his closing remarks of bringing them forward when the time to meet them has passed, and so triumphantly close the debate? No, I cannot think so. I believe all collectors will gladly welcome the collectors' catalogue if it can be prepared and issued.

I feel we must not look to the premier Philatelic Society to take the lead so far as a *priced* catalogue is concerned. A feeling is abroad that learned Societies are concerned solely with the more scientific aspects of the subjects which they are formed to promote; no other Society has ever attempted such a thing, and the matter of mere price does not come within the scope of its operations. These views may be sound and wise; at any rate, the result of the discussions which have taken place shows us that for the present we cannot hope our premier Society will take any action.

Who will step into the breach?

I know that willing workers can be obtained to help, a consultative committee could no doubt be formed, and the services of specialists would be given without expense. I think a meeting place could be obtained also without expense—possibly the Philatelic Society would permit the use of its rooms for this purpose (I mention this possibility as a private individual and without any warrant or authority whatever).

It is essential, however, that some capable business man should undertake the management and act as Editor, and it is here and in the printing and illustrations that the expense comes in.

No one can be expected—however enthusiastic a collector he may be—to give the time and energy necessary to edit the catalogue and carry through the requisite business arrangements without renumeration; but I think that, if undertaken by the right person, the copyright of this catalogue would furnish its own reward.

The right person, to my thinking, is a Proprietor-Philatelic-Journalist, who is also a collector.

All the Philatelic Journals are not trade properties; there is more than one which is owned and managed by a collector who is not a dealer—the difficulties and objections which stand in the way of any *Society* taking up this work would not apply to him.

Let the proprietor or Editor of one of such Journals come forward and offer to attempt the task in conjunction with a representative consultative committee; let him undertake the printing and business management in consideration of his owning the copyright or having the sole right of sale of the catalogue when prepared.

It could be published first of all in the pages of his Journal (useful copy being thus provided), and subsequently reprinted in parts or as a whole.

So much for the first of our "ifs."

Next, as regards the acceptance of such a catalogue.

So far as collectors are concerned this will depend upon the compilers, and mainly whether the values are correct or not. To ensure this I suggest the formation of a really representative consultative committee, whose decision as to values should be binding. Specialists in different countries would be asked to give their views; and these would be submitted to the committee, by whom (and not by the Editor or the individual specialist) the values would ultimately be settled.

Certain definite principles would of course require to be laid down —values in all cases could not be stated with absolute precision; the catalogue would not be a *price list* but a *guide* to values. There would be no serious difficulty as regards common and medium stamps, while as regards rarities a large margin would be required in many cases. Stamps may be said to fall under three classes—*common*, say of the value of 6d. and less; *medium*, from 6d. to 20s.; and *rare*, above £1 in value. Most of the objections in Mr. Castle's article as to fixing values apply only to the class of rare and very rare stamps, and most collectors, when they reach that stage in their purchases, have acquired some useful knowledge by previous painful experiences.

Mr. Castle forgets that the collectors' catalogue will be most useful to the average collector who is getting his experience and ofttimes being frightened by it, although I have no doubt that many a specialist turning to some new country would also appreciate its usefulness.

Varieties would have to be valued with some regard to the popularity of the country concerned, the nature of the variety in question, and the reputation of the country by which it was issued. Recognized rarities, errors in colour or design, changes of paper or perforation would all stand in different classes.

I do not say the catalogue would be perfect, but it would at any rate be free from the objections and abuses to which the present dealers' catalogues are open.

Exchange Societies would probably accept it as the recognised standard between their members, and the objectionable 50% discount system might gradually disappear.

Here then is the scheme!—what are the objections?

We are told the specialist is not to be trusted; self-interest will spoil his work. Is not that a little unfair? Philately owes a good deal to the specialist; he does not keep to himself the knowledge he acquires, but shares it with his brother collectors. He also would share with others in the benefits conferred by a reliable guide to values. The collectors' catalogue would *not* be reliable if prepared mainly in the interests of specialists themselves. Give them credit for a little common sense, for self-interest cuts both ways; and besides, the consultative committee (not the specialists) would finally fix the values in the light of all the information they could obtain.

Again, it is said the specialist has not got sufficient knowledge of stocks and quantities; he gets what he wants and does not bother

himself further unless he is a "specialist-collector-dealer." Really the negative writers must indeed be in a bad way if they have to descend to this kind of so-called argument. Cheap sarcasm does not help their case, but is rather a sign of its inherent weakness. This particular writer is evidently not himself a specialist, or if he is, does not know very much about it.

To specialise in any country involves a substantial expenditure of cash, in some cases amounting to hundreds or even thousands of pounds. Now what would you think of a man who invested his money to this extent without regard not only to stocks and quantities but to many other things upon which the safety of his investment depends? You might justifiably call him a fool or a speculator; but he would not be an intelligent man of business, and he certainly would not be described as a specialist.

The writer pays the premier Society a very poor compliment when he takes it for granted their specialist members know so little of the materials from which real values can be deduced that they can be of no assistance, and when he assumes such knowledge is vested alone in the dealers and in beings whom he terms "specialist-collector-dealers."

There may be some, but there are not many collectors who specialise solely with the object of re-selling their stamps at a profit; there are few who can afford to specialise without satisfying themselves to a greater or less extent as to the real value of the stamps they purchase.

Once more, the negative writers tell us the specialists won't help without being paid, and that they will require big fees. The negative opener does not say this, and would not endorse it; he knows very well how absolutely absurd such a statement is.

Apparently the general collector little knows how much real hard work is done by the members of the Philatelic Society, London, purely from love of their subject and without expectation or desire for remuneration other than the appreciation of their fellow-members and the increase of their own knowledge.

I believe this applies equally to the provincial and other Societies, but I am content to speak only of what I know.

I affirm without hesitation that all the specialists of the premier Society will gladly at all times do what they can to further the interests of Philately without fee or reward of any kind, large or small.

Truly our negative friends seem to fall very short of practical and sensible arguments—if we except those which they are so anxious to waive—for looking through what has been written hitherto I can find only two more objections:—

The difficulty of revision.

The necessity that the catalogue should be International.

As regards revision, this could be done when the catalogue was reprinted, and say every four or five years after, and if proper latitude were allowed in cases of doubt revision would not present any serious difficulty.

An *International* catalogue is not essential in the first instance. If British collectors accepted ours, other countries would follow suit and an International catalogue would come in due course.

3.—Now to my third and final point. How will prices be affected by the collectors' catalogue? There is a good deal of confusion of argument upon this point arising from the different considerations which affect individual stamps dependent upon the class to which they belong, common, medium, or rare. The proportion of rare stamps is comparatively small, and yet some writers on this subject dwell upon the difficulty of valuing rare stamps, and then treat their arguments as applying to the common and medium classes, thus giving themselves and conveying to their readers a totally wrong impression of the subject as a whole. I cannot, however, enlarge upon this now, as I have already trespassed far too much upon your Editor's space.

Among collectors we have seen that prices must be affected if the catalogue is accepted. Would its authority be recognised and accepted by the dealers? The negative opener asks "who is to compel the dealer to accept these prices" (the word should properly be "values" not "prices"). The answer is very simple, it is "the force of circumstances." Of course the catalogue will not regulate the dealer's "rent, rates, taxes, and salaries," but it must affect his buying and selling prices; all the dealer wants, or ought to want, is a fair margin between these, so as to allow him his legitimate profit.

At present the collector has no reliable guide to values other than his own limited experience—the dealers have it all their own way. If the values in the collectors' catalogue are on the whole wrong the catalogue will not materially affect prices. If they are on the whole right the collectors' catalogue will become a recognised standard of authority and will and must influence prices.

It will not hurt the dealers in the least in the long run; it may do away with some illegitimate profits where prices are too high or too low, but any such loss will be more than made up by an increase in customers, for in Philately, as in other things, confidence is everything.

# Notable Philatelists.

## MR. J. W. JONES.

SOME good folks cherish the opinion that the term "Philatelist" should be reserved for the exclusive use of designating the higher class of Stamp Collectors, who, by dint of consistent study and research, entitle themselves to the respect and gratitude of their fellow Collectors. But this is a very narrow and grudging application of the term. There are not a few who, having started as Stamp Collectors, have, by the force of circumstances, drifted into Stamp Dealing, and have carried their old collecting enthusiasms into

their trading. The stamps that pass and repass through their hands are studied with almost as much interest as were their old possessions in the days of their apprenticeship. To this class of dealer the Philatelist, pure and simple, owes many a hint, and many a discovery. Of such a class is our old friend, Mr. J. W. Jones.

**As a Collector.**

His collecting days reach back into 1867. Of course he collected then on general lines. Subsequently, the illness of his father compelled him to give his exclusive attention to other business, and he sold many of his better stamps to the late Mr. Tapling. In 1882, having more leisure, he started again, and when the auctions were inaugurated he bought regularly, and sold a few of his leading rarities. In fact, he almost insensibly drifted into dealing. A good thing was being overlooked, and he secured it, to sell again, later on, duly and properly labelled.

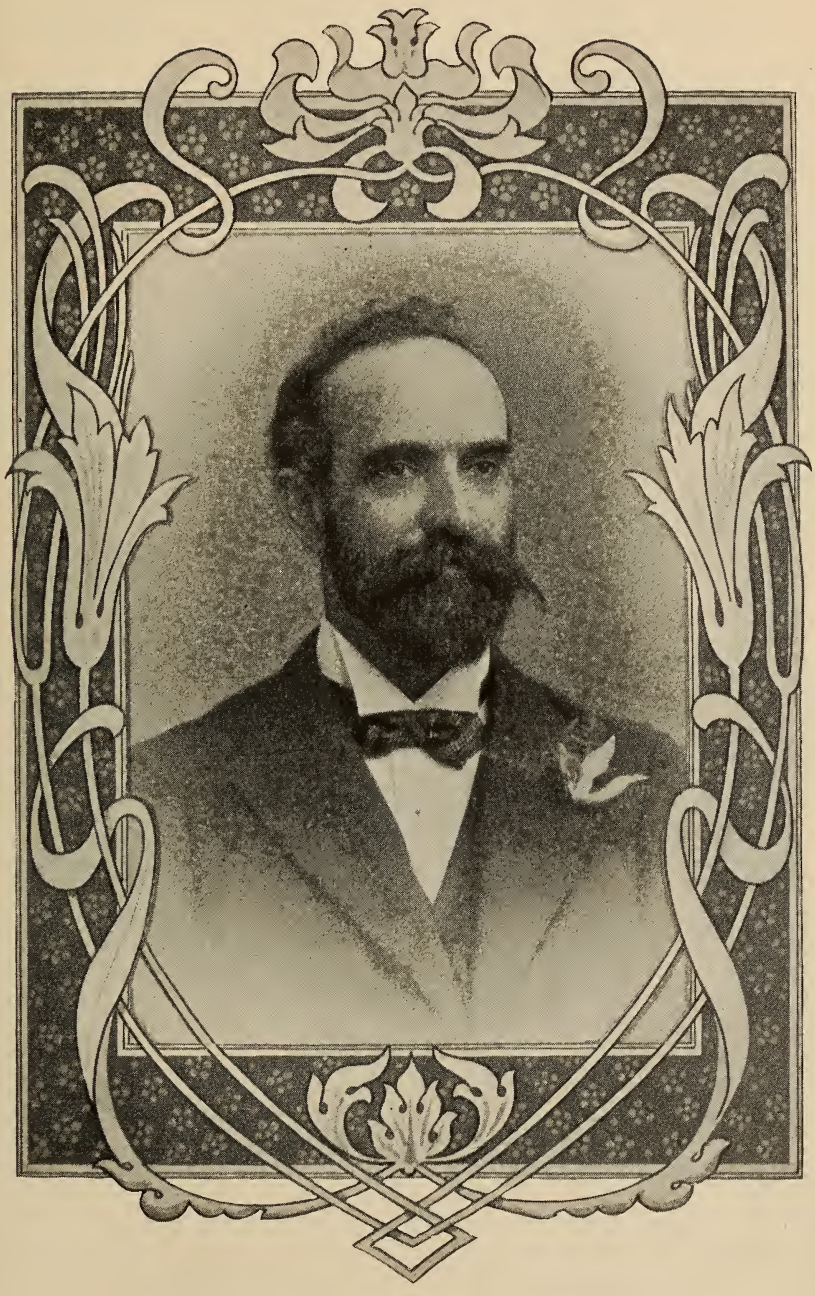
**As a Stamp Dealer.**

In 1891 he entered the business of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., as manager of their new shop department in the Strand. He had a free hand to collect and accumulate as of yore, with the restriction that if he sold anything it was to be offered, in the first instance, to his firm. This left him free to indulge the unquenchable thirst that the real Philatelist acquires for the acquisition of good things in the stamp line. From that day to this he has been accumulating unconsidered trifles that are now becoming extremely scarce in mint condition. His special weakness was always for unused in the very finest condition. Hence his stock, with which he opens on his own account at 61, Cheapside, E.C., is mostly made up of stamps in the pink of perfection, most of them never having had even a mount attached to them till now. His connection with the great firm of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., was severed by a temporary illness, and the compulsory order of his medical adviser, that some months' rest was absolutely necessary. After three solid months of enforced idleness he has come back to his stamps in restored health, with all his old enthusiasms, and a grand stock of most desirable things. He has filled two handsomely-bound sets of Gibbons' Imperial Albums, one with unused, and the other with used stamps, and the blanks are by no means conspicuous. In additional to these show volumes, he has a splendid series of stock books, all scientifically arranged. His unquestioned experience in the detection of forgeries and reprints, cleaned stamps and fiscal cancellations, has enabled him to keep his fine stock absolutely free of these weeds.

**Universal Philatelic Provider.**

He informs us that he intends also to keep a stock of the best of everything that a Philatelist needs in the way of albums, catalogues, duplicate books, mounts, &c. In the little matter of mounts he has the confidence to believe that he has "struck oil" with a good thing that will stick like the best of friends, and yet part company with both stamp and album leaf at call without leaving a trace of its former connection, and he has backed his opinion by stocking them by the million.

## Notable Philatelists.



Mr. J. W. Jones.

# Philately in the Mags.

**British Guiana, 1851, 2c. rose.**

M. Moens having, in *Le Timbre Post*, set the fashion of hunting up the history of known specimens of great varieties in the case of the "Post Office" Mauritius, Mr. Bacon has now followed suit with the British Guiana, 1851, 2c. rose in the *London Philatelist*. He accounts, in all, for ten copies of this great rarity as follows:—

I.

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

II.

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

III.

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

IV.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Neil R. McKinnon | 1877 | — |
| Mr. T. Ridpath | Oct., 1878 | — |
| Parisian Collector | ,, ,, | — |

V. AND VI. (PAIR)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. E. C. Luard | 1889 | — |
| Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson & Co. | 1890 | — |
| Parisian Collector | 1890 about | £175 |

VII. AND VIII. (PAIR).

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

IX. AND X. (PAIR).

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

**Crete: Retymno Stamps.**

Dr. Socolis sends the *Monthly Journal* the following translation of official notices relating to the Retymno stamps from the *Daily Orders of the Department of Retymno*:—

"Daily Order No. 166, Town of Retymno, June 30, 1899.

"§ 2. On the date of the installation of the provisional Post Office for the interior of the Department of Retymno (1/13 May, 1899), there being no lithographer in Retymno we had three dies made for the manufacture by hand of the postage stamps required.

"According to the official report of the military officer in charge of the Post Office, the following stamps were thus made:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 metallik, | green, | 10,440. |
| 1 ,, | blue, | 4,800. |
| 2 ,, | rose, | 1,200. |
| 2 ,, | black, | 12,965. |

"There were sold to the public:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 metallik, | green, | 9,222. |
| 1 ,, | blue, | 4,800. |
| 2 ,, | rose, | 1,200. |
| 2 ,, | black, | 11,675. |

"The value of these stamps amounts to 39,772 metallik. The remainders are to be destroyed, viz.:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 metallik, | green, | 1,218. |
| 2 ,, | black, | 2,290. |

"As the manufacture of these stamps by hand was very inconvenient, new stamps were issued, of the values of 1, 2, and 4 metallik (4 metallik = 1 grossion). These stamps were lithographed in Athens, in six (6) different colours—red, blue, green, violet, orange, and yellow. The whole quantity of these stamps were sold for 41,160 metallik, as follows:—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 metallik, | 6 colours, | 980 of each | = | 5,880 met |
| 2 ,, | ,, | ,, | = | 11,760 ,, |
| 4 ,, | ,, | ,, | = | 23,520 ,, |

"As all the stamps of this issue were sold out, we ordered a fresh issue from Athens, which is now in use."

(The book does not contain a description of this new issue.)

"§ 3. For the purpose of destroying the 1,218 green stamps of 1 metallik, and the 1,290 black of 2 metallik, and also the three (?) dies with which these stamps were struck by hand, and the dies from which were lithographed" (from which the lithographic stones were prepared?) "in Athens the second and third issue (this is still in use), I appoint a Committee, composed of Lieutenant Selichoff, Director of the provisional Post Office, and Messrs. Nicolas Koronakis, Antonio Trifillis, and Themistocles Pappadakis, with Captain Theophilus

Schoiesky as President, to destroy tomorrow, Thursday, 1/13 July, 1899, all these stamps, and they are to furnish me with a report accordingly.

"(Signed), TH. VON CHIOSTAK,
"Governor."

This Major Evans accepts as proof that the stamps were manufactured under regularly constituted authority, and that the remainders and dies were destroyed with due ceremony.

**France: 1c. 1877.**

Those who have a weakness for shades will find great scope for their energies in the French 1 centime of 1877. Mr. Duerst in the *Monthly Journal* writes:—

"This stamp, having been issued in the same design and colour for twenty-three years, has necessarily undergone many changes in the shades of the paper and the printing ink, owing to the numberless printings required. According to a writer in the *Echo de la Timbrologie*, no less than eighty-three shades exist, all distinctly different, and in his opinion collectible.

The following seem to be the principal varieties:—

Slate-blue on *grey-blue*, 1877-1881.
Dark slate-blue on *grey-blue*, 1877-1881.
Black on *dark bluish*, 1881-1899.
,, ,, *light bluish*, 1881-1899.
,, ,, *indigo-blue*, 1880.
,, ,, *grey-blue*, 1891, 1892, 1895.
,, ,, ,, (nearly *white*), 1894.
Grey on *bluish*.
,, ,, *grey-blue*, 1882 and 1892.
Light grey on *dark bluish*, 1894.
Grey on *dull grey-blue*, 1894."

**Tonga: 1895-6.**

Mr. Gordon Smith having examined some sheets of the stamps of 1895-6 sends the following details to the *Monthly Journal*:—

"The 1d., Type 12 is in sheets formed of two panes, side by side, each pane consisting of four rows of six. The 5d. of the same type is in sheets of two panes, similarly placed, but each pane includes six rows of six; and as the sheet examined had no top margin there may have been more rows in the pane, though probably there were not, as the value of the sheet as described is an even sum—£1 10s. The re-engraved 2½d., with various surcharges, is in sheets of the same size as those of the 1d. The error "SURCHARCE," in the ½d. on the 2½d., exists on the sixth and eighteenth stamps of each pane. Probably two rows were overprinted at a time.

"Of the surcharge shown in Type 13, there are two very distinct varieties in the relative position of the words "*Half*" and "*Penny*." They occur as follows, on an imperfect sheet that was examined:—

"'*H*' over '*P*' on Nos. 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24.

"'*H*' over '*e*' on Nos. 6, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23. And No. 24 has no hyphen after the word '*Penny*.'"

**Port Said Provisional 25c. on 10c.**

M. F. Marconnet, the eminent French specialist has in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* exposed the speculative character of the 25c. on 10c. chronicled by us in February (p. 48). He writes:—

"The philatelic journals last December announced that the Port Said post-office found itself suddenly bereft of 25c. stamps. Its postmaster was placed in the sad predicament of surcharging 2,000 ten-cent stamps and transforming them thereby into 25-cent specimens. There are three types of surcharge; first, the figure 25 in red over the old value; then as the figures were not conspicuous enough the surcharge "*vingt cinq*" was applied; and, finally, in order to make the little job complete, several sheets were surcharged with both the above types, thus creating a third type. The authors of this work have taken pains to say that in order to prevent speculation in this issue, postage had to be paid in cash to the post-office employes placing the surcharged stamps on the mail matter.

"Unfortunately, this is all humbug, and we are now in presence of a philatelic swindle.* * *"

**Poonch: Cancellations.**

In continuation of the warnings of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, against Poonch stamps obliterated with the "L" obliterator, Capt. Godfrey desires to warn collectors against the same stamps obliterated with the postmark of the British Post Office at Poonch, which was not opened till after the stamps became obsolete.

**Sirmoor's Double Issue.**

The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* asks: "Why has Sirmoor two issues concurrently in use with the same values in each?" The *Philatelic Journal of India* replies: "There is *absolutely no justification* for the double issue, and the whole affair is discreditable."

**Cape of Good Hope: New 1d.**

The *Monthly Circular* publishes the following information concerning the new 1d. stamp chronicled and illustrated by us last month (p. 71):—

"The colonial arms figure on the upper part, and are encircled with sprays of bay. The lower portion represents Table Bay, with the mountain and Signal Hill in the background. The designer of the stamp is Mr. Sturman, of the Secretary's Staff in the G.P.O. It is believed that the authorities have no intention of using the design for any other denomination."

# Notes and News.

### The War Fund Auction.

The Sale of the stamps sent in for the Philatelists' War Fund will be held by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper, on Wednesday, 28th March, 1900.

There will be some notable lots for competition, including 3 lire Tuscany, unused; Govt. Parcels, 1d., inverted surcharge; Great Britian, V.R., unused pair; set of seven Trinidad, surcharged, "9d.," being one of four sets printed in honour of the Duke of York's visit to the island, &c.

The catalogues will have a showy and appropriate cover, and will serve as a memento of the occasion.

It is expected that there will be quite a representative gathering of leading Philatelists on the occasion, and it has been suggested that a photograph should be made of the auction in progress.

In addition to the stamps some Philatelic literature will be included, and also a few curiosities in the shape of designs made up of stamps and framed, &c.

### U.S.A. in Small Sheets.

The small sheets of some countries are great favourites with wealthy specialists. To them, if to no others, the following information from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* concerning the projected issue of U.S.A. stamps in books of small sheets, will be particularly interesting. Now that Uncle Sam has started in the stamp dealing business, he evidently intends to be most obliging.

"It has been found that sheets of stamps in their present shape will not be adapted for use in book form, but that new plates will have to be made for this purpose. The pages will consist of blocks of six stamps only, perforated three times vertically and once horizontally, thus leaving a straight edge on the outside of each stamp, making it impossible for any specimens to appear perforate on all four sides.

"The plates are to consist of 360 subjects instead of 400 as usual. After each two horizontal, rows there will be a space of some width, allowing a fair margin on the outside of the stamps after cutting them apart. New perforating machines will be required which skip every alternate row. After being perforated the sheets will be cut into strips, *i.e.*, horizontal rows of two in depth. The final cutting will not be done until after the covers have been stitched on the long strips which will be sufficient for a number of books.

"There will be probably no place for an imprint and plate number, and it is not expected to appear at all."

For the present only 2c. stamps are to be sold in book form, but the other values will, no doubt be demanded in similar form and will, of course, be supplied, and if plate numbers are needed, it is not to be expected that the Stamp Dealing Department of the Great Republic will refuse to supply them.

After this announcement there will be no need to write, "Other Stamp Dealing Republics please copy." That will come as a natural consequence. *Ergo*, we may be on the eve of important Philatelic developments, when stamps will be collected in sheets instead of in pairs or blocks.

### Postal Privilege for Soldiers.

The War Office has recently issued the following announcement:—

"Although for the convenience of Her Majesty's forces in South Africa Army post offices have been established at which postage stamps are obtainable, cases arise in which soldiers at the front are not within reach of these offices, and cannot therefore prepay their correspondence.

"It has consequently been arranged that members of the forces so situated shall, within reasonable limits, be allowed to send home letters without prepayment, the cost being defrayed out of Army funds.

"The same privilege cannot be extended to letters sent from this country to the front, but every assistance will be given as regards postage deficient on letters addressed to the soldiers themselves."

### Major Evans Sarcastic.

The genial Editor of the *Monthly Journal* is a bit of a humourist, as we all know; but he can also be sarcastic. The *Weekly Philatelic Era*, U.S., lately trod on the tail of his coat. Major Evans recently set us all laughing with the following on a recent Tongan celebration-of-wedding stamp, "Are we to understand that the institution of marriage has only recently been introduced among the Tongese, or does the stamp celebrate the union of any special Tongoose and Tongander?" This the *Era* styles "disgusting"; whereupon the Major humbly replies, "We are very sorry indeed to have been so 'disgusting,' and we deeply sympathise with the writer of the above, having once been young ourselves, and serious, as the young are apt to be." Delicious!

### Philatelists at the Front.

To the names already given of Philatelists at the Front in South Africa we may now add Lieut. Stanley M. Castle (only son of Mr. M. P. Castle, J.P.), and Dr. Paul Bush, a well-known Bristol Philatelist.




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**British Bechuanaland.** — The *Metropolitan Philatelist* recently chronicled the 2d. bistre, wmk. Crown and C.A., surcharged for this colony as a new discovery. We had our doubts about the stamp, but not having the time to look up the matter passed it over for the time. The *Monthly Journal* for January exposes the "discovery" as a well-known forgery, and explains that the Cape stamps were overprinted for Bechuanaland in 1886 when only the 2d. ochre, with wmk. cabled anchor, were left in stock, the last of the Crown and C.A. having been issued early in 1884.

**Cape of Good Hope.** *Erratum.* — An obvious printer's error in our last month's chronicle (p. 71) spoke of the new penny stamp as a ½d. stamp.

**Fiji.**—The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 6d. printed on both sides, and the 2d. in a lighter shade of green.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has received the ½d. stamp in a deeper shade than hitherto, on thicker paper, and with a new perforation for that value.

*Adhesive.*

½d. greenish black, *perf.* 11 × 12.

**India.** KISHENGARH. — The *Monthly Journal* says: "We have seen a few more of the 1a. adhesives of the first type, and gather that they are printed from electrotypes, or casts, in blocks of eight—two horizontal rows of four—some of the impressions being distinguishable by little defects and specks among the lettering. These are in a slightly *yellower* shade than the first that we saw.

We have also seen a few more of the ½a. and 1a. of the current design, of which we give illustrations. These were evidently printed singly, on paper ruled in rectangles for that purpose, and we find that the ½a., *blue*, stamps vary greatly in shade, according as the die was thickly inked or not. The tint of *blue* varies also, and we find two fairly distinct shades of the 1a., *lilac*."

NABHA AND JHIND.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* regrets to announce that these two States are about to get 100 sheets of the ¼ anna stamps each. The Imperial Post Office, says the *P.J.I.*, "does not consider itself justified in refusing them, as they may be required for postal use, but it intends to restrict the supply as much as possible."

**Malta.**—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is informed that farthing stamps are expected shortly to be placed in use for the purpose of prepaying local postage on newspapers, and that the ½d., and 1d., and possibly the other values, are going to have "postage and revenue" added to the inscription.

**New Zealand.** - The *Monthly Circular* says the Postage Due Stamps were issued on December 1st. The design consists of the value in a circle, with a label at the bottom inscribed POSTAGE DUE. The perforation is 11; wmk., Star N.Z.

*Adhesives.*

*Postage Due Stamps.*

½d. green, value in red.
1d. ,, ,, ,,
2d. ,, ,, ,,
4d. ,, ,, ,,
5d. ,, ,, ,,
6d. ,, ,, ,,
10d. ,, ,, ,,
1s. ,, ,, ,,
2s. ,, ,, ,,

**Seychelles.**—A 15c. stamp of the current type is announced.

*Adhesive.*

15c. ultramarine.

**Straits Settlements.** FEDERATED MALAY STATES.—The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* chronicles an issue for the Federated Malay States. The tiger head issue of Negri Sembilau has been surcharged "Federated — Malay States" in two lines, in block capitals, in black. We presume the remaining stock of each of the separate States will be used up with a similar surcharge.

*Adhesives.*

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

**Tasmania.**—The new twopenny stamp seems to give little satisfaction in the colony. The *Australian Philatelist* publishes the following from a Tasmanian newspaper:—

"The Secretary of the Post Office is in communication with Launceston people on the subject of the new issue of twopenny stamps. It appears that the engraver, by some means at present unexplained, substituted Hobart as the design instead of Cataract Gorge. It is understood the mistake will be remedied."

## Foreign Countries.

**Austria.** LEVANT.—The *Monthly Journal* has received some of the new stamps, surcharged for use in the Levant Post Offices. The lower values have "25," "50," etc., in the upper corners only, and all have the value in Turkish currency across the bottom of the stamps.

*Adhesives.*

1 pias. on 25 h., ultramarine.
2 ,, 50 h., pale blue.
10 ,, 2 k., lavender.
20 ,, 4 k., pale green.

**Brazil.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us the 50r., 100r. and 200r. in the Postal Union colours, *i.e*, the 50r. changed from blue to green, the 100r. from carmine and black to red, and the 200r. from orange and black to blue. Perf. 11½.

*Adhesives.*

50 reis., green.
100 reis., red.
200 reis., blue.

**Colombia.** CARTAGENA. — Messrs. Bright & Son send us another provisional 5 centavos which we illustrate. Mr. Oliver informs us that this provisional is printed in rows of ten, and has the so-called control wavy lines in blue. Paper, white wove, imperf.




*Adhesive.*

5 centavos, red.

**Corea.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* has received from the Minister of the Interior a proof of the design adopted for the new issue, which is to make its appearance early this year, to mark the entry of Corea into the Postal Union. The set is to consist of fourteen values.

**Crete.**—According to the *Revue Philatelique Française*, a local post is to be opened on January 1st, 1900. The stamps are to be manufactured in London, and will be of the following values:—1, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 lepta, 1, 2, and 5 drachmae. The nine values are to show six different types,—the 10 lepta is red, the 25 lepta blue. These two bear the portrait of Prince George and are perforated, resembling to a certain extent the current stamps of the Argentine Republic. The stamp of 2 drachmae is violet, with a representation of Minos, and is rectangular in shape. The other stamps bear representations of Tallos, Hermes, Juno, and St. George. Until the admission of Crete to the Postal Union these stamps are to bear a surcharge in French: "Provisoire," or some similar word.

**Denmark.** ICELAND.—The *Monthly Journal* has received a new value for this island. It is in the current design, but printed in two colours, like the Danish stamps. Wmk. Crown, perf. about 12¾.

*Adhesive*

4 aur, grey *centre*, rose *frame*.

**France.** CHINA.—Major Evans has seen the 50 c. and 5 fr. surcharged "Chine" in *red*, and is informed that only three sheets of the lower value and one sheet of the higher were thus overprinted in *error*.

*Adhesives*

50 c., carmine; *with* "Chine" *in* red.
5 fr., lilac ,, ,,

**Germany.** MARIANNE ISLANDS.—M. Maury has received a letter from Saypan franked with a Philippine stamp of 5 centavos, rose (1898), surcharged in violet with the type illustrated.

The reason for its issue was that the Germans took possession of the Eastern Mariannes on October 12th, but did not take over the Western group until November. The Philippine stamps formerly used throughout the island were therefore issued with this surcharge for use in the Western group until the moment of cession.

**Guatemala.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 10 c. surcharged "1900 – 1 – centavo" in black in three lines.

*Adhesive.*

1 c. on 10 c., red, *black sur.*

**Japan.** CHINA.—Japan has followed the lead of Russia, and issued a set of its own current adhesives surcharged in Japanese characters with the word "China," for use in the Japanese Post Offices, established on Chinese territory. We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a full set.



*Adhesives.*

5 rins, gray, *red sur.*
1 sen, lilac-brown, *red sur.*
2 sen, green, *red sur.*
3 sen, brown-violet, *black sur.*
4 sen, carmine, *black sur.*
5 sen, orange-yellow, *red sur.*
8 sen, olive, *red sur.*
10 sen, blue *black sur.*
15 sen, violet, *black sur.*
20 sen, red-orange, *black sur.*
25 sen, blue-green, *red sur.*
50 sen, violet-brown, *black sur.*
1 yen, carmine, *black sur.*

**Liberia.**—The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the following changes in the colours of the lower values, presumably to conform to the suggestions of the Postal Union.

*Adhesives.*

1 c., dull green.
2 c., black and vermilion.
5 c., black and blue.

*Official Stamps surcharged "O.S."*

1 c., dull-green, *sur. in red.*
2 c., black and vermilion, *sur. in black.*
5 c., black and blue, *sur. in red.*

**Marshall Islands.**—According to the *Monthly Circular* the following German stamps of the obsolete type have appeared with altered surcharge Marshall-Inseln instead of Marschall-Inseln as before.

*Adhesives.*

3 pfennig, black on brown.
5 ,, ,, ,, green.
25 ,, ,, ,, orange.
50 ,, ,, ,, maroon.

**Orange Free State.**—Mr. C. E. Fagan has sent the *London Philatelist* a curious stamp stated to have been used by the Mounted Police of the Orange Free State a month or two before the war broke out.

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

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

*Official Stamp.*

No value, black on yellow.

**Siam.**—We illustrate the type of the new series of stamps chronicled by us in January last (p. 23).




**Sweden.**—We have the 1 krona value in the current type from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. It is a very neat bi-coloured stamp, the outer design being in carmine and the medallion portrait in grey black. Wmk. Crown. Perf. 13½.




*Adhesive.*

1 krona, carmine and grey black.

**United States.**—The report that postage stamps were to be overprinted with the names of the towns of issue has been verified by the actual issue of the stamps. The *Monthly Circular* has seen several values surcharged, diagonally, "Mineapolis," and has also heard of "Milwaukee—Wis.," in two horizontal lines.

**Venezuela.**—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. several of the current stamps surcharged in black, "Resellada - R F.M." as illustrated. The surcharge is said to be due to a theft of stamps from the Post Office. "Resellada" signifies "re-issued."




*Adhesives.*

5 c., blue-green.
10 c., red.
25 c., blue.
50 c., grey-black.
1 b., green.

*Registration Stamp.*

25 c., brown.

# Echoes from the Mart.

### The Hunter Sale.

We append a few of the more notable prices realised at the recent sale of the Hunter Collection in New York:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Baltimore, 5 cents, black on white | £51 |
| Brattleboro, 5c. black on buff | 64 |
| Newhaven, 5c., cut close | 63 |
| United States, 1851, 24c., lilac, imp., unused | 13 |
| ,, 1857, 5c., *brick-red* | 16 |
| ,, 1869, 30c., inverted flags, used | 76 |
| ,, New York Carrier, 2c. on 3c. | 52 |
| Confederates—Greenwood, 10c. | 44 |
| ,, Nashville, 10c., green | 21 |
| ,, Pleasant Shade, 5c., blue | 13 |
| ,, Tellico Plains, 5c. | 12 |
| British Guiana, 1850, 1 c., magenta, block of four | 28 |
| ,, 2c., black on pink, cut round with fair margin outside the circle, cancelled | 351 |
| ,, 1856, 4 c., blue, two corners restored | 87 |
| Grenada, 1882, 1d., orange and green, with red surcharge | 11 |
| Hawaii, 1851, 5c., torn and repaired | 38 |
| ,, ,, 13c., ,, ,, | 42 |
| Nevis, 1s., *laid* paper, used | 32 |
| New Brunswick, 1s., violet, cut close and thin spot | 16 |
| Newfoundland, ½ of 1s., scarlet, used on original | 12 |
| Roumania, 1858, 54p. | 18 |
| ,, ,, 108p. | 33 |

Mr. F. W. Hunter states that the collection cost him £1,600. It realised at the auction £5,500. Those who grumble at stamps as being a delusion and a snare may take a note of these facts. Again the principal stamp in the sale, the British Guiana 2c, circular, was bought by Mr. Hunter in the auction of the de Coppet Collection seven years ago for £205. It has now realised £351.

The moral of the whole business is that genuine rarities are, in the long run, sound investments. By genuine rarities we exclude fancy curiosities that are the shuttlecocks of cataloguers.

### Gibbons' New Stock Books.

Gibbons announce the following new stock books as being ready for collectors.

| | VALUE. |
|---|---|
| Denmark | £301 |
| Danish West Indies and Iceland | 163 |
| Montenegro and East Roumelia | 131 |
| Bulgaria | 81 |
| Curaçao and Surinau | 238 |
| Dutch Indies | 282 |
| Great Britain, *used*, 2 vols. | 375 |
| China | — |
| Columbian Republic, 2 vols. | — |
| Antioquia | — |
| Transvaal, 2 vols. | 1105 |

"*In this country*," *Gibbons announces*, "*it has been necessary to advance many prices owing to the great demand and the impossibility of replenishing our stock of many varieties.*"

## CARTOON.




**Major-General Gibbons, C.J.P.:—I think we have got the range this time.**

THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

MAY, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

IN our chronicle of New Issues this month it falls to our lot to transfer the stamps of the Orange Free State from the Foreign Countries section to the British Empire division; in other words, the stamps of the Orange Free State have been received overprinted with the significant initials "V.R.I."; consequently, we must treat the Orange Free State, henceforth, as a British Colony. To Philatelists belong the first public document announcing this fact. We have all heard of the gallant advance of Lord Roberts, and the military occupation of the Capital of the Orange Free State, but these simple postage labels, so prized by Collectors, may be said to be the first documentary evidence of the establishment of British civil authority.

**A New British Colony.**

What there may yet be in store for the Philatelist it is impossible to say. The stamps of the Orange Free State were printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. The stamps found at the chief office in Bloemfontein have probably all been overprinted. The question of further stock will be one of again printing from the old plates and then overprinting with the initials "V.R.I.," or of preparing and issuing a new stamp. The issue of a new stamp will probably be postponed till the final official act of annexation. If the old plates are used there will probably be a few changes. There is no reason why the ½d. value should not be printed in the accepted Postal Union green, and the 1d. in the red. This will probably necessitate a new colour for the 6d. The 3d. and 4d. will scarcely both be reprinted in blue as before.

FOR some years the Stamp Trade has felt the need of some trade combination for mutual protection. There has been much talk about what should be done, and many conferences of the more energetic, and, at last, we are able to give some particulars of the practical outcome of much consideration of the position. Under the heading of "Notes and News" on another page will be found full information of the founding and the objects of the new Association. As we have stated before, this journal has no

**The Stamp Trade.**

trammels of trade connections. It is published in the best interests of all concerned in the collection and study of stamps, whether they be collectors or dealers. In our opinion the best interests of collectors and dealers are identical. What injures the one must affect the other. No dealer can sell a forgery, or a bogus stamp, or a speculative issue, without driving a nail into the coffin of his own interests. Every evil, in the end, works its own cure.

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**Stability and Confidence.**

EVERYONE is crying out just now for the restoration of stability and confidence in stamp collecting. The timid are shaking with fear for their investments, and some are so frightened at the eccentric fluctuation of prices that they are withdrawing altogether from stamp collecting. Some have even withdrawn. Others are waiting on the fence to see what happens, and many more are holding their hands. In the result dealers are passing through a time of anxiety for which even the war is not a sufficient explanation.

The fright is a stage fright. There is no substantial cause for fear. A firm which largely controls prices may jump them up and down to its sweetest content, it cannot add one single label to the genuine supply. Therefore, it cannot permanently injure the investment in stamps. It may trouble the souls of rival dealers, it may do much to frighten the timid, and to unsettle trade for a time, but it cannot materially interfere with the paramount law of supply and demand. That inexorable law will eventually settle accounts with all who attempt to interfere with its operation. A dealer may get a supply of "Post Office" Mauritius, and sell them out at sixpence apiece. His eccentric conduct would, for the time, neutralise the business operations of the ordinary dealer who had a copy to sell at a round thousand sterling, but the law of supply and demand reasserts itself very quickly when the supply of the eccentric is exhausted. Confidence, unfortunately, is not so quickly re-established. It is a sensitive plant, very slow of growth. Its destruction is the measure of the real damage which the eccentric dealer may do. Meanwhile, the foundations remain, the essential elements that make for the permanence of stamp collecting as a hobby are unaltered. No true Philatelist will be weaned from a pleasant and recreative study because prices fluctuate; nor even though the market, for a time, be very depressed, or a crisis be approaching in the stamp trade. If he is possessed of ordinary reasoning power, he will know that these little temporary disturbances are inseparable from keen trade competition. He will know also that traders cannot go on indefinitely cutting each others' throats, and continue to pay dividends, or feed their piccaninnies. Whilst they are cutting prices he will wisely buy at their cut prices, and keep his own counsel. In the sweet by-and-bye they will come to their senses, and the market will resume its wonted stability, and even confidence begin to shoot again. The timid will return, will pay higher prices than ever, and kick themselves hard for not having had the gumption to take advantage of the so-called depression in prices.

A word to the wise should be sufficient.

# The Stamps of Luxembourg:

AN EASY GUIDE TO THEIR COLLECTION, WITH SOME NOTES ON RELATIVE VALUES.

BY FRANK H. OLIVER.

(*Continued from page* 86.)

FOR some reason, unknown to me, the authorities at the Central Office of the Postal Union in Berne objected to the overprint of "OFFICIEL," and in consequence another surcharge, viz., "S.P." *(Service Publique)*, was adopted to distinguish the stamp for use on Official correspondence. The new surcharge appeared at the end of 1881.




Fig. 12

1881. Surcharged **S.P.** as Fig. 12.

Surcharged on issue of 1878 (?) Frankfort impression (?).

| | UNUSED. s. | d. | USED. s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40 centimes orange .. .. .. | 2 | 6 | — | |

Variety: Inverted Surcharge.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40 centimes orange .. .. .. | 10 | 0 | — | |

Surcharged on issue of 1876. Printed in Luxembourg. Perforated 13.

| | UNUSED. s. | d. | USED. s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 centime brown .. .. .. .. | 0 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 ,, green .. .. .. .. | 0 | 8 | 0 | 9 |
| 5 ,, yellow .. .. .. .. | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 1 franc (**Un Franc**) on 37½ centimes stone | 3 | 6 | 4 | 0 |

Variety: Inverted Surcharge.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 centime brown .. .. .. .. | 10 | 0 | — | |

Surcharged on issue of 1880. Printed in Holland.

| | UNUSED. s. | d. | USED. s | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 centime reddish-brown .. .. .. | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| 1 ,, yellowish-brown .. .. | 7 | 6 | — | |
| 2 ,, black .. .. .. .. | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| 5 ,, yellow .. .. .. .. | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 10 ,, lilac grey .. .. .. | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| 10 ,, lilac .. .. .. .. | 7 | 0 | — | |
| 12½ ,, rose .. .. .. .. | 7 | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| 12½ ,, pale rose .. .. .. | 7 | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| 20 ,, pale brown .. .. .. | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 25 ,, light blue .. .. .. | 4 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| 30 ,, red-violet .. .. .. | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 |

Variety: Inverted Surcharge.

| | s. | d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 centimes yellow .. .. .. .. | 10 | 0 | — |

Varieties of Perforation :

Perforated 13 to 13½ and compound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | yellowish-brown |
| 2 | ,, | black |
| 5 | ,, | yellow |
| 10 | ,, | lilac-grey |
| 12½ | ,, | rose |
| 20 | ,, | pale brown |
| 25 | ,, | light blue |

Perforated 11½ by 12 (variety).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | reddish-brown |
| 2 | ,, | black |
| 10 | ,, | lilac |
| 12½ | ,, | pale rose |
| 20 | ,, | pale brown |
| 25 | ,, | light blue |
| 30 | ,, | violet rose |

Perforated 12½ to 13 by 12

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | reddish-brown |
| 2 | ,, | black |
| 10 | ,, | lilac |
| 12½ | ,, | pale rose |
| 20 | ,, | pale brown |
| 25 | ,, | light blue |
| 30 | ,, | violet-rose |

The above issue should be a very interesting one to the specialist, as the surcharge exists in two widths *on all stamps and in all varieties of perforation*, the difference being the space between the letters "S" and "P." The narrow surcharge measures 5½ to 5¾ mm. and the wide surcharge 6½ to 6¾ mm. In addition to this the surcharge exists without the stop after "S," thus—"S P.," or without the stop after "P," thus—"S. P" and can also be found with both stops missing. I have not seen these varieties on *all* the stamps of this issue, but I believe they all exist.




Fig. 13.

1882. Stamps of the issue of this date surcharged **S.P.** in small Roman capitals, as Fig. 13.

| | | | UNUSED. s. | d. | USED. s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | pale lilac .. .. .. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | ,, | olive .. .. .. .. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 2 | ,, | olive brown .. .. .. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 4 | ,, | bistre yellow .. .. .. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 5 | ,, | emerald green .. .. .. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 5 | ,, | green .. .. .. .. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 10 | ,, | pale carmine .. .. .. | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| 12½ | ,, | slate .. .. .. | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| 20 | ,, | orange .. .. .. .. | 0 | 8 | 0 | 9 |
| 25 | ,, | blue .. .. .. .. | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| 30 | ,, | sage green .. .. .. | 0 | 8 | 0 | 10 |
| 50 | ,, | pale brown .. .. .. | 0 | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | franc | violet .. .. .. .. | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 | ,, | red-brown .. .. .. | 7 | 6 | 8 | 0 |

Varieties of Perforation :

Perforated 13 to 13½ and compound.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | pale lilac |
| 2 | ,, | olive brown |
| 4 | ,, | bistre yellow |
| 5 | ,, | emerald green |
| 12½ | ,, | slate |
| 20 | ,, | orange |
| 25 | ,, | blue |
| 30 | ,, | sage green |
| 50 | ,, | light brown |
| 1 | franc | violet |
| 5 | ,, | red-brown |

Perforated 11½ by 12 (variety).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | pale lilac |
| 2 | ,, | olive brown |
| 2 | ,, | olive |
| 4 | ,, | bistre yellow |
| 5 | ,, | green |
| 10 | ,, | pale carmine |
| 12½ | ,, | slate |
| 20 | ,, | orange |
| 25 | ,, | blue |
| 30 | ,, | sage-green |
| 50 | ,, | light brown |
| 1 | franc | violet |
| 5 | ,, | red-brown |

Perforated 12½ to 13 by 12.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | pale lilac |
| 2 | ,, | olive brown |
| 2 | ,, | olive |
| 4 | ,, | bistre yellow |
| 5 | ,, | green |
| 10 | ,, | pale carmine |
| 12½ | ,, | slate |
| 20 | ,, | orange |
| 25 | ,, | blue |
| 30 | ,, | sage green |
| 50 | ,, | light brown |
| 1 | franc | violet |
| 5 | ,, | red-brown |

Perforated 12½.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | centime | pale lilac |
| 2 | ,, | olive |
| 5 | ,, | green |
| 10 | ,, | carmine |
| 20 | ,, | orange |
| 25 | ,, | blue |

The space between the letters "S" and "P" varying in width, two series can be made of these stamps. The narrow surcharge measures 8 mm. and the wide surcharge 9½ mm. All stamps can be found without stop after "S" or without stop after "P" or minus both stops. I have not seen any inverted surcharges of this series.

In connection with this issue there occurs the only *shady* transaction in the stamps of Luxembourg. In 1884 the remainders of the issues of 1874 to 1880 were overprinted with the small "S. P." surcharge. These are the stamps numbered 205 to 214 in Bright's, or 387 to 396 in Gibbons' catalogues. There is no evidence to show that these stamps were ever used for postage purposes, and I have never seen an used copy. It may be that the postal authorities printed them on their own initiative, to "facilitate the ecoulement" as Major Evans has it, but it is generally understood that they were made at the request of a stamp dealer. In any case, I cannot see that they can be treated other than as Government reprints. It rests with the collector as to whether he should include them in his collection. They consist of the 40c. rouletted, later Frankfort impression; the 4c. and 1 franc, local printing; and the 1, 2, 5, 10, 12½, 20 and 30c. Haarlem impression in various perforations.

**S. P.**

Fig. 14.

1883. The 5 francs of the issue of 1882 surcharged in thick italic capitals as Fig. 14.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| 5 francs red brown .. .. .. .. | £5 | £6. |

This is the rarest Luxembourg stamp.




Fig. 15.

1891. Surcharged on stamps of the issue of this date as Fig. 15.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | *s.* *d.* |
| 10 centimes carmine .. .. .. | 0 4 | 0 6 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. .. | 0 8 | 1 0 |

1892-3. Same surcharge on the stamps of this date.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | *s* *d.* |
| 12½ centimes slate .. .. .. .. | 0 3 | 0 4 |
| 20 ,, orange .. . .. | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 25 ,, blue .. .. .. .. | 0 5 | 0 6 |
| 30 ,, olive .. .. .. .. | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 37½ ,, green .. .. .. .. | 0 8 | 0 9 |
| 50 ,, brown .. .. .. .. | 0 9 | 0 10 |
| 1 franc lilac .. .. .. .. | 1 3 | 1 3 |
| 2½ ,, slate .. .. .. .. | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 5 ,, claret .. .. .. .. | 6 0 | 6 0 |

Varieties of Perforation :

| Perforated 12½. | Perforated 11½ by 11. | Perforated 11. |
|---|---|---|
| 12½ centimes slate | 12½ centimes slate | 12½ centimes slate |
| 20 ,, orange | 20 ,, orange | 20 ,, orange |
| 25 ,, blue | 25 ,, blue | 30 ,, olive |
| 30 ,, olive | 30 ,, olive | 37½ ,, green |
| 37½ ,, green | 37½ ,, green | 50 ,, brown |
| 50 ,, brown | 50 ,, brown | |
| 1 franc lilac | 1 franc lilac | |
| 2½ ,, slate | | |
| 5 ,, claret | | |

I have not yet seen the 10c. of any perf., the 25c. perf. 11, or the 2½ and 5 francs perf. 11½ by 11 with the Official surcharge.




Fig. 16.

1895. Surcharged on stamps of the issue of this date as Fig. 16.

| | UNUSED. | USED. |
|---|---|---|
| | *s.* *d.* | *s.* *d.* |
| 1 centime lavender .. .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 ,, brown .. .. .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 4 ,, olive brown .. .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 ,, emerald green .. .. .. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 10 ,, carmine .. .. .. | 0 2 | 0 2 |

There are no dangerous forgeries of the stamps of Luxembourg. Plenty of lithographed imitations of the issues of 1852 and 1859-63 are to be found, but they are so poorly executed that they should not deceive anyone.

Forgeries of the "Official" surcharges of the two first types are more difficult to distinguish, but the best test is the measurement of the surcharge, which I have never found quite the same as in the originals. The illustrations given in this article of the various surcharges, are the exact size of the originals and should help the collector to detect any forgeries that may come into his hands.

In concluding this article I venture to express a hope that it will lead others to the study of these interesting stamps, and I also hope that I have made the way more easy for the would-be student of the Postal Issues of Luxembourg.

*(Concluded.)*

# Notes on Transvaals.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

### Printings of the First Republic.

THE following table, showing the numbers of the various values printed, will be useful for reference purposes. It will be seen that it gives the details of the printings made by each printer. The figures, in not a few cases, will probably serve to open the eyes of some people to the great rarity of many of these much-undervalued stamps of the First Republic. These first issues are more full of Philatelic interest than those of any other period of the Transvaal; and as they are, for the most part, to be had for "knock-out" prices at auctions, they should be secured by collectors before they attain high figures.

The work of the various printers may be distinguished by differences of paper, or ink and form—for the specialist, a most interesting study. The differences between the sharp printings of the German printers and the crude work of Viljoen, and even between Viljoen and Borrius, are very marked; but the dividing line between the printings of Borrius and the Stamp Commission require the aid of dated specimens or envelopes.

Altogether the seven to eight years' printings of the First Republic, of all values, total up to only 758,640 stamps, or about equal to a small printing of a single common stamp now-a-days.

**Printed by M. J. Viljoen (Pretoria).**

| Date of Printing. | 1d. | 6d. | 1s. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1870. | | | | |
| April 4 .. | 6,840 | 12,480 | — | On gummed paper sent from Germany; not rouletted. |
| ,, 26 .. | 4,280 | — | 8,560 | On local paper, local gum; not rouletted. |
| May 10 .. | — | 4,800 | — | On local paper, local gum; rouletted. |
| ,, 24 .. | 4,320 | — | — | On local paper, probably rouletted; rouletter received. |
| July 4 .. | 7,760 | 12,200 | 4,040 | On local paper, German ink (sent with plates), exhausted with this last printing. |
| Totals .. | 23,200 | 29,480 | 12,600 | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Summary. | 1d., carmine .. .. .. .. .. | 23,200 |
| | 6d., blue .. .. .. .. .. .. | 29,480 |
| | 1s., green .. .. .. .. .. .. | 12,600 |
| Total printed of all values by Viljoen .. .. .. | | 65,280 |

**Printed by J. P. Borrius (Potchefstroom).**

| Date of Printing. | 1d. | 3d. | 6d. | 1s. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1870. Sept. 28 .. .. .. .. .. .. | 24,000* | — | — | — |
| 1871. July 25 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 8,680 | — |
| Dec. 2 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 4,000 | — |
| 1872. Jan. 5 .. .. . .. .. .. | — | — | 4,400 | — |
| Mar. 29 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 12,960 | — |
| June 27 .. .. .. .. .. .. | 14,000 | — | — | — |
| July 5 .. .. .. .. .. .. | 10,520 | — | — | — |
| Aug. 27 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 13,720 | — |
| Dec. 19 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 8,400 | — |
| ,, 25 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | 8,040 | — | 4,040 |
| 1873. Jan. 2 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 11,600 | — |
| ,, 9 .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1,200 | — | — | — |
| April 19 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | — | 8,000 |
| ,, 24 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 4,000 | 12,000 |
| May 2 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 20,000 | — |
| ,, 8 .. .. .. .. .. .. | 2,800 | — | 16,160 | — |
| 1874. Mar. 24 .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 16,000 | — |
| ,, 30 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 8,280 | — |
| April 21 .. .. .. .. .. .. | 12,960 | — | 16,600 | — |
| Totals .. .. .. .. . | 65,480 | 8,040 | 144,800 | 24,040 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Summary. | 1d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 65,480 |
| | 3d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 8,040 |
| | 6d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 144,800 |
| | 1s. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 24,040 |
| Total printed of all values by Borrius .. .. .. | | 242,360 |

* In black ink.

### Printed in Germany.

| Date of Printing. | 3d. | 6d. Improved Eagle of 3d. type. |
|---|---|---|
| 1871. June 30 .. .. .. .. .. .. | 8,000 | — |
| 1874. Sept. 30 .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | 39,320 |
| Totals .. .. .. .. .. | 8,000 | 39,320 |

Total printing of both values .. .. .. .. .. 47,320

### Printed by P. Davis & Son (Pietermaritzburg, Natal).

| Date of Printing. | 1d. | 6d. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1874. Sept. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 24,120 | 40,600 | Perf. 12½ |

Total printing of both values .. .. .. .. .. 64,720

### Printed by the Stamp Commission (Pretoria).

| Date of Printing. | 1d. | 3d. | 6d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1875. April 29 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 24,000 | — | — |
| May 11 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 24,000 |
| June 7 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 20,000 |
| Sept. 30 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 24,000 | 24,000 | 40,000 |
| 1876. Feb. 29 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 33,080 | — | 53,000 |
| Sept. 12 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 13,200 |
| ,, 28 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | 48,000 |
| Oct. 12 .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 35,680 | — | — |
| Totals .. .. .. .. .. .. | 116,760 | 24.000 | 198,200 |

Summary. 1d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 116,760
3d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 24,000
6d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 198,200

Total printings by the Stamp Commission .. .. .. 338,960

### Summary of Total Printings.

| Printer. | 1d. | 3d. | 6d. | 1s. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Local, Viljoen .. .. .. .. .. .. | 23,200 | — | 29,480 | 12,600 |
| do. Borrius .. .. .. .. .. .. | 65,480 | 8,040 | 144,800 | 24,040 |
| German, Otto .. .. .. .. .. .. | — | 8,000 | 39,320* | — |
| Natal (Pietermaritzburg), Davis .. .. .. .. | 24,120 | — | 40,600 | — |
| Local Stamp Commission .. .. .. .. | 116,760 | 24,000 | 198,200 | — |
| Totals .. .. .. .. .. | 229,560 | 40,040 | 452,400 | 36,640 |

Summary. 1d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 229,560
3d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 40,040
6d. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 452,400
1s. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 36,640

Total printed of all values of the First Republic .. 758,640

*Type of 3d. No dies or plates sent out with stamps.

# The Forum.

## Can Collectors by the Publication of a Collectors' Priced Catalogue Regulate the Selling Price of Stamps?

### What the Philatelic Journals say.

At this stage of this Discussion it may be well to interpolate with a cold collation of the pros and cons, the hums and haws, of our contemporaries, so far as they have referred to the progress of the Question. We are anxious to gather into our limits every shade of opinion, but we must, for lack of space, soon draw the debate to a close. Those who wish to have a say must be brief, pithy and prompt.

We have already quoted what the *Monthly Journal* has had to say, but we may here summarise it. The *Monthly Journal*, being a trade organ, and representing a firm which publishes a splendid series of catalogues, naturally shakes its finger even at the bare question whether collectors can by the publication of a priced catalogue regulate the selling price of stamps. It dusts the jacket of our contributor "An Old Collector" in the most approved style. The *Monthly Journal* takes up the position that the stamp dealer has the exclusive right to price his own goods, and that a committee of collectors who attempted to price stamps would lack the dealer's knowledge of available sources of supply, and therefore flounder helplessly in his attempts at pricing. It asserts that "some of the committee may know where some of the stamps can be bought, some may be willing to buy certain stamps at the prices fixed, but in the case of stamps they neither have for sale nor are prepared to buy their valuations are merely matters of opinion, liable to be upset at any moment."

From the *London Philatelist* we find nothing to quote. Mr. Castle is still perched high on the fence, but we gather from the way in which he has very cleverly put the pros and cons that his own strong bias is dead against the publication of a collectors' priced catalogue as practicable or desirable.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, writing after a disturbing and distracting nightmare, mumbles something about a collectors' priced catalogue rivalling the Encyclopædia Britannica in extent. The latest bulletin from 202, High Holborn, is that the patient is somewhat better, though still prostrated and weak, very weak.

The *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* having started a Guide to Valuers of its own, which may be reaching its conclusion when Bishops are no more and even Lowes have ceased from troubling, holds that no other effort in this direction is desirable. Its own Guide to Valuers fulfils all requirements—or will do so if you can discover the secret of Methusaleh.

The *American Journal of Philately* concedes the right of collectors to publish a catalogue of their own, "but that they are competent to price the goods that have to be bought and sold by other people will strike the stamp trade as begging a question which can have no practical outcome. If collectors price a catalogue will they see to it that dealers are able to buy their supplies at such a price as will enable them to sell at the collectors' prices? Will they also see to it that rents, rates and office expenses are kept within such bounds as will enable the dealer to sell at the prices dictated to him by his customer, the collector? A moment's serious thought should convince any level-headed man that the customer cannot play the dual part of seller and buyer."

*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* says: "On the face of the matter, the success that would attend an attempt of collectors to place a valuation on property that is held chiefly by others—the dealers—would seem to be chimerical."

The London Correspondent of the same journal represents the stereotyped wet blanket of the well-known London variety. He patronisingly informs the inferior beings who are wasting ink in discussing this matter that very few of them "seem able to grapple with the question as a whole, and to recognise the practical difficulties which will be bound to present themselves as soon as the editor or compilers take pen in hand." Then he becomes confidential, and lets the readers of *Mekeel's* into a secret: "The fact is few if any of those who argue the pros and cons have had any experience in compiling lists or catalogues of stamps, for if they had they would hardly be so confident of their powers to produce such a work." In his own view, "the fatal objection is the natural fluctuation in the market values. The technical part of the catalogue is itself so great a task that that alone, without adding prices, is sufficient to tax the labours of a large number of experts for years. By the time the last parts of the work were being published the earlier portions would not only need revision from the Philatelic side, but the prices would be altogether at sea. You would therefore get prices ranging over years, according to the alphabetical position of the country considered, and these bound up to volume or volumes (say 10 at least) would be a lasting monument of technical and commercial inconsistency. In fact the catalogue would be out of date before it was completed."

"Dâk," an incisive contributor to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, condemns the proposal to price, but plumps for a Collector's unpriced Catalogue. He says: "With all our earnestness, with all our wealth, with all our patience, and all our energy, it is a matter for regret and for reproach that collectors as a class have no authoritative handbook-catalogue dealing reasonably conclusively with our pursuit."

Here endeth all that the wise and the prophets have to say. Our readers may now resume the Discussion, with such glimmerings of added light as we have, by dint of enormous labour, been able to gather from the columns of our contemporaries.

# Roumania.

## The Perforation of the Stamps of 1879-1890.

By W. DORNING BECKTON.

*Read before the Manchester Philatelic Society, January 26th, 1900.*

As all specialists are already aware, there are three primary perforations common to the issues of 1879 and 1880, and two primary perforations found on those after the 1880 issue.

The three perforations are 11, 11½, and 13½.

Now at first sight it may appear that to separate 11 from 11½ partakes somewhat of the nature of splitting hairs, and as a general rule such small deviations are so treated by many advanced collectors nowadays. An exception, however, must be made where it can be shown that the difference is attributable to a different machine being used, and in all such cases it is, I think, now well recognised that the stamps with both perforations must be collected.

In other words, that Philatelists, in determining what varieties of perforation or deviations from the normal perforation are worthy of collection, go to the root of the question and ascertain how many machines giving different perforations were in use at the time, and so collect their stamps as to have specimens of the perforation of each machine, rather than showing an immense number of eccentricities of perforation all, it may be, the product of one machine.

In the article on the stamps of Roumania, written in 1895 by Mr. Duerst and myself (see *P. J. G. B.* vol. v.), the differences between perforations 11 and 11½ were pointed out as the result of different machines being used, and this has since been accepted and acted upon, to my knowledge, by leading collectors of Europeans.

My only object in referring to the matter again is that recently I have come in contact with several budding specialists in Roumania, who have taken the view (before understanding the explanation given) that the distinction between 11 and 11½ was too fine a one to draw, and, knowing that most of the issues after 1879 existed perf. 11½, they have jumped to the erroneous conclusion that they would also exist perf. 11. When they have thoroughly grasped the fact that the difference is attributable to the use of a different machine, which ceased to be used altogether during the time that the 1880 issue was in use, and that it is only in this issue and in the 1879 one that the two sets, perf. 11 and 11½, have to be made up, they have at once allowed that the collection of the two perforations was not such a very heavy task, and that it was one which they were bound to attempt under the circumstances.

All issues after the one above referred to, up to the 1890 issue (after which period these observations do not apply), exist in two known perforations, viz. 11½ and 13½. The difference here is too obvious to require any further remarks, the two perforations being plainly the product of separate sets of needles. This may account for the fact that all catalogues give these two perforations, and assign

different prices to the stamps showing them, whereas no such distinction is made between 11 and $11\frac{1}{2}$, although a specialist in Roumania knows that in several values a stamp perf. 11 is as much rarer than one perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, as one perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ is than one perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$, taking in this illustration $13\frac{1}{2}$ as the common variety.

I do not wish to mislead my hearers in any way, and perhaps after what I have said, I ought to add that there is no difference, practically, in the rarity of some of the values perf. 11 and $11\frac{1}{2}$, and further, that my observations as to rarity apply to unused specimens only, with full gum.

Up to the present I have dealt with primary perforations only; all the stamps exist also with compound perforations, *i.e.* a combination of two machines; they exist $11\frac{1}{2}$ horizontally and $13\frac{1}{2}$ vertically, and *vice versâ*. Adapting the foregoing reasoning to these compound perforations, it is plain—

1.—They must be collected.

2.—There is no collectible difference between a stamp perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and one perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, they are both the product of the same two machines; the fact that in the former the $11\frac{1}{2}$ perforation runs along the top and bottom, whilst in the latter it runs vertically on each side, is not sufficient to make them collectible varieties. It is true that the stamps are not identically the same as to the way in which they are perforated, but still each stamp is the product of the same two machines, and one must remember it is specimens of the work of the machines (including combinations) that are to be collected, and not eccentricities.

I venture to give below, from my own collection, a list of stamps with perforations omitted in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' last Catalogue. My list is not a long one, which speaks highly for the care bestowed upon the lists of Roumania already given in the Catalogue:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1876 issue. | *5 | bani, | brown-bistre; *imperforate.* |
| | 5 | ,, | olive-bistre: *printed on both sides.* |
| | 10 | ,, | pale blue; *imperf. horizontally.* |
| 1879 issue. | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | ,, | grey-black; *perf.* $11\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. horizontally.* |
| | *10 | ,, | rose-red; *imperforate* |
| | 10 | ,, | pale red; *perf.* $11\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. horizontally.* |
| 1880 issue. | 15 | ,, | pale red-brown; *perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$. |
| 1885-7 ,, | 25 | ,, | pale blue on *yellow; perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$. |
| | 25 | ,, | ,, ,, ,, *compound perf.* |
| | 15 | ,, | brown on *buff; compound perf.* |
| 1889 issue, wmkd. | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | ,, | black; *perf.* $11\frac{1}{2}$. |
| | 3 | ,, | lilac ,, $11\frac{1}{2}$. |
| | 3 | ,, | ,, ,, $13\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. vertically.* |

UNPAID SERIES.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1885 issue. | 10 | bani, | pale brown; *perf.* $11\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. horizontally.* |
| 1887 ,, | 5 | ,, | green; *compound perf.* |
| 1890 ,, | 10 | ,, | dull green; *perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$. |
| | 30 | ,, | ,, ,, ,, ,, |
| | 30 | ,, | ,, ,, on *straw; perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$. |
| | 5 | ,, | green ,, $11\frac{1}{2}$. |
| | 5 | ,, | ,, *compound perf.* |
| | 2 | ,, | ,, *perf.* $11\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. horizontally.* |
| | 5 | ,, | ,, *perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. horizontally.* |
| | 30 | ,, | ,, *perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. horizontally.* |
| | 10 | ,, | ,, *perf.* $13\frac{1}{2}$, *imperf. vertically.* |

* Both my specimens are used, and have satisfactory margins. One cannot be certain, however, in the absence of pairs.

—From the *Monthly Journal.*

# Review.

## Whitfield King's Catalogue, 1900.

*The Universal Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World. Second Edition*, 1900. *Whitfield King & Co., Stamp Importers and Publishers, Ipswich. Price* 1s. 3*d. net.*

WE have just received the Second Edition of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s Stamp Catalogue for 1900. It is of the same handy pocket size as before. The additions consequent upon new issues of the various States mainly account for 30 extra pages. Some of the countries have been opened out a little, but, on the whole, the excellent simplified arrangement of the first edition is continued. Perplexing minor varieties find no place in this Catalogue. It is essentially a Catalogue for the Beginner and for the average General Collector so long as he proposes to confine himself to the simplest lines of collecting stamps in, what may be termed, their normal condition.

Some good folks are inclined to smile at such a Catalogue, and recently we had a little experience of the result of the cold shoulder being applied to this effort to provide an easy road to general collecting. A lad entered a London Stamp Dealer's and asked for a shilling Stamp Catalogue. Obviously he had this Catalogue in his mind. But the Dealer replied, "No Catalogue at a shilling that will be of any use to you, my lad." Scott's, Gibbons', and Bright's Catalogues were produced and recommended. But the lad stuck to it that he wanted a shilling Catalogue, and thought he had heard of one. Then this Catalogue was mentioned, to be dismissed as being of no earthly use, for it "had not half the stamps," &c., &c. The lad went away very much disappointed. The Dealer in question had no personal interest to serve in the matter. But to our mind it was a serious mistake to make.

Too long the youth of this country have been compelled to grope their way through the conflicting mazes of our Catalogues for Advanced Collectors, and it is no wonder that confusion and disappointment have been the result, and that our ranks are not being strengthened, as they should be, by the encouragement of young collectors and beginners generally. We know of nothing more likely to dissuade a lad from stamp collecting than to place in his hands any one of our leading Stamp Catalogues. They are written by and for advanced collectors.

Hence, we heartily welcome this Catalogue, simplified as it is to the needs of the beginner. It will probably do more to recruit our ranks than all the Advanced Catalogues ever published. It gives the normal issues only, and the beginner will do well and wisely to accept its excellent and efficient guidance until he has blossomed out into more advanced collecting. It will be his best guide as a start, and, no matter to what extent he may eventually carry his collecting, he will never regret having begun in the simple way in which this Catalogue is arranged. With stamps, as with everything else, the wise will seek the elementary road as an introduction to efficient after-study. In all branches of education the greatest teachers not only recommend but themselves write the necessary primers. Why the beginner in the collection and study of stamps should be recommended to begin at the end must puzzle most people sorely.

On the vexed question of pricing we fear to add even a word. The compilers of the Catalogue have courageously put a price to almost every stamp. Some stamps have practically no market price. When such stamps fall to the lot of a dealer to dispose of the price depends on many things: the elasticity of his conscience, his knowledge of the need of the customer and the probable length of his purse, the state of the weather generally, and possibly even the digestion of both buyer and seller. What we imagine Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have attempted to do is to give in the case of even rare stamps some guide to values, and from this point of view, considering the pitfalls that stand in the way, the Catalogue makes more hits than misses.

But it is as a guide to the collection of the great bulk of stamps, which are neither rare nor out of reach, that this Catalogue will be most serviceable to the general collector, and we do not hesitate to say that in our opinion it is by far the best possible book to put into the hands of a beginner.

# Philately in the Mags.

### Uganda: Typewritten Stamps.

The *London Philatelist* for March publishes a most interesting article by Mrs. E. C. Bazett on the "Early Issues of Uganda," *i.e.* those which were typewritten by the Rev. E. Millar, of the Church Missionary Society. The article consists of a few introductory remarks by Mrs. Bazett, a letter from Mr. Millar to Mrs. Bazett, which we quote almost *in extenso*, and a long string of shrewd questions by Mrs. Bazett, and Mr. Millar's replies, which we summarise.

Mr. Millar says :—

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

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

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

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

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

#### First Issue.

From Mr. Millar's replies to Mrs. Bazett's questions we learn that the first stamps were issued on March 15th, 1895, that they were all typewritten, *i.e.* written on a typewriting machine. The values he thinks were 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, 100 cowries. Of the 35 and 45 values he thinks he typed only about six of each; they were done for Dr. Ansorge. All values were apparently typed in violet and in black, except the 35 and 45, the colour of which he does not recollect. They were all done on the same kind of paper. About 2,000 were probably issued. They were all printed by Mr. Millar on one machine. They were cancelled in pencil and franked letters anywhere in the Protectorate. The change in colour was occasioned by the need of a new ribbon in the typewriter. The stamps were done in ribbons sometimes (*i.e.*, we presume, in strips) but more usually in lines thus :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 15 | 15 | 15 |
| 20 | 20 | 20 |

Sometimes, in the common values, whole sheets. The first stamps were squarer than the next lot printed; 116 to the sheet, 9 to the row Next lot were 143 to the sheet, 11 to the row.

#### Second Issue.

The second ssue came into use about June, 1896. They were printed in "ribbons

and sheets and lines as before." The values were 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 100, in violet; all typewritten on the same kind of paper. They franked anywhere in the Protectorate, and were cancelled in pencil as before. No regular cancellations were in use till 1898.

THIRD ISSUE, V.R.

In this issue the ordinary printing press superseded the typewriting machine. They were printed by the Church Missionary press at Usoga by the Rev. F. Rowling in the autumn of 1896. Those with large letter L were for local use and those without for home mail. The L was eventually discontinued as unnecessary. The 8 annas, 1 rupee and 5 rupees were printed on better paper than the low values. Cancellation stamps were used in the autumn of 1898.

Mr. Millar cannot explain the green printings of the first issue. He says he printed none in green. The explanation is probably very simple. If the ribbon used on the typewriter was a copying ribbon, printings done with it would turn green when copied or damped.

**The Amir's Postal Seal.**

According to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, "His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan now uses no stamps for his own correspondence. His letters are sealed in red sealing wax with his own postal seal – a circular one, bearing the mosque gate, crossed cannon and flags familiar to us in all the issues of stamps since 1893. Round the lower half is the inscription: – 'Mohar azbarâe lák kardan sar-i-pákat-navisindahai-i-Huzúr,' or, 'Seal for sealing the flap of pakets from His Highness' writers.'"

**Zululand Printings.**

Mr. L. H. J. Walker, of Pietermaritzburg, has supplied *Morley's Philatelic Journal* with the following figures relating to the stamps of Natal and Great Britain, overprinted for use in Zululand. The particulars were obtained from the late Commissioner of Stamps of Zululand. All the values were used for fiscal as well as for postal purposes. The figures given represent in each case the number of stamps *actually sold*.

We are not told whether there were any remainders, and if so what has become of them

"Overprinted Natal Stamps.

| | |
|---|---|
| "½d., green | 11,245 |
| 1d., lilac | 120,224 |
| 6d., ,, | 6,325 |

"The 6d. was chiefly used for revenue purposes.

"Overprinted British Stamps.

| | |
|---|---|
| "½d., vermilion | 268,224 |
| 1d., lilac | 459,776 |
| 2d., green and carmine | 31,987 |
| 2½d., purple on blue | 28,544 |
| 3d., brown on yellow | 11,949 |
| 4d., green and brown | 20,250 |
| 5d., lilac and blue | 6,428 |
| 6d., purple on red | 11,405 |
| 9d., purple and blue | 3,701 |
| 1s., green | 4,564 |
| 5s., carmine | 998 |

"Most of the 5 shilling stamps were used fiscally."

According to these figures the Natal 5s., 9s, and £1 green catalogued in Gibbons will have to be struck out of future lists. They have always been doubted by leading Philatelists, despite so-called used copies.

**Transvaal Cancellations.**

A contributor under the signature "Duplex" writes in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* on Transvaal Cancellations. He says the numbered concentric circle cancellation has been in use a number of years and dates back, he believes, to the beginning of the Second Republic, and is probably of Continental manufacture. Quite right! They do date back a number of years; in fact, they are known to Philatelists as having been sent out from Germany to the Transvaal with the plates of the first issue.

The same writer dealing with later-dated postmark cancellations calls attention to the Lydenburg postmark with the initials "Z.A.R." above the date, and "Zuid Afrika" below, as a "particularly interesting" type being, as far as he could find out, the only one issued with this arrangement. The arrangement, which he deems peculiar, is the ordinary type of the early postmark cancellation. We have before us those of Pretoria, Rustenburg, Potchefstroom, Heidelberg, and Nylstroom.

**U. S. in Small Sheets.**

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* gives the following particulars concerning the small books of sheets that the U.S. Postal Authorities are preparing for sale:—

"As was to be foreseen the sheets in their present size were not adapted for use in book form. New plates have therefore been made for this purpose, consisting of 360 stamps instead of 400 as heretofore. The pages in the books will consist of blocks of six stamps, in two rows, perforated three times vertically and only once horizontally, thus leaving an unperforated edge on the outside of each stamp, making it impossible for any specimens to be perforated on all four sides.

"After each two horizontal rows on the large sheet there will be a space of some width to allow a fair margin on the outside of the stamps after cutting the sheet into strips to fit the books. The side of the stamps nearest this margin is not perforated.

"After being perforated as mentioned above, the sheets will be cut into strips formed of two horizontal rows. The final vertical cutting will not be done until the covers of the books have been stitched on the long strips. Only the two cents or domestic letter value will be issued in this form.

"The first order of the Department is for 10,000,000 stamps, and is calculated to last for one year. There will be eight plates made at first, in order to run two presses at the same time. Should the same amount be required each year, it is expected that there will be on an average ten plates needed."

# Notes and News.

### The War Fund Auction.

THE Stamp Auction in aid of the South African War Fund, held at St. Martin's Town Hall on the 28th March, 1900, was a great success. There was a crowded attendance of leading Collectors and Dealers and prices ranged high. Over £1,000 was realised by the sale.

### Compound Perf. Notation.

THE plan of the French Society of indicating after each perf. which is vertical and which horizontal, by initial letters seems to us an excellent one. It is now generally understood amongst English Philatelists that in the case of compound measurements we give the horizontal first, but Philatelists do not all follow this rule ; hence it is better to say 12h. × 12½v., than to leave it more or less uncertain as 12 × 12½. The *Philatelic Journal of India* announces its intention of adopting the new plan, and we shall gladly follow suit in the *Philatelic Record*.

### Stamp Trade Protection Association.

WE have received particulars of the formation of an Association of Stamp Dealers for the mutual protection of their trade interests, and we wish it every success, for the Stamp Trade can do little for the honest and proper protection of its trade interests that will not also indirectly, if not directly, protect the interests of the collector

This new Association has been styled "The Stamp Trade Protection Association, Limited." It has been duly incorporated under the Companies' Acts with a nominal capital of £1,050, divided into 1,000 shares of £1 1s. each. No member is entitled to hold more than one share, and his liability is restricted to the amount of his holding. There is also an annual subscription of £1 1s.

The Association has been formed for the purpose of protecting and furthering the interests of persons dealing in and collecting stamps. To collect debts for members, and to assist in the recovery of stamps belonging to members from persons wrongfully in possession of them. To procure and diffuse information as to postage and other stamps and the sound principles of trading in them, and to keep for the information of members a register of all persons reported or known to the Association as being worthy or unworthy of credit. To assist members in appeals against legal decisions adverse to the general interests of the trade. To give and receive advice respecting, and circulate cautions against, the numerous frauds and deceptions which are continually being perpetrated upon Stamp Dealers and Collectors, and to concert and promote measures for their protection To take notice, and action if deemed necessary, in the event of the trade being misrepresented in the Public Press or elsewhere, and generally to deal with any subject affecting the general interests of the trade.

Fortnightly Meetings of the Association will be held for the purpose of buying, selling, and exchanging stamps, which members may attend.

Members will be entitled to make not exceeding ten enquiries or applications for debt in any year, for which coupons will be supplied free, and to make further enquiries at a fee of One Shilling each. This scale applies to enquiries or debts in the United Kingdom. Foreign enquiries will be quoted at special rates.

A charge of ten per cent. will be made on amounts actually recovered through the instrumentality of the Association or paid direct to members should the debt not exceed twenty pounds, and five per cent. on all sums so recovered should the debt exceed that sum. Two-and-a-half per cent. will be charged on the value, to be fixed by the Directors, of all goods recovered in detinue or otherwise.

All information communicated to and by members will be considered strictly confidential, and the names of parties affording information will not be divulged. Members will be afforded facilities in recovering debts by legal process under the conduct of the Solicitor, at a reduced scale of professional charges approved by the Directors.

It is incumbent upon members to report to the Secretary, immediately after the perpetration or attempted perpetration of any fraud, theft, or deception, the full particulars of the case, together with the names or aliases, and addresses of the parties, and all possible information calculated to establish their identity.

Any person over twenty-one years of age is eligible for membership.

The first Directors are Messrs. E. J. Cooper, G. C. Ginn, W. Hadlow, F. H Oliver, H. W. Plumridge, and C. T. Reed. For any further particulars we must refer our friends to the Secretary, Mr. J. Crawford, 331, Strand, London, W.C




*The earliest information as to New Issues will be much appreciated by us, and will be duly credited to the correspondent, or firm, sending it. Our foreign 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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**British Central Africa.**—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles a 2s. stamp of the type of the current high values.

*Adhesive.*
2s. olive and black.

**British Guiana.** — The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles a slight change in the current 2c. from lilac and orange to lilac and rose.

*Adhesive.*
2c. lilac and rose.

**Cape of Good Hope.** MAFEKING.—We quote the following from a Reuter's telegram dated "Mafeking, March 24th (1900). "Siege postage stamps have been issued and a regular system of despatch-runners has been instituted. The stamps are surcharged a higher value with the words 'Mafeking besieged.' Letters may now be posted in the town to the outposts or any other part of the defences."

A correspondent at Bulawayo informs the *Monthly Journal* that "during the siege of Mafeking, the Postmaster of which place is distributor of stamps for the British Bechuanaland Protectorate, one of the offices in the latter territory ran out of stamps, and was supplied with stamps of the B. S. A. Company. These stamps were not surcharged in any way, but it is reported that some ingenious person has overprinted certain B. S. A. stamps with the words 'Bechuanaland Protectorate,' and as these are being offered for sale as provisionals it is well to warn our readers that this surcharge is a fraud."

**Gold Coast.**—The 5s. and 10s. values have been issued in new colours, the 5s. changed from lilac and blue to green and mauve, and the 10s. from lilac and red to green and brown.

*Adhesives.*
5s. green and mauve.
10s. green and brown.

**Great Britain.** — The following notice was recently issued to Postmasters :—

"A new halfpenny stamp (green in colour) will be ready for issue to Postmasters, &c., on requisition about the middle of April next. The new stamps should not be sold to any persons before the 17th April. On and after that day they may be sold, when specially asked for, at all offices where they are in stock; but the existing stock of the present (red) halfpenny stamps should be disposed of at each Post Office before the new green stamps are generally sold.

"A new one shilling bi-coloured postage and revenue stamp will also be issued about midsummer next, when the stock of the present single-coloured one shilling stamp will be becoming exhausted. The stock of the present one shilling stamps should be sold out; but, as these stamps bear a considerable resemblance to the new green halfpenny stamps and as these two kinds of stamps will for some period to come be on sale together, care must be taken to prevent mistakes. A further announcement will be made stating when the new shilling stamp will be ready for issue."

In accordance with this notice the halfpenny stamp was issued on the 17th April in the new colour.

*Adhesive.*
½d., emerald green.

**India.** — According to the *Philatelic Journal of India* Mr. A. J. H. Smith "has come across a copy of the 'Small Service' ½ anna, blue, watermarked series, with Service inverted." The copy also happens to be the rare "wide S" variety.

*Adhesive.*
1866. Service. Wmk. elephant's head.
*Inverted surcharge.*
½ anna, blue, wide S.

SIRMOOR.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says the Service stamps are in future to be

surcharged in England. The haphazard plan of having stamps surcharged in strips of 10 at the local press will, says the *P.J.I.*, thus be avoided. The *P.J.I.* further notes that the 1 anna (elephant type) is used almost exclusively as a receipt stamp. Beyond this, stamps of all types are used indiscriminately for postage purposes. The so-called "reprints" of the first issue and the brown 3 pie stamps are not, we are told by the *P.J.I.*, sold unless specially asked for. "In other words, they are reserved for Philatelists" remarks our caustic contemporary.

KISHENGARH.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* has seen a dull purple ½ anna stamp of the second type. It was used and imperforate.

*Adhesive.*

½a., dull purple, type ii.

**Malta.** — *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* states that farthing stamps are expected to be issued shortly for prepaying local postage on newspapers.

**New South Wales.** — We quote the following from Mr. Basset Hull's notes in the *Monthly Journal*:—

"Some time ago I mentioned the probable issue of three new stamps for New South Wales, viz., 11d., 2s. and 2s. 6d. These stamps were intended to enable senders of parcels to prepay them with one or two stamps at most. However, the project has since been allowed to lapse; at least no steps have been taken to produce the stamps.

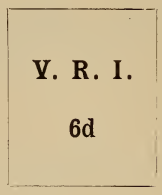
"The question of printing stamps from steel plates has long been under consideration, and a twopenny stamp has been designed and despatched to London for execution. The design is a representation of the landing-place of Captain Cook at Kurnell, Botany Bay, and the central figure is the obelisk which was erected to mark the spot. The designer is Mr. A. E. Cousins, who designed and engraved many of the stamps of Tonga, Cook Islands, and New Zealand. It will be some time before the engraved plate arrives in the colony, and it is questionable whether, if issued at all, the stamp will be long in circulation before it is suspended by the Federal issue."

**Niger Coast Protectorate.** — The *Monthly Circular* has received the 1s. stamp of the current type watermarked C.A.

*Adhesive.*

1s. black; wmk. C.A.

**Orange Free State.** — Mr. Oliver (Bright & Son) sends us first word that the stamps of the occupied Republic have been surcharged "V.R.I.," and we have since purchased several of surcharged values at Gibbons'. So far we have seen only the ½d., 2d., 2½d., 4d., and 6d. values. All are overprinted with the initials "V.R.I." and below also with the figure of value, presumably because the value in the design of the stamps is in Dutch. In the case of the 2½ the 3d stamp already surcharged "2½" has been utilised with the simple addition of the initials.




*Adhesives.*

"½d." on Halve penny, yellow.
"1d." on Een penny, mauve.
"2½" on Drie pence, blue.
"4d." on Vier pence, blue.
"6d." on Zes pence, rose.

**Queensland.** — The *London Philatelist* publishes the following from a correspondent "whose sources of information," it states, "are of the best."

"You no doubt have heard ere this that the latest ½d. stamp has not found favour with the P.O. officials, as the sale of it has been stopped at the G.P.O. in Brisbane. The new Under-Secretary, Mr. Boden, is not a stamp collector, nor are the next half-dozen officers below him in status, but Mr. S. is a practical man and rather a lover of art, so the latest issue must have appalled him."

The correspondent further writes:—

"During my last visit to Brisbane, I learnt from the Under-Secretary that all plates up to the present issue had been destroyed. In connection with the 2d., dark background on secret watermarked paper, which was issued last June, the history is as near as possible as follows: When the ½d. and 1d. secret watermarked paper was struck off, and the paper was condemned afterwards for postal purposes, the balance of it was used for striking off a number of the 2d., dark background. Why this was done was not fathomed by the P.O. people. However, the stock of it, on reaching the stamp office at the G.P.O., was condemned by the Under-Secretary, and the lot was 'shelved.' When Mr. Scott became head of the department, and stock was being taken, these became unearthed. Mr. S. thought it a pity to waste them, so he gave instructions that they were to be distributed to the country offices, and none were to be sold in Brisbane. This was done to stop any trafficking in them. Somehow a dozen sheets were left behind, for a dealer got most of them. Strange to say, very few were used, as postmarked specimens are rare."

**Sarawak.** — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following new values of the

current type: 2c., 8c., 12c. and 16c. There is yet no permanent 1c. value label. Paper wove, unwatermarked; perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*

2c. green.
8c. yellow, *value label, slate.*
12c. mauve.
16c. orange brown, *value label, green.*

**Seychelles.**—*Der Philatelist* announces 6c., 75c., 1r. 50c. and 2rs. 25c. of the current type, and we have a 15c. of the same type from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. Wmk. Cr. C.A., perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*

6 cents, carmine.
15 ,, ultramarine.
75 ,, yellow and lilac.
1 r. 50 cents, black and carmine.
2 rs. 25 cents, violet and green.

**Trinidad.**—A provisional 3d. on 5d. has been chronicled, but it has not been issued. According to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the stamps were ordered from London in the absence of Mr. J. A. Bulmer, the Colonial Postmaster-General. Mr. Bulmer happened to hear of the little transaction in time to quash the issue, which he did, saying "that so long as he was P.M.G. he would act up to the orders of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and not surcharge any stamps."

**Victoria.**—The current 4d. stamp has been changed from rose-red to brown-red. The old colour is said to have too closely resembled the new shade of the 1d. stamp, and now there seems a danger of clashing with the 5d. value.

*Adhesive.*

4d. brown-red.

# Foreign Countries.

**Afghanistan.**—Mr. Masson informs the *Philatelic Journal of India* that he has the 2 abasi Afghan stamp of 1884 on thin wove paper, in red and orange, as well as in the catalogued purple. The *P. J. I.* thinks it probable that the full complement in each colour was printed on this paper, just as in the case of the thin laid batonné.

**Argentine Republic.** — The *London Philatelist* states that a change will shortly be made in the colours of the lately issued 10 and 30 centavos for the reason that they resemble too closely those of the 1 and 5 centavos.

**Colombia.**—A correspondent has sent *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* a specimen of a new "too late" stamp. The design is similar to the ordinary 1895 issue, and the stamp is printed in blue on pink paper. The inscription reads:—"Republica de Colombia, Retardo, 2½ centavos."

*Adhesive.*

2½ c., blue on pink paper.

**Corea.**—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles two stamps of a new issue. "They are upright rectangles, measuring 23½ × 27 mm. They bear the usual Corean device, surrounded by a circular or oval garter bearing a Corean inscription and the English legend 'Imperial Corean Post.' The stamps were issued on the 20th January."

*Adhesives.*

2 cheun, blue.
3 cheun, red.

**Denmark.** Danish West Indies.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles the 3c. in the current perforation, 13 × 12½.

*Adhesive.*

3c., blue and lake, perf. 13 × 12½.

Iceland.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send a 4 aur. value in the current type. Paper, wove. Perf. 12½.

*Adhesive.*

4 aur., carmine and grey.

**France.** Congo.—The *Echo de la Timbrologique* is informed that there are three designs for the French Congo stamps which will be issued shortly, instead of the one described by our contemporaries.

(i). Panther. (Wmk. Thistle).
(ii). Woman of the Bakalwé, a tribe inhabiting the banks of the Ogowé. (Wmk. Rose Branch).
(iii). Palm avenue, Libreville. (Wmk. Olive Branch).

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Type I.* | 1 | centime, | violet on pale violet. |
| | 2 | centimes, | brown on yellow. |
| | 4 | ,, | maroon on blue. |
| | 5 | ,, | green on pale green. |
| | 10 | ,, | red on pale red. |
| | 15 | ,, | violet on green. |
| *Type II.* | 20 | ,, | green on orange. |
| | 25 | ,, | blue on pale blue. |
| | 30 | ,, | red on yellow. |
| | 40 | ,, | brown on green. |
| | 50 | ,, | violet on pale violet. |
| | 75 | ,, | lilac on orange. |
| *Type III.* | 1 | franc, | mauve on green. |
| | 2 | francs, | brown on carmine. |
| | 5 | ,, | yellow on blue. |

The designs are by M. Paul Merwart, painter to the Colonial Office; the engraving (in line), by M. Benjamin Damman; the printing by the firm of Chassepot, and the paper is supplied by M. Perrigot-Mazure.

New Caledonia. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 5c stamp of this colony in the new shade of green of this value.

*Adhesive.*

5c., pale green.

Somali Coast.—The same firm also send us a new value of the luggage label size (Gibbons type 8), 40c. frame yellow, centre blue. Paper, quadrille. Imperf.

*Adhesive.*

40c., yellow and blue.

Vathy.—Also the new shade of the 5c. French stamp overprinted "Vathy" in carmine, Gibbons type 6, as before.

*Adhesive.*

5c., pale green.

**Crete.**—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a very beautifully-designed and engraved new set of stamps for this island. They are the work of Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co, and, as our illustrations show, are of rich and varied designs.

The 1l. and 5ol. represent Hermes, the God of Science, Commerce, &c., tying his shoe. The design, slightly modified, is taken from an old Cretan coin.

The 5l. and 20l. represent Hera, the Queen of Heaven, and is also taken from an old Cretan coin.

The 10l. and 25l have a portrait of Prince George of Crete, and is said to be an excellent likeness. It is from a recent photograph.

The 1 drachma has a representation of Talos, the man of brass, constructed by Hephæstus for Minos to guard the island of Crete. Also from a Cretan coin.

The 2 drachmae represents Minos, the legendary first King of Crete.

And the 5 drachmae is a copy of the St. George and Dragon from our own sovereign in compliment to the reigning saint and not, as some have thought, as a compliment to England.

The 25l., 50l., 1dr., 2dr., and 5dr. have all been surcharged with the Greek word "Prosorinon" (Provisional) as provisionals for fiscal purposes Some were surcharged in red and some in black. For postal purposes they are issued *without* the surcharge.

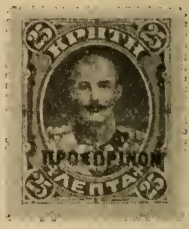
*Adhesives.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 lepton, | brown .. | Hermes. |
| 5 lepta, | green .. .. | Hera. |
| 10 ,, | carmine .. | Prince George. |
| 20 ,, | rose .. .. | Hera. |
| 25 ,, | blue .. .. | Prince George. |
| 50 ,, | mauve .. | Hermes. |
| 1 drachma, | dark-lilac .. | Talos. |
| 2 drachmae, | brown .. | Minos. |
| 5 ,, | green and black | St. George and Dragon. |



















**Germany.** MARSHALL ISLANDS.—The old German type 3pf. to 50pf. have been surcharged "Marshall-Inseln" instead of "Marschall-Inseln."

WURTEMBURG.—Mr. J. W. Jones has sent us used copies of 30pf. and 40pf. values of the current type. The numerals in the centre are in black.

*Adhesives.*

30pf. orange and black.
40pf. lake ,, ,,

**Holland.**—The *Monthly Circular* says: "The 1 gulden, formerly printed in sheets of 25, is now printed in sheets of 50 like the other values of this type. The word GULDEN has been made slightly thicker, and when examined with a glass it is seen that the interior of the figure "1" is now made up of a regularly formed network of horizontal and vertical lines."

SURINAM.—According to a local official decree the following values of the head of King issue have been surcharged, apparently for sale to gullible stamp collectors, as they are to be supplied on special application.

*Adhesives*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 cents | on | 40 cents. |
| 25 | ,, | 50 cents. |
| 50 | ,, | 1 gulden. |
| 50 | ,, | 2 gld. 50c. |

**Japan.**—According to the *Weekly Philatelic Era* the full current set has been surcharged for use at the Corean treaty ports. The

surcharge consists of a single Japanese character, signifying "Corea" and is in black or red.

**Mexico.** — The *American Journal of Philately* has received the 5 pesos stamp of the old type without watermark, completing the set of the unwatermarked issue.

*Adhesive.*

5 pesos, rose, unwatermarked.

**Portugal.** ANGOLA.—Mr. J. W. Jones has sent us a hitherto unchronicled variety of newspaper stamp issued in March, 1890. It is type-set "Jorndos—2½ reis" in two lines, and overprinted with inscribed oval "Direccao do Correios – Mar 90—Provincia de Angola." This is evidently the forerunner of the regular issue of newspaper stamps which did not appear till 1893.

**Roumania.**—Mr. J. W. Jones has shown us the 1 leu of the 1893-6 series, perf. 11½, hitherto unchronicled The 2 lerr has not yet been found in perf. 11½.

*Adhesive.*

1893-6.

1 leu, pale-brown and rose, perf. 11½.

**Spain.** — *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is informed that a new type of the 15 centimos will shortly be issued, the King appearing in the uniform of the Infantry Military College. The portrait is said to be an excellent one.

**United States.** PUERTO RICO.—The advocates of a change in the spelling from Porto Rico to Puerto Rico as being more correct have at last won the day, and 1c. and 2c stamps have been issued overprinted with the new spelling.

*Adhesive.*

1c. green.
2c. carmine.

**Venezuela.**—According to the *American Journal of Philately*, a new series of stamps is being prepared by the American Bank Note Co.

Portrait of the Liberator inscribed CORREOS DE VENEZUELA, for interior and exterior correspondence.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | centimos, | yellow. |
| 10 | ,, | bright green. |
| 25 | ,, | red. |
| 50 | ,, | dark blue. |
| 1 | bolivar, | grey. |
| 2 | bolivars, | dark green. |

Design with Arms, surcharged at top with OFFICIAL in black, for official correspondence directed to foreign countries.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | centimos, | violet. |
| 10 | ,, | yellow. |
| 25 | ,, | red. |
| 50 | ,, | dark green. |
| 1 | bolivar, | blue. |

Similar design to the preceding, but inscribed CERTIFICADO, for registered articles.

25 centimos, dark green.

Escuelas stamps, similar design to (i.) inscribed INSTRUCCION.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | centimos, | yellow. |
| 10 | ,, | dark blue. |
| 25 | ,, | brown. |
| 50 | ,, | bright green. |
| 1 | bolivar, | grey. |
| 3 | bolivars. | sienna. |
| 10 | ,, | red. |
| 20 | ,, | violet |

# Correspondence.

### Hungary. Varieties of Perforation.

Dear Sirs,—In looking through a large number of Hungarian stamps recently I carefully examined the perforations. Below I give result arrived at:—

1874-76 No watermark. Gibbons, Nos. 28 to 44. Westoby gives this issue as 11½, 12½, and 13, also compound. Gibbons gives 12½ to 13½, and 11½ to 12. The commonest perf. seems to be 13. I also found 11½, 12½, 13 × 11½, 12½ × 11½, and 12½ × 13. But I could not find any 13½.

1881. Coloured numerals on letter, watermark "Kr," Gibbons Nos. 45 to 62. The early issues of this set were perf. 11½ (as Westoby), variations of 13 and 11½ × 13 are also found. But none 13½ (as Gibbons). Later in the issue a regular perf. of 12 × 11½ seems to have been adopted. The earliest copies of this perf. that I have with a dated pink are 1893.

After this issue I have only been able to find this latter perforation, and from this conclude that it was adopted not later than 1893, and has been in use ever since.

I have not been able to discover any varieties, nor any with the perf. given by Gibbons, viz., 11½ to 12.

Some of the series with the black numerals on letter were apparently in issue for a short time only before the watermark was changed from "Kr" to "crown." I have copies of the 10c, *blue numerals* printed 1898. If these were in issue in this year the 10c. black numerals, No. 69, can only have been in use a very short time, and possibly this applies also to the 2, 3, and 20 cents. I have the 10c., black numerals, watermark *crown*, printed May, 1899.

Woking, H. B. Wills.
*4th April*, 1900.

# Echoes from the Mart.

### Philippine Remainders.

Mr. F. C. Schenkel of Manila, sends us a price list of Philippine remainders, and informs us that on the 28th of December last the entire stock, some thirty million stamps, was sold at auction to the firm of Messrs. Ed. A. Keller & Co., of Manila, for $50,300, and that he has been appointed agent for the sale of the stamps Mr. Schenkel offers the various issues in whole sale parcels for dealers, and also in sets for collectors.

Mr. Ewen in his *Weekly Stamp News* indulges in the following forecast of the new catalogue prices consequent upon this sale of remainders:—

The first issue represented amongst the remainders is that of 1880 (Head of Alfonso XII.) The following is our forecast.

| Gibbons' Number. | | Forecast, 1900. s. | d. | Gibbons' 1899 prices. Unused. s. | d. | Used. s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92. | 2c. rose .. .. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| 103. | 2½c. blue .. | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| 97. | 6¼c. green .. | 0 | 9 | 1 | 3 | — | |
| 100. | 12½c., both colours | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 96. | 5c. lilac .. .. | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| 99. | 10c. lilac .. .. | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 102. | 20c. grey-brown.. | 0 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 103. | 25c. dark brown.. | 0 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 9 |

There do not appear to be any of the 2½ or 8 cents amongst the remainders and these may advance from 5d. and 1s 6d. respectively. Of the 1888 issue, all are represented except the 10c. green.

| | | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 104. | 1c. grey-green .. | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | — | |
| 105. | 1c. bright green | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | — | |
| 106. | 50m. bistre .. | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | — | |
| 107. | 6c. brown .. | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 | — | |

The only ordinary surcharged stamps of this issue which figure amongst the remainders are Nos. 110, 119, 126, 127.

| | | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 110. | 10c. on 2½c. ultramarine .. .. | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 | — | |
| 119. | 8c. on 2½c. ultramarine .. .. | 0 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| 126. | 2½c. on 10c. green | 0 | 9 | 2 | 6 | — | |
| 127. | 2½c. on ⅛c. „ | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

As regards the issues with Head of King Alfonso XIII. there is not likely to be much change. There are no Nos. 166, 174, 186, 195, 196, nor Nos. 197 to 206 amongst the remainders. No. 170 will probably cost 1/6.

Collectors must use their discretion as to the acquisition of these trifles. We simply give the information as it reaches us.

THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

JUNE, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

THE retirement of M. Moens from the Stamp Trade is an event which gives rise to much reflection on the part of collectors generally. The well-known, and greatly respected, Belgian dealer has been, from start to finish, a man of moderate prices, and moderation in the matter of complicated varieties. He has never recognised the necessity of pricing a scarce minor variety at sensational rates. And yet, though his stock has been the happy hunting ground for the specialist for many a year, and he has consistently refused himself the apparent higher profits to be made by fleecing specialists, he retires to enjoy, in quiet content, the honest fruits of a well-earned competence. Edward Stanley Gibbons was another man of moderate charges. He was one of those dealers who raised the price of a stamp very gingerly. There were no sensational rises in his day. And yet he made an ample fortune, and retired in the flower of his age. On the other side of the account we have now many dealers who evidently believe in sensational prices from A to *Z*. But is there one of the many who is expected to retire to the quiet enjoyment of an ample fortune in the prime of life?

**Retirement of M. Moens.**

The quiet content and enjoyment of former days has given place to a general scramble for larger profits, and many eminent collectors are now running neck and neck with the dealer for what is to be made out of the business. The fluctuation in prices has added to the crowd that most undesirable parasite, the speculator. He has unsettled the whole basis of stamp dealing and stamp collecting, till, now, there is scarcely one of us, dealer or collector, who could honestly avow that we have not been holding a few odd trifles for a rise.

And yet, strange to say, so firm is the hold of our hobby on the multitude that all this speculation, all this fleecing, and all this business dealing of amateurs, have not seriously sapped the Philatelic foundations. They give rise to much unrest; they puzzle the dealer, and they perplex the straightforward collector; but they, nevertheless, leave the derivable pleasures absolutely intact for the man who takes up stamp collecting for the pleasure that is to be got out of it.

**Common Stamps.**

The average collector now-a-days, with all the rest of the crowd, expects to buy even the commonest stamps one year, and sell them a few years after at a handsome profit. He is sorely perplexed if he cannot, at least, get his money back; and, if he is able to get only a fraction of what he paid the dealer for his stamps, he curses stamp collecting with specially chosen anathemas. He does not trouble to consider the conditions that dominate the business.

To begin with, common stamps are now produced by the million, and consequently, especially in their used condition, are never likely to appreciate very much in selling value, within the range of an ordinary Philatelic lifetime. Then again, the cost to a dealer of handling common stamps is out of all proportion to their real value. As a consequence, when sold singly they are priced much above their real value. In sets the dealer can, and does, sell them at a rate more nearly approaching their value. Then again, every dealer has to carry a much greater burden of capital locked up in dead stock than almost any other trader; therefore, his working expenses are abnormally high, unless he happens to be a garret dealer.

These, and other causes, explain the reason why disappointment so often wait on the collector who collects only common stamps under the impression that some day he will be able to realise a little fortune. As a matter of fact, there are hundreds and hundreds of common stamps that are almost as cheap to-day as they were twenty years ago.

And from a Philatelic point of view it is a blessing that it is so, for if all stamps rose in price sufficiently to satisfy the small speculator in ordinary stamps, we should have to sigh in vain for a range of issues sufficient to interest and retain the attention of the better and more stable class of ordinary collectors. It is a grand thing for Philately that some of the most interesting issues of the world are well within the range of even an ordinary purse, and seem likely to remain so.

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**Collectors' Catalogue Question.**

The discussion of the Collectors' Catalogue question increases in interest the more it is opened out. And it has opened out with a vengeance. The editorial limitation as to space has no effect whatever. We solicited a page or two from our good friend Mr. Oldfield, and he found it most difficult to say his say in half-a-dozen pages, and left us with the feeling that we had unduly cramped his contribution. Since then we have had a conversation with him, and we begin to regret that he had not another half-dozen pages; for his proposal for a Collectors' Catalogue fairly took our breath away by its daring novelty. This proposal we shall ask him to outline later on for free discussion. For the present we are in the kindly grip of the genial President of the Manchester Philatelic Society. We ventured to offer him three pages. But, lo and behold, we have been commandeered to the extent of six pages. The question has taken hold of him like the rest. The earnest, anxious and responsible Philatelist cannot help being absorbed in a question which may yet be fraught with large issues for the hobby to which he is devoted.

# Orange Free State Stamps.

OVERPRINTED "V.R.I."




OF all postal novelties none just now equal in interest, for the British Collector, the provisional stamps recently issued at Bloemfontein by the British authorities in occupation of the Capital of the Orange Free State. The stock of Orange Free State stamps left at the Post Office have apparently all been surcharged with the initials "V.R.I.," denoting British authority. The ½d, 1d, and 2½., we are told, were issued on the 19th March, 1900, and the remaining values, including the 5s., later. One surprise in the series has been the second *Z*es pence with its colour changed from carmine to blue. We illustrate above a very interesting envelope, on which will be found all the values except the 5/-. Up to date the complete series is as follows :—

**Adhesives.**

| | |
|---|---|
| "½d" on Half penny - yellow, of 1897. | "4d" on Vier pence - blue, of 1898. |
| "1d" on Een penny - mauve, of 1894. | "6d" on Zes pence - carmine, of 1897. |
| "2d" on Twee pence - mauve, of 1883. | "6d" on Zes pence - blue, of 1900. |
| "2½" on Drie pence - blue, of 1896. | "1s" on Een shilling brown of 1900. |
| "3d" on Drie pence - blue, of 1883. | "5s" on Vyf shillgs - green, of 1879. |

**Minor Varieties.**

Of course there are minor varieties, such as omitted stops; "I" of "V.R.I." omitted; misplaced stops and one or two other omissions, but it is somewhat early yet to attempt a complete list of these.

# The World's Postmasters.

## ISAAC VAN ALPHEN,

*Postmaster-General of the South African Republic.*

ISAAC NICOLAAS VAN ALPHEN is the genial Postmaster-General of the South African Republic. He may be said to have spent his life in the postal service of the Republic, for, as a lad, he helped in the printing of the first stamps that were issued.

His official service, however, dates from the 8th of August, 1881, when he was appointed Postmaster of Potchefstroom, then the Capital of the Transvaal. Four years later, on the 1st of April, 1885, he was appointed Postmaster-General. By appointment, dated 15th September, 1886, he is also a Justice of the Peace.

Our Portrait is from one taken by Duffus Bros, of Johannesburg, and sent us by the Postmaster-General some two or three years ago. It is said to be an excellent likeness.

In 1869 young Van Alphen was apprenticed to Mr. James Cooper Rous, of Pretoria, at that time Government Printer, by Contract. He was then fifteen years of age. He tells us, facetiously, that he acted as "printers' devil" under Mr. Viljoen, the Treasurer-General, who supervised the printing of the first locally printed postage stamps of the Transvaal. As a matter of fact, the greater part of the printing was done by young Van Alphen, under the supervision, and with the occasional assistance, of Viljoen. And a pretty, but very interesting mess, they made of it between them.

Philatelically, Mr. Van Alphen has sinned but once in his official career. In 1895 he gave way to the temptation of issuing a Commemorative stamp, to celebrate the introduction of penny postage into the Transvaal. That stamp was condemned by Philatelists as unnecessary and speculative. Mr. Van Alphen publicly defended its issue as purely commemorative. He says, "the continual and unwarrantable attacks upon my department became so intolerable that it was necessary to state, once and for all, that neither the Department nor the Government had any object in view, other than the supplying of the absolute necessities of the postal service."

Although the Postmaster-General is not a Philatelist, he has been prevailed upon to become President of the local Philatelic Society. He thinks the trouble and drudgery and bother, occasioned by his early attempts at producing postage stamps, quite settled any tendency he might ever have had for stamp collecting. On the whole, we do not regret that he has not joined our ranks, for if he had, no amount of protestation would have helped him in his convincing defence of the many surcharges which he was compelled to issue a few years back.

Under his rule we have no hesitation in saying that the Transvaal has, with the one exception mentioned, kept a clean sheet. Indeed, it has had no need to indulge in postal speculation, for its ample revenue has saved it from the necessity of such shifts for raising the wind.



**ISAAC VAN ALPHEN,**

*Postmaster-General of the South African Republic.*

# Stamps of the Transvaal.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

## Reference List and Guide to Values.

As the natural result of the War in South Africa, and the anticipation of future developments, considerable attention is now being paid to the postal issues of the Transvaal.

During the first British occupation the stamps of the Transvaal were great favourites with leading specialists like Mr. Tapling, Mr. Castle, Mr. Douglas Garth, Mr. Bacon and others. But when the country passed out of British hands the interest in its issues declined, and has since been preserved by only a few. Now, however, that the country is likely to be once more, and finally, included in the British Colonial Empire the old interest is being re-awakened and collectors are buying hard and fast before the rise.

Historically, the stamps of the Transvaal hold a very unique position. First we have the crude and early issues of the First Republic, then the makeshifts and final Queen's Head issue of the British occupation, and then the restored issues of the Second Republic and its subsequent issues and new designs, and now we are on the eve of a reversion to British authority and British Colonial issues.

From a Philatelic point of view the stamps are equally interesting. The early issues are full of those interesting varieties of paper, printing and perforation that mark crude local workmanship. They are free from dangerous forgeries, and there are only two reprints.

The stamps of the Transvaal have been neglected by many because they have been considered difficult to understand and to arrange. But, thanks to the industry of Mr. Emil Tamsen, official records have been examined and published, and everything is now comparatively plain sailing for the Philatelist.

With a view of making the collection and arrangement of the postal issues of the Transvaal as easy as possible, I have drawn up this Reference List, and appended to it, as a guide to values and rarity, my own personal opinion of the relative value of each stamp. I have arrived at my values as the result of some twenty years' experience in specialising those issues, during which time I have enjoyed the privilege of inspecting some, if not all, of the largest stocks of Transvaal stamps.

The least understood of all are the issues of the First Republic, and, as a consequence, they are ridiculously under-valued. In most cases the printings were of a very limited character. The wise will do well to secure those early issues before the market awakens to their real rarity and value. From a Philatelic point of view, I have found the first printings of far more interest than any subsequent issues. I have spent more time in their collection and study than in all the other issues combined, and the interest remains unabated; and, I may add, the scope for further study and inquiry seems unlimited.

In all cases my prices are, in unused for mint copies with good margins, and in used for fine copies, good margins and lightly cancelled.

There are a few minor varieties with which I have not thought it worth while to burden this list. They are of interest only to the advanced specialist.

**The First Republic.**

For years I have been endeavouring to identify and classify the various printings of the First Republic. In many cases I have succeeded, but much remains to be done by future students. So far as I am able I have, in the following list, classified the more important and interesting. The few words of description that I have added will, I trust, enable those who take up the study to classify with very little trouble all those of which we can speak with certainty. The production later on of stamps on original envelopes will probably enable us to complete the classification.




Type I.




Type II.




Type III.

**Printed by Otto, Germany.**

1869. (Issue legalised 1870.) On thin wove paper; white, crinkled, gum. Stamps of this issue are distinguished by their sharp, clear printing, crinkled gum, thin and superior paper; and the 1s. in particular, by its unmistakeable emerald green. Imperforate and fine roulette. Imperforate copies are very rare. Type I.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ | s. | d. | Used £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1d. Indian red .. .. .. .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 6d. light blue .. .. .. .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1s. emerald green .. .. .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

FINE ROULETTE.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1d. Indian red .. .. .. .. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 6d. light blue .. .. .. .. | 0 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1s. emerald green .. .. .. | 2 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

Varieties: Tête bêche.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ | s. | d. | Used. £ | s. | d |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6d. light blue .. .. .. .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1s. emerald green .. .. .. | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 |

FINE ROULETTE.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6d. light blue .. .. .. .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1s. emerald green .. .. .. | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |

**Printed by Viljoen at Pretoria.**

1870. April 4. Printed on paper already gummed, sent from Germany. Impressions indistinct and blurred. Paper thin wove as in first German printings. Imperforate and fine roulette. Type I.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. Indian red .. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 2 10 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 3 0 0 | 2 0 0 |

FINE ROULETTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 10 0 |

April 26 and May 10. On thick hard paper, yellow streaky gum, fairly even printing. Imperforate and fine roulette. Type I.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. Indian red .. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 2 10 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 10 0 |

FINE ROULETTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. Indian red .. .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 5 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 4 0 0 | 5 0 0 |

Varieties: Tête bêche.

IMPERFORATE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 4 0 0 |

FINE ROULETTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 5 0 0 |

July 4. On thickish paper, blotchy printing, and all fine roulette. Whitish gum. Type I.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. Indian red .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 2 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |
| 1d. dark green .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 1 0 0 |

Varieties: Tête bêche.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 5 10 0 |
| 1s. dark green .. .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 10 10 0 |

**Printed in Germany.**

1871. June 30. The first 3d., printed on thick, hard, wove paper. Very clear printing. Imperforate and fine roulette. Type II.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 0 10 0 |

FINE ROULETTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |

**Printed by Borrius, Potchefstroom.**

In all, Borrius made six printings of the 1d. value, one of the 3d.; thirteen of the 6d., and three of the 1s. The 1d. black, the 3d., and all three shillings can be identified, but the other 1d. and 6d. printings cannot be separated from some of the printings of the subsequent Stamp Commission. Those that cannot be separated are listed together under the head of Printings by Borrius and Stamp Commission.

1870. Sept. 28. By some misunderstanding Borrius began printing the 1d. value in black. It was an error, but the 24,000 stamps so printed were accepted and issued. Imperforate and fine roulette. Type I.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused £ s. d. | Used £ s. d |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. black .. .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 2 10 0 |

FINE ROULETTE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. black .. .. .. .. .. | 0 10 0 | 1 0 0 |

Variety: On thin, translucent paper.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. black .. .. .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 20 0 0 |

1872. Dec. 25. On thin, opaque paper; clear printing. Fine roulette. The opaque paper in the 3d. of this printing marks the difference that distinguishes this Borrius 3d. from the pelure, translucent paper of the 3d. of the Stamp Commission, classified later on under "pelure." 3d. Type II.; 1s. Type I.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 1s. pale green .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 0 0 |

Variety: Tête bêche.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1s. pale green .. .. .. .. | 7 0 0 | 7 0 0 |

1873. April 19 and 24. On thin wove paper; printed in a darker green than the last issue and sometimes blurred. Fine roulette. Type I.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1s. dark green .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 0 0 |

Variety: Tête bêche.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1s. dark green .. .. .. .. | 7 0 0 | 7 0 0 |

**Printed in Germany.**

1874. A 6d. value with the so-called improved eagle of the 3d. type, on good quality thin wove paper, clearly printed by the German engraver. Fine roulette. Type III.

FINE ROULETTE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 6d. ultramarine .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |

**Printed by Davis, at Pietermaritzburg.**

1874. Sept. On good wove paper, mostly well-printed, but best known as being the only perforated issue of the First Republic. Perforated, 12½. Type I.

PERFORATED 12½.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 1 10 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 1 0 0 |

**Printed by Borrius or Stamp Commission.**

1871-76. Various printings of the 1d. and 6d. values, not otherwise classified and which it is almost impossible yet to apportion between Borrius and the Stamp Commission. Personally, I am inclined to believe that all the Borrius printings were fine rouletted, and that most of the Stamp Commission stamps were imperforate, very few being rouletted. Type I.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 5 0 0 |

Variety: Tête bêche.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 20 0 0 | 10 0 0 |

**Printed by the Stamp Commission.**

1875-6. Brown gum. On thick, hard paper, very dark brown gum. Imperforate, fine, and wide roulette. Type I.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 0 0 |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 2 10 0 |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 8 0 0 | 5 0 0 |

Variety: Tête bêche.

IMPERFORATE.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 6 0 0 | 5 0 0 |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 8 0 0 |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 20 0 0 | 15 0 0 |

1875-6. Pelure paper, mostly clear printing. Imperforate, fine, and wide roulette. 1d. and 6d. Type I.; 3d. Type II.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 10 0 |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 0 15 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 0 10 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 3 0 0 | 2 10 0 |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 3 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 2 10 0 |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 5 10 0 | 5 0 0 |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 7 10 0 | 6 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 6 0 0 | 5 10 0 |

Variety: Tête bêche.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 7 10 0 | 7 0 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 10 10 0 | 8 10 0 |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 20 0 0 | 15 10 0 |

1875-6. Printings on hard, surfaced paper, easily distinguished as being one of the first lot subsequently surcharged "V.R. TRANSVAAL." Imperforate, fine, and wide roulette. Type I.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 1 15 0 | 1 5 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 5 5 0 | 3 10 0 |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 5 0 0 |

1875-6. Printings on coarse, soft paper, identified as being part of the printing subsequently overprinted "V.R. TRANSVAAL." Imperforate, fine, and wide roulette. Type I.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 1 15 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 10 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 6 10 0 | 3 10 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 3 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 5 15 0 | 3 15 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 7 10 0 | 6 0 0 |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red .. .. .. .. .. | 7 10 0 | 5 10 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 7 10 0 |

*(To be continued).*

# The Forum.

## Can Collectors by the Publication of a Collectors' Priced Catalogue Regulate the Selling Price of Stamps?

**By W. Dorning Beckton,**

*President of the Manchester Philatelic Society.*

I CANNOT help thinking that the wording of the above question is somewhat unfortunate, in that it seems to me to very much narrow down the pros and cons of the collectors' priced catalogue question. This disadvantage arises from the endeavour to frame one question to cover the ground of several and quite distinct ones which arise in connection with this large subject. If I were to give a decisive answer to the question as asked I should have no hesitation in replying with an emphatic No. When I heard that my friend Mr. Oldfield was to reply in the Affirmative I must confess I was considerably surprised. Since then I have had the pleasure of reading Mr. Oldfield's article and find he does not reply to the question as asked at all: perhaps he feels with myself the difficulty of doing so in the affirmative; what he does, however, is to propound the collectors' priced catalogue subject under three headings as follows:—

1.—Is a collectors' catalogue desirable?
2.—Can the "ifs" be disposed of?
3.—How will prices be affected?

Now I venture to think that these three questions are very different taken separately or collectively to the one which appears at the heading of these lines.

Only the first and second admit of a direct reply, the third being a matter for conjecture alone.

One might very well answer both one and two in the affirmative and have pronounced opinions upon the third, and at the same time say that "collectors *cannot* by the publication of a collectors' priced catalogue regulate the selling price of stamps."

In other words, what I mean to make clear is that a collectors' priced catalogue may be desirable even if it does not regulate the selling price of stamps.

However, I must not discuss this further in this paper, the object of which is to consider what has been written so far and to give expression to my individual ideas in The Forum.

Mr. Oldfield, whom I follow in this debate and to whose arguments I am presumed, as I take it, to confine myself, first of all considers that by the collectors' priced catalogue fresh adherents would be secured and *retained* for our hobby, and many discouraging losses now incurred would be avoided. All this is very much to be

desired no doubt, but I don't see at present how it is to be brought about. We are told that "many a newcomer finding that to realise "means a loss of 50%, 75% or more upon his early purchases and "knowing that to obtain a fine collection involves considerable "expense, naturally hesitates to run the risk, gradually loses interest "in stamp collecting and finally leaves our ranks." The reason of this is contained in the preceding paragraph in the same paper; it is because "they invest at first in stamps of the common or medium "classes where the value bears a much lower proportion to the price "than is the case with rare stamps." This condition of affairs would not be altered by the collectors' priced catalogue even if it did control the selling price of stamps; by *selling price* is meant the price at which the collectors would buy from the dealers and not *vice-versa*.

And why? Because no matter what price is put upon common stamps they are not worth, to a dealer to buy, more than 20% to 30% of what his selling price is. To talk about a dealer buying common stamps at 15% to 20% off the price he sells them is utterly out of the question. There are so many reasons why it can never be so. Think of the time and labour involved in doleing out five pounds' worth at one penny to sixpence a time, and five pounds is not an extravagant sum for a dealer to receive for a single stamp. In addition there is the extra risk of the stamps being lost or damaged by constant handling, the extra labour of sorting and mounting 300 to 400 stamps in lieu of one. Besides all this a dealer when buying a scarce stamp often knows where he can place it, or at all events feels pretty sure of its finding a ready sale, whereas he may buy common South American or French Colonials and have to keep the majority of these a lifetime.

Common to medium stamps for immediate sale have always been and will, I believe, ever remain unsaleable at other than a considerable loss, and recruits will continue to have to pay for their experience until they have learnt this. It has been so in the past, is so in every hobby, and will remain so in spite of anything that can be done.

The succeeding three paragraphs in Mr. Oldfield's paper I take to apply to scarce to rare stamps; I cannot realise a dealer being misled by trade prices of a lower grade of stamp. Now in these two classes, especially the former, I believe, lie the strongest arguments which can be put forward in favour of a collectors' priced catalogue. Here, mark you, it is not the recruit who would be benefited; he does not commence collecting by paying a sovereign or more for a stamp, but it is those who have passed into the next stage. Whether this stage contains a sufficiently large number of British adherents willing to purchase the catalogue at a price to cover the cost of production is open to question. I say advisedly *British*, because it seems quite impracticable to issue the catalogue at all except by confining its preparation to those who live within a few hours' railway journey of each other, and could thus be in constant touch through the post and by repeated meetings. The differences of opinion between British Philatelists will be quite enough for the Committee to grapple with, without having to mould Continental opinion. Let a collectors' catalogue be produced which meets with entire approval from British collectors first; when this is done it will soon be international, at all events in effect if not in words.

To return, however, to the point where the digression began. We were considering the matter as viewed from the scarce to rare stamp standpoint. In regard to the latter, I do not see that anything can be urged further than appeared in Mr. Castle's article, referred to by Mr. Oldfield, and which he is unable to refute, except by drawing a distinction between *values* and *prices*.

The objections to the catalogue, if this suggestion of value as distinguished from prices were adopted, apply equally to the scarce grade stamp. Let us therefore examine a little more carefully this idea of the catalogue respecting the *value* rather than the *price*. The *value* of a stamp in the sense used by Mr. Oldfield is a very different thing to its market price. By it I understand he means the relative rarity stamps bear one to another; and to express this degree of rarity by means of putting a cash value to each, although such cash value might and probably would in no way indicate the market price; and what is far more essential, never could do so, unless the whole question of market prices is shaken to its very foundations, and an entirely new and different principle is to take the place of that in vogue for the last quarter of a century.

Let me give an illustration. £800 would not be considered an exorbitant price for the Post Office Mauritius, yet £2,400 for a British Guiana 2c. circular would be monstrous. But this is somewhere about their relative value, the last being thrice as scarce as the former. My friends on the affirmative side may retort, You must not take the price of the wrongly-priced stamp as your basis, and multiply its price to arrive at the value of the other; what you must do is to fix the value of *the* rarity, and reduce the *price* of the false rarity; *e.g.*, the value of the British Guiana is £350 (it could not be priced at much more than it has often been sold for), therefore the value of the Post Office Mauritius is £120. What would be the practical use of such a catalogue? Do any of your readers think that a panic would set in on the appearance of the catalogue, that there would be a rush to sell "Post Offices" at £120, to buy British Guiana at £300. Nothing short of a panic would bring about such a result. A panic is not an altogether desirable thing, however desirable a collectors' priced catalogue may be, and I think if the two are to go hand in hand, we shall be better off as we are.

I don't believe myself, however, that there would be a panic or anything of the kind. Even if the catalogue were published, and the approximate prices I have named were set opposite the two stamps I have given in the illustration, I believe the effect would be practically nil, and that the affirmatives by adopting this mode of appraisement would defeat the object they have in view.

Objections may be taken to what I have said on the ground that in the illustrations I have given I have made use of two of the rarest stamps. I maintain it does not matter, the same objections apply to the scarce to rare stamps. Let me give an instance, which occurs to me on the spur of the moment while writing, to illustrate this. Afghanistan is not a popular country, at least it is not generally supposed to be, consequently the rare stamps with value in tablet can often be bought for the same price as—say United States Justice 90c., or half the price of one of the North American Shillings. Now the

tablets are really rarities, and the others are what they have so aptly been described, common or garden rarities. Is the price of the tablet to go up, or is the price of the others to come considerably down? Judged from the standpoint of the relative value these stamps bear to one another, and if the catalogue faithfully indicates their value in this way, then I unhesitatingly say such a catalogue will not control the selling price because the price of the unpopular rarity will have to be increased to such an extent as to make it more unmarketable than it is at present, or the price of the popular or garden rarities will have to be so much reduced as to make the catalogue of no value as a medium for controlling the market price.

I could give pages of illustrations of all sorts and grades of stamps in the same category, and it is this which compels me to look with so much misgiving upon the practical use of the catalogue as suggested by Mr. Oldfield. If I had only named isolated instances, then lapse of time *coupled* with the acceptance of the catalogue upon all other stamps might have its effect in levelling up the discrepancies which exist in the stamps named, but when there are a large number of stamps in this position, then it would be found there was no disposition amongst either collectors or the trade to accept the catalogue, and lapse of time would do nothing. If the change is to be brought about, and market prices in the future are to indicate the relative scarcity stamps bear to one another, then it will have to be effected by a gradual process. Drastic measures of reform carry with them too often their own retribution.

One more word upon this suggestion of values before leaving it. You, Mr. Editor, have for years maintained the *value* of Transvaals, yet prices did not vary, at all events in any upward tendency. I confess I believe you would just as conscientiously have continued, for the next ten years to do the same, and with much the same result, if the War had not supervened. What is the effect? Transvaals are, I hear, beginning to boom; prices have unquestionably gone up, and collectors are eagerly buying at advanced prices what they would not have deigned to look at twelve months ago. Judged from the standpoint of *value*, however, I think you will, Mr. Editor, bear me out when I say that Transvaals are not yet priced high enough (in spite of the rise) to reflect their true value.

In this illustration I see three stages—the market price a few months ago, and which had been practically stationary for years—the market price to-day—the market price in say three months, when the Republic is no more and the stamps once again become Colonials, a further rise to approximately their value. Is the Committee to issue their catalogue every six or twelve months to meet this kind of thing? From the point of *value* the stamps cannot have appreciated so much in the time, although their market price may have fluctuated in this way. Suppose the catalogue had been issued twelve months ago, would the stamps have been valued according to your idea, Mr. Editor, which time and circumstances have proved to be correct, or according to the market price at the time? In the former instance, the catalogue would be misleading in that it would put a value upon stamps much in excess of the market price, and in the latter case the stamps would not have been priced according to their value but

according to the tone of the market. Now it is common knowledge that the market is subject to fluctuations; it is the same in other things than stamps, and these fluctuations are inevitable and arise from a variety of reasons, some of which seem adequate while others appear altogether inadequate. It is the War which accounts for the appreciation of Transvaals and Orange Free State, but there is no political reason to account for the appreciation which has taken place the last three years in France, and still less in Norway. Yet all these, in mint condition, have bounded up, and many others besides, to the detriment of their more unfortunate brethren.

But in all these instances the *value* of the stamps must have remained much the same, it could not have altered so radically in so short a time. One can understand the market price varying: that is in the nature of things, but as I understand the proposition, it is not the market price but the value which is to be the guide.

I hope I have not pressed this proposition of guide to values unduly. I feel the catalogue whether it is a guide to values or a guide to fair market prices ought to be thorough and that no half and half kind of thing would be practicable. Personally I have a great abhorrence of any half measure or any man sitting on the fence. I don't understand, however, that Mr. Oldfield's suggestion contemplates any half measure even in dealing with notoriously unpopular countries, or those in bad repute; on the contrary his remark that "varieties would have to be valued with some regard to the popularity of the variety in question, and the reputation of the country by which it was issued," negatives any idea of the ordinary stamps of the country being treated in a similar manner.

Suppose, however, such a course were adopted, then the catalogue would cease to be a guide to values and would become *ipso facto* a guide to market prices.

Upon the question "Can the 'ifs' be disposed of?" I cannot usefully add anything to what has already been urged. I am inclined to think that if the first proposition meet with fairly unanimous support from the affirmative point of view then that ways and means could be devised to get over the "ifs."

Whether the suggestion that "the catalogue should be published "first of all in the pages of a Monthly Journal (useful copy being thus "provided) and subsequently reprinted," etc., would commend itself to the majority I very much doubt. Experience in the past in a similar direction does not commend it, neither *does* the experience we are having at present in one of our English Journals, calling forth as it did last month from Mr. Nankivell an allusion to a well-known Biblical Character.

After administering a well-merited rebuke, which I cordially endorse, to one who has already taken my own side in this debate, Mr. Oldfield sums up the objections, which alone to him appeal with force, as two in number, viz.:—

The difficulty of revision.

The necessity that the catalogue should be International.

Looking at a subject from a different point of view it is curious to what different conclusions one comes to, as to the difficulties in the way. The above seem to me to be minor ones, if the big *IF* can be

got over, viz., the devising a plan of pricing to secure the general acceptance of the catalogue to control market prices.

As to revision, the stamps would not rise rapidly in *value*, and revision would be necessary more to include new issues and to correct errors of omission and commission—I trust the latter would be few—than for anything else. The great advantage of Mr. Oldfield's plan seems to me that the catalogue for its own purposes would have nothing to do with market prices. A happy catalogue, indeed!

As to the International part I have already touched on this.

In conclusion, I think a great deal too much is being made, and has for the last five years been made, of this question of prices. Our hobby is fast becoming little short of a money-grubbing business, one vast speculation which, if not effectively put a stop to, will spell ruin to Philately. Great publicity may have its advantages, it certainly brings with it its disadvantages. It has brought into Philately a horde of speculators, who care as little for stamps, for the pleasure they derive from them, as our ancestors who knew them not. Their only care is how to buy for a rise, and to rig the market regardless of the consequences which must sooner or later ensue. The evil, unfortunately, does not end there: these speculators seem to have imbued collectors generally, especially the younger class (the adjective being used in connection with collecting experience and not age), with their spirit of gain; an entirely new phase is being given to Philately. To call it Philately is to prostitute the name. Judging by some of the articles which have appeared in the Magazines the last two years we shall soon arrive at the state when it will be considered sufficient to put, as a description over the stamp, its supposed cash value. I shudder to think at Philately stooping so low.

Every Philatelist takes a pride in a rarity, he always did, and, I hope, always will do. But he did not, and a *Philatelist* I venture to assert does not, look upon his rarity as so many golden sovereigns.

To publish a collectors' catalogue and indicate in general terms which stamps are common, medium, scarce, rare, and very rare would be of use to all, without tending to further vitiate our hobby. A catalogue so compiled would have my sympathy and hearty support.

# Printing of New Zealand Stamps.

[*From the "Evening Post," Wellington, New Zealand.*]

AN interesting addition has been made to the mechanical appliances at the Government Printing Office. The old-fashioned press for postage stamp printing has been superseded by a machine of the most modern type, imported from New York, and the plant has been varied to meet the new conditions. The stamp printing press just set up is very simple in its operation and construction. There are four steel plates, each having on its surface 240 dies, and these plates work round the machinery in a square. The plates in succession pass under inked rollers, which fill the sunk lines of the dies, then under a cloth-padded rubber, which removes the ink from the surface of the plate; then they pass on to another side of the square where the plate surface is polished, and then under the cylinder through which the paper is fed, the engraved sheets being removed and protected by a covering sheet of paper. And so the process goes on so long as the machinery is in motion. The new press, though used only for printing postage stamps, is adapted to all descriptions of steel-plate engraving work. It is capable of turning out 5,000 sheets of stamps (240 per sheet) in an ordinary day's work, and can be speeded to nearly twice that number. It is now being used in printing a new issue of stamps of all denominations, under the supervision of Mr. W. C. Smith, who was brought from New York to superintend the erection of the machinery and give instruction in its working. The colours of the stamps now being printed are different to those at present in circulation, and the steel engraving gives them a much handsomer appearance.

The paper used for stamps is supplied by the Stamp Office in books containing 500 sheets of a size just sufficient to hold 240 impressions with the usual margin. Every sheet leaves a printed number, and has to be accounted for. The whole operations are carried on with locked doors, no one being permitted to enter the room without a special permit. Should a sheet be damaged it has to be carefully preserved, as, if it could not be accounted for, the printers would have to make good its face value. Damaged impressions are accordingly sent in company with the perfect ones to the Stamp Office, where everything is checked and the imperfect sheets destroyed. Only one steel die is engraved for each denomination, and the 240 dies on the steel plate are made with this one when the plate is soft. It is then hardened, and is ready to produce any number of impressions. These plates cost about £60 each.

# Philately in the Mags.

### Orange Free State "V.R.I."

Mr. E. W. Smith, the war correspondent of the *Morning Leader* newspaper, thus describes "Tommy's" rush for the Orange Free State stamps surcharged "V.R.I.":—

"But when stamps became the popular hobby, 'Tommy' was there with the rest. He can be found making queue with the rest at the post office counter buying V.R.I. surcharged stamps of values between ½d. and 5s. After he has secured his curio, possibly a dozen to distribute amongst friends at home, he is invited outside to examine whether he has obtained 'dotless' specimens. Of course, he hasn't. These are rare. They have thrown town and garrison into perfect turmoil, which Mr. Mortimer Menpes graphically describes in the *Friend*. On my return from Cape Town, the only intelligible word I could detect in the buzz that emanated from the centre of the group was 'Dot.' I passed on to another group where the same 'dot' arrested my attention; then to a third which was also 'dotty,' until feeble and bewildered, I helplessly wandered about on the verge of 'dottiness' myself. Finally I pulled myself together again, and blind to all danger, plunged into a group of 'dotters,' grasped one of them by the arm, and in reply to my appeals heard him hiss as he roughly shook me off: 'Surcharged stamps you fool, misprinted without dots!' Then I understood.

"This mania has taken possession of the entire army. From Tommy to General the last biscuit, or a drink of whisky, or a pass to be out after 8 p.m., can be extracted after a dozen refusals by producing a 'dotless' stamp."

According to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, it is no use applying to the Bloemfontein Postmaster for the new "V. R. I." series. For applications from other than local collectors the following type-written letter is kept in stock:—

"General Post Office, Orange Free State, Bloemfontein, Sir,—In acknowledging receipt of your letter of the —— enclosing —— for stamps, I beg leave to inform you that this department does not deal with such matters; Apply to a person known to you locally, who can purchase the stamps in the usual and only way. —— returned herewith. I have, etc. Signed —— Administrator, Civil Posts."

### Tasmanian Stamps: Official Stock.

The postal authorities for Tasmania have issued a printed slip, giving particulars as to the stamps at present on sale at the General Post Office, Hobart. These include several obsolete varieties. Here is the list:—

TASMANIA.—List of stamps on sale at the General Post Office, Hobart.

| Value. | Date of Issue. |
|---|---|
| Halfpenny .. .. | 1892. |
| One Penny .. .. | 1899. |
| Twopence .. .. | 1899. |
| Twopence halfpenny.. | 1891, 2½d. on 9d. 1892. |
| Threepence .. .. | 1871. Platypus, 1880. |
| Fourpence .. .. | 1876. |
| Fivepence .. .. | 1892. |
| Sixpence .. .. | 1892. |
| Eightpence .. .. | 1878. |
| Ninepence .. .. | 1871. |
| Tenpence .. .. | 1870, 1899. |
| One Shilling .. .. | 1880, Platypus, 1892. |
| Two. Sh. & Sixpence.. | 1864, 1892. |
| Five Shillings .. .. | 1897. |
| Ten Shillings .. .. | 1864, 1892. |
| One Pound .. .. | 1897. |
| Envelopes (2d.), 2½d. each. | |
| ,, Registered, 2 sizes, 3d. each. | |
| Postcards, single, 1d. each; reply, 3d. ea. | |
| Letter Cards, 2d. each. | |

Our excellent contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist*, supplies the following explanatory notes:—

"½d. This is the bi-coloured stamp, orange and mauve.

1d. and 2d. Pictorial issue.

2½d. These are the second type of the surcharged on 9d., and the magenta stamp of the same type as the bi-coloured series.

3d. The "1871" stamp is of similar type to the issue of that date, but it is in light Indian red, and printed on the second type of TAS paper. The platypus stamp was originally issued as a fiscal in 1880, and authorised for postal use in 1882.

4d. This is of a similar type to the stamp of 1870, which was originally issued in blue, and changed to *yellow* in 1876. It was again changed to *brown* about 1891, printed on the first type of TAS paper, and subsequently printed on the second type of TAS paper in a much lighter shade of brown about 1896. This is the stamp on sale.

5d. Bi-coloured series, blue and brown.

6d. Bi-coloured series, mauve and black.

8d. De la Rue's print of 1878, Queen's head type.

9d. Similar type to the 8d. Printed in light blue on the second type of TAS paper about 1898.

10d. The original print of 1870 on paper watermarked with the italic "10," colour black; and the bi-coloured stamp of 1899.

1s. Platypus type authorised for postal use in 1882; and bi-coloured stamp, rose and green.

2s. 6d. The stamp described as of the 1864 issue is the St. George and Dragon type, but printed on the second type of TAS paper, and authorised for postal use in

1882. The 1892 stamp is the bi-coloured one, brown and blue.

5s. Bi-coloured, lilac and red.

10s. The stamp described as of the 1864 issue is the St. George and Dragon type, but printed in salmon on paper watermarked double-lined figure 1; re-issued and authorised for postal use in 1882. The 1892 stamp is the bi-coloured one, mauve and brown.

£1. Bi-coloured, green and yellow."

### Japanese Forgeries.

Major Evans has, in the *Monthly Journal*, an interesting explanatory note on Japanese forgeries. For some time it has been known that the so-called reprints, overprinted in Japanese with the word "Facsimile," are only forgeries. These were described in the last Gibbons catalogue as "official imitations," which they were then believed to be. A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal*, having made enquiries at headquarters, received the following official reply:—

"Sir,—Duly received your letter inquiring me whether the official imitations of the Japanese postage stamps have been made up to the present time.

"In reply, I beg to inform you that only two postage stamps, of 1 sen and 2 sen, issued in the fifth year of Meiji, have been officially imitated, with the purpose of completing the official edition *A Short History of the Imperial Japanese Postage Stamps*, in which all the issues of Japanese stamps are contained; but the said imitations have only been affixed in the said book, and never sent anywhere apart from the book.

"In conclusion, I may presume that the stamps said to have been imitated officially, as stated in your letter, would, no doubt, be the private issues made for the purpose of fulfilling the public requirements.—Yours faithfully, K. Fournichi, *Vice-Minister of Communications*."

The *Monthly Journal* adds, "Our correspondent's view is that the two 'imitations' alluded to in the Minister's letter are real reprints of two of the Japanese stamps, but which these may be we do not know. As far as we are aware, no actual reprints are known to Philatelists, and this seems to be Mr. Bacon's theory also. It would be interesting to examine specimens of these official imitations or reprints, whichever they may be, but it is evident that they will give no special trouble to collectors."

### The Perforation Craze.

A contributor to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* tells a good story apropos of the craze for varieties of perforation. He says:—

"I once knew a man whose perforation madness ran riot in the dangerous field of New South Wales. He spent many hours a day measuring stamps on their north, south, east and west sides. One day he bought a huge box of the later issues of that Colony, and when his sons, of whom he had two, were in need of punishment, he would give them a bushel or a peck of stamps (according to the crime) to gauge, with strict orders to separate the different perforations. Both boys would have preferred the thumb screw to an hour's gauging, and by way of revenge adroitly flicked all the scarce perforations up their sleeves to be destroyed afterwards on the quiet. But one day Thomas, the elder brother, aged 14, had a bright idea which he communicated with great delight to the other; the result was that the boys began to take some interest in their work, and to question their father as to the rarity of some of the varieties *and their values*. The father was only too pleased to give his sons the information, and told them that they would soon become good philatelists. Soon afterwards, Thomas mentioned casually that he had noticed, in the window of a neighbouring stationer's shop, a sheet on which were several rare perforations of N.S.W. stamps for sale. The father was not long in finding his way to that shop, and became the purchaser of the stamps, though he grumbled somewhat at the accuracy of the pricing. From that day the occupation which had formerly been a burden to these bad little boys became quite a pleasure, and they were getting quite rich by the time that their father discovered some other method of correcting them."

### Paraguay: Postal Regulations.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following copy of the Postal Regulations of the Republic of Paraguay:—

"Letters for the Argentine Republic and the Province of Matto Grosso, in Brazil, are charged 20c. per 15 grammes; commercial papers 20c., samples 2c., printed matter 4c., per 50 grammes; letter cards 20c., post cards 4c. For Uruguay and the provinces of Brazil adjoining that Republic (*viâ* Argentina), the charges are for letters 28c. per 15 grammes; commercial papers 40c., samples 16c., printed matter 8c. per 50 grammes; letter cards 28c., post cards 8c. For the other countries in the Postal Union, letters 40c. per 15 grammes; commercial papers 40c., samples 16c., printed matter 8c., per 50 grammes; letter cards 40c., post cards 8c. And for all the above the registration fee is 40c., or with return receipt 60c. For the interior of the Republic, letters are charged 5c. per 15 grammes; commercial papers 5c., samples 2c., printed matter 1c, per 50 grammes; letter cards and post cards 2c.; registration fee 30c.

"Some new values would appear to be required:—Adhesives, 8c., 16c., and 28c."

### Duttia: First Issue.

Major Evans in his comprehensive series of articles on "The Stamps of some of the Native States of India" deals in the April number of the *Monthly Journal* with the

State of Duttia. From the *Philatelic Journal of India* he quotes the following :—

"Duttia is a State comprising various portions of territory scattered about over Bundkelkund, the main portion being directly north of Jhansi. Its total area is 912½ square miles, and its population 186,440. But these figures give no idea of the actual distance from one part of the State to another, owing to its territory being so broken up. The Maharaja holds a high position among the feudatory chiefs of India, and is entitled to a salute of fifteen guns. It appears that this State has had a post and postage stamps of its own since 1893. It has one head office and nine branch offices. Each branch office renders daily accounts to the head office, and the head office renders a monthly account to the State Treasury. The postmaster of Duttia (State) Office is head of the postal administration, subject to inspection at irregular intervals by one of the higher Durbar officials.

"The State Post deals with paid and unpaid letters, post cards, packets, registered articles, and parcels. Official articles are carried free, but postage stamps, stamped envelopes, and post cards are available for private correspondence. The greater part of the contents of the mails consists, of course, of official correspondence. The rates of postage are said to be the same as those prevailing in British India, though there appears to be a quarter anna rate for certain articles besides post cards.

"The stamps, etc., are printed at a private press, and an ingenious device is resorted to in order to prevent forgery. No stamp, envelope, or post card is available for prepayment of postage till it bears the impression of the Maharaja's seal. Till this is added the stamp is worthless. When it is added the stamp is available for prepayment of postage up to the value indicated upon it."

Then, discussing the question of the first issue, Gibbons' Type 1., 1893, he writes :—

"It seems to have been taken for granted that the stamps which were found in use in 1897 were the same as those that were first issued four years previously, and I have no evidence to produce against this theory. But it must not be forgotten that one of the values of the series then discovered was of quite a different type from that of the other values, and of a type which moreover very shortly came into use for those other values, and has continued in use, with slight variations, since. It seems therefore not unnatural to suppose that there was originally a complete set of adhesives in the type without English inscriptions, which has since been in use only for the envelopes. At any rate I may fairly place this first as being at least as early as the other.

"The design consists of a figure of the god Ganesh in the centre, with value in Devanagari characters below, inclosed in a frame of trefoil ornaments, as shown in the first illustration."

### Siam: Varieties.

We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal* :—

"A correspondent at Bangkok has very kindly sent us notes of a number of minor varieties of the numerous surcharges that have been produced there of late years. The surcharge shown in Type 24 exists with a much larger space between the figure and the word. There are several varieties of the 4 Atts on 12 atts ; Type 35 exists in entire sheets, but there is a smaller type, with 'Atts.' as in Type 34, in which there are two minor varieties of the letter 't,' one with the tail more turned up than the other. These letters 't' exist both in separate sheets and also mixed together in the same sheet, and in the same word, so that we may assume that there were at least four printings of these 4 Atts on 12 atts. On the sheets with small type and both letters 't' with tails turned up there is a stamp with no stop after 'Atts,' and it is this type also of which copies exist with double surcharge.

"The 3 'Atts.' on 12 atts exist both with the surcharge as shown in Type 34, and with much greater space between the figure and the word ; these appear to be some of the settings used for the 4 atts, but the latter is not, we gather, found with the wide spacing, though the small figure and word are not so close together as the large.

"We described some of the varieties of the 1 Att on 12 atts in September last ; this also shows in different printings variations in the space between the figure and the word, and in the letters 't' ; the same letters are used in the '2 Atts' and 64 atts.

"In the 10 Atts on 24 atts, No. 53, the only prominent variety shows the letter 's' upside down ; the letters 't' appear all to be of the type with turned-up tails, and a little unevenness may be found in the setting, as is also the case with the others.

### Puerto Rico v. Porto Rico.

According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* a muddle is being made in official circles of the spelling of this new colony of the United States. We are told that "after the director general of posts had given general instructions to have the spelling on the stamp changed to Puerto Rico and the official announcement of the correct spelling in this country appeared to be made, it looks very much as if we will have to stick to the old spelling Porto Rico after all, and that any new supply of stamps which may be ordered in future will again show the old spelling. In all official documents lately issued by the executive departments the old spelling is adhered to without exception."




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**British Guiana.** — The *Timbre-Post* chronicles the 2c. with value in carmine.

*Adhesive.*
2c., lilac and carmine.

**Canada.**—The 3 cents, 6 cents, and 15 cents are said to have been withdrawn from issue.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* anticipates that there is a likelihood of varieties in the future issues of Canadian stamps, owing to the recent total destruction by fire of the mill which supplied the paper.

The *American Journal of Philately* has seen the recently issued surcharge 2c. on 3c. with surcharge inverted.

**Cape of Good Hope.** Mafeking.—Messrs. Bright & Son have shown us the Mafeking siege stamp. It is the 3d stamp of the Cape, surcharged "MAFEKING," "BESIEGED," in two lines, and the new value, "6d.," below, all in black. These stamps are apparently being used on letters carried through the Boer lines by runner.

*Adhesive.*
6d. on 3d. magenta.

**Ceylon.**—We illustrate the 2r. 25c. already chonicled and catalogued, but only just issued.




*Adhesive.*
2r. 25c., dull blue.

**Fiji.**—According to the *London Philatelist* the colour of the current ½d. stamp has been changed from grey to dark-green.

*Adhesive*
½d., dark-green

**Great Britain.**—The plate of the new shilling has been completed, and the imprimatur sheet was registered at Somerset House on 12th April, 1900. The sheet is the same size as before, *i.e.*, 120 stamps in 10 rows of 12 stamps. There are two outer lines of colour around the sheet. The inner line is in lake and is unbroken, the outer line is in green and is broken at each angle. There is no plate number. As already announced, the design is unaltered. The centre of the stamp, *i.e.*, from and including the words "Postage and Revenue" above, and "One Shilling" below, the portrait, is printed in green, and the surrounding design in lake. The general effect is very pleasing.

*Adhesive*
1s., green centre, frame lake

**Natal.**—We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*:—"A correspondent, who is in one of the regiments in this colony, sends us some interesting curiosities in the shape of Transvaal stamps used at Natal post offices, and a Natal stamp with a Boer postmark—surcharged stamps apparently he has not met with. He had seen the Postmaster of Newcastle, who told him that he managed to remove all the postal property from his office, but that the Postmaster at Dundee had such short notice that he was able to save nothing except the cash. Accordingly we have before us a 1d. Natal stamp, postmarked "P. K. Newcastle 30 10 99" all in one straight line across stamp and envelope, in *black*, and a 1d. current issue of the S. A. Republic postmarked "New Castle—Nov 1899.," in two lines, in *violet* ink; "P. K." stands for "Post Kantoor" (="Post Office"), and both of these marks were no doubt make-

shifts. At Charlestown a more elaborate date-stamp was used, consisting of a double-lined transverse oval, with 'CHARLESTOWN" in a curve at the top and the date in a straight line across the centre; we are shown this struck in *rose* across a ½d. and a 1d. of the S. A. Republic on the same cover, dated "10 JAN. 1900"; whilst on two similar stamps we find the ordinary "DUNDEE—NATAL" mark, in a circle, in *black*.

Our correspondent also tells us that some roughly printed pictorial post cards were got up in Ladysmith during the siege; but they, of course, have no stamps upon them, and as there were no mails running at the time either locally or to the outside world, "*post* cards" is perhaps hardly a correct term to apply to them. He adds a little cutting from a paper, which shows that the two Republics have joined their forces and fortunes *postally* as well as otherwise:—

"Pretoria, 20th" (February?). "(Special). —The Postmaster-General notifies that letters from the occupied colonial territories can be stamped by both Free State or Transvaal stamps"

**New Zealand.**—We have several more values of the local printing of the picture series.

The ½d. has been changed in colour from purple-brown to yellow-green. The design has been redrawn in a slightly reduced size, about ½m. less in length and proportionately throughout. It is printed on paper water-marked N Z and star and is perf. 11.

The 1d. value is changed from brown and blue to carmine, and now takes the design of the 4d. view of Pink Terraces, which has also been redrawn with slight variations in slightly reduced size, the most noticeable difference being in the little ornament between the words "postage" and "revenue." In the 1d it is much smaller than in the 4d. Wmk. N Z and star; perf. 11.

The 2d. is changed from lake to mauve Wmk. N Z and star; perf. 11.

The 4d. now takes the bicoloured design of the former 1d. value, and is therefore changed from lake to brown and blue. The design has been redrawn slightly reduced throughout, and it is printed in more yellowish brown. The *Australian Philatelist* believes "the balance of the first printing on unwatermarked paper has been issued and a fresh printing made on watermarked paper." We presume, therefore, that we must chronicle this unwatermarked and with watermark N Z and star; perf. 11.

*Adhesives.*

½d., yellow-green .. wmk. N Z and star.
1d., carmine .. .. „ „ „
2d., mauve .. .. „ „ „
4d., brown; blue centre „ „ „
4d., „ „ „ unwatermarked.

**Northern Nigeria.**—In accordance with the division of the Niger Coast territories into Northern Nigeria and Southern Nigeria last year, when the Government took over these territories from the Niger Company, we now have a series of separate stamps chronicled for Northern Nigeria by the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*. The design seems to be of the current De la Rue Gold Coast type.

*Adhesives.*

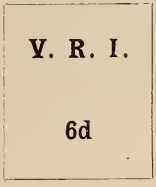
½d., lilac and green.
1d., „ red.
2d., „ yellow.
2½d., „ blue.
5d., „ brown.
6d., „ violet-blue.
10d., green and brown.
1s. 0d., „ black.
2s. 6d., „ blue.

**Orange Free State.**—To our list of the stamps of this State surcharged "V R.I." given in our last number (p. 124) we now have to add "2d" on twee pence; "3d." on drie pence; "6d." on zes pence, blue; "1s." on een shilling; and "5s." on vyf shillgs; also what seems to be a fresh setting of the initials on the ½d. and 1d, with the stops raised above the line, thus, "V·R·I·"

A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* who has been allowed by the Postmaster at Bloemfontein to examine some entire sheets found that they had been overprinted in panes of 60 stamps at a time, each pane showing one or two defects in the way of omission of periods, always occurring in the same position. The publishers of the *M.J.* have since seen an entire sheet of the first printing of the 1d, in which Nos. 15 and 135 show the error without the letter "I." This is taken to indicate that the printing in this instance was in half sheets of 120. The same error is said to exist on the ½d. The *M.J.* understands that only 4,600 of the 6d. (? carmine) were surcharged.

The receipt of the "6d." on the zes pence, printed in *blue*, is presumably a stock of this value in an intended change of colour.

The surcharge is always in black.




*Adhesives.*

"2d." on twee pence, mauve.
"3d." on drie pence, blue.
"6d." on zes pence, blue.
"1s." on een shilling, brown.
"5s." on vyf shillgs, green.

*Varieties.*

No stop after "V"
½d., 1d., 2½d.
No stop after "I"
1d.
All three stops above the line
½d. 1d.
"I." omitted after "V.R."
1d.

**South Australia.** — The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 1d. stamp in the new colour surcharged "O.S." in tall narrow type.

*Adhesive.*

Official Stamp.
1d., rose, "O.S." in black.

**Straits Settlements.** PERAK. — We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a copy of the 4c. lilac and carmine in current type of tiger's head. This value is catalogued in the recently issued Gibbons' Catalogue, but has only just been issued. Wmk. C.A.; perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*

4c., lilac, name and value in carmine.

FEDERATED MALAY STATES —The *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* adds the following to the list we quoted from the same journal in April (p. 101) with the surcharged "Federated —Malay States" in two lines of sans serif capitals.

*Adhesives.*

5c., lilac and olive; *Negri Sembilan.*
20c., green „ „
50c., „ ? „
1 dol., green and pale-green; *Perak.*
2 dols., „ „ carmine „
5 „ „ „ ultramarine „
10 „ „ „ ochre „

**Tasmania.**—In March last (p. 71) we chronicled the 1d. and 2d. of a new picture series. We now have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. other values of the series, all of which we illustrate and list below. In attempting to follow the lead of New Zealand in popularising local scenery in its postal issues it is a pity the postal authorities of Tasmania did not pay for better engraving than the rough, crude work in these stamps, for we refuse to believe that such a firm as Messrs. De la Rue cannot produce higher class engraving than these wretched samples. Wmk. TAS in diagonally lines; perf. 14.



















*Adhesives.*

½d., green (Lake Marion).
2½d., deep blue (Tasman's Arch).
3d., brown (Spring River, Port Davey).
4d., orange (Russell Falls).
5d., ultramarine (Mount Gould and Lake St. Clair).
6d., lake (Dilston Falls).

**Trinidad.**—We do not seem to have chronicled the change in the colour of the 5s. stamp from green with value in orange to lilac with value in mauve.

*Adhesive.*

5s., lilac, value in mauve.

**Western Australia.** — The *Australian Philatelist* says the 2d. has for some time been withdrawn from issue and a reversion to the old grey colour has taken place. It is on the old C.A. paper.

*Adhesive.*

2d., grey, C.A.

# Foreign Countries.

**Austria.**—We have not yet chronicled the unpaid stamps.

Unpaids. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 40, and 100 heller, brown.

Levant.—Further values of the new issue are now surcharged for the Turkish offices

*Adhesives.*

10 par. on 5 heller, deep green.
20 ,, ,, 10 ,, rose.
5 pi. ,, 1 kr., deep rose.

Bosnia.—The new issue is completed by the appearance of the following stamps:—

*Adhesives.*

6 heller, chocolate.
10 ,, red.
20 ,, rose.
25 ,, deep blue.
30 ,, pale brown.
50 ,, lilac.

**Belgium.** Congo. — Postal Union changes are in progress here. The following are reported:—

*Adhesives.*

5c. black and green.
10c. ,, carmine.
25c. ,, blue.
50c. ,, olive green.

**Chili.**—We have received the 1c. and 2c. values of the new design, which we illustrate. The other values which we add are chronicled by our contemporaries. The engraving is very clear and well done and is said to be the work of Messrs. Waterlow. Rouletted.




*Adhesives.*

1c., green.
2c., carmine
5c., blue.
10c., violet.
20c., black.
50c., brown.

**France.**—We have the new 2 francs stamp from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. It is of the current type and is printed in pale-brown on pale-blue tinted, wove paper; perf. 14 × 13½.

*Adhesive.*

2fr., pale-brown on pale-blue paper.

**Germany.** — According to the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung* the high values of the new series have been issued. The design consists of a view of the Imperial Post Office at Berlin. The *D.B.Z.* describes the designs of the other values as follows:—2 marks, two representatives of German tribes swearing eternal friendship with the inscription below "be united, united, united"; 3 marks, shows the unveiling of the equestrian statue of the Emperor William I. at Berlin; 5 marks, represents the coronation of William II., the inscription reading, "One empire, one people, one God." The colours are:

*Adhesives.*

1 mark, carmine rose.
2 marks, blue.
3 ,, violet black.
5 ,, carmine with black rame.

**Uruguay.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the following new colours of old types: 5c. monument, orange; 7c. type of 1890, lake; 20c. type of 1890, pale-blue.

*Adhesives.*

5c., orange, *perf.* 14.
7c., lake ,, ,,
20c., pale-blue ,, 15.

Colombian Republic. — The *American Journal of Philately* has received a new provisional issued at Cuenta by the provisional or revolutionary Government.

*Adhesive.*

5c., black on pink.

Panama.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new registration stamp of the value of 10c., evidently a provisional.

*Adhesive.*

10c., black on light-blue.

# Notes and News.

### Yet Another Castle Sale.

Just as we are going to press we are informed by a correspondent that Mr. Castle has, within the last few days, sold his matchless collection of unused Europeans to a comparatively new collector for the record price of £29 500.

### Imperial Penny Post: a Loss.

No official return is yet available to show whether the establishment of the Imperial Penny Post is a great loss or not from the financial point of view, but the question and answer from the Parliamentary proceedings of the 17th May, 1900, seems to indicate a heavy loss. We shall be curious to know what Mr. Henniker Heaton has to say to Mr. Hanbury's statement that the increase of correspondence falls 150 per cent. below anticipations.

"Sir B. GURDON (Norfolk, N.) asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he could state financial results of the reduction of postage to and from certain Colonies to 1d., and whether letters charged at that rate were carried at a loss.

"Mr. HANBURY (Preston).—The estimate which was made when the scheme was sanctioned in 1898 related solely to the reduction of receipts from the existing number of letters posted, which was placed at £108,000 a year. This calculation was based mainly on the Postal Union statistics of 1896, and took no account of the anticipated growth in the number of letters sent. No accurate statement of the results up till now can be given without elaborate inquiry; but the officers despatching the bags are quite certain that the establishment of penny postage to British possessions has not led to the increase of the correspondence by 150 per cent., and the growth which has taken place has led to increased expenditure for carriage and handling. Even the 2½d. letter was carried at a loss."

### The "Timbre-Poste," No. 1.

The *Monthly Circular*, referring to the retirement of M. Moens, writes:—

"In 1862 M. Moens issued from his bookshop in the Galerie Bortier, Brussels, his first catalogue or *Manuel du Collectionneur*, a little work of 72 pages, printed on green paper, and in January of the following year the first number of the *Timbre-Poste* appeared. This, with the other numbers of 1863, is sought after as a rarity by collectors of stamp literature, whose sets are generally made up with the reprint of 1867. The Editor's address concluded with these words:—

"'Our sheet will give all the information which we think likely to interest collectors, and everything which is connected directly or indirectly with postage stamps. In short, our journal will be the record of this pleasant and intellectual collectiomania—a record all the more faithful since it will follow its daily progress, and because we shall bring to our task a collector's zeal and ardour, and not merely the interest of an ordinary publisher.'"

### Herts Society: Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner was held at Anderton's Hotel, on Tuesday, May 1st, 1900. Present, Messrs. M. P. Castle (in the chair), Louis E. Bradbury, W. A. Boyes, E. Bounds, W. G. Cook, E. P. Airlie Dry, E. Ehrenbach, R. Frentzel, G. Gaffe, W. Hadlow, G. Haynes, J. W. Jones, E. A. Mardon, R. Meyer, F. Reichenheim, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Simpson, C. R. Sutherland, A. G. Wane, F. A. Wickhart, H. A. Slade, and four visitors.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the Chairman gave the toast of the evening—"The Herts Philatelic Society"—in felicitous and flattering terms. Mr. T. Haynes replied in a comprehensive and interesting speech. He referred to the courtesy shewn and assistance rendered by the Vice-Presidents and the Honorary Members in the matter of displays, etc, and in making a statement as regards the present position of the Society, he mentioned that the muster-roll contained the names of 97 members, that the average attendance at meetings was upwards of 16, that the gross value of packets in the Exchange Section was £2,932 18s. 6½d., from October, 1899, to April, 1900, and that the gross sales for the same period were £324 8s. 11d. And, most important of all, that the financial position of the Society was entirely satisfactory. The Chairman then gave a display of his collections of unused stamps of Saxony, Oldenburg, Wurtemburg, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

### Prince Edward Island, Bogus 10c.

The following good story of the genesis of the bogus 10c. Prince Edward Island is told in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*.

"Many dealers and collectors will, no doubt, be able to recall the fraudulent 10c. Prince Edward Island stamp, known as the Taylor counterfeit. How it came to be accepted as a genuine issue of that Island is the story that is being told here. It appears that Taylor, according to the account, made these stamps with his own little implements. But how to get them accepted as the real thing was the problem he had to solve, as no such stamp was known to have been

issued by Prince Edward Island. This, however, did not trouble him long. He attached some of them to envelopes, giving the latter the appearance of having been mailed in the island and addressed to people at Boston. After the envelopes had been sealed and then torn open as if letters had been taken out of them, the envelopes were strewn about the floor of the post office building in Boston. It was the practice in those days more, perhaps, than it is to-day, for the boy collectors to gather in the post office every day to swap stamps and to obtain them from persons receiving letters from foreign parts. Some of these lads found the envelopes with the 10c. P.E.I. on them. Through them some of them found their way into a Boston dealer's hands, and when Taylor came around to this particular dealer he was easily able to unload."

# Echoes from the Mart.

### Bechuanas at Auction.

The Bechuanaland portion of Mr. Tamsen's Collection was sold by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper on 10th May, 1900. It included many fine lots. We append the prices of a few of the more notable:—

1888-9 Surcharged "Protectorate."

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1s., 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s., unused.. .. | 20 | 5 | 0 |
| 3d. lilac, used pane of 60 .. .. .. | 33 | 0 | 0 |
| 4d. lilac, black sur., unused block of 16 .. | 13 | 15 | 0 |
| 4d. lilac, red sur., unused sheet of 60 .. | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| ½d. vermilion, unused half sheet of 120 with small capital P, uncatalogued .. .. | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Same, with surcharge inverted .. .. | 43 | 10 | 0 |
| ½d., with "Protectorate" in large letters, unused part sheet of 72 .. .. .. | 31 | 10 | 0 |
| 4d. vermilion, with "Protectorate" and "Fourpence" inverted, unused .. | 2 | 7 | 6 |

### The Good Old Days and Prices.

Mr. Theodor Bull, like other patriarchs in the "sere and yellow leaf," has taken to writing his Reminiscences. The first instalment appears in the May number of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. Says he, "I had dozens of 4d. on 1s. St. Vincent, and the highest price, which was a big figure then, was 15s. each! After I had been dealing some time I received the first consignment of the various surcharges of Turk's Islands, and most of these were sold from the window in Gresham Street at an average of about 15s. to 20s. per sheet of thirty showing all the types! Another stamp which I was the first to show in London was the 1d. on half 6d. Tobago (pen and ink surcharge). I remember finding several *pairs* and singles of these in a mixed lot of stamps, and the price was 15s. each. As far as I recollect, Mr. Burnett had the last pair."

### Reckless Pricing.

Mr. Castle, referring in the *London Philatelist* to the retirement of M. Moens from business, remarks, "The Brussels firm never varied their prices for any client, and, as long as their catalogue was in issue, adhered as closely as possible to their published quotations. When a price was altered, it was gradually and sensibly effected, the opposite to the utterly reckless way in which prices are jumped up and down in modern catalogues."

### That "King of Stamps."

The "King of Stamps" has once more taken to peregrinating. It is still in the possession of Messrs. Gaedechens & Co. It has just been gladdening the hearts of the members of the enterprising new firm at 202, High Holborn, E.C. The firm thus describes the said "King":—

"It is the 25c. Venezuela of 1880 printed on both sides, rouletted down one side, used on one side, and with several other peculiarities which it takes the owner himself to explain."

Mr. Gaedechens says he has refused £750 from a Russian nobleman for this "King," and we are bound to confess that we know no reason why it should be sold for such a paltry figure. May we venture to suggest that it be included in the territory restored to Venezuela under the recent award?

### Cutting New Issues.

A dealer in Paris advertises that he will supply all French colonial stamps now in issue at the following rates:—

8 % above face for orders up to 50 frs.
5 % ,, ,, 100 ,,
4 % ,, ,, 200 ,,
3 % ,, ,, above 200 ,,

The home stamps will be supplied at face value.

### Gibbons' Catalogue. Part II.

Mr. C. J. Phillips in the April number of the *Monthly Journal* announces that the publication of Part II. of the Gibbons Catalogue is being delayed "owing to various reasons, the chief one being the delay caused in obtaining some thousands of new illustrations through the winding up in voluntary liquidation of the firm from whom we formerly had them." He adds, "This difficulty has been got over, and we are pushing on with the work, but cannot possibly finish it until the end of June."

### Retirement of M. Moens.

M. Moens, who has for some months been selling his stock with the view of retiring from the stamp business, has sold the residue of his stock *en bloc* to Mr. E. Ruben, the well-known stamp dealer of Copenhagen. The *Timbre-Poste*, now in its thirty-eighth volume, will be carried on to the end of the present year.

The *Monthly Journal* states that M. Moens' fine Philatelic library has been sold to a well-known American book-collector for about £250.

Concerning the sale of the stock to Mr. Ruben, the *Monthly Journal* says: "Mr. Ruben informs us that the postage stamps, including the locals, have a catalogue value, according to the Moens Catalogue of 1892, of about £120,000. The Russian rural stamps catalogued to about £9,600. The envelopes possessed a catalogue value of £18,000, and the post cards a catalogue value of about £9,000. In addition to this the common stamps, which were in large quantities, wholesale and in sheets, catalogued to nearly £40,000, making a total catalogue value, according to an old catalogue of eight years ago, of £196,000. Of course the purchase price was only a small portion of this, because a large margin would be allowed for the large quantity of entires and locals; and further than this the stock did not contain any great rarities, which had, of course, been exhausted some time previously."

### Catalogue Prices.

As an instance of the unreliability of catalogue prices, Mr. Castle mentions cases recently brought to his notice of stamps priced 150 to 200 per cent. above catalogue; quotations for a certain rare set of stamps that average *one eighth* of the price that has been offered and refused; and "Prices quoted in a catalogue for one stamp that is absolutely unique (and which copy will never be sold), and in another case for a stamp, unused, of which eight or nine copies are known used but it is absolutely unknown unused. One stamp is 'priced' double that of the other."

### Duplicate Books.

Messrs. Bright & Son send us a sample of their handy pocket-size Duplicate Book. It measures 6in. by 4½in., and is strongly bound in cloth. There are six stout leaves, and each leaf is fitted with four shelves or pockets. Each strip forming the shelf or pocket is attached by a linen band to the page and thus secures a uniform depth to each pocket from end to end. In all the little book holds close on 500 stamps and even more if crowded. It is the handiest and best made Duplicate Book we have yet examined. The price is 1s. 6d. post free.

### Fluctuations.

An American collector has had the curiosity to go through his collection of 7,818 stamps, excluding N. S., for the purpose of ascertaining the effect of the so-called decline of prices. He sends the result in the following table to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. In the total he finds a fall of only $5\frac{4}{10}$ per cent, *i.e.* a collection which by Scott catalogued up to $2,182.54 in 1899 prices up to $2,074.32 by Scott's current catalogue. Here are the details:—

| Listed at— | 1898. | 1900. |
|---|---|---|
| Under 25 | 6,032 | 6,173 |
| 25 and under 50 | 820 | 774 |
| 50 ,, ,, 60 | 227 | 184 |
| 60 ,, ,, 70 | 92 | 89 |
| 70 ,, ,, 80 | 125 | 117 |
| 80 ,, ,, 90 | 27 | 23 |
| 90 ,, ,, 1.00 | 2 | 2 |
| 1.00 ,, ,, 1.25 | 151 | 134 |
| 1.25 ,, ,, 1.50 | 43 | 51 |
| 1.50 ,, ,, 1.75 | 71 | 73 |
| 1.75 ,, ,, 2.00 | 19 | 12 |
| 2.00 ,, ,, 2.50 | 50 | 40 |
| 2.50 ,, ,, 3.00 | 58 | 43 |
| 3.00 ,, ,, 3.50 | 19 | 17 |
| 3.50 ,, ,, 4.00 | 7 | 9 |
| 4.00 ,, ,, 4.50 | 20 | 21 |
| 5.00 ,, ,, 6.00 | 15 | 16 |
| 6.00 ,, ,, 7.00 | 7 | 10 |
| 7.00 ,, ,, 8.00 | 8 | 11 |
| 8.00 ,, ,, 9.00 | 6 | 4 |
| 10.00 ,, ,, 11.00 | 12 | 5 |
| 12.00 ,, ,, 13.00 | 3 | 2 |
| 13.00 ,, ,, 14.00 | .. | 1 |
| 15.00 ,, ,, 20.00 | 2 | 3 |
| 20.00 ,, ,, 50.00 | .. | 2 |
| 50.00 | 2 | 2 |
| | 7,818 | 7,818 |

THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

JULY, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

AT noon on Monday, the 28th of May, 1900, the annexation of the Orange Free State was formally proclaimed in the Market Square, at Bloemfontein, by the Military Governor, General Pretyman. We are told that after a general salute had been given, General Pretyman read Lord Roberts' proclamation annexing the Orange Free State, which had been conquered by Her Majesty's forces, to the Queen's dominions, and declaring that the State would henceforth be known as the Orange River Colony.

**Orange River Colony.**

The Philatelic existence of the Orange Free State commenced in 1868, and the design of its stamps has been unchanged from start to finish. In the 6d. value there has been no change even in colour; and from first to last Messrs. De la Rue have printed its stamps.

Its varieties have been made up of Provisionals, and the irony of fate has decreed that its stock should be used up as "Provisional" souvenirs of its end.

Philatelically, the Orange Free State has been a neglected country. Now, it is in the very forefront of Philatelic fashion. Its old issues are appreciating rapidly as the stocks are being exhausted. Early shades are being hunted up, and minor varieties are being searched for most industriously. But good stocks are few and far between.

Its Philatelic future bulks in importance with the development of events. We have had an interesting series of "V.R.I." overprints, and now that the name has been changed from Orange Free State to Orange River Colony we presume that if the old stock continues to be used up there will be a change of the overprint from "V.R.I." to "Orange River Colony."

Some timorous souls are crying out against the prices which they have had to pay for the "V.R.I." series, and one or two simpletons seem to have paid really ludicrous prices, but the Philatelic Micawber who waits, on such occasions, for something to turn up at low prices is apt to reap a precious small harvest. It's a toss up between dealer and collector who gets the better of such scrambles.

**Major Evans Commandeered.**

We regret to learn from the *Monthly Journal* that Major Edward B. Evans, R.A., has been unexpectedly ordered to resume his military duties, being called up for the duration of the war. The gallant major will as long as possible keep up his chronicle of New Issues. The news will be a shock to the body Philatelic, for few, if any of us, dreamed that Major Evans, who has so long been on the retired list, would be called up again for active service.

Meantime, Mr. Phillips announces his intention of doing his best to keep up the prestige of the *Monthly Journal*, and we hear that he has a rare unknown variety of the Philatelic writer series "up his sleeve."

But who could replace our Philatelic Editor *par excellence?* In the ability he displays, in courtesy, in culture, in the respect which we all pay him, none!

We trust he will not be sent to the Front, for if he reached Pretoria when postal necessities were being discussed the temptations might overcome even the soberest and severest Chronicler of New Issues.

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**Proposed Branding of Counterfeits.**

The *American Journal of Philately* raises the question of the desirability of branding counterfeits in order to put an end to their career of deception. It instances a case of a pair of Columbians, which was carefully examined and condemned nine years ago, which subsequently got into circulation, turned up at the Manchester Exhibition where it attracted a great deal of attention, was blessed by an English expert, then cursed by a German and finally treasured by a leading Russian collector.

Our contemporary mentions the fact that when a Government note is presented to the experts of the United States Government for examination as to its genuineness, it is well understood that it will be branded a counterfeit if it be found of that character, in order to prevent its ever again being used for the purpose of deception. And our contemporary would like to see a similar process adopted by Philatelic experts when a counterfeit stamp passes through their hands.

We cordially agree, but who is to bell the cat? Any individual who did so would render himself liable to damages if he erred; and that being so, individual experts will wisely confine themselves to the expression of a pious opinion. But we see no reason why a trusted committee of experts such, for instance, as the Expert Committee of the London Philatelic Society should not insist upon permission to brand all counterfeits under a clause protecting them from damages even in case of an error of judgment.

# Stamps of the Transvaal.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

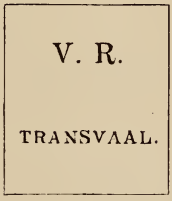
## Reference List and Guide to Values.

IN 1877 the British authorities took over the government of the Transvaal and converted it into a Crown Colony. The British flag was hoisted in Pretoria on the 12th April, 1877, but it was not till the July following that a distinctly British issue of postage stamps was made. Then the stamps of the South African Republic were overprinted "V.R. TRANSVAAL" in capital letters as in Type IV.

### British Occupation.

1877. July. Red surcharge.

Type IV. overprinted on the stamps of the South African Republic; on the 3d. of Type II. and on the 6d. and 1s. of Type I. It is surmised that the overprint was first tried in red, and that after a small quantity had been issued in that colour it was abandoned in favour of the more distinct surcharge in black. Only the 3d., 6d., and 1s. values were surcharged in red. All are known imperforate, fine roulette and wide roulette, and some with the other varieties set out in the following list.




Type IV.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 3d. lilac | — | 6 0 0 |
| 6d. blue | — | 5 0 0 |
| 1s. yellow green | — | 4 10 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 3d. lilac | — | — |
| 6d. blue | — | — |
| 1s. yellow green | — | — |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 3d. lilac | — | — |
| 6d. blue | — | — |
| 1s. yellow green | — | — |

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d |
|---|---|---|
| Same: Surcharge Inverted. | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Tête bêche. | | |
| WIDE ROULETTE | | |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Wider spacing between "V.R." and "TRANSVAAL." These are very scarce. Only one is found on each sheet of 80 stamps, but as it is not generally known it may sometimes be picked up priced as the common surcharge. | | |
| IMPERFORATE | | |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| No stop after "R" of "V.R" | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Same: Surcharge Inverted. | | |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| No stop after "TRANSVAAL" | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Double surcharge. | | |
| IMPERFORATE | | |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Double surcharge: one in red and one in black. Only two or three copies are known of this great rarity. | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Surcharge on back instead of face of stamp. | | |
| IMPERFORATE | | |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Minor varieties:—
Defective "Zes" in the 6d.
Defective corner, "6" barred out, in the 6d.
Misplaced "L" in TRANSVAAL in all values.
Compound roulettes?

1877. Black surcharge. Pelure paper.

This is evidently an over-printing of a small remainder of the pelures of the Republic. In fine condition it is an exceedingly scarce stamp, and unused, mint, it is a rarity.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---|---|---|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 2 10 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

1877. Black surcharge.

The 1d. on the hard surfaced paper and on the coarse soft paper; 3d., 6d., and 1s. on coarse soft paper. All apparently remainders of the last printings made by the South African Republic. All imperforate, fine roulette, wide roulette, &c.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 0 5 0 | 0 10 0 |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 3 0 0 | 0 15 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 1 0 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 4 0 0 | 2 0 0 |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | 5 0 0 | 2 0 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 6 0 0 | 1 10 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | —— | 3 0 0 |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | —— | 3 0 0 |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | 5 10 0 |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | 5 0 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | —— | 4 0 0 |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | 6 0 0 |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | —— | 5 0 0 |

Tête bêche.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1s. yellow green . .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Wider spacing between "V.R." and "TRANSVAAL." Note remarks on this variety in foregoing chronicle of the red surcharge.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1s. yellow green .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used £ s. d |
|---|---|---|
| No stop after " R " of " V.R " | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1s. yellow green.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Same : Surcharge Inverted. | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1s. yellow green.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1s. yellow green.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| No stop after " TRANSVAAL " | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. vermilion .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1s. yellow green.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Same : Surcharge Inverted. | | |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1s. yellow green.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Minor varieties :—
Defective " Zes " in the 6d.
Defective corner, " 6 " barred out in the 6d.
Misplaced L in " TRANSVAAL," in all values.
Compound Roulettes.
Bisected stamps, 6d. and 1s.

1877. August 31st. Black surcharge. Rose coloured paper.
The 6d. value printed in blue on rose coloured paper. A peculiarity of this issue is that the surcharge inverted is more common than the normal surcharge. Imperforate, fine roulette, wide roulette, &c.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d blue on rose.. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 0 15 0 |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue on rose .. .. .. .. | —— | 1 10 0 |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue on rose.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Same : Surcharge Inverted. | | |
| IMPERFORATE | | |
| 6d. blue on rose.. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 0 12 6 |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue on rose.. .. .. .. | —— | 1 10 0 |

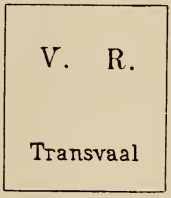
| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| No stop after " R " of " V.R " | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue on rose.. .. .. .. | — - | —— |
| Same : Surcharge Inverted. | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue on rose.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue on rose.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Surcharge omitted. | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue on rose.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Minor varieties :—
Defective " Zes."
Defective corner, " 6 " barred out.
Bisected stamps.

1877-8. Coloured papers. Surcharged in capitals and small letters.

Types V. and VI. overprinted on a fresh printing from the old plates of the Republic made on coloured papers. In this issue the overprint is altered from all capitals to capitals and small letters. The two types—Roman and Italic V.R.—were used on the same sheet. The Roman " V.R." is the commoner type. As before, the 1d. and 6d. values are of Type I., and the 3d. of Type II. Paper, coloured wove. Imperforate, fine roulette and wide roulette, &c.

Roman V.R., *i.e.*, overprinted with Type V.




Type V.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. red on blue .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. .. | 0 3 6 | 0 6 0 |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. .. | 0 12 0 | 0 7 6 |
| 6d. blue on green .. .. .. | 2 5 0 | 0 17 6 |
| 6d. blue on blue.. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 0 15 0 |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1d. red on blue .. .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 1 5 0 |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 1 5 0 |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. | 3 0 0 | 1 5 0 |
| 6d. blue on green . .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 6d. blue on blue.. .. .. .. | 4 0 0 | 2 10 0 |
| WIDE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | 3 5 0 |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. | —— | 5 0 0 |
| 6d. blue on green .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on blue.. .. .. .. | —— | 5 0 0 |

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| **Same: Surcharge Inverted.** | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. red on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 6d. blue on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Tête bêche:—** | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **No stop after "V" of "V R." and the letters closer together.** | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. red on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| FINE ROULETTE | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **No stop after "R" of "V. R"** | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. red on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on blue .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **No stop after "V" or "R" and the letters closer together.** | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Both stops between the "V" and "R" and letters wider apart.** | | |
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |

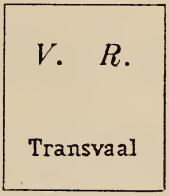
Error: "Transvral." This error occurs once in each sheet. It is one of the most popular rarities of the Transvaal.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 1d. red on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| FINE ROULETTE. | | |
| 1d. red on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Error: Surcharge omitted. It is believed that one sheet escaped being surcharged, as only a few copies are known.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| IMPERFORATE. | | |
| 6d. blue on blue .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Italic "*V.R.*," *i.e.*, overprinted with Type VI.




Type VI.

In this Italic "*V.R.*" series there is no 6d. blue on green, and the varieties, which are so plentiful in the Roman "V.R.," do not occur in the Italic "*V.R.*," which is nearly three times as rare as the Roman "V.R."

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 12 6 |
| 6d. blue on blue.. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 0 17 6 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | 3 10 0 |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 6d. blue on blue.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on buff .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate** | | |
| 6d. blue on blue.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Fine Roulette** | | |
| 6d blue on blue.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

*To be continued.*

# The Forum.

## Can Collectors by the Publication of a Collectors' Priced Catalogue Regulate the Selling Price of Stamps?

### Conclusion, by The Editor.

WE must now close this discussion to make way for other matters that await publicity. But we cannot escape the feeling that, even yet, with all the proposals and all the discussion, this subject has by no means been thrashed out. Nor will it be till some one will take the trouble to go into the practical details and give us a definite scheme and a definite proposal, with sufficient data to form some more definite conclusion than we are now able to do as to the possibility and practicability of a Collectors' Priced Catalogue.

Mr. Oldfield, who has given much thought to the matter, and who is moreover enthusiastically in favour of a Collectors' Priced Catalogue, favours a very bold venture in the shape of the publication of what may be termed bedrock prices, that is, prices which a collector may expect to get when he is compelled to sell. We fear the publication of such prices would lead to much misconstruction and possibly even result in much injury. It would be bitterly opposed by the Stamp Trade, and no publication making a feature of such prices could hope for the advertising support of the trade. Hence the chief source of revenue for recouping the outlay on the publication of the Catalogue would be cut off. Besides, we doubt if such drastic prices are needed. What is needed is to protect the investment in stamps from individual eccentricities in over, or under, pricing.

The ideal Priced Catalogue would be, in our opinion, one in which prices were settled by a representative committee of leading specialists and the trade. We have no faith whatever in purely individual work, whether it be that of specialist or dealer, in this matter.

Personally, we have strongly advocated a purely Philatelic Unpriced Catalogue, but we are willing to co-operate in the production of a Priced Catalogue in order that we may get the much needed Philatelic Catalogue.

And some day we believe it will come, for it is humiliating and ridiculous that with all the talent and all the knowledge possessed by our leading specialists they should leave it to dealers to gather up from year to year the result of their patient, endless researches in the Philatelic field. It is a crying shame that such unwearying industry as theirs should be preserved in a connected form only in mere trade catalogues.

A suggestion has been thrown out by Mr. Oldfield that the Catalogue might be published as a Supplement of one of the leading Philatelic Journals. In our opinion, any such connection would prejudice and jeopardise its success.

# New Philatelic Books.

*The Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe. A Practical Guide to their Collection, Identification, and Classification. Especially designed for the use of those commencing the study. By W. A. S. Westoby (Hon. Member of the Philatelic Society, London). Profusley illustrated. Vols. I. and II. London: L. Upcott Gill, 170, Strand, W.C.*

THESE excellent volumes by the late Mr. Westoby are what they profess to be, "a practical guide" to the collection, identification and classification of the adhesive postage stamps of Europe, and the Philatelic world will sincerely regret that he has not lived to guide the beginner in the same able, cultured style through the other continents.

The last volume contains a preface from his friend Mr. Philbrick, who tells us that Mr. Westoby had completed the MS. within the last few weeks of his life, and that he (Mr. Philbrick), at the request of the family, had seen the final sheets to press. Those who make use of these volumes will cordially endorse Mr. Philbrick's eulogy that "for a manual combining precision with accuracy, succinctness with clearness, it will be difficult to find an equal, and impossible to find a superior."

They are excellently planned. The countries are taken in their alphabetical order. First there is a brief history of the country, then follows the enumeration and description of the various issues, and the explanation of the causes for such changes as were made from time to time. Each design is illustrated, nevertheless; Mr. Westoby has added a very precise detailed description of each design. These descriptions are full of valuable information such as will help the beginner to better understand and appreciate the meaning of much that might otherwise be a closed book.

There are some incongruities in the countries included. Under Germany and France we find the colonies in other continents included, but when we turn to Great Britain we find her colonies conspicuous by their absence, whereas her possessions in Europe, such as Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus are found under their separate alphabetic headings. The idea seems to be in each case to include only those colonies which have, temporarily or otherwise, been supplied with stamps by the mother country, for in the case of Portugal those colonies only are included so long as they made use of the surcharged stamps of the mother country. We think it would have simplified matters a great deal to have confined the book more strictly to its European lines than to have partially included the colonies.

As a guide for the serious beginner, Mr. Westoby's book has no equal, and in these days, when the specialist almost monopolises attention, it is the one thing needed. But the price is somewhat against it.




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**British Bechuanaland.** It is strange how long a variety in a well-known stamp will sometimes escape being noted and chronicled. A case in point has just cropped up in the selling of Mr. Tamsen's collection. The unappropriated die, the 2d., surcharged with numerals, Gibbons' No. 35, is found to have a variety in a figure "2" with a curly tail and otherwise apparently of a different fount of type.

**British Central Africa.** — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a 10s. value of the current type, large size. Wmk. C C.; perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*

10s., olive, black centre.

**British East Africa.** The *Philatelic Journal of India* says the 1 anna stamp is now a distinct rose colour, quite unlike its original *carmine* colour.

*Adhesive.*

1 anna, rose.

**British Guiana.**—Mr. J. W. Jones and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 2c. changed to purple and carmine from purple and orange.

*Adhesives.*

1c., purple and carmine.

**British Honduras.** The *American Journal of Philately* mentions varieties in the postage stamps recently surcharged "Revenue." In one case the overprint measures 11 mm. and in the other 12 mm. Another variety is a "B" instead of an "R." Also a small "V."

**India.**—We quote the following interesting announcement from our able contemporary, the *Philatelic Journal of India*:—

"It has been decided that the Indian Post Office will fall into line, with that of other countries, in the matter of the colour of its ½, 1 and 2½ annas stamps. Unfortunately, this involves a change in the colour of the ¼ and 2 annas also. We fancy that it will be years before we see the 2½ annas in its new dress. The stock in hand of this stamp was estimated to last something over two years while it was the stamp used for all foreign letters. Now that the Imperial Penny Postal Union has started, the stock is likely to last indefinitely. The colour of the ¼ anna stamp has not yet been decided; a light brown shade was objected to by the contractors as liable to confusion with the 8 annas stamp by artificial light. It is probable that a slate grey will be fixed on. The others are to be:—

½ anna, yellow green (like current 2½a.)
1 anna, carmine (like current ¼a.)
2 annas, violet (like border of current 5r.)
2½ annas, blue (like current 2a.)"

Bussahir.—The *Monthly Journal* has just received several fresh varieties to be added to the growing list of the issues of this State.

*Adhesives.*

*Types of* 1896.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2a., orange-yellow, *monogram* | lake; | *imperf.* | |
| 4a., violet | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| 8a., brown | ,, | mauve | ,, |
| 12a., green | ,, | lake | ,, |
| 1r., ultramarine | ,, | ,, | ,, |

*Type of* 1900.

1a., dull olive, *monogram* lake; *imperf.*

Kishengarh.—Mr. W. T. Wilson tells the *Monthly Journal* that he has been informed that this State intends in future to use the following colours for its stamps: ¼a, *rose;* ½a, *blue* or *green;* 1a., *rose;* and 1 rupee, *green.*

The *M. J.* has the ¼a. in two distinct shades, which might almost be termed *carmine-rose* and *bright pink* respectively. Also the ½a. in a *grey-blue* shade, used in December last.

*Adhesive.*

½a., grey-blue, *imperf.*

Ochra.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of a new stamp for this State which we illustrate. Ochra is the premier State in Bundelkund, Central India. It has possessed a local postal service for many years, but has only just issued stamps.




*Adhesive*

½a., red.
1a., violet.
2a., yellow.
4a., dark green.

**Jamaica.**—We illustrate a new 1d. stamp of the popular picture design. It is crude in design and workmanship; perf. 14. Wmk. Crown, CC sideways.




*Adhesive.*
1d. red, Llandovery Falls.

**New Zealand.**—In chronicling the new values of the picture series on N.Z. paper we should have noted the fact that the initials of the watermark are now double lined, instead of single lined as before.

The *Montreal Philatelist* says the 6d. stamp is to be printed in pink.

**Orange River Colony** (late Orange Free State).—This territory was formally annexed on the 28th May, 1900, and added to the British Empire under the new name of "The Orange River Colony."

Since our last issue we have more information concerning the varieties in the V.R.I. surcharge. We have a strip of six of the 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d. (blue), and 1s., all with the variety of missing stop after "V" and showing it to be the third stamp in the bottom row of each pane of sixty stamps. The full sheet was made up of four panes of sixty stamps.

We have also a bottom strip of six with margin and control number, showing that the "omitted stop" was afterwards inserted in its place in a subsequent printing, for the third stamp of this row, which was minus the stop after "V.," shows a peculiarity in the "V." which is present in the corrected printing.

We have not seen the 5s. with the "missing stop after V" variety, but presume that value was overprinted from the same setting.

There is also a second setting of the ½d. and 1d., in which the stops are variously misplaced as follows:—

1. "V·R·I·"
2. "V·R.I."
3. "V.R·I."
4. "V.R·I·"

The *Monthly Journal* says the surcharge on the 1d. brown and 1s. orange, said to exist, are of somewhat doubtful character. "Of the 1d. brown stamp about ten shillings' worth were in the hands of a bank at Bloemfontein, the manager of which got permission to have them made available for use. They were never regularly issued to the public, and the same seems to be the case with the 1s. orange."

A correspondent of the *Monthly Journal* says he obtained, "amongst other things, from a son who is with his regiment at the front, a block of the ½d. on 3d. of 1896, some of the stamps in which bear double, triple, and even quadruple overprints, and amongst them is a figure "2" that is broader than any of those shown in the Catalogue."

The following official notice was published in the *Friend* newspaper at Bloemfontein and makes the date of legal issue of the "V.R.I." series March 14, 1900, but we understand they were not really issued till the 19th of March. We shall be glad to hear from correspondents what are the earliest dated specimens.

"Notice.

"It is hereby notified for general information that Orange Free State Postage stamps, in use up to the 14th inst., are no longer valid; surcharged stamps of the same denomination having been substituted.

"(Signed) A. Falck,
Administrator.

"General Post Office,
Bloemfontein,
March 22nd, 1900."

The following Proclamation concerning the Postal Service of the conquered Orange Free State territory was also published in the *Friend*:—

"Proclamation

"Whereas it is deemed expedient and necessary for the welfare of the Orange Free State that the Postal Service shall be resumed in the aforesaid Republic as far as circumstances permit.

"Now therefore,

"I, Frederick Sleigh, Baron Roberts of Khandahar, K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., V.C., Field Marshal and Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in South Africa, do hereby nominate and appoint David George Amosi Falck Administrator of the Civil Posts in such portions of the Orange Free State as have been or may hereafter be occupied by British troops.

"And I do hereby order that the Postal and Telegraph Services shall be resumed in the portions of the aforesaid Republic already referred to, from the nineteenth day of March, 1900, under the existing Laws and Conventions of the Orange Free State, subject to such alteration as may from time to time be notified.

"Given under my hand at Bloemfontein this seventeenth day of March, 1900.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

(Signed) ROBERTS,
Field Marshal.
Commander-in-Chief British
Forces in South Africa."

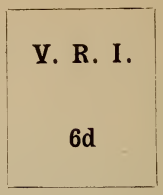
An Aliwal North correspondent of *Ewen's Weekly News* believes the Orange Free State stock will last for a considerable time, "as it is well known that there were enormous quantities of stamps in Bloemfontein," and he adds, "the O.F.S. have always been in the habit of ordering immense supplies of stamps at once, presumably on account of economy."

The "2½" and 6d. carmine, however, will probably be scarce, as both are evidently small remainders. The 2½d. value is one of the most needed stamps, and if the remainder of the original surcharge is exhausted we should hear very soon of a new provisional, for there is as yet no 2½d. O.F.S. stamp apart from provisionals, unless there is one in stock unissued.

The 6d. carmine "V.R.I." is the stamp of 1897 in brighter colour, not the old dull carmine of the first issue. The *Monthly Journal* says there were only 4,600 of this stamp overprinted "V.R.I."

Another variety which we have seen is caused by the omission of the figures in the surcharge of the value. This variety, according to the *Monthly Journal*, exists in the ½d., 6d. rose, 6d. carmine, and 1s. brown, and in the case of the 1s. brown there is a variety in which the "s" is omitted from the value.

Up to date the complete list including varieties is as follows: –




*Adhesives.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| "½d" on Half penny | .. | yellow, | of 1897. |
| "1d" on Een penny | .. | mauve, | of 1894. |
| "2d" on Twee pence | .. | mauve, | of 1883. |
| "2½" on Drie pence | .. | blue, | of 1896 |
| "3d" on Drie pence | .. | blue, | of 1883 |
| "4d" on Vier pence | .. | blue, | of 1898. |
| "6d" on Zes pence | .. | carmine, | of 1897. |
| "6d" on Zes pence | .. | blue, | of 1900. |
| "1s" on Een shilling | .. | brown, | of 1900. |
| "5s" on Vyf shillgs | .. | green, | of 1879. |

VARIETIES.

*No stop after* V.

1d., 2d., 2½, 3d., 4d., 6d. rose, 6d. blue, 1s. brown.

*No stop after* I *of* "V.R.I."

½d. orange.

*No figures.*

½, 6d. rose, 6d. blue, 1s. brown.

*Misplaced Stops.*

½d., 1d.

"I" *omitted after* "V.R."

1d.

**Sarawak.**—A correspondent here tells the *Monthly Journal* that a sheet of the 12c. of the 1871 issue was surcharged "2 CENTS" upside down, and sold to a Chinaman who used a considerable portion before the error was noticed. How many copies out of the hundred were saved is not stated.

*Adhesive.*

Surcharge inverted.
2 c. on 12 c. (Gibbons' No. 8.)

SARAWAK.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a 20c. value of the current series.

*Adhesives.*

20c., brown, label pink.

**Tonga.**—A *Times* telegram announces that a British Protectorate was proclaimed at Tonga on May 19, 1900.

## Foreign Countries.

**Bulgaria.** — The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles additional values of the current series, printed in the new shades, and on the thin greyish paper.

*Adhesives.*

1s., dull lilac.
5s., yellow green.
10s., salmon.
15s., yellow.
25s., dull blue.

**Colombia.** PANAMA. – According to the *Monthly Journal* this province has taken, *à la* Cartagena, to the issue of provisionals.

"The postmaster, when he found that his stock was getting low, and that he could not replenish it, ordered some labels to be made locally; but on March 14th, before the local productions were ready, he found it necessary to employ the ordinary current 10c. postage stamps to denote the registration fee, and for this purpose surcharged them with a large "R," in *black*, and at the time of use with a rotation number, in *blue*. The following day he received a supply of the local stamps, the design of which is a rough copy of Type 51 in the Catalogue, but it has

"PANAMA" reading upwards at the left side, "COLOMBIA" at the top of the right portion, and "10 CENTAVOS 10" below. These are typographed, in *black*, in sheets of twelve (six horizontal pairs) on *pale green* wove paper, and have the rotation numbers added, in *blue*, when used. We are told that only 200 of the surcharged stamps were issued."

*Registration Stamps.*

10c., orange; *surcharged* "R," *in* black.
10c., black on *green*.

**Denmark.** WEST INDIES.—We have the 1c. and 5c. of the current Danish type for the West Indies.

*Adhesives.*

1c., green.
5c., blue.

**Dominican Republic.**—The *American Journal of Philately* publishes the following Decree authorising the issue of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo stamps in order to facilitate the prepayment of postage on printed matter:—

"ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

"In view of the fact that the want of low values in the present issue of postage stamps renders the prepayment of printed matter and circulars impossible, and that the Government desires to facilitate the circulation of these within and without the territory of the Republic, it is resolved:

"Art. 1. To issue the following quantities of postage stamps:

100,000 stamps of $\frac{1}{4}$ centavo
100,000 ,, $\frac{1}{2}$ ,,

"Art. 2. The present resolution shall be sent to the Executive power.

"Given in the Hall of the Sessions of the National Congress, on the 30th day of the month of March, 1900, the 57th of our independence and the 37th of the restoration.

"The President,
(Signed) M. UBALDO GOMEZ.
"The Secretaries,
(Signed) ENRIQUE J. CASTRO.
(Signed) L. I. ALVAREZ."

**France.** CONGO.—We have seen the much heralded new special artistic designs for the French Colonies, and in all the range of crude stamps we have never met with viler postal labels in design or execution. They have the appearance of having been designed by a porter at one of the studios. They are roughly lithographed in the most amateur style.

Here is the list of these precious labels. We shall not waste space in illustrating them.

*Adhesives.*

Watermarked a thistle.

1 centime, violet on pale violet.
2 centimes, bistre on yellow.
4 centimes, brown on blue.
5 centimes, green on pale green.
10 centimes, red on pale red.
15 centimes, violet on green.

Watermarked spray of rose.

20 centimes, green on orange.
25 centimes, blue on pale blue.
30 centimes, red on yellow.
40 centimes, bistre on green.
50 centimes, violet on pale violet.
75 centimes, lilac on orange.

Watermarked branch of olive.

1 franc, mauve on green.
2 francs, bistre on carmine.
5 francs, yellow on blue.

**Germany.** COLONIES. — Mr. Franz Reichenheim has shown the *London Philatelist* complete sets of the 1889 issue of the mother country—3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pf.—surcharged diagonally in black "Karolinen," "Marianen," and "Samoa," and informs us, on the authority of the "Germania-Ring," that the 5 *pf. as well as the* 10 *and* 20 *pf.* were surcharged "Marschall" for the Marshall Islands, and *issued*.

**Greece.**—Mr. N. S. Nicolaïdes writing to *Ewen's Weekly*, says the new Grecian stamps, printed in England, have been received at Athens, and are excellent in design. The date of emission is fixed for September. He also states that the colours and type of the unpaid letter stamps have been changed, but does not furnish any particulars.

**Hawaii.**—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist* the United States Post Office Department has decided that the regular United States stamps are to be used in these islands without surcharge, and a shipment of same was being made.

**Peru.**—The *Monthly Circular* says the 10c. stamp is now printed in black.

*Adhesive.*

10c. black.

**United States.**—The outcry about a flood of issues overprinted with the names of the various towns of issue turns out to be a false alarm. The *American Journal of Philately* explains:—"We have discovered that our contemporary (the *I. B. J.*) has been led astray by specimens of the regular postage stamps, cancelled in sheets in advance for the benefit of publishers and business houses who mail large quantities of pamphlets."

# Philately in the Mags.

### Hayti Stamps Demonetised.

Mr. W. F. Gregory writes as follows in *Mekeel's Weekly* :—

"A gentleman just arrived from Hayti informs me that the entire recent issue has been declared void. The reason of this is said to be that a case of stamps shipped to the Haytien Government by the American Bank Note Co. on the steamer *Andes* about a month ago was rifled of its contents while in transit. The purser of the ship was said to be implicated. The stolen stamps were placed on the market in Hayti, the Second Director of Postes assisting in the sale. He is said to have sold the stolen stamps from the post office at 50 per cent. discount in Haytien money.

"When the facts became known the postal officials refused to recognise the stamps of this issue for postage, and seized the stamps wherever found. The gang was arrested and punished (*à la* Hayti). I am told that whatever property belonging to the guilty parties can be found is seized and they are turned adrift, frequently first receiving a flogging. The alternative would be wasting away uncared for in a dungeon. This would be less satisfactory to the officials, and besides necessitating trial, conviction, etc.

"We were unable to learn what stamps are being used. One informant demanded that his letters should be forwarded bearing the stamps which he had innocently bought of a postal official, and, being an American citizen, they acceded to his demands."

### Samoa: Dies of Palm Series.

The New Zealand correspondent of the *Montreal Philatelist* hears from an authentic source that the New Zealand Government hold all the dies of the Samoan Palm Set of stamps, "so that Davis, the late Samoan postmaster, cannot have any more printed, nor has Davis any "*Star N.Z.*" watermarked paper. Whether the New Zealand Government will destroy the dies or not remains to be seen. However, the fact is that Davis must have ordered beforehand a good supply, as he must have had 'news' that the Germans were to acquire Samoa."

It is nevertheless good news to learn that the dies are safely out of reach of further manipulation.

### Seychelles: High Values.

Considerable doubt has been cast upon the high values issued for use in Seychelles, Philatelists being very sceptical of their being required for any other purpose than that of milking stamp collectors, but the *Philatelic Journal of India* now apologetically explains their use. It says, "It appears that in these islands the cultivation of vanilla is extensively carried on. This crop is both light and costly, and large quantities are sent away by insured post. The planters objected to the necessity of plastering their parcels all over with stamps, and so stamps of higher value were ordered."

### Recent Bisected Canadians.

A correspondent of the *Montreal Philatelist* who received a letter (postmarked January 9th, 1900) franked with the half of a three cents stamp at once wrote to the postmaster of the office of issue. Here is his reply :—

"Cross Road, Country Harbor,
April 17th, 1900.

H. A. McDonald, Bridgeville.

"Dear Sir,—Your enquiry *re* stamps to hand. At the time you mention the 2c. postage was given us so suddenly that I was about out and all my neighbour P. M. was also out and as I could only charge the public 2c. I could not afford to put on a 3c. stamp so cut 3c. and 5c. to about even the thing up and sent them along. Three or four days' letters were mailed in this way, but I do not know where they went to.

"Yours very truly,
E. S. Sweet, Postmaster."

### Private Posts.

A Washington paper publishes the following interesting information concerning the attitude of the Postal Union towards Private Posts :—

"The Post Office Department has received from the World's Postal Union Headquarters, at Berne, Switzerland, the following information :

"The postal law of the German Empire received on December 20, 1899, an addition completing the Imperial postal law and postal regulations. This law states, in Article 2, that closed letters, which circulate within the limits of the place of origin provided with a post office cannot be sent otherwise than by the post ; and, in Article 3, that enterprises for the collection, conveyance, or delivery of open letters, cards, printed matter, and samples of merchandise duly addressed cannot be continued, on and after April 1, 1900.

"This law consequently suppresses private posts in the German Empire.

"These private posts had their own postmen who wore a uniform entirely different from that of the imperial postmen, they had their own letter boxes, the size and colour of which could be easily distinguished from those of the post office, and their own receiving houses and offices. Every private post issued its own postage stamps, which

could be procured both at its own offices and in shops of every description. Each private post formed a limited enterprise which did not extend beyond the radius of one and the same town. There existed no union between the various private posts."

**English Marginal Ornamentations.**

Some specialists in British Colonials include control numbers which in many cases are helpful and interesting. Others going further include the printer's arrangement of marginal lines and ornaments. Our old friend, Judge Philbrick, in *Ewen's Weekly*, explains the meaning and use of these marginal ornamentations. He writes:—

Their use is to secure greater evenness under the press, and thus obtain better impressions as well as prevent undue strains and damage to plates and paper.

They are, it is well known, additions to the plate, *after approval*, and can be varied or discarded by the printers as they find best adapted to their requirements, thus they denote a batch of the printing, but not any particular edition, if one may use the word of the stamp.

The statement in the current number of the *Monthly Journal* that the sheets of the penny still have the control letter W, shews the addition of the line blocks was made on some, if not all, of the plates used in the batch so lettered, and is a confirmation of the above statement.

**German Colonials.**

A very useful, instructive and comprehensive "History of the German Colonies and German Post Offices in Foreign Countries and their different issues of stamps," appears in the *London Philatelist* for May in the shape of a paper recently read before the London Philatelic Society by Mr. Franz Reichenheim. The following abridgement includes the essential facts concerning these interesting issues. Mr. Reichenheim says, "All stamps used in German colonies and German post offices in foreign countries, with and without surcharge, as well as the issue in course of preparation, are printed at the Imperial Printing Works in Berlin (Reichs Druckerei), and errors, defective or inverted, or local surcharges are luckily not known."

1. German South West Africa.

1897. Four values only surcharged on the German Empire issue of 1889 in black, diagonally, from left bottom corner to right upper corner in two lines "Deutsch — Sudwest-Africa" in three words. The 25pf. and 50pf. were similarly surcharged and sent to the International Postal Union at Berne, but never issued.

1897.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.

1898. All values from 3pf. to 50pf. of the German stamps of 1889 surcharged as before, but with the hyphen between "Sudwest" and "Africa" omitted and the two words run into one.

1898.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

2. Togo.

1897. Six values of the German stamps of 1889 surcharged, diagonally, in black, from left bottom corner to right upper corner "Togo."

1897.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

3. Cameroons.

1897. Six values of the German stamps of 1889 surcharged in black, diagonally, from left bottom corner to right upper corner "Kamerun."

1897.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

4. German East Africa.

1893. Five values of the German stamps of 1889 horizontally surcharged in black at the foot of the stamp "2 Pesa 2," &c.

1893.
" 2 Pesa 2 " on 3pf., brown.
" 3 Pesa 3 " on 5pf., green.
" 5 Pesa 5 " on 10pf., rose.
" 10 Pesa 10 " on 10pf., blue.
" 25 Pesa 20 " on 50 pf., brown.

1896. Five values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, from the left lower corner to the right upper corner in three lines, the numerals in first line, "Deutsch-Ostafrika" in the second line, and the word "Pesa" in the third line.

1896.
3pf., brown
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
50pf., brown.

5. German New Guinea

1897. Six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, from the left lower corner to the right upper corner in two lines, "Deutsch-Neu-Guinea."

1897.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

6. Marshall Islands.

1897. Six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, in

one line, from the left lower corner to the right upper corner, "Marschall-Inseln."

1897.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

1899. Four values. Similar surcharge, but with the name of the Colony spelt "Marshall" instead of "Marschall. It is expected that the 10pf and 20pf. will be issued as soon as the stock of these values of the first issue have been exhausted.

1899.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

### 7. China.

1896. Six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, from left lower corner to right upper corner, "China."

1896.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

### 8. Caroline Islands.

1899. Six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, from left lower corner to right upper corner, in one line, "Karolinen."

1899.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange
50pf., brown.

### 9. Marianne Islands.

1899. Six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, from left lower corner to right upper corner, in one line, "Marianen."

1899.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf.. rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

### 10. Samoa.

1900. Six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, from left lower corner to right upper corner, "Samoa."

1900.
3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

### 11. Foreign Post Offices.

1884. Four values of the German stamps of 1880 known as the "pfennig" issue, each value surcharged in black at the foot of the stamp with the approximate value in Turkish currency, showing the word "PARA" or "PIASTER," with the numeral before and after it.

The 1 piaster on 20pf. exists surcharged in indigo-blue. Unused, it is the rarest stamp of this issue.

There are two types of surcharge of the 1¼ piaster on 25pf., *i.e.*:—

*Type A.* "1¼" surcharged on the "25," distance between numerals and the word "PIASTER," 1 mm. each.

*Type B.* "1¼" surcharged a little more to the left, and right, so that the distance between numerals and the beginning of the word "PIASTER" measures nearly 2 mm.

1884.
10 para on 5pf., lilac.
20 ,, ,, 10pf., carmine.
1 piaster on 20pf., blue.
1¼ ,, ,, 25pf., brown.
2½ ,, ,, 50pf. olive and myrtle-green.

1889. Five values of the German stamps of 1889, similarly surcharged.

1889.
10 para on 5pf., green.
20 ,, ,, 20pf., rose.
1 piaster on 20pf., blue.
1¼ ,, ,, 25pf., orange.
2½ ,, ,, 50pf., brown.

### 12. Morocco.

1899. Six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally, in black, from left lower corner to right upper corner, in two lines, the word "Morocco" in the first line, and the value "3 Centimos" in the second line. These stamps were issued for the use of German post offices in Tangiers and six other towns.

1899.
"3 centimos" on 3pf., brown.
"5 centimos" ,, 5pf., green.
"10 centimos" ,, 10pf., rose.
"20 centimos" ,, 20pf., blue.
"25 centimos" ,, 25pf., orange.
"50 centimos" ,, 50pf., brown.

### Indian Native States: Errors.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* says Mr. A. J. Smith reports the following errors in Indian stamps surcharged for use in Faridkot, Gwalior, and Patiala.

"FARIDKOT.—The word 'State' is surcharged twice, though strange to say 'Faridkot' remains single.

"GWALIOR.—One stamp on each sheet of the ½ and 1 annas occurs with a small 'G.'

"PATIALA.—The word 'Patiala' is omitted from one stamp on each sheet of the 4 annas."

# Notes and News.

### Strictly Confidential.

Mr. C. J. Phillips (Gibbons, Ltd.) feeling in a "strictly confidential" mood when writing his last notes for his *Monthly Journal*, with many blushes, says:—

"The British Colonial Stamps are beyond doubt very fashionable, and deservedly so; but during the mad rush for them in 1896 to 1898 prices were undoubtedly driven too high, and this chiefly by the collectors and *speculators—not* by the Trade, who as a body do not desire prices to be absurdly high, but prefer a fair profit and a quick turnover, which after all are the soundest business maxims. In 1898 to 1900 Colonial Stamps received some hard blows by remainders, such as the Nova Scotias, the De la Rue stamps, etc., etc.; and this has had the result of turning the eyes of collectors—especially the wide-awake ones in the Philatelic Society of London—to countries that a few years ago were looked upon as but small fry as compared with Colonial Stamps."

The wicked speculators, the innocents of the Trade, and the knowing ones of the Philatelic Society of London! What a collection of unchronicled varieties!

### The Philatelic War Fund.

The total result of the auction sales, donations, etc., is as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Result of auction .. .. .. | 1,011 | 14 | 0 |
| Sale of Catalogues .. .. .. | 30 | 18 | 0 |
| ,, photographs (commissions, 1s. each) .. .. .. | 4 | 12 | 0 |
| Donations .. .. .. .. | 98 | 8 | 6 |
| Collection at auction for A.M.B. Fund .. .. .. .. | 5 | 17 | 9 |
| | £1,151 | 10 | 3 |

The Fund has been divided as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mansion House Fund .. .. | 572 | 16 | 3 |
| *Daily Telegraph* Fund .. .. | 572 | 16 | 3 |
| *Daily Mail* A.M.B. Fund .. .. | 5 | 17 | 9 |

### The Post Office and the War.

Speaking recently at West Hartlepool, Lord Londonderry, the Postmaster-General, touching upon the work of the Post Office in connection with the war in South Africa, said:—Some idea of the extent to which the war had affected their sphere of action might be gathered from the fact that the mail despatched on May 19 to the Army in South Africa contained no fewer than 313,416 letters, representing a weight of 7,009lb., and 131,508 newspaper packets, representing a weight of 37,632lb. This correspondence filled 643 bags, which was not far short of the 677 bags required to contain the whole of the ordinary mail for South Africa sent on the same occasion. In comparison with the number of letters and parcels sent out to the troops the complaints of loss and delay had been very few, though, owing to the exigencies of the campaign, delays had been unavoidable. The Post Office had also borne its share in the work of fighting. No fewer than 2,000 Reservists had been called up, 424 time-expired Reservists and pensioners had re-enlisted in the Royal Reserve battalions, and 259 Post Office servants had gone to the front as Volunteers; so that if they included the 414 men in the Army Post Office and the 270 telegraphists and 50 linesmen attached to the Royal Engineers the department had sent to the front upwards of 3,400 men. For the postal and telegraph service of the Army a Post Office staff of 400 trained men had been sent out under the superintendence of the postmaster of one of the London districts, and 320 skilled telegraphists and constructors of telegraph lines had been sent out to help the Royal Engineers in the construction, repair, and working of the telegraphic communication of the Army. This showed a startling change since the days of the Crimean War, when the whole staff sent out to deal with the correspondence of the Army amounted to one postmaster, three assistant postmasters, and seven letter-sorters. On the whole this system had worked admirably. He was aware that many complaints had been made, but he believed that those who had made them scarcely realized the vast difficulties that had been overcome. He only trusted that as time went on the postal service would improve as much in the future as it had done in the past. He would do his best to achieve this result with the assistance of those permanent officials whose efficiency and zeal in the discharge of their duties it was impossible for him to overrate.

### U.S. Paris Exhibit Stamps Stolen.

Mr. J. M. Bartels, writing from Paris, informs the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that "Three entire sheets of cardboard proofs, the 36c. and $48 periodicals and the 10c. orange, special delivery, have been abstracted from the (U.S. Govt.) exhibit. The theft has been traced to a laborer who was employed in the building until recently, and who is now believed to be in London. P.O. Inspector Dr. Browne is following up the matter and hopes to recover the stolen property."

Mr. Bartels believes it will be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to replace the proofs in entire sheets.

# Echoes from the Mart.

### The Philatelic Empire.

Mr. M. P. Castle has recently had the best of all possible proofs that what he terms "The Philatelic Empire" is in a most flourishing condition.

Emboldened by the receipt of close on £30,000 for his collection of unused Europeans he gives vent to his financial joy by dusting the jackets of croakers in general and German croakers in particular. Says he:

"The recent large and important sales that have taken place are held as instances of the solidarity of good stamps. All of which conclusions we have, with others, humbly and diligently preached and practised for the past few years, only to be received with the contemptuous derision of those who in Germany knew so much better than we could in this comparatively uncivilised and impecunious little island.

"Those who really have fine things, whether in stamps or any other form of collecting, very rarely suffer by depreciations of value. The mild-mannered collector, who either buys from small dealers or 'picks up' inferior copies at 'sixty per cent. below Senf,' is the person who ultimately goes to the wall, and having lost two or three hundred marks on his collection fills the Philatelic journal of his fatherland with lamentations over the Decline and Fall of the Philatelic Empire."

### Sale of Mr. Castle's Unused Europeans.

In our last issue we briefly announced the sale of Mr. Castle's collection of unused European stamps. The price we understand to be somewhat nearer £30,000 than we stated. The collection was contained in 67 volumes and comprised upwards of 60,000 stamps, which works out an average of 10s. a stamp. The buyer is not a comparatively unknown collector. On the contrary we are assured that he is an enthusiastic collector of many years' standing and has a grand collection of unused and used British Colonials. He is a private gentleman, living near London, and he has never exhibited and is never likely to do so. Thus much and no more—for the present—are we permitted to glean of the personality of "the Great Unknown."

The sale was negotiated from first to last by Messrs. Hamilton Smith & Co., but there is no indication that they intend to retire on the proceeds of their commission.

Mr. Castle himself philosophising on his latest "deal" cautions "the unwise or unreflecting against falling into the error that the sale of a large collection either necessarily depresses the market or reflects any want of confidence on the part of the seller." The sympathies of "the Philatelic Empire" will be with Mr. Castle in any serious depression from which he may suffer in the matter.

### Orange Free State.

The Orange Free State has been annexed and added to the British Empire under the name of the Orange River Colony.

Philatelists who confine themselves to British Colonies will consequently have to annex the stamps of the Free State.

The stamps to secure at once are the 5s., 1s. yellow and 1s. brown, the four types of "4" surcharged on the 6d., the 6d. dull carmine, and the five types of the "3d." on 4d. all unused. These are the stamps most likely to rise at once in price. Some of them may still be had at reasonable figures, and should be snapped up at the earliest opportunity.

### New Trade Lists.

We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. their List of Philatelic Novelties, &c., for June and July. They are expecting an ample supply of the "V.R.I." on Orange Free State, which will be offered "at reasonable prices." "Owing to the great and almost daily fluctuation in prices of Orange Free State and Transvaal stamps," W. K. & Co. "cannot guarantee to supply at the current quotations" in their catalogue. But "as soon as prices get somewhat settled," they will issue "a special revised list of these stamps, including all the recent provisionals."

We note also that W. K. & Co. "have a few 1s. brown, O. F. S., mint unused specimens at 10s. each," and would advise our readers to secure copies at this price while they may.

### Rowland Hill Packets.

Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. send us particulars of a supplementary packet which they have just issued. It contains 129 stamps all different from those in the packet collection itself and includes several of the now popular German Colonials.

THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

AUGUST, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

OF all the bad seasons which Stamp Dealers have had to fight against the one just past is probably among the worst. The season opened most promisingly. There was every prospect of a grand winter's trade. But the troubles in South Africa, as the full measure of the struggle became apparent, soon put an end to all hopes of a revival of trade. The Regulars, and subsequently the Volunteers, ordered to the front, appreciably lessened stamp customers, and business dwindled into very small proportions, and in not a few cases was largely confined to foreign orders.

**The Past Season.**

During the last few months "V.R.I." issues have led to a very brisk trade in some quarters, and there is now every prospect of an exceptionally busy Philatelic season in the coming autumn and winter, unless the South African struggle be prolonged beyond all reasonable expectations, or unpleasant complications arise out of the Chinese question.

NOT the least of the inducements which now and again crop up to tempt the outsider to enter the ranks of stamp collecting is the very close connection which stamps always seem to have with great historical changes. Of late this connection has been particularly emphasised. The Spanish-American War has its Philatelic landmarks in the special issues of U.S. stamps for use in Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam. The South African War is now yielding us a most interesting and already prolific crop of Philatelic souvenirs. We have the V.R.I. stamps of the conquered territory of the Orange Free State, and, by and bye, we shall have the change of name also marked in the stamps when we get a regular issue under the designation of Orange River Colony. The Mafeking Siege Stamps are exceedingly interesting. Some object that they are unauthorised. But in a siege authority changes, and this is recognised in the fact that the stamps have been allowed to freely frank letters to this country. And now we are daily expecting to see the Transvaal Stamps once more surcharged under a British occupation.

**Inducements to Collecting.**

Such souvenirs of historical changes cannot fail to recruit the ranks of stamp collecting, and, what is equally important, they emphasise the educational value of postal issues.

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**Phillips on Transvaal Prices.**

Mr. C. J. Phillips has an innings on Transvaal prices in the *Monthly Journal*. Ye Editor of *Ye Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* tells us our pricing of Transvaals is "tall," but, according to C. J. P., they are ridiculously low—in fact, we are altogether out of it. Between two such critics what is a poor specialist to do? However, we admit that C. J. P. has noted a few very obvious slips. *Tête bêche* pairs are certainly worth more than we priced them. As a matter of fact, we intended to mark the values four times the pair, instead of which we made it, in obvious error, four times the single stamp.

But C. J. P. gets somewhat off the track when he proceeds to sermonise on the basis of his corrections, especially when he takes us as an awful example of the advocate for a catalogue priced by Specialists. Our readers are aware that we wrote against the proposal in our recent discussion of the Catalogue question, but, in order that we may get what really is "our pet scheme," a Collector's Catalogue, we have stated that we are willing to help in the production of even a priced catalogue.

However, when all is said and done, our friend C. J. P. will have to admit that the bulk of his knowledge of varieties and even of values of Transvaals comes from the coaching of the criticised specialist and his collection.

We have made a few slips. So, we are rejoiced to know, has C. J. P. Many rare gems in our collection were bought at C. J. P.'s pricing as common garden varieties. The specialist may not be infallible, but we are very thankful to know that the eminent dealer is quite as fallible, at least that is our happy experience. We have had more grand bargains out of Gibbons' specially-priced stock books than from any other source.

The question of values, or the ability to value, is not settled, and will not be settled by the eccentricities of any one specialist or dealer. Individuals will have their foibles, their prejudices, and their temptations, and if the sad howlings in the Strand are any indication of the trend of events the dealer is more given to sinning in the matter of values than the specialist.

# Stamps of the Transvaal.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

## Reference List and Guide to Values.

### British Occupation.

(*Continued from p.* 165.)

1879. April 18. Coloured papers, continued.

Two printings from the old plates of Type II., surcharged in black with Types V. and VI. (Roman and Italic V.R.)

Roman V.R.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| Imperforate. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | 10 0 0 | 1 5 0 |
| Fine Roulette. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Wide Roulette. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Imperforate. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Italic *V.R.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Imperforate. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 0 12 6 |
| Fine Roulette. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| Wide Roulette. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Imperforate. | | |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Varieties:—

Misplaced stops.

1879. August to September. Coloured papers, continued.

Further printings from the old plates, 1d. Type I., and 3d. Type II. Surcharged in black with Type VII., in which it will be noted the letters "V.R." are smaller and closer together. The notable variety in this issue is the small capital T to "Transvaal, which is found in

both 1d. and both 3d. values. It occurs four times on each sheet, and is very scarce.

V. R.

Transvaal

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. red on yellow .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 1 5 0 |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | 0 17 6 |
| 3d. lilac on blue.. .. .. .. | 1 5 0 | 0 15 0 |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red on yellow .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on blue.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Wide Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red on yellow .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Pin Perforation.** | | |
| 1d. red on yellow .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on blue.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Small capital T to Transvaal.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. red on yellow .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on green .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 3d. lilac on blue.. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| **Fine Roulette.** | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |

Smaller " R " in " V.R."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Imperforate.** | | |
| 1d. red on orange .. .. .. | —— | —— |

1878-1880. Queen's Head issue.

Type VII. Head of Queen Victoria. Six values, issued at various dates from 1878 to 1880. Printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., London, on greyish, white wove, thinnish paper. Some of the supplies were watermarked with the name of the paper maker. Perforated $14\frac{1}{2}$.



| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| Perforated 14½. | | |
| ½d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 0 6 0 | 1 0 0 |
| 1d. red brown .. .. .. .. | 0 3 6 | 0 2 6 |
| 3d. lilac rose .. .. .. .. | 0 4 0 | 0 2 0 |
| 4d. sage green .. .. .. .. | 0 15 0 | 0 3 6 |
| 6d. black .. .. .. .. .. | 0 5 0 | 0 2 0 |
| 1s. green .. .. .. .. .. | 1 5 0 | 1 5 0 |
| 2s. blue .. .. .. .. .. | 2 10 0 | 1 5 0 |

1879. April and May.

Provisional "1 Penny" on 6d. Queen's Head issue. One printing surcharged in red and another in black. There are seven types of surcharge on each sheet printed.

1 Penny

Type 1.

1 Penny

Type 2.

1 Penny

Type 3.

1 Penny

Type 4.

1 Penny

Type 5.

*1 Penny*

Type 6.

1 PENNY

Type 7.

The following summary of the numbers of each type on each sheet will be useful for reference:—

*Red surcharge*, 18,000.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type | I. | 11 on sheet, | 300 sheets, | 3,300 | printed. |
| ,, | II. | 4 ,, | 300 ,, | 1,200 | ,, |
| ,, | III. | 4 ,, | 300 ,, | 1,200 | ,, |
| ,, | IV. | 9 ,, | 300 ,, | 2,700 | ,, |
| ,, | V. | 2 ,, | 300 ,, | 600 | ,, |
| ,, | VI. | 5 ,, | 300 ,, | 1,500 | ,, |
| ,, | VII. | 25 ,, | 300 ,, | 7,500 | ,, |
| Total | | 60 ,, | 300 ,, | 18,000 | ,, |

*Black surcharge*, 42,000.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type | I. | 11 on sheet, | 700 sheets, | 7,700 | printed. |
| ,, | II. | 4 ,, | 700 ,, | 2,800 | ,, |
| ,, | III. | 4 ,, | 700 ,, | 2,800 | ,, |
| ,, | IV. | 9 ,, | 700 ,, | 6,300 | ,, |
| ,, | V. | 2 ,, | 700 ,, | 1,400 | ,, |
| ,, | VI. | 5 ,, | 700 ,, | 3,500 | ,, |
| ,, | VII. | 25 ,, | 700 ,, | 17,500 | ,, |
| Total | | 60 ,, | 700 ,, | 42,000 | |

And the following diagram, taken in connection with the photographic reproduction of the types from our sheet of the black surcharge will help collectors in reconstructing the plate :—

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |

Red surcharge :—

| | | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type 1. | Slanting serif to top and thin serif to bottom of figure .. .. .. | —— | 3 0 0 |
| ,, 2. | No serif to bottom of figure .. .. | —— | —— |
| ,, 3. | Heavy serif to bottom of figure and thin serif to bottom of "P" .. | —— | —— |
| ,, 4. | Heavy serifs to bottom of figure and bottom of "P" .. .. .. | —— | 3 10 0 |
| ,, 5. | Tailless "y" .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| ,, 6. | Surcharge all in italics .. .. | —— | 7 0 0 |
| ,, 7. | "Penny" all in sans-serif capitals .. | 3 0 0 | 1 15 0 |

Black surcharge :—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Type 1. | Slanting serif to top and thin serif to bottom of figure .. .. .. | 2 17 0 | 1 5 0 |
| ,, 2. | No serif to bottom of figure.. .. | —— | 3 10 0 |
| ,, 3. | Heavy serif to bottom of figure and thin serif to bottom of "P" .. | —— | 3 10 0 |
| ,, 4. | Heavy serifs to bottom of figure and bottom of "P" .. .. .. | 3 10 0 | 1 10 0 |
| ,, 5. | Tailless "y" .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| ,, 6. | Surcharge all in italics .. .. | 6 5 0 | 3 10 0 |
| ,, 7. | "Penny" all in sans-serif capitals .. | 1 5 0 | 0 15 0 |

*(To be continued).*

# Our Discussion Forum.

## THE IDEAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

**Introductory, by The Editor.**

CAN anything be done to make the meetings of the Philatelic Societies more attractive to the general body of members? Can we, by any change of programme, secure larger attendances? The attendances at the meetings of even the best Societies are very small. In the Philatelic Society of London it averages only 16, and the 16 is composed, meeting after meeting, practically of the same members. And yet at those meetings the leading lights read papers, and the first specialists of the day display their greatest treasures for the inspection of their fellow members. Why is the attendance so small? The London Society does not stand alone in the matter of small attendances: it is chronic in most societies, if not in all. What does it mean? There must be something lacking. What is it?

How can we build up an Ideal Philatelic Society? Now is the time to discuss this question. Now is the time to air our opinions; to make suggestions, with the view of improving matters in the coming Session.

The enthusiasm for Stamp Collecting is certainly on the increase, but the enthusiasm for Philatelic Societies seems to be on the wane. Why is it so? What is the remedy? They should be most helpful, especially to beginners. Are they as helpful as they should be; and as they may be? They should form the backbone of Philately, but some of them are positively dead weights and stumbling-blocks to progress of any sort.

### I. By G. Johnson, B.A.,

*Hon. Sec. Birmingham Philatelic Society.*

Each one will want to know whether he is a member of the Ideal Philatelic Society, so I had better say at once that my purpose in writing this paper is not to describe any particular Society, but rather to point out a few conditions that are absolutely necessary to any good Society, make a few suggestions which if carried out would improve them still further, and leave to my readers the privilege of making further suggestions.

(1) Every society which aspires to the Ideal state must have *Rooms* of its own, conveniently situated, suitably furnished, and open at all times of the day. This first condition is satisfied by very few Societies either in England or abroad, the London Philatelic Society and the Collectors' Club of New York probably satisfying it better than any others.

(2) *Library.* Every Society, whatever its status, should possess a Library, complete more or less according to its means. The chief

English, Foreign and Colonial Societies possess small collections of books, but in most cases they are far from what they ought to be. In many cases this is due to the expense of obtaining a really representative collection of Philatelic works, the larger handbooks being expensive not only in their actual cost but by the fact that they usually cover only one country. By subscribing to all the chief Philatelic publications, purchasing all standard works as they appear, taking advantage of several splendid opportunities when members were parting with their libraries, and by liberal donations of publishers, members, and other Societies, the Birmingham Philatelic Society has at last obtained a really good library, containing all the chief standard works, nearly all the ordinary periodicals complete, and a number of the rare early publications. How much this is appreciated is demonstrated by the fact that the books are in constant request. Of course the purchase and binding accounts have been heavy, comparatively speaking, necessitating the outlay of £20 at a time, but it has been money very well expended. The Manchester, Leeds, and other Societies are all doing what they can for their members in this direction.

(3) *Meetings.* This is probably the most awkward item in our Ideal Philatelic Society. It is recognised as such not only in every Society in England but even more so in our Colonial Societies and in the Foreign ones too. Most of the meetings are entered on the programmes as—(1) Papers.
(2) Displays.
(3) Discussions.

But, taking the whole of our Societies, what ratio of our members attend these meetings? If there is a display of an exceptional collection there is a fair attendance, otherwise very few put in an appearance. This state of affairs is just as bad in the case of the London Society as it is with others, and I think it would be for the good of Philately in general, if something could be done to obviate it.

(*a*) Could not special meetings be arranged for the benefit of junior members and comparative beginners, at which some of the more advanced ones would attend and explain matters? The beginners would "feel more at home." They would not consider it quite so much a sin if they asked "is that the perf. 13," even if it should be 14. Whereas, in the meeting of the elders they would not ask for fear of a look of disdain. I am not for one moment arguing that advanced collectors look down on juniors, far otherwise, but such explanations are not interesting to them, and there is a tendency among juniors "not to open the mouth for fear of putting the foot in it." Thus if some of the meetings could be arranged separately I feel sure it would be for the good of all.

(*b*) Would open-air meetings among the members of a Society tend to attract members together for mutual benefit. This has been tried in Canada, United States, and on the Continent. The idea has scarcely been tried in England. We have no authentic information of the effect of these meetings, from a Philatelic standpoint. On the "standing" point of view, it is said the continental meetings have a considerable effect on some of those attending. But putting this aside, there is no reason why out-of-door meetings should not be a success for drawing members together. In other Societies this very

thing has worked wonders. Why should it not be so in those appertaining to Philately ?

(4) *Exhibitions.* Any ideal Philatelic Society would hold Exhibitions. All our leading Societies have held these, and the good that has come from them must have been very great. It seems to me, however, that if smaller exhibitions could occasionally be held, especially in London, absolutely free, it would bring many into the fold. Of course there is the question of expense, but guarantees are easily obtained, and the expense, if worked economically, need not be very heavy. They might also be used to give additional interest to some of the juniors.

(5) *Exchange and Sale of Duplicates.* It is a matter of necessity that every hobby to be of a permanent nature must be on sound commercial lines and basis, and a Society should have as good an Exchange as possible. All the leading Societies in England, except the London P. S., have Exchanges in connection with them, and now the L. P. S. has at last recognised that it is one of the necessary items in making up an ideal. They give members a splendid opportunity of disposing of their duplicates for cash or exchange, and of obtaining their wants, also for cash or exchange, from a large selection. The Birmingham Philatelic Society has obtained much of its popularity from the remarkable and unvarying success of its Exchange. Its list of members includes over 100 foreign and colonial residents and over 40 members of the L. P. S. As the packets were so successful it was suggested that an exchange at the meetings might attract those who did not attend the " papers," but it was not a success. No one wished to sell and no one brought anything for exchange, so the idea was given up.

Having now opened this symposium on a question that is vital to our hobby, I will leave it to others to make further suggestions, which, it is to be hoped, will lead to far better attended, successful, irresistably-attractive, periodical gatherings, not only in this country but in all foreign and colonial Societies.

# Mafeking Siege Stamps.

*(We have been favoured by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., with an advanced proof of the following interesting and authoritative article, which will appear in the next number of the " Monthly Journal.")*

WE have received a visit from Mr. E. J. Ross, of the firm of Aldred and Ross, general merchants, of Mafeking, who brought with him a complete set of all the stamps made and used during the memorable Siege, the set being signed by Lord Edward Cecil, Chief Staff Officer, as a guarantee of their genuineness.

The necessity for overprinting the stamps, which were in the hands of the Postmaster, has been questioned by the incredulous, but after hearing all that Mr. Ross has to say on the matter, which opinion has been confirmed from other sources, all doubts are completely set at rest.

It appears that Mafeking was formerly, for postal purposes, in British Bechuanaland, but some four or five years ago was transferred to the Cape of Good Hope, and at the time of the Siege the Post Office possessed various odd stamps not only of the Cape Colony, but of two or three issues of British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The total face value of the stamps in the Post Office was a very small amount. The desire to communicate with the outside world was not confined to the Military Authorities for their own despatches, but all the inhabitants and civilians were as eager as possible to get letters through to their friends and relations. The only method available was, of course, by means of native runners, who were paid as much as £25 to undertake the risk of running the gauntlet of the ever alert enemy. Two or three of these runners were despatched South endeavouring to get round Kimberley and so to our forces, but the great bulk of them were sent up North towards Colonel Plumer's Column, and letters that did get through were forwarded *viâ* Salisbury and Beira to their destination. These runners concealed letters written on thin paper not only about their clothing, but also even in the soles of their boots, which were manufactured and made hollow on purpose, no bags being allowed to be carried, as they would have impeded their progress. Unfortunately, as was found out later on, a number of the runners were caught and killed, and in some cases despatches, such as those from Lady Sarah Wilson to the *Daily Mail*, were found by the side of reports, but with the postage stamps removed by the "slim" Boer.

In order to pay for this postal service, it was found necessary to practically double the ordinary rates, and the Military Authorities bought up all the stamps in the Post Office, and handed them to the printer of the *Mafeking Mail* to overprint with higher denominations. Letters that were written were then taken to the Post Office, and the Military Postal Officials stamped them with various denominations according to the weight or bulk of the letters. No stamps were sold to the public, and no person was allowed to send more than two or, at the most, three letters by any one runner.

In addition to the ordinary stamps, for the purpose above named, it was found necessary to make stamps for use within the lines, and a Local post was organised with special stamps. These consisted of two kinds:—

First:—A boy on a bicycle, inscribed "V.R. Siege of Mafeking," in a scroll above, and "Local post, 1d.," below. The boy on the bicycle is Sergeant-Major Goodyear of the Cadet Corps, which was created to do duty as Orderlies and Messengers.

Second:—A front-faced portrait of Colonel Baden-Powell, inscribed "Mafeking, 1900, Siege," in a scroll above, and "Postage, 3d." in a scroll below. Both stamps were produced by a Mr. Taylor by means of photographic ferro-prussiate process, on a paper specially made in Mafeking during the Siege. The portrait type consisted of two varieties, differing only in size. The local stamps were made in blocks of 12, and are blue on blue, differing much in colour, and are perforated 12. Of no single stamp over-printed were there more than one thousand, and of some of them not more than 120 copies, being on old

varieties, of which only a few remained in the Mafeking Post Office. It is satisfactory to know that the printer's formes for overprinting have all been broken up, and the negatives and dies of the Local stamps destroyed.

The following is a complete list of the stamps :—

## Reference List.

MARCH TO MAY 17, 1900.

1. "MAFEKING" *and* "BESIEGED" *in fancy type* $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm. *high.*

(*a*) *Cape of Good Hope stamps.*

No.
1. 1d. on ½d., green (Type 3).
2. 1d. on ½d., ,, ( ,, 14).
3. 3d. on 1d., carmine ( ,, 14).
4. 6d. on 3d., claret ( ,, 3).
5. 1s. on 4d., pale green (Type 3).

(*b*) *Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps.*

6. 1d. on ½d., vermilion (No. 60).
7. 3d. on 1d., lilac (No. 61).
8. 6d. on 2d., green and red (No. 62).
9. 6d. on 3d., brown on yellow (No. 63).

(*c*) *British Bechuanaland stamps.*

10. 6d. on 3d. lilac (No. 14).
11. 1s. on 4d. green and brown (No. 53).

2. "MAFEKING" *and* "BESIEGED" *in thin sans-serif type,* $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. *high.*

(*a*) *Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps.*

12. 3d. on 1d., lilac (No. 61).
13. 6d. on 2d., green and red (No. 62).
14. 1s. on 6d., lilac on red (No. 65).

(*b*) *British Bechuanaland stamps.*

15. 1s. on 6d., lilac on red (No. 54).
16. 2s. on 1s., green (No. 55).

In the stamps overprinted "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE" and "BRITISH BECHUANALAND" the local surcharge is so adjusted as not to overlap the original surcharge.

LOCAL STAMPS.

*Produced by photographic process, horizontally laid paper. Perf.* 12.

(*a*) $18\frac{1}{2}$ mm. *wide.* (*b*) 21 mm. *wide.*

17. 1d., blue on blue (bicycle).
18. 3d. ,, ,, (*a*).
19. 3d. ,, ,, (*b*).

## What General Baden-Powell Says.

General Baden-Powell in a postscript to a letter published in the *Daily News*, and written from "Camp, near Rustenburg, Transvaal, June 23rd, 1900," says :—

"P.S.—In reply to hundreds of applicants, I regret to say that the issue of Mafeking siege stamps was a limited one, and closed at the termination of the siege, and that consequently no stamps are now obtainable."




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**Canada.**—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says the 3c., 6c., and 15c., recently withdrawn, will, very likely, be replaced by 4c. and 7c. values. We shall be glad of early information hereon. The *Montreal Philatelist* makes no mention of the rumour.

**Cape of Good Hope.** MAFEKING SIEGE.—We are indebted to an advanced proof of the next issue of the *Monthly Journal* for the following authentic list of stamps issued during the siege of Mafeking.

*Adhesives.*

MARCH TO MAY 17, 1900.

1. "MAFEKING" *and* "BESIEGED" *in fancy type.* 1¾ mm. *high.*

(*a*) *Cape of Good Hope stamps.*

No.
1. 1d. on ½d., green (Type 3).
2. 1d. on ½d. ,, ( ,, 14).
3. 3d. on 1d., carmine ( ,, 14).
4. 6d. on 3d., claret ( ,, 3).
5. 1s. on 4d., pale green (Type 3).

(*b*) *Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps.*

6. 1d. on ½d., vermilion (No. 60).
7. 3d. on 1d., lilac (No. 61).
8. 6d. on 2d., green and red (No. 62).
9. 6d. on 3d., brown on yellow (No. 63).

(*c*) *British Bechuanaland stamps.*

10. 6d. on 3d., lilac (No. 14).
11. 1s. on 4d., green and brown (No. 53).

2. "MAFEKING" *and* "BESIEGED" *in thin sans-serif type.* 1¼ mm. *high.*

(*a*) *Bechuanaland Protectorate stamps.*

12. 3d. on 1d., lilac (No. 61).
13. 6d. on 2d., green and red (No. 62).
14. 1s. on 6d., lilac on red (No. 65).

(*b*) *British Bechuanaland stamps.*

15. 1s. on 6d., lilac on red (No. 54).
16. 2s. on 1s., green (No. 55).

In the stamps overprinted "BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE" and "BRITISH BECHUANALAND" the local surcharge is so adjusted as not to overlap the original surcharge.

LOCAL STAMPS.

*Produced by photographic process, horizontally laid paper. Perf.* 12.

(*a*) 18½ mm. *wide.* (*b*) 21 mm. *wide.*

17. 1d., blue on blue (bicycle).
18. 3d. ,, ,, (*a*).
19. 3d. ,, ,, (*b*).

**Cook Islands.**—The *Montreal Philatelist* Raratonga correspondent says the newly-ordered stamps, recently received, are all of a different shade from the first lot printed, notably the 2½d. value, which was pink, but in the new lot it is a lilac-rose colour.

**Great Britain.**—Mr. J. W. Jones sends us the new ½d. green stamp surcharged "Army Official."

*Adhesive.*

"ARMY OFFICIAL."

½d., green.

**Mauritius.**—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a 6 cents. value of the current arms type.

The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a provisional 4c. on 16c, of which the 51,282 copies said to have been printed were sold out on the day of issue.

*Adhesives.*

6c., green, and value in carmine.
4c., in black on 16c. chestnut.

The *Weekly Philatelic Era* (U.S.) has received information from an official source that an entire new issue is in contemplation, including values of 1r., 2r., 5r., and 10r.

**India.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* finds it was mistaken in its note on the improbability of the arrival of a blue 2½ anna stamp at an early date (quoted in last month's *Philatelic Record*, p. 168), and adds, "It appears that the present stock of 2½ annas stamps is not so very great after all, and that a further supply has been indented for. This supply will be in blue."

We are further informed that the adoption of a grey colour for the ¼ anna stamp has been definitely arranged.

And that it is expected that a supply of all five stamps in their new colours will be in India before the end of the year.

BUSSAHIR.—According to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, the stock of the stamps of this State are being rapidly sold out, necessitating new supplies.

"The stocks of colour are evidently uncertain, and, as Rampur is about ten days' march from civilisation, they are not easily renewed. This accounts for the changes in colour. The changes in type were predicted by us, and will continue till all the values appear in the new type.

"The ¼ anna now appears in brilliant carmine with monogram in purple.

"The 1 anna also appears in the same colour, and from an entirely new transfer of 4 rows of 6 stamps each. The new printings bring out the details of the design much better than the old one did. The monogram here is in purple, too.

"The old 2 anna stamp being sold out, this value now appears in Type II. As in the case of the 1 anna, a rough provisional transfer of 4 stamps also appears to have been made. The colour is yellow, and the monogram is in rose. This was followed by a transfer, consisting of 50 stamps in 10 horizontal rows of 5 each. The colour is a brown orange, with monogram in purple. The design is brought out more clearly than in the provisional issue. On the middle of the top and bottom of each of the sides the figures '50' occur.

"Type II. of the 4 annas is also sold out. This occurs in sheets of 7 horizontal rows of 4 each, colour is dull purple, and monogram is in rose.

"All are on white-wove paper.

"We have come across copies of the 4 annas, Type I., with the monogram in rose *and* in purple."

The following additional notes were collected for our Indian contemporary on the spot by Lalla Muthra Das:—

"The first stamps were ordered on 12th September, 1895, and were ready in December of that year. They were not, however, used till 6th May, 1896, on which date the present three post offices were opened.

"Stamps of the first type, which were produced in the lifetime of the late Tikka Ragho Nath Singh, were not sold imperf. A few sheets did escape perforation, but that was owing to accident. Stamps of the second type are issued both perf. and imperf., and with or without gum, to supply Philatelic wants.

"The second type of the ¼ anna was introduced on 9th February, 1900. The colour had to be changed, owing to the stock of 'rose' colour having run out. The second type of the ½ anna was issued on 4th and of the 1 anna on the 18th February, 1900.

"The stamps of the State have *always* been lithographed, and no impressions from steel plates have ever been used postally. The perforation has all along been done by a sewing machine, and the gum is laid on with a sponge.

"The date stamps of the State are perfectly unreliable. The officials appear to put in any year type that comes handy. We have failed to get any numbers of stamps printed."

COCHIN.—The *Monthly Journal* has received information that the postal issues of Cochin will shortly cease, on its post office being taken over by the Imperial Government.

KISHENGARH.—Messrs. Ram Gopal & Co., Rajputana, sends us a copy of the ¼ anna which we illustrate.




*Adhesive.*
¼ anna, carmine.

**New South Wales.**—Mr. W. Bradley has shown us the 2½d. purple, Die I., perf. 11 all round.

*Adhesive.*
2½d. purple, Die I., perf. 11.

**New Zealand.**—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have shown us the 3d. orange brown, 6d. carmine rose, and 1s. brown red of the picture series, local prints unwatermarked, and perf. 11, also the ½d. dark green, Wmk. double-lined "N Z.," perf. 11.

*Adhesives.*
*Unwatermarked, perf. 11.*
3d. orange brown.
6d. carmine rose.
1s. brown red.
Watermarked double-lined "N.Z."
½d. dark green.

Mr. A. P. Bate, the well-known Australian specialist, writing to the *Philatelic Journal of India* on the 23rd April, 1900, sends our contemporary the following interesting information as to the bewildering issues now in use, from which it appears that no less than four distinct series are at present current:—

1. The London prints of the 3d. and 1s.

2. Local prints on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11 of the 2½d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 2s., 5s.

3. Local prints on a new watermarked paper, with double-lined "N.Z." and star, perf. 11, of the ½d., 1d., 2d.

4. Provisionals of the Queen's head series, on the new watermarked paper, perf. 11, of the ½d. and 2d.

In addition to the above, Queen's head stamps have had to be reissued (on the old watermarked paper) from time to time, owing to shortage of printing inks for the new issue. They have all been perforated 11.

At the time Mr. Bate wrote, the stamps actually current were as follows:—

½d., pale yellow-green, on the new watermarked paper, perf. 11, supply exhausted.

½d., black, provisional of the Queen's head type, on the new watermarked paper, perf. 11. This was issued early in April, owing to the supply of green ink running out.

½d., dark green, on the new watermarked paper, perf. 11. Has been printed and will be issued as soon as the above provisionals have been used up.

1d., carmine (design of the London 4d.) on the new watermarked paper, perf. 11.

2d., lilac, on the new watermarked paper, perf. 11.

2d., rich purple, provisional of the Queen's head type, on the new watermarked paper, perf. 11. This was issued about the middle of April, owing to the supply of lilac ink running out.

2½d., blue local prints on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11.

3d., yellow brown, London print.

4d., brown and blue local print. Design and colour of the London 1d., on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11. This was first issued while the London 1d. was still current. As great confusion arose, many postmasters, taking it for the 1d., and marking packets unsufficiently stamped, it was temporarily withdrawn, with the result that 5s. and more was asked for specimens. The penny in the old colours being now exhausted, it has been re-issued.

5d., red-brown, local print, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11.

6d., green, local print, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11. This is in a darker shade of green than the first edition of the local print.

8d., deep blue, local print, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11.

9d., purple, local print, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11.

1s., red, London print.

2s., blue-green local print, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11.

5s., vermilion, local print, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 11.

**Orange River Colony.**—We have a few further varieties to chronicle. A thick "V" in "V.R.I." appears in what is evidently a fresh setting. It occurs six times in each pane of 60, viz., 5th stamp in first row, 5th stamp in third row, 5th stamp in fourth row, 3rd stamp in seventh row, and 2nd and 6th stamps in eighth row. This variety we have found ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d. blue, and we believe it is found in the same positions in the 1s. and 5s.

Then we have what appears to be a still different setting of the 1d. value in which the six thick "V.'s" occur, but in different positions, viz., 2nd stamp in the 1st, 3rd and 4th rows; 4th stamp in the 7th row, and 1st and 4th stamps in the 8th row. Further, in this setting of the 1d. there is another variety, viz., a shorter figure and a dropped "d," thus "1d." This is the 5th stamp of the top row of each pane, and only occurs once on each pane.

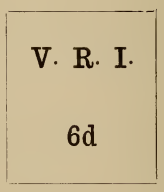
What was believed to be the whole stock of the 4d. value was used up in the first setting with stops level with the bottoms of the letters. Then a further small supply was discovered and this was used up with the raised and mixed dots setting. This last printing of the 4d. contains no varieties, such as omitted figures, stops, or letters, or thick V.

Of the raised dots setting it may be noted that there are two varieties: 1. In which most of the stops are raised, but some large stops are misplaced, as noted in our last number (p. 169). 2. All stops raised and small.

These differences are probably accounted for by the printing being done on two or more machines at the same time, thus necessitating separate settings of the overprint.

The wear and tear of printing large quantities is evidenced in broken letters.

We continue and complete our list up to date:—




*Adhesives.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| "½d" on | Half penny .. | yellow. | of 1897. |
| "1d" on | Een penny .. | mauve, | of 1894. |
| "2d" on | Twee pence .. | mauve, | of 1883. |
| "2½" on | Drie pence .. | blue, | of 1896. |
| "3d" on | Drie pence .. | blue, | of 1883. |
| "4d" on | Vier pence .. | blue, | of 1898. |
| "6d" on | Zes pence .. | carmine, | of 1897. |
| "6d" on | Zes pence .. | blue, | of 1900. |
| "1s" on | Een shilling .. | brown, | of 1900. |
| "5s" on | Vyf shillgs .. | green, | of 1879. |

VARIETIES.

*Stops raised, thus* "V·R·I·"

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. blue; 1s., 5s.

"I" *omitted after* "V.R."

1d.

*No stop after* V. *of* "V R.I."

1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d. rose, 6d. blue, 1s. brown.

*No stop after* I *of* "V.R.I"

½d. orange.

*Figures omitted.*

½, 1d., 6d. rose, 6d. blue, 1s. brown.

*Letter of value omitted.*

1d.

*Thick* V *in* "V.R.I."

½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d. blue, 5s.

*Raised stop after* "s," *thus* "s·"

1s.

*Shorter figure and dropped* "d," *thus* "1d"

1d.

**Sarawak.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the $1 value of the current design changed from green and black to

carmine and green. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a 25c. bistre, a new value of the current type. No wmk., perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*

25c bistre, value in mauve.
1 dol. carmine ,, green.

**Tonga.**—The *American Journal of Philately* has seen the 7½ pence with inverted centre, a sheet having been found in this condition.

*Adhesive.*

*Inverted centre.*
7½d., green and black.

**Transvaal.** — The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the ½d. green of the Republic overprinted "V.R.—Special—Post" in three lines, said to have been issued by the Magistrate of Vryburg on the arrival of the British troops there. Rats!

Meanwhile there are rumours of a genuine issue of surcharges at Pretoria with a restricted sale.

**Western Australia.** — According to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* the long 1d. revenue stamps used for postal purposes are now watermarked Crown and W.A. similar to the ordinary 1d. and 2d. postage stamps The watermark occurs twice on each stamp.

Mr. W. Bradbury informs us that the postage and fiscal long rectangular 2s. 6d. and 3s. have now been issued, watermarked Crown and W.A.

# Foreign Countries.

**Afghanistan.**—Mr. D. P. Masson sends the *Monthly Journal* a set of the 1876-7 issue (lacking the *Shahi* value only), dated 1294, in *green*, on ordinary *wove* paper "These stamps," remarks Major Evans, "have hitherto, so far as we are aware, only been chronicled on *laid*."

*Adhesives.*

Sunar, green, on *white wove.*
Abasi ,, ,,
½ rupee ,, ,,
1 ,, ,, ,,

**Belgium.** Congo State. — We have some changes here which are apparently intended to conform with the Postal Union agreement as to colours of the lower values. The central part of the design is black as before. The 5c. has been changed from brown to green, the 10c. from blue to carmine, the 25c. from orange to blue, and the 50c. from green to olive green. We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for specimens.

*Adhesives.*

5c., green, centre black.
10c., carmine, ,,
25c., blue, ,,
50c., olive green, ,,

**Germany.** Marshall Islands.—Mr. Reichenheim states in the *London Philatelist* that the 10pf. and 20pf. with the later spelling, viz., "Marshall" instead of "Marschall," have been issued, and should now be added to the list given in last month's *Philatelic Record* (p. 174).

*Adhesives.*

10pf., rose.
20pf.. blue.

Samoa.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a set of six values of the German stamps of 1889, surcharged diagonally in black from left lower corner to right upper corner "Samoa."

*Adhesives.*

3pf., brown.
5pf., green.
10pf., rose.
20pf., blue.
25pf., orange.
50pf., brown.

**Portugal.** Portuguese India. — The *Philatelic Journal of India* has been shown the 6 reis, green (Gibbons' No. 176), with the value twice surcharged.

*Adhesive.*

1883. Die I.
6 reis, green, double surcharge.

**Roumania.**—Mr. A. W. Rothchild, Bucharest, sends us a new 5 bani stamp, green on pale pink, *wove* paper, without watermark. The 5 bani current up to the issue of this new stamp was on thickish *laid* paper, watermarked "P.R.," the paper varying in colour from white and greyish to yellowish.

Our correspondent does not know whether the other values are to be printed on the new paper.

The perforation is 11½, as before.

*Adhesive.*

5 bani, green, *pink wove paper.*

**Russia.** Finland. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us an extract from a Finnish journal announcing that from the 14th August next Finnish postage stamps for correspondence abroad will be entirely superseded by Russian postage stamps. For correspondence within the country the Finnish postage stamps will be used up to 1st January, 1901, and will thenceforth be replaced by exclusively Russian stamps, "or such as have the same appearance as these," but with the value in Finnish money.

# Philately in the Mags.

**What shall we Specialise?**

Mr. C. J. Phillips discusses this question in the June number of the *Monthly Journal* and here is his advice:—

Portugal and Colonies.

"This is a large and very unexplored group, not very expensive, if we omit the Portuguese Indies, which have been well studied and classified in the handbook written by the late Gilbert Harrison and Lieutenant Napier.

"If we omit Portuguese Indies we have a group that, as far as I know, has been almost entirely neglected by most English collectors, and about which we have *very* much to learn.

"In the older issues of Portugal there are not only different types in the 5 reis straight hair, and the 5 reis of 1853, but, as was shown both by Mr. Wassermann in the last *M.J.*, and by Mr. Castle at a recent meeting of the Philatelic Society, there are several types in the 25 reis, blue, of 1856, and the 25 reis, rose, of 1862, and I strongly suspect the existence of types in other values.

"Next we have the different types of the 5, 15, and 20 reis of the 1870-80 issue of Portugal, and there are probably variations in the other issues.

"Then going to the later issues of Portu gal and Colonies, from 1885 we find a *chalky paper* quite different from that of the older issues, and existing with numerous varieties of type and perforation.

The Italian States.

"Another very interesting group that until the last few months has been much neglected in this country. What can be more interesting than a fine collection of such an inexpensive country as Sicily, with the many different plates and printings, and especially the 'retouches' which are found on several values, owing to the wearing away and subsequent partial restoring of the plates; and about which so little is known, at all events in this country?

"Modena is another of these old states that will repay the specialist without any great outlay.

"The Roman States, with many interesting minor varieties, afford full scope for the more advanced collector in a careful study of the originals and the reprints.

"Parma, Tuscany, and in fact the whole group, have a great attraction for me, and any one or all of these countries I can well recommend to those who want to combine study, pleasure, and profit.

The late Spanish Colonies.

"Cuba, Porto Rico, Fernando Poo, and the Philippines form a very nice little group of countries, which, owing to the recent war, have been brought into much prominence during the past two years, and are being much sought for, and should show a good financial result if collected and studied carefully The group is not at all expensive if one omits the plating of the Philippine stamps, which would now be a much more difficult job than two years ago, owing to the exhaustion of supplies.

Sweden and Norway.

"Two countries of the greatest interest, and not half studied or classified, even by the most advanced of our collectors. In Norway there are the four varieties of the issues of 1863-8, and more important and less understood is the issue of 1883-4, the stamps being found in various sizes, many printings, papers, and perforations, with the values in very small to very large figures.

"Sweden is a difficult and more expensive country to collect unused, but even with used stamps much can be studied and a fine show made.

Austria, Austrian Italy, and Hungary.

"For those who want plenty of scope here is a great opening. This group can be specialised with great advantage, and endless labour and research will be necessary before one has completed the sets on the different papers all the types, perforations, and colours that can be found in one of the most interesting groups of the European continent.

The Balkan States.

"Bosnia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Servia form an interesting group to the specialist, and one that can be taken up and a really fine collection made without a great expenditure of money.

Holland and Colonies.

"Holland, Curaçoa, Dutch Indies, and Surinam form another group of considerable importance and interest, in which many minor points still require to be elucidated. The group has been taken up by several well-known English collectors, who have conjointly added much to our knowledge during the past two years or so; but there still remain many interesting points to be cleared up, and I can well recommend this group as one worthy of study and collection.

"In *single countries*, as distinguished from groups, I think the following are well worthy the attention of a collector, who desires to combine a good investment with plenty of research and study:—

| | |
|---|---|
| "Brazil. | Siam. |
| Ecuador. | Uruguay. |
| Hawaiian Islands. | Venezuela." |
| China. | |

Mr. Phillips does not mention the Transvaal, or the Orange River Colony, or any of the South African countries. There was no

need to do so, perhaps, for the simple reason that they are being specialised *ad lib.* just now.

**South Australia 2½d. and 5d. Stamps.**

Mr. Kuttner, who makes a special study of South Australians, has been simplifying the varieties in a series of articles in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. We quote what he says about the 2½d. and 5d. stamps.

THE 2½d. STAMP.

"The first appearance of a stamp of this value was at the beginning of 1891, when the small 4d. previously referred to was printed in green on close S A paper (like all the succeeding stamps) and surcharged 2½d. in brown, the original value being barred out. Normally the perforation is 10, with which the stamp is found in slight shades of blue-green and yellow-green. Some sheets, however, had the three vertical lines on the right and the two lowest horizontal lines perforated with 11½. This gives rise to eight compounds of *10 with 11½* while the the two right-hand stamps of the bottom row on each sheet thus perforated gauge *11½ all round* and are correspondingly scarcer than the others. As regards the surcharge, the variations in the size and shape of the stops are slight, though two stamps on each sheet have the fraction ½ much closer to the large 2 than the others. Another variety of perforation is 10 compound with 12½, a few sheets having four vertical lines of perforation made by the 12½ machine. These are rather rarer than the 10, 11½ compounds. The *Handbook* says that the compound 11½, 12½ does not exist, but some two or three years since I discovered this variety among Mr. Hadlow's stock. I fancy, however, that it was a freak of the 11½ machine, and not actually caused by the use of the 11½ and 12½ machines.

"In 1893 this stamp appeared perforated 15, some specimens being printed from a curiously worn plate. Possibly this may account for the introduction in the following year of an entirely new design (*Gibbons' Type 21*) which appeared in blue-lilac with the same perforation. This stamp seems rather cheap at the catalogue price of 2s. unused, 3d. used. In 1895 it came out with the current 13 perforation, while last year it was changed to deep blue.

THE 5D. STAMP.

"The stamp of this value also, on its first appearance in 1891, was made in a similar way to the 2½d., *viz.*, by printing the small 6d. in reddish brown and surcharging it 5d. in carmine, the original value being barred out. It is found only with the 10 perforation, has no variety of type of surcharge worth mentioning, and is common used and unused. In 1894, a new design (*Gibbon's Type 22*), appeared perforated 15. This stamp, printed in a brownish purple fugitive ink, suggestive of a photograph, is far rarer than the catalogue prices of 4s. and 1s. would indicate. In 1895 the perforation was changed to 13.

**Cook Islands.**

Mr. Ralph W. Gosset writing to the *Montreal Philatelist* from Raratonga, Cook Islands, on April 20th, 1900, says:—

"A new stock of stamps was recently ordered from the government printer at Wellington, N.Z., as he prints all the Cook Island stamps, and also holds the dies. These newly ordered stamps arrived the mail before last and are all of a different shade from the first lot printed, notably the 2½d. value which was pink but in the new lot it is of a lilac-rose colour; some very deep in colour and others again very light; which only shows how carelessly the various colours were blended for the printing. Another notable feature of this new stock is the exceedingly careless manner in which they have been perforated, which of course spoils them for collecting purposes.

It was rumoured among a great number of New Zealand collectors lately that the 1½d. lilac Cook Island was likely to be withdrawn, as it was a useless value; but I find such is not the case, as it is used for postage between the various Islands of the Cook group, viz.: Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Mangaia, Mitiaro, Mauke, Manuac, and Atiu. The rate of postage being (between the foregoing Islands) 1½d. for every ½ oz. or fraction thereof. So the 1½d. stamp is an indispensable value for the group.

Quite a number of large orders continue to come into the Chief Post Office here for the surcharged ½d. on 1d. blue, but of course they are out of stock and have been for some considerable time past."

**The Catalogue Question.**

Mr. C. J. Phillips (Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.) contends in the *Monthly Journal* that "the attempt to issue a priced catalogue by collector specialists would be a dismal failure." Query: As dismal and unsatisfactory as his own catalogue?

The Editor of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* (U.S.) says:—

"Again the catalogue business is agitating collectors, and the general opinion is that a standard priced list should be published by a national stamp society. Undoubtedly there are several good catalogues published at the present time, and if they simply priced the stamps their publishers had for sale, they would be all that could be desired. Unfortunately this is not the case. Then in regard to prices, a dealer is certainly entitled to charge whatever price he may elect for his goods, and if he prices some stamps at double their value and others at half, it concerns no one but himself; if his catologue is considered simply as his own price list, he alone suffers from his mistakes. It is not at all certain that any society committee could do better than the present publishers, but it would probably be more satisfactory to the majority of the collectors using the catalogue."

The Editor of the *Montreal Philatelist*, in the June number of his excellent little journal, touches on the the question of catalogue prices and values. He says: "There can be no doubt that the seller of any article, insomuch as it is his property, has an undisputed right to fix the price at which he will part with it, but it does not follow that the price asked is the true value. The value depends upon two principal considerations, the quantity in existence or which can be brought into existence, and the number of persons who wish to obtain the articles in question—in our case stamps. In other words the value depends on "supply and demand," and as a last resort it is the "demand" that determines the value, for no matter how great or how small the supply may be, unless an article is in demand it is practically worthless. This universal law of values is very evident when it applies to things which have absolutely no value in themselves, such as stamps. Let it be supposed that no stamp collectors existed, and it is at once apparent that a stamp, no matter how rare, would have no value whatsoever, simply because no one would be willing to pay any thing for it. This proves to a certainty that collectors alone fix the value of stamps; whether the prices as quoted in the dealers' catalogues reflect their value is another question. In the great majority of cases we believe they do, in a relative degree. But stamp collecting has its ebb and flow; at one time all the world seems bent on collecting stamps, again something else attracts the popular attention, and Philately languishes, so that what may be the permanent value of any stamp it is impossible to say; as the number of collectors increases or diminishes, the supply remaining stationary, in the same proportion values rise and fall."

**End of Hawaiian Issues.**

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following from an American newspaper. We may, therefore, write "finis" to the long and interesting series of separate issues for Hawaii:—

"The United States postal system will be installed there (Hawaii) June 14th, but at the close of business on the 13th every one of the seventy-eight postmasters will be required to give a full account of all Hawaiian stamps, postal cards, etc., on hand, and the whole caboodle will be sent to headquarters here in Washington for destruction in the regular Government furnace, and by men under bonds to let no guilty stamp escape. Mr. Madden, third Assistant Postmaster-General, will have charge of this business since Hawaii is part of us, and he has fully prepared all his plans. Everything relating to stamps, registry system, special delivery, classification of mail, and all finances relating to the postal business comes under him, and he to-day started Inspector Hall from San Francisco to begin the work of instructing the Hawaiian postmasters in Yankee fiscal ways. At the same time he ordered $50,000 worth of stamps, postal cards, stamped envelopes, and newspaper wrappers to be sent on. This supply is expected to last the islands ninety days.

"On June 1st Inspector Flint, who is being put through a special course of sprouts in regard to Post Office finances, will start for Hawaii to help finish the work of preparation and to clear up any hard spots Hall may have struck. He will also carry a specially prepared letter of instructions from the chief of every division in Mr. Madden's bureau, giving every detail about handling post matter moneys, keeping records, making reports, etc., so that it is expected that the whole machine will be started in the islands on time, with even registry books and messengers ready to carry letters bearing Special Delivery stamps.

"All postmasters on the island will be instructed to report to and deposit with the Postmaster of Honolulu, who will in turn deposit with the sub-treasury at San Francisco. Two of the Hawaiian cities will start with free delivery. A full supply of pouches, registry sacks, brass locks, and other paraphernalia was also shipped yesterday."

**Sirmur "On S.S.S.," etc.**

Mr. T. A. Brooks, writing from Sírmúr State to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, calls for the exclusion of the Elephant Issue surcharged "On S.S.S." from our catalogue of the issues of Sírmúr State. That such stamps have been—and presumably still are—in the market he does not question, but he asserts "they have never emanated from the State, and should, therefore, not be granted enumeration in the philatelist's leading catalogue." Our Gibbons will please note!

Then, turning in contemplation, to the general issues of Sirmúr, Mr. Brooks says:

"Alas, for it! the labyrinth one is confronted with in attempting to tabulate the stamps of Sírmúr defies an eventual exit. Bhopal, at least, had its plates. Sírmúr has none whatever, and it would be by the merest accident that one could come across a dozen stamps surcharged all exactly alike. Had we a lithographic press the difficulty might not have been anything so great, but even when the same type has been used, if we measure the spaces between the surcharges, whether perpendicularly or horizontally, we meet quite a number of inconsistencies. When it is remembered that the printer cared not the least what type he used or how he composed it, and that he had his performances limited to ten stamps at a time, it will be easily conceded that *tabulating* the service stamps of Sírmúr is entirely out of the question."

Mr. Brooks writes Sirmor; Gibbons, Sirmoor; but Hunter, the accepted official authority, spells it Sírmúr. We follow Hunter.

# Notes and News.

### A Dealer on Auctions.

Opinions are still very much divided as to the effect of auctions on stamp dealing and stamp collecting. Here is what Mr. J. W. Scott, of New York, one of the oldest dealers in the trade, says about them in a recent issue of his *Metropolitan Philatelist*:—"We occasionally hear dealers complain that their trade is injured by auction sales. There are two sides to every question, and this is no exception; perhaps it may prove beneficial to all concerned to have both sides of the case stated. The dealers know that stamps to the value of one hundred thousand dollars are disposed of at auction every year, which divided up among the trade would make a very considerable addition to the annual sales of each. Not only are they deprived of their share of the sales, but the higher prices secured in the auction room prevents them making advantageous purchases of fine collections. We think these two items cover all causes of complaint, buying and selling, and if there were not counterbalancing advantages would certainly make the auction room a very bad thing for the dealer. Now let us look at the other side and see what the auctioneer's friends have to say. First, before auctions were introduced by Mr. Scott, there were no large buyers of stamps, because every intelligent man saw that there was no market for his collection provided he decided to sell, but once he saw a room full of collectors bidding against one another for the possession of stamps he was assured of a market, and unhesitatingly put money into a collection as an investment, instead of spending his pocket money for a transient amusement. The auction room established stamp dealing as a business, which it never would have been without it. Now as to prices. Stamps sell cheaper at auction than those ordinarily charged by dealers. This, of course, is true; but when there is an auction the collector has to set aside other business or pleasure and attend. Moreover, instead of spending a few dollars, it usually runs up to a hundred. He ought to buy cheaper. But the dealer is also there, and if he believes in the goods he deals in, the stamps will only sell at a reasonable discount from retail prices. *All* the dealers are there, and the most intelligent rely on auctions to keep their stock up to date. Stamps that go very cheap they buy to offer as bargains. Desirable specimens they purchase to keep the stock attractive to the best class of amateurs. Auctions can only be depressing to the trade when dealers let stamps sell below their value. There are dozens of amateurs who never buy a stamp by mail or in a store, their sole dependence being the auction room. This class of collectors is almost numerous enough to support the sales room, and if auctions were abolished they would stop collecting. In our opinion stamp auctions are the mainstay of the stamp business." This is the most candid and outspoken presentation of both sides of a vexed question that we have had from any dealer.

### Transvaals.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have recently sold a collection of Transvaals for £1,447. The purchaser is a wealthy and enthusiastic collector, who has recently gone in for this now very popular country. The collection was a very nice and representative lot, but of course leaves the purchaser abundant room for much research and expenditure.

### Orange River Colony.

The "V.R.I." issue is as much in demand as ever. Supplies are slow in coming and difficult to get At first prices ruled high—very high, but the early purchasers will probably balance on the right side. Some values they can buy lower, and probably they will be offered much lower yet. But they are not likely to get the 2½d. at 6d. each again, for it is now selling at 7s. 6d. to 10s. The variations in the later printings will also probably make the high prices of the first supply fairly safe. Some are already appreciating in value. The 6d. carmine is a case in point. A speculator brought over the first supply, and knowing their scarcity, insisted on a long price, in fact he made the retail price 10s. It was stiff, but it has already increased to 12s. and seems likely to go even higher. The second printing, of the 4d. raised stops, should be secured early, as it is said to have been only a small lot, and was soon exhausted. The 4d. is now out of print.

The thick V should be collected in pairs with the normal "V" or in strips of six across the pane The seventh row in the pane will yield two specimens. There is no thick V in the 4d. value, but it exists in all the other values.

All these little varieties should be picked up while they are to be had as current stamps.

### The Ideal Philatelic Society.

We shall be glad to hear from secretaries of any of our Philatelic Societies on the subject of "The Ideal Philatelic Society," started for discussion in this number.

### Proposed Competitive Exhibition.

We are to have a Competitive Exhibition next season amongst the members of the International Philatelic Union. The suggestion was made by Mr. Dorning Beckton, and was unanimously adopted by the members at their recent annual meeting.

### Gibbons' New Stock Books.

Stanley Gibbons, Limited, announce the following new stock books as having been recently re-arranged. We have inspected the Orange River Colony book. It is specially rich in early printings, of which the firm were recently fortunate in securing an exceptionally fine lot.

| | VALUE. |
|---|---|
| Orange River Colony .. .. .. (An extra stock book of this country, especially strong in pairs and blocks of four of the early stamps in wonderful shades.) | £201 |
| Liberia .. .. .. .. .. | 251 |
| United States, 1847 to 1870 .. .. | 986 |
| ,, 1872 to 1896 .. .. | 267 |
| Philippine Isles (2 vols.) .. .. .. | 782 |
| Norway .. .. .. .. .. | 324 |
| Spain (3 vols.) .. .. .. .. (*Very fine* in early issues, especially unused.) | 1557 |
| Mexico (4 vols.) .. .. .. .. | 1185 |
| Sweden (2 vols.) .. .. .. | — |
| French Colonies to Anjouan .. .. | 268 |
| Uruguay (2 vols.) .. .. .. .. | — |

### Hungary: "Filler" Issue.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following detailed description of the recently issued "Filler" series of the stamps of Hungary :—

"The background of the stamp represents the immense plain of Hungary, and just above the numeral is the crown of St. Stephen. On the left top corner of the crown is one of the 'Crows' Wells,' as the wells are called, which are found scattered sparingly about the plain of Hungary. On the right is the road by which the Magyars entered Hungary for the first time, and which led them to Mohacs, where they rested for the space of forty days and held the tribal meetings, at which Arpad was proclaimed the first king of Hungary. Arpad died in 907. Above the crown there hovers the 'Jurul,' which is the mystical bird of the Magyars, and which, according to the legend, descended from heaven immediately on the proclamation of Arpad as king, and settled upon his forehead. The Hungarians regard the 'Jurul' as the source of supernatural powers confined to themselves. According to M. Moens, this bird is the 'Touroul,' which acted as a messenger between the pagan Hungarians and their god Isten. The second type, with the value in 'Korona,' bears a by no means flattering portrait of the Emperor of Austria wearing the crown of St. Stephen."

### An Auction for Boys.

Mr. Bartells, the well-known Washington dealer, reports that his experiment of an auction for boys was quite a success.

"Nearly two hundred lots were offered, and the bidding was very lively, especially during the early part of the sale. The attendance would have done credit to any New York sale from a numerical standpoint, some of the boys being accompanied by their mother.

"There were no catalogues, but the lots had been mounted on large cards and exhibited in the show window for several days. An hour after the commencement of the sale the crowd began to thin out, in most cases probably on account of lack of funds, and half an hour later it was found advisable to make an adjournment for lunch. However, the sale was a success and undoubtedly did much to stimulate enthusiasm among the young, who are to take the place of the big collectors some day, and deserve encouragement on the part of their more advanced comrades."

THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

SEPTEMBER, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

ENGLISH Philatelists will deeply regret the recent death of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, for though he was not a keen Philatelist like his nephew, the Duke of York, he was a stamp collector, and as an avowed stamp collector he opened the first great Philatelic Exhibition, which was held in this country in 1890. He also figured as an exhibitor in that Exhibition. His exhibits comprised the stamps of Cuba, Porto Rico and Fernando Poo; Cyprus, Gibraltar, Heligoland, Ionian Islands and Malta; and Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden. H.R.H. was the first member of the Royal Family to publicly confess to the frailty of stamp collecting, and he publicly allied himself with the pursuit by becoming Hon. President of the Philatelic Society of London. From that day to this stamp collecting has steadily grown in popularity in the world of fashion, influence, and wealth. It probably would not be too much to say that the Philatelic pursuit to-day owes much of its success to the public, but unostentatious, patronage of the late Duke of Edinburgh.

**Death of the Duke of Edinburgh.**

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THE *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* has been ruminating on the prevalent practice of buying up and hoarding current stamps. This practice, according to our contemporary, is rife amongst private speculators who have no Philatelic knowledge to guide them. If they burn their fingers very few Philatelists will be sorry for them. But it would not matter so much if the speculation ended in the self-inflicted punishment of the speculator. He injures other people, notably the stamp trade, which he seriously unsettles. Our contemporary, speaking for the Trade, says:—

**The Private Speculator.**

"It is quite true that many issues which became obsolete only two years ago are now worth an advance on their face value. The reason for this is partly because over-stocking of current issues has only become acute during the past eighteen months, and partly because many *private holders* of such stamps have not unloaded yet. It is an invariable rule, when an issue becomes obsolete, for dealers to put practically double prices upon them immediately, and almost as

invariably during the past year or two, the prices have gradually given way, because speculators unload when they want money or get nervous; but they have not all unloaded yet by any means."

Our contemporary does not suggest any means of checkmating private speculation, and, at times, we are inclined to regard it as a not altogether unmixed evil, for to these private speculators we not unfrequently owe unexpected supplies of unused copies of favourite obsolete issues. If there were no private speculators there would certainly be fewer fine unused copies preserved, for few, if any, dealers can afford to lay in large quantities of unused stamps, especially of high values. When the dealer's stock is all but exhausted, and he is obliged to put up prices, then the private speculator unloads his hoard. Take a case in point. In the year of issue a gentleman, then resident in the Orange Free State, bought and laid by several sheets of the first stamps just issued. He held them till a few weeks since, when he sold them at four times face. He has not made an unreasonable profit, and a comparatively small number of specialists have been made happy with grand, mint copies of the almost unknown shades of the first printings.

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**Imperial Penny Postage: New Zealand.**

We have important news from New Zealand. Mr. Seddon, the Premier and Colonial Treasurer, in making his Budget statement a few weeks since, after reporting a prosperous revenue and a surplus of over half a million, announced that penny postage, within and without the Colony, would be established on the first of January next. He had the pleasure of claiming that New Zealand would be the first colony in Australasia to have universal penny postage. The concession will probably result in a loss of £80,000 per annum. The loss, we trust, will only be a temporary one. The other Australian colonies must follow suit in the natural order of things. It is generally thought they will make the concession with the inauguration of the Commonwealth.

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**New Issues of the Month.**

The New Issues of the month include two notable sets for the collector of British Colonials. The full set of the current stamps of the South African Republic have been overprinted "V.R.I." for use on the second British occupation; and the stamps of India supplied for use to the China Expeditionary Field Force have, for fiscal reasons, been overprinted with the initials "C.E.F." The new English 1s. bi-coloured stamp was officially issued on the 12th July, 1900. No further varieties have cropped up in Orange River Colony, but expectation is rife consequent on the report that the 2d., 2½d., and 4d. values are all exhausted.

# Stamps of the Transvaal.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

## Reference List and Guide to Values.

### Second Republic.

(*Continued from p.* 182.)

THE Transvaal was handed back to the Boers in August, 1881, but a clause in the Convention stipulated that "all unused postage or revenue stamps issued by the Government since the annexation shall remain of value, and shall be accepted by the coming Government against the amount expressed thereon." And Mr. Tamsen tells us that when the British officials left the country on August 11th, 1881, they handed over to the new authorities the following postage stamps, all of the Queen's Head Type (Type VIII.) :—

| 1d. | 3d. | 4d. | 6d. | 1s. | 2s. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 90,160 | 150,080 | 224,000 | 159,010 | 7 | 4,000 |

By the Convention of 1881 the country was given the name of "Transvaal State," and it was not till the Convention of 1884 that it blossomed out, by authority, into the "South African Republic." The balance of British issued stamps appear to have lasted over this interregnum, the 6d. not being exhausted till 1886.

1882. August 11th, and February 20th, 1883. "Een Penny" on 4d.

When the stock of the 1d. value of the Queen's Head series ran out, in August, 1882, 12,000 of the 4d. value of the same series were surcharged "Een Penny," and in February, 1883, another lot of 30,000 was similarly overprinted. These stamps are still fairly common, but the variety inverted is a rarity. A still greater rarity is a similar surcharge, but in larger letters, and having the appearance of being hand-stamped.




Type VIII.

| Perforated 14½. | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| "Een Penny" on 4d. Type VIII .. | 0 2 6 | 0 3 0 |

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| Same: Surcharge Inverted. | | |
| "Een Penny" on 4d. Type VIII. .. | 5 0 0 | —— |
| Larger Surcharge: Similar letters. | | |
| "Een Penny" on 4d. Type VIII | —— | —— |

1883. Reissue of old design, Types I. and II.

At various dates in 1883 there were reprintings from the old plates, Types I. and II. There are many distinct shades, owing to the several separate printings. The most marked is the 3d. brown, a scarce stamp in fine used condition, and a great rarity unused. The 3d. black on rose is a very much underrated stamp. Only 23,520 were printed.




Type I.




Type II.

Perforated 12.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1d. grey black .. .. .. .. | 0 0 9 | 0 0 9 |
| 1d. deep black .. .. .. .. | 0 3 0 | 0 2 0 |
| 3d. black on rose .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 8 6 |
| 3d. pale red .. .. .. .. | 0 3 6 | 0 1 6 |
| 3d. vermilion .. .. .. .. | 0 7 6 | 0 2 0 |
| 3d. brown .. .. .. .. | —— | 1 10 0 |
| 1s. pale green .. .. .. .. | 0 10 0 | 0 1 0 |
| 1s. deep green .. .. .. .. | 1 0 0 | 0 2 0 |

Tête bêche.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1s. green .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

1885. New design.

In 1885 stamps of a new design, ordered from the Government printers of Holland, were received and issued. Paper white wove, unwatermarked.

This is the only series of stamps issued by the Transvaal which yields any variety of perforations. Mr. Tamsen tells us that the perforation of the first supplies received from Holland was 12½ by 12. All the stamps of this series were not issued on the same date, but for the purpose of simplifying their collection I have grouped them all as a series under the general date of 1885.

The variety perforated 11½ by 12 is due to an irregularity in the machine, which caused the first stamp in each row to have the

horizontal gauge 11½ instead of 12½. But only the 1d. and 3d. values have been found perforated 11½ by 12 : others may exist.




Type IX.

| Perforated 12½ by 12. | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| ½d. grey | 0 0 2 | 0 0 2 |
| 1d. carmine | 0 0 4 | 0 0 2 |
| 1d. rose-pink | 0 0 9 | 0 0 3 |
| 2d. brown-purple | 0 1 0 | 0 0 6 |
| 2d. olive-bistre | —— | 0 0 6 |
| 3d. mauve | 0 3 0 | 0 1 6 |
| 3d. lilac | —— | 0 1 0 |
| 4d. dark olive | —— | 0 2 0 |
| 6d. blue | —— | 0 0 9 |
| 1s. green | 0 7 6 | 0 1 0 |
| 2s. 6d. buff | 0 10 0 | 0 5 0 |
| 5s. slate-blue | 1 0 0 | 0 7 6 |
| **Perforated 11½ by 12.** | | |
| 1d. carmine | 0 2 6 | —— |
| 3d. mauve | 0 8 6 | —— |

1885. May 9th and August 25th. "Halve Penny" on 3d. red and 1s. green.

To supply a deficiency of ½d. stamps a number of the 3d. on white paper, Type II., and 1s. green, Type I., were overprinted with the words "Halve Penny" in black, in one line in the centre of the stamp, with a bar on each side. The stamps were surcharged in two panes of 40, five rows of 10 stamps. In the left-hand pane the surcharge reads downwards, and, in the right-hand pane, upwards. Used copies of the 1s. are scarce.




Type X.

Surcharge reading downwards.

| Perforated 12. | | |
|---|---|---|
| "Halve Penny," in black, on 3d. red | 0 1 9 | 0 5 0 |
| Do. do. 1s. green | 0 7 6 | —— |

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| Surcharge reading upwards. | | |
| PERFORATED 12. | | |
| "HALVE PENNY," in black, on 3d. red | 0 1 9 | 0 5 0 |
| Do. do. 1s. green | 0 7 6 | —— |
| Tête bêche. | | |
| PERFORATED 12. | | |
| "HALVE PENNY," in black, on 1s. green | —— | —— |

1885. September 1st. "TWEE PENCE" on 6d. Queen's Head.

To meet the demand for a 2d. stamp, the balance of stamps of the 6d. black Queen's Head type were overprinted in red "TWEE PENCE, Z.A.R.," reading upwards, in the centre of the stamp in two lines between two vertical bars. Some sheets were surcharged in error, "HALVE PENNY. Z.A.R." Copies of the error are scarce, especially in used condition.



Type XI.



Type XII.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 14. | | |
| TWEE PENCE, in red, on 6d. of Type VIII... .. .. .. | 0 2 6 | 0 5 0 |
| Error: Surcharged "HALVE PENNY" instead of "TWEE PENCE." | | |
| PERFORATED 14. | | |
| "Halve Penny," in red, on 6d. of Type VIII. .. .. .. .. | 0 18 0 | —— |

*(To be continued.)*

# Our Discussion Forum.

## THE IDEAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

**II. By H. A. Slade,**

*Hon. Sec. of the Herts Philatelic Society.*

AS considerable capital has been made out of a statement that recently appeared in print to the effect that though enthusiasm for stamp collecting is certainly on the increase, yet Philatelic Societies are certainly on the wane as regards popularity, it will be interesting to consider whether this is really the case or not. At first sight it would appear that increasing activity among collectors must necessarily infuse corresponding life into Societies that are created solely for their interest and benefit. The greater the number of collectors the more numerous and more strongly supported should be the Societies that presumably represent them.

What are the facts of the case? We are assured that collectors—and especially those that have advanced on the road towards specialism—are by no means gregarious: that they do not like their fellow collectors, but rather delight in gloating over their hoards in secret: that they accumulate only for their own pleasure or profit, and grudge information to the Philatelic world as to any special knowledge or rarities they may have acquired: that they become "bloaters" and "amateur dealers" and deal evilly and unpleasantly in many other directions. All of this, if it were true, would not only militate against the popularity of Philatelic Societies but would soon knock the last nail in the coffin of stamp collecting either as a serious pursuit or as a mere pastime. But it is not true. That the exact opposite is the case seems to me to be a fact too widely recognized to be insisted upon. Anybody who has mixed much with stamp collectors will bear me out in stating that, like chess players and anglers, they are never more happy than when they are in communion with their brethren of the cult, or when they are helping in the pursuit in which they are interested by any means at their disposal. The difficulty is not to persuade specialists to display their collections, but to get together a reasonable number of collectors to look at them. "Bloating" or amateur dealing may be thundered against as mercenary or sordid, or may be more reasonably described as a combination of pleasure and profit—a more charitable definition. With that, however, this article concerns itself not at all: it is another story, and has been told by abler pens than mine in other places.

Broadly speaking, the aims of *the* Philatelic Society (let us call it the Ideal) are somewhat as follows:—

(1) The study of matters appertaining to Philately.
(2) The drawing together of collectors of all grades.

(3) The detection and publication of fraud, forgeries, bogus issues, &c.

(4) The preparation and reading of papers and articles on subjects interesting to Philately: displays of stamps, collections, &c.

(5) The circulation of exchange packets under the auspices of the Society: arrangements for private exchange, discussions, &c.

This is a fairly comprehensive programme, and if carried out properly, should command the success it deserves.

The active season of the Ideal Society is recognized as extended from October to May inclusive, and as its meetings are held monthly, it follows that not more than eight evenings are devoted by members to the study of Philatelic matters. Some Societies, notably the London, meet every fortnight during the season, but I think I speak of the generality. Though the study before-mentioned usually takes the form of more or less desultory discussion and conversation, it cannot be denied that much valuable information is invited and given, and many knotty points are thus cleared up that would otherwise be allowed to drift. Many difficulties are raised *in publico* that are afterwards sifted and settled in the privacy of home or continued by correspondence. No collector is omniscient, and it is obvious that A, who has been collecting stamps seriously, will certainly possess some items of information that will prove useful to B, however great an expert the latter may be. The wise member who goes to a meeting of his Society with his ears open, and with the modest conviction that others may know as much or even more than he does, will rarely come away without having added something to his store of knowledge. For Philately—in common with other sciences rejoicing in Greek names—will teach us that however much a devotee may know, or think he may know, he can always amuse himself with the thought that the last word has still to be said, and that, very probably, he will not be the last one to say it.

Again, the drawing together of collectors, whether they be specialists or tyros, should surely appeal to all individuals who are happy in the society of agreeable people. This companionship cannot but be beneficial, especially if those who are endowed with the higher attainments will make a point of encouraging and assisting beginners. That they are always ready to do so is beyond doubt; and it seems to me that the less knowledge a collector possesses, the greater the inducement there is for him to join a society. Those who take office and those who keep the thing going are more often the givers of displays and the readers of papers. They, in fact, furnish the lion's share of instruction and entertainment, while the duties of the lesser lights are no more onerous than to come and be instructed and amused. When it is considered that for an annual subscription of a few shillings a comfortable room is provided for the meetings, an official organ is supplied gratis, and a free library is available, Philatelic societies should never lack a sufficiency of members. Without a certain number of members the financial position is unsatisfactory, and meagre attendances, which are not encouraging, are the result. A case in point occurs to me in which a Philatelist living in London took his collection to display at a meeting of a provincial society more than one hundred miles distant, and displayed

it before four members, including the chairman and secretary! Of course there are obstacles that can never be overcome. However accessible the meeting place may be, it cannot be convenient for all to attend regularly. Honorary and corresponding members have to be reckoned with in this respect. Other engagements are sure to occur on some of the evenings fixed for meetings; inclement weather, indisposition, auctions, etc., will induce members to stay away; and above all—I am speaking of London—there is always a great difficulty in getting people to walk fifty yards out of their way after business hours more than once or twice, whatever the attraction may be. Members may be very enthusiastic and very willing to help the society, if no trouble be attached to it; but I have found it far easier to induce a member to come to Fleet Street from Brighton than from one of the immediate suburbs. These drawbacks are by no means peculiar to Philatelic meetings—musical, political, religious—all other meetings suffer from them to an equal degree. When one knows that good things are ready to hand and to be had for the asking, one leaves them alone. The spirit of the perverse is very rampant, and it is only the unattainable that is eagerly sought after.

The preparation of a paper on stamps is one of the best ways possible of getting an insight into the fascinating realms of what we term specialism. A collector thinks he will give his fellow members a treat by reading a paper to them on the various issues of his favourite country. He sketches in his headings and begins generally in a desultory sort of way; but soon finds that he must furnish an accurate and exhaustive essay if he is to reap the commendation and applause he is hoping for. And what is the result? By the time the paper is completed (taking it for granted that it has been fairly compiled and not cribbed) he discovers that he has acquired a surprising amount of information on the subject on which he has been writing. One cannot gain an intimate knowledge of stamps without intense application, and this application is the food on which the real specialist is reared.

Special meetings for the benefit of junior members and comparative beginners could very easily be arranged, if they would but join the society in sufficient force to render such meetings possible. Unfortunately this is not the case. As I said before, the very class that has the most to gain and least to lose is the one that too often stands aloof and refuses to be persuaded, charm the secretary ever so seductively.

Open-air meetings would be a novelty, and, like most innovations, would for a time prove a success under favourable auspices. June or July would seem to be the best months, as the generality of collectors are away holiday-making in August, and darkness draws in too quickly in September to permit of much to be done. A centre with attractive surroundings should be chosen as a *rendezvous*, and ample provision for the inner man should not be forgotten. In fact, though stamps should form the *piéce de resistance*, sight-seeing and junketing as *hors d'œuvres* must be provided in order to render success a certainty. Fine weather can only be prayed for. The fates being propitious, the Herts Philatelic Society proposes next season to add at least one of these functions to its programme, and the experiment will be awaited

with some little curiosity. Possibly other societies may follow suit with far-reaching results. Visions of river excursions, pic-nics, cricket matches between rival societies rise before one's eyes, and hint that Philatelists, like lesser mortals, will not be backward in giving the rein to enjoyment when opportunity invites them.

The question of the formation of an exchange section under the auspices of its parent society is an important one, and is bound to exercise a certain amount of influence on Philately.

# Postmaster-General's Report.

*From "The Times."*

THE 46th annual report of the Postmaster-General, for the year ended March 31st, 1900, was issued on the 17th August, 1900, as a Blue-book, the year in question falling, however, as Lord Londonderry points out, within the period of office of his predecessor, the Duke of Norfolk.

The number of postal packets delivered in the United Kingdom during the year is estimated as follows :—

| | Number. | Increase per Cent. | Average Number to each person. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Letters .. .. .. .. . | 2,246,800,000 | 2·7 | 55·3 |
| Post-cards .. .. .. .. .. | 400,300,000 | 4·7 | 9·8 |
| Book packets and circulars .. . | 702,800,000 | ·2 | 17·3 |
| Newspapers .. .. .. .. | 163,400,000 | 6·0 | 4·0 |
| Parcels (actual number) .. .. .. | 75,448,000 | 4·9 | 1·9 |
| Total .. .. .. | 3,588,748,000 | 2·6 | 88·3 |

The number of letters registered in the United Kingdom was 16,256,852, an increase of 6·7 per cent. over the number in the previous year. Private post-cards were estimated to be about 58 per cent. of the total number now passing through the post. The increase in the number of newspapers sent was beyond recorded precedent. Those posted in London were nearly 18 per cent. more numerous than in the previous year, while not only was there a greater circulation of existing newspapers, but the number of papers placed on the register rose from 2,400 to 2,560. Of the total number of parcels delivered 64,614,000 were rail borne, while 10,834,000 did not pass over a railway. Inland parcels to the number of 838,113 were registered during the year.

The total number of express services was 720,381 as compared with 641,227 in 1898-99, an increase of 12·34 per cent. In London 769,764 articles were delivered by express messenger, including 308,058 letters sent out for delivery in advance of the postman.

### Undelivered Postal Packets.

The number of undelivered postal packets dealt with during the year were :—Letters, 8,954,041 ; post-cards, 1,495,085 ; book packets, 10,613,853 ; newspapers, 597,919 ; parcels, 206,944. On this subject the report proceeds :—

"The number of undelivered letters returned to this country from abroad rose from 373,308 in 1898-99 to 463,611 in 1899-1900. The increase was largely due to the return of 35,448 letters addressed to the Transvaal and Orange Free State, which were stopped at Cape Town on the outbreak of the war and were not claimed there by the persons for whom they were intended. Undelivered correspondence for the Army in South Africa is also being returned in large quantities.

"The total value of property found in undelivered letters, which had to be opened in the Returned Letter Offices, was £725,613.

"The articles found loose in the post have increased by nearly 80 per cent. during the last four years. Now that four ounces are carried for 1d., there is a tendency to send light articles by letter post in flimsy covers; and it would be well if the public realized the danger of the contents being lost in such cases, especially when the packets form part of mails which are transferred to or from trains in motion.

"The number of postal packets posted without address during the year was 288,667. The number of parcels found in the post without address (having lost in most cases "tie-on" labels) was 14,066. In 2,767 of the unaddressed letters were found cash and bank notes to the value of £136, and no less than £9,628 in bills, cheques, money orders, postal orders, and postage stamps."

### The Army Post Office in South Africa.

Under the head of "Foreign and Colonial Post" the Postmaster-General says :—

"In accordance with a precedent which dates from the time of the Crimean war, but was first applied on a fully organized basis when an expeditionary force was sent to Egypt in the summer of 1882, an Army Post Office was established for the convenience of the troops at the outset of the present war in South Africa.

"The staff consists of ten officers and 392 men. Their duties include not only the distribution of the whole of the correspondence sent to the troops from this country, but the despatch of mails in the reverse direction, the sale of postage stamps, and the sale and payment of British postal orders. In the present instance the operations of the Army Post Office are conducted on a larger scale than on any previous occasion ; and I have reason to believe that excellent results have been obtained, notwithstanding the exigencies of the campaign and the vast area over which the troops have been spread.

"That the staff has no light task may be judged from the fact that the weekly mails sent to the Army Post Office from this country have

sometimes contained over 300,000 letters and nearly 150,000 newspaper packets. The number of parcels sent each week by post to the troops has increased to a very remarkable extent as the war progressed. On January 30 the number of parcels sent in a week's mail to the troops was 3,745; by March 31 it had risen to 10,783, and by May 12 to 19,347. The large amount of correspondence affords an interesting comparison with that sent during the Crimean war. In 1854, when, of course there was no parcel post, it was estimated that during a period of eight months the number of letters despatched to the seat of war was 362,000, as against 345,000 sent home, whereas returns covering a similar period during the South African war show totals of 5,629,938 letters in the outward and 2,731,559 in the homeward direction.

"The Army Post Office is assisted in its labours by a postal contingent furnished by the Canadian Government; and the Indian Government has established an Army Post Office of its own for the benefit of the Indian troops serving in Natal.

"Special facilities in the matter of postage have been arranged in concert with the War Office for the benefit of the troops in South Africa. Letters sent home without prepayment by soldiers stationed where English postage stamps are not obtainable have been delivered free of charge, the amount due for postage being made good from Army funds.

"The war has not been without its effects on the contract packet services of the Department. It was chiefly in the case of the Atlantic services that difficulties arose from some of the fast packets being taken up as transports. On one occasion no mid-week American mail could be despatched, and on four other occasions only those letters could be forwarded on Wednesday which were posted in time for the German mail steamer from Southampton. The public, however, has cheerfully accepted this as well as other minor inconveniences incidental to the war."

## Forged Mafekings.

Collectors of South Africans must be on their guard against forgeries of Mafeking Siege stamps. Several, emanating, it is said, from a forger in London, but supplied *via* Capetown, are in circulation. Few, if any, of the leading firms have been victimised. Fortunately, most of them had already received genuine authenticated Mafekings, so that when the forgeries followed, even closely as they did on the heels of the genuine stamps, they were compared and discovered. We do not propose, amateur fashion, to publish photographs of the forgeries with full instructions for correcting the differences which distinguish the forgeries from the genuine stamps. Collectors can best protect themselves by buying only from responsible dealers. Our attention was first drawn to the forgeries by Mr. Oliver (Bright & Son), to whom they had been offered, and we have since seen many others. The differences are clear.




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**Ceylon.**—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the 15c. changed from sage green to blue. Wmk. C.A., perf. 14.

*Adhesive.*

15c. blue, value in black.

**Great Britain.**—The new bi-coloured 1s. stamp was issued on the 12th July, 1900.

*Adhesive.*

1s., carmine and green.

**India.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* has seen the new 1 anna and 2½a. The 1a. is a full carmine, and the 2½a. a rich ultramarine. The *P.J.I.* believes they are likely to be brought into use in October, and adds: "The other new colours have not yet arrived. It will be good news to Philatelists that the stamps surcharged for Native States are not likely to change their colours. It is probable that a large portion of the stock of the present stamps will be reserved for this purpose, as these States are not in the Postal Union, and consequently do not require stamps in Union colours."

CHINA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. — The *Philatelic Journal of India* says: "A difficulty has arisen in the matter of the sale of stamps in the Field Post offices attached to the China Expeditionary Force which has been sent from India. For the purpose of official calculations, the dollar has been taken at 1s. 11d. This makes one anna four cents, *plus* a considerable fraction. It has been decided to sell stamps in the field at the rate of 4 cents to the anna. As this would undoubtedly lead to the purchase of every stamp in stock by the wily Chinaman to remit to India, it has been decided to surcharge all stamps sold by the China Expeditionary Field Post Offices with the letters "C E.F.," so that they may not be available for use in India."

Our friend, Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham, informs us that he has received the following values of the Indian stamps with the overprint referred to:—

*Adhesives.*

½a. green.
1a. purple brown.
2a. blue.
2½a. green.
3a. orange.
4a. olive green.
12a. brown on red.
1 rupee, carmine and green.

GWALIOR: New Errors.—Mr. A. J. H. Smith sends the *Philatelic Journal of India* particulars of some new errors which he has discovered in the stamps of Gwalior since the publication of the Indian Philatelic Society's Handbook. He says they are due to a new printing of which he has only seen the ¼a, ½a., and 1a., and he groups them as follows:

1—Small "G" top pane, second last stamp in top row, ¼a., ½a., and 1a.

2.—"R" from a different fount, top pane, third stamp in second last row. ¼a., ½a., and 1a.

3—"A" above the line. In the same row as the last, middle stamp. ¼a., ½a., and 1a.

4.—"Gwalior" 15mm. in length.

PATIALA.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says the supply of the 1a. Service stamps of of the first (curved) surcharge issue is at last nearly all used up, and one indent has gone in for a supply of the horizontal "Patiala" surcharge.

**Mauritius.**—On the 30th May last the 16c. chestnut was surcharged "4 cents" in two lines, in black.

*Adhesives.*

4 cents, in black, on 16c. chestnut.

**New Zealand.**—A New Zealand paper makes the following announcement: "Mr. James Nairn, the well-known Wellington artist, has been commissioned by the Government to submit designs of a new stamp. The subject is connected with the New Zealand contingents, and the color is to be khaki. The new stamp, which the Postal Department proposes issuing shortly, will be three half-pence in value, and is intended mainly for the purpose of newspaper postage, to meet the case of papers which are in excess of the penny fee and below that of two pence. It may, of course, also be used for letter postage. The design will in some way relate to the New Zealand contingents now on service in South Africa."

**Northern Nigeria.**—In June last (p. 151) we chronicled a set of stamps for this territory on the authority of a German contemporary. We have now received the actual stamps from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co and find there is no 10d. value, but there is a 10s. stamp. Appended is the correct list. Paper wove; Wmk. Cr. C.A.; perf. 14.




*Adhesives.*

½d., lilac, name and value in green.
1d. ,, ,, ,, red.
2d. ,, ,, ,, yellow.
2½d. ,, ,, ,, blue.
5d. ,, ,, ,, brown.
6d. ,, ,, ,, violet.
1s., green, ,, ,, black.
2s. 6d. ,, ,, ,, blue.
10s. ,, ,, ,, brown.

**Orange River Colony.**—We have no fresh printings to chronicle, but a minor variety in the first printing, which seems to have escaped notice, has been sent us by Mr. Hadlow in the shape of a square rectangular piece of type instead of the ordinary round stop after the "R" of "V R.I." We have since found it on the 3d. and on the 2½d. It occurs on the fifth stamp of the seventh row of the pane of 60, and only in the first printing with the stops level with the bottoms of the initials.

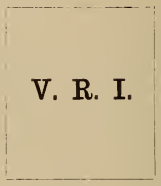
The small figure "1" and dropped "d" which we chronicled last month seems to have been discovered and corrected by the printers, for we have seen several sheets of the particular printing in which it occurred in which it is conspicuous by its absence.

**Straits Settlements.**—We have the current 5 cents changed from brown to puce. Wmk. C.A.; perf. 13.

*Adhesive.*

5 cents, puce.

**Transvaal.**—At last we have the long-expected overprint "V.R.I." on the current stamps of the Transvaal. All the values from ½d. to 10s, inclusive, have been overprinted in black, and we have received copies of the full set from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., who inform us that very large quantities have been overprinted, and that no value is likely to be scarce. There are no varieties. This is good news for the general collector. Evidently the Transvaal must have had fresh supplies from Holland, as the news to hand before the war broke out was that they were preparing plates of fresh designs for local production. We are also glad to hear that there have been no Provisionals issued from Pretoria since the war broke out.




*Adhesives.*

Current Transvaals overprinted V.R.I

½d., green.
1d., carmine, value in green.
2d., dark brown, ,,
2½d., blue, ,,
3d., reddish purple, ,,
4d., sage green, ,,
6d., mauve, ,,
1s., ochre, ,,
2s. 6d., lilac, ,,
5s., slate.
10s., brown.

## Foreign Countries.

**France.** PORT SAID.—The recently chronicled 2fr. value has been surcharged "Port Said." We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for a copy.

*Adhesive.*

2.fr., brown on pale blue.

**Guatemala.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us three values of the current engraved stamps in new colours. Wove paper; perf. 12.

*Adhesive.*

1c., dark blue.
2c., carmine.
6c., grass green

**Holland.**—Collectors will do well to note that there are two types in the current design of the 1 gulden. In the later type, portions of the letters "NINK" of the word "KONINKRIJK", are lengthened downwards, so as to make the curve of the word correspond with that of the word "NEDERLANDEN" on the other side. The 2½ and 5 gulden are in the redrawn type only.

**Italy.** LEVANT. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 25c. Italian stamp surcharged in red across the bottom, "1 Piastra 1" in sans serif capitals.

*Adhesive.*

1 pias in red on 25c. blue.

**Mexico.**—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the following current stamps overprinted "official" in black.

*Adhesives.*

OFFICIAL STAMPS.

1c., green.
2c., vermilion.
3c., brown.
5c., deep blue.
10c., lilac and orange-brown.
15c., lavender and lilac.
20c., vermilion and deep blue.

**Roumania.**—Last month (p. 191) we chronicled the 5b. on pink wove paper, no watermark. We have since received from our correspondent, Mr. A. W. Rothchild, the 1 bani and 15 bani, on the same pink paper, no wmk., perf. 11½.

*Adhesives.*

Pink wove paper, no wmk., perf. 11½.
1 bani, pale brown.
5 bani, emerald.
15 bani, black.

**Russia.** TURKISH PORTS.—According to the *Philatelic Journal of India* Russia has post-offices at the following Turkish ports:—Athos, Beyrout, Chios, Constantinople, Dardanelles, Ineboli, Jaffa, Kerassonud, Ordu, Salonica, Samsun, Sinope, Smyrna, Trebizond and Tripoli. For use in these offices and on board the vessels of the Russian Steam Navigation Company which ply between these ports, our contemporary says the following surcharges have been made in Roman letters on the current Russian stamps:—

*Adhesives.*

4 para, in black, on 1 kopek.
10 „ in red, on 2 „
1 piastre, in red, on 10 „

**Switzerland.**—We are strongly opposed to the advertisement of commemorative issues obviously intended to fleece stamp collectors, and we rigorously exclude them from our pages, but we must waive our objections to chronicle a legitimate commemorative series of real Philatelic interest in the shape of a series of 5c., 10c. and 25c. stamps issued to celebrate the Jubilee of the Postal Union. This set, for copies of which we are indebted to our old friend Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham, very properly emanates from the headquarters and home of the Postal Union. All three stamps are of the same design, which we illustrate.

The design is by Grasset, and is engraved by Florian. Both names appear on the design under the scroll bearing the dates. A watermark (Gibbons' type 13a) as on the Helvetia Series of Swiss stamps, is impressed twice on each stamp. It is said that in deference to unfavourable criticism the design is to be withdrawn.

The *Monthly Circular* says the last stamp but one on the sheet of 5c. has a deep scratch extending across the woman's face of the lower right corner, and that another on the same sheet has the figure 7 turned into something like the harp of Erin.




*Adhesives.*

5c., green.
10c., rose.
25c., blue.

# Philately in the Mags.

### Hawaii: 12 cents.

According to *Filatelic Facts and Fancies* the entire stock of the 12c., blue, was recently bought up by a speculator at about face value. The stock is said to amount to 40,000 copies. The stamp is catalogued in the new Gibbons' at 1s., which is a drop of 3d. on the previous catalogue. If Gibbons & Scott will stick to their prices, which are about level, the speculator will not grow fat on his bargain.

### Orange River Colony.

The *Monthly Journal* publishes the following letter from Major O'Meara, Acting Postmaster at Bloemfontein, to Major Agar concerning the surcharged series:

"Sir,—1. In reply to your inquiry, I have the honour to inform you that the Military Governor deputed me to inspect the surcharged O.F.S. stamps before sale to the public. Owing to the great pressure of work it was not possible to make a searching inspection of each sheet of stamps, and in consequence stamps having the following errors were passed and issued for sale, viz.:—

*Haifpenny Sheets.*—'½' is omitted before the 'd' in the left-hand bottom corner quarter. In the last row of each quarter sheet the stop is omitted between the 'V' and 'R' in the third stamp from the left.

*Onepenny Sheets.*—The stop is omitted in the last row of each quarter between the 'V' and 'R' in the third stamp from the left. In a few of the original impressions an 'I' was omitted after the 'V.R.' on each sheet.

*Twopenny Sheets.*—The stop is omitted in the last row of each quarter between the 'V' and 'R' in the third stamp from the left.

*Twopence-halfpenny Sheets.*—The surcharge '2½' was made by the late Government of the Orange Free State. The same error occurs as in the case of the twopenny sheets in the last row of each quarter.

*Threepenny and Fourpenny Sheets.*—The same errors occur as in the case of the twopenny sheets.

*Sixpenny Sheets.*—The red stamps were in use when the army entered the Free State. The stock being exhausted, the blue issue, which was found in the Free State Treasury, was brought into issue. In addition to the errors which occur as in the case of the twopenny sheets, a '6' is omitted before the 'd' in the two left-hand quarters of each sheet.

*One Shilling and Five Shillings Sheets.*—The same errors occur as in the case of the twopenny sheets. In a few of the original issues the '1' and the '5' were omitted before the 's' in the same position on each sheet as the similar error which occurs in the halfpenny sheet now forwarded you.

2. Subsequently it came to my knowledge that a small number of brown penny and yellow shilling stamps, which were in private hands on the entry of the army into Bloemfontein, had been surcharged. As such a step had not been authorised, the matter was brought to the attention of the Military Governor, by whose authority all such brown penny and yellow shilling stamps as could be traced in the hands of stamp dealers, etc., were recalled and confiscated.

3. Many errors not mentioned above occurred in surcharging the stamps, but fortunately they were all detected, and stamps with them were not placed on sale. This is mentioned, as unscrupulous persons may have fabricated similar errors in order to place an enhanced value on stamps in their possession before the British occupation of the present Orange River Colony.

4. Complete sheets of surcharged stamps have been supplied to the British Museum. From these stamps the only errors mentioned in Paragraph 1 which are missing are penny stamps with 'V.R.' only, shilling stamps with no '1' before 's,' and five shilling stamps with no '5' before the 's.'

Yours faithfully,

W. A. J. O'Meara, *Major.*

Major E. Agar."

It will be noted that the 1d. brown and 1s. yellow are condemned as unauthorised. From the first the character of these stamps has been exposed and yet we find them included in the Gibbons Catalogue. We trust other catalogues will exclude such rubbish.

### South Australian Margins.

Mr. Ewen, in his *Weekly Stamp News*, writes:—"In tearing off corner strips of the South Australians, we came across a strip of three of the current 9d. rose which should constitute a record in the matter of margin. Together with the three stamps, this measures four inches by three! (almost as large as an ordinary envelope). The blank margin is nearly sufficient to print 13 stamps on, and is in fact watermarked with six stars and the usual parallel lines found at the edge of the sheet. The explanation is, I suppose, that the old sheets of star watermarked paper are much larger than the plates from which the stamps are printed, and for some reason or other the unprinted margins were not clipped."

### Las Bela: Numbers Printed.

A collector in India, Mr. J. M. Minwala, has sent the *Monthly Journal* the following list of the various printings of the stamps of this State.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 27th, 1897. | 150 | sheets of | 20, on *white* | = 3,000 |
| Aug. 29th ,, | 248 | ,, | 20 ,, | = 4,960 |
| Nov 15th ,, | 75 | ,, | 20* ? | = 1,500 |
| April 6th, 1898 | 1 0 | ,, | 20, on *blue* granite | = 2,000 |
| May 16th ,, | 500 | ,, | 20 ,, | =10,000 |
| Nov. 8th ,, | 167 | ,, | 30 ,, | = 5,010 |
| April 2nd, 1899. | 400 | ,, | 25 ,, | =10,000 |
| July 30th ,, | 417 | ,, | 24 ,, | =10,008 |
| Dec. 4th ,, | 134 | ,, | 30, on *grey* granite | = 4,020 |
| ,, ,, | 34 | ,, | 30, on *white* | = 1,020 |
| | | | * Probably white | 51,518 |

### Commemoratives in Bad Odour.

The authorities, postal and otherwise, of Natal have given the cold shoulder to the Commemorative Stamp. Some nameless one, probably a would-be speculator, suggested to the Natal authorities that they should, on the shady excuse of applying the proceeds for the relief of necessitous sufferers from the war, issue a commemorative stamp. But the authorities were not to be trapped by Mr. Speculator and his cant. The Agent-General and the Postmaster-General, being honest men, pronounced against it, and the Colonial Secretary (Natal ministry) said, "The issuing of commemorative stamps in this way would be beneath the dignity of a Government. It was all very well for South American States, like Guatemala and Ecuador, to issue stamps pretty nearly every year, when they wanted a little ready cash; but it would not be creditable to Natal, which had a higher status, to do this sort of thing. A special issue of stamps was an undesirable way of making money."

### Postal Union Colours.

According to the *Philatelic Monthly and World* of Philadelphia, the postal authorities of Great Britain have issued a circular to all the colonial postal departments asking that the introduction of the colors approved by the Universal Postal Union for international service be no longer delayed.

Most colonies have already made the requisite changes, but the following are still behindhand:

B.C Africa, 1d. blue. No ½d. or 2½d. value issued.
British Guiana, 2c. orange and blue.
British South Africa, no 2½d. value issued.
Ceylon, 15c. sage-green: 15c. blue reported.
Cook Islands, ½d. and 1d. blue, 2½d rose.
Fiji Islands, ½d. grey, 1d. lilac, 2½d. brown.
Gold Coast, ½d., 1d., 2½d. bi-coloured.
Hongkong, 2c. rose, 4c. grey, 10c. brown on red.
India, 1a. plum, 2½a. green.
Jamaica, 1d. lilac, 2½d. bi-coloured.
Labuan, 2c. blue. No 10c. issued.
Mauritius, 3c. lilac, 6c. green and rose, 15c. green and orange.
North Borneo, 2c. lake and black. No 10c. issued.
Orange River, ½d. orange, 1d. violet.
St. Lucia, 1d. lilac.
St. Vincent, bi-coloured.
Seychelles, 3c. plum and orange, 15c. sage-green and lilac.
Sierra Leone, bi-coloured.
Straits, 2c. rose, 10c. slate.
Tasmania, ½d. orange and lilac, 2½d. mauve.
Trinidad, bi-coloured.
Zanzibar, 1a. indigo.

### Cook Islands Stamps.

We quote *in extenso* the following interesting communication from the pen of Mr. Ralph W. Gosset, a resident in Raratonga, Cook Islands contributed to our excellent Canadian contemporary the *Montreal Philatelist*:—

"In Tahiti, (the chief French colony in the Eastern Pacific), a great number of the 10c. black on lavender, 1881-6 issue, are being used on correspondence; a large amount of them pass through the Post-office here, from which I presume they are on sale at the Post-office at that place.

It is interesting to note that between the Cook Islands and Tahiti the postage is 5d. from either place, but from either of these places to any other part of the world the postage is 2½d. Truly some great anomalies exist in the postal union.

A new stock of stamps arrived at the post office at this place from the Government printer at Wellington, N.Z., recently, and are all printed on hard brittle paper, as compared with the kind they were printed on formerly. The heat here makes a great many of the sheets of stamps stick firmly together, and the colors of some are spoiled in soaking them apart again.

One sees some funny addresses sometimes. The following address was on a letter that passed through the post office at this place recently. After deciphering it, it was duly sent on to its destination, viz:

2033. Herrn Ingenieur Herzfelder
I Pigottangaffa 4.
Auckland
à· Neuseeland
Cooks office
Wien
über amer ka

A little while back a post office was opened at Port Moresby, British New Guinea, and was placed under the auspices of the Queensland Postal Department, and in consequence Queensland stamps are used there. They are unsurcharged and only the Postmark shews that they have been used at that place.

The 1d. brown Cook Islands stamp which first came out in 1893, was a fairly rare stamp, as in all catalogues it was priced approximately 1s; in 1894 it was changed to blue,—for what reason no one can say—but I know that a certain person on this Island made a corner in them on the change of color. It was on account of a fraud that was practised to a very large extent on the

Government that they were changed back to brown again. At the present time the 1d. blue is a fairly uncommon stamp and will get more so as time goes on, for the next change in color in the 1d. if there is one will be to rose—the postal union color.

I have received permission to forward you a copy of the two following documents re the surcharging of the 1d. blue Cook Islands stamp to one half-penny viz. :

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF POSTMASTER

The old brown 1d. stamp having been revived and a supply received in this office,

You are hereby authorised on and after the 24th inst. to make the following changes:

To reduce the balance of all the 1d. blue stamps to one half-penny and to issue the old brown stamp as the one penny stamp of the Federation.

(Signed) MAKEA,
Chief of the Federal Government.

Approved :

(Signed) W. E. GUDGEON,
British Resident.

24th April, 1899.

Raratonga, April 24th 1899.

I hereby certify that I have this day examined the quantity of one penny blue stamps now on hand and I further certify them to be as follows :

90 [ninety] sheets of 120 stamps.

Authority from the Chief of the Cook Islands Federal Government approved by the British Resident has also been produced before me for the reduction of the above "one penny" blue stamps to "one half-penny."

[Signed] A. VON HOFF.
Government Auditor.

According to the above it will be seen that 10,800 stamps were surcharged valued before the reduction £45 and afterwards £22 10s.

While in conversation with the Government printer at this place recently, he informed me that while printing the ½d. surcharges two errors were made, viz : half a sheet [60 stamps] of 1d. blues was doubly surcharged as per my notes in this paper of November and that another half sheet [60 stamps] was surcharged inverted ; [see paragraph in my notes on page 109, March 1900]. So this clears up all doubts as to whether any inverted surcharges occurred, although I have not yet seen any.

Then of course there is the "full stop" error which I have already described at length in a recent letter."

**Carlist Stamps: First Issue.**

Mr. George B. Duerst is writing up the interesting history of the various Carlist issues in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. First on the list he places the French stamps, surcharged with the Carlist arms, and here is what he says in defence of their Philatelic recognition :—

"One of the first steps taken was the creation of a special postal service for the disaffected provinces, and as such letters could not be sent by the usual channels, messengers were employed, who took all correspondence over the frontier to the next French town, from where they were forwarded by the French post office. For this correspondence French stamps had of course to be used. but in order to indicate from whence such letters were sent a special die was made consisting of a fleur de lys, the royal arms of the Bourbon family in a double-lined five-pointed star. Later on this surcharge was used by the Carlist post office as obliteration.

It has always puzzled me why the French postal administration allowed such a surcharge to be put on the French stamps. Large numbers were undoubtedly not used in this manner, as stamps bearing this surcharge and being afterwards obliterated with French cancellation dies are extremely rare. Some collectors attach no value whatever to these stamps, but I do not agree with them. I consider them, Philatelically speaking, of very high value, as they clearly indicate a historical event.

The following French stamps have been found with the surcharge described above :—

1862 issue perf. Head of Napoleon, not laureated,
5c. green.
1892 issue, perf. Head of Liberty.
1c. olive.
2c. brown.
5c. green.
15c. bistre.
25c. blue.
40c. orange.
40c. carmine.

The first is considered the rarest of all, although the rest are not easily obtained."

**Orange River Colony: Numbers Printed.**

The *Monthly Journal* gives the following as the quantities surcharged. Will some one tell us whether these numbers include all the printings or whether they refer only to the first printing ? The 6d. carmine, 2½d., and 4d. seem to be the rarities. The 6d. has been scarce from the first ; the 2½d. soon followed, and the 4d. is running very short.

| | |
|---|---|
| ½d. .. .. .. .. | 1,384,800 |
| 1d. .. .. .. .. | 3,144,000 |
| 2d. .. .. .. .. | 1,231,200 |
| 2½d. .. .. .. .. | 19,200 |
| 3d. .. .. .. .. | 1,024,800 |
| 4d. .. .. .. .. | 74,400 |
| 6d., carmine .. .. .. | 7,200 |
| 6d., blue .. .. .. | 672,000 |
| 1s. .. .. .. .. | 439,200 |
| 5s. .. .. .. .. | 232,800 |

# Notes and News.

### Sale of the Gibbons Businesses.

Here is Mr. Theodor Buhl's version of the sale by Mr. Gibbons of his stamp business. It is culled from "Recollections of 20 Years' Stamp Dealing," contributed to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* :—

"It was in 1889 that I first suggested to Mr. E. S. Gibbons that he should sell his business. He had just completed his "jubilee," and was a successful man, anxious and able to retire. The result was that Mr. Gibbons offered me the whole business, as it stood, for £20,000 cash. I spent two months or more taking a list of the stock and making a valuation. I climbed up ladders, valued drawer upon drawers full of stamps, went through the books, and in fact I was there every afternoon, frequently taking tea or supper with Mr. Gibbons and the late Mrs. Gibbons, and often finishing the conversation at my club in Pall Mall. It was at this club that, having finished my labours, I offered Mr. Gibbons £18,000 for his business; all that I could make it worth in those days. He asked me if I meant thereby to refuse the business at £20,000, and foolishly I said 'Yes.' Mr. Gibbons thereupon replied that the price was now £25,000, and as it seemed impossible to deal at that figure I let the matter drop."

### Theodor and C.J.P.

We have already quoted Mr. Theodor Buhl's reminiscences, but must make one further quotation. Could anything be more deliciously refreshing to those who know the two personalities than the following serenely lofty reference to the *C.J.P.*—as he was?

"My earliest recollections of Phillips are when he used to write to me for such things as 2s. 6d. packets of fiscals, which I presume he made up into packets for shops."

Subject for contemplation :—

Theodor, arm-chaired in "my club" in Pall Mall, presumably "The Reform Club."

C.J.P., in his shirt sleeves, in a garret, making up Penny packets of Fiscals for shops.

### New Album for Beginners.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons announce the preparation of a new album in one volume, in which all varieties of perforation, watermark and type are omitted, and only such varieties included as can be distinguished by the young Philatelist. From £2,000 to £3,000 is being spent in its production. The size of the page is to be 10 by 13 inches, the price will be 12s. 6d., and it is to be known as the "Century Album."

### Charged with Washing Stamps.

Mr. A. F. Trujillo, trading as the Universal Stamp Co., Nassau Street, New York, has been arrested on a charge of washing U.S. internal revenue stamps. The sale of washed stamps at face had been traced to Trujillo, who, however, stated that he had purchased them from an ordinary caller and paid face. But the police on searching Trujillo's apartments are reported to have found in a dress suit case a complete outfit for "washing" stamps—acid for removing cancellation marks, the proper kind of gum, and a large number of cancelled stamps of all denominations, and about $50 worth of washed stamps that had not as yet been re-gummed.

### New Italians.

The sad death of King Humbert and the coronation of King Victor Emmanuel III. will presumably mean a new Philatelic portrait and a new set of postage stamps for Italy.

### London Philatelic Society.

Major Evans, R.A., Mr. Gordon Smith, M.A., Mr. Richard Pearce, late Assistant Secretary, and Mr. Wickham Jones have all resigned their places on the Council of the London Philatelic Society, and Mr. Schwabacher, Mr. MacNaughten, Mr. Rudolph Meyer, and others, have been elected to fill these and other vacancies.

### Exhibition at Melbourne.

The Philatelic Society of Victoria held an Exhibition on Saturday, 26th May, 1900, at the Old Court Studio, Town Hall Building, Melbourne, to celebrate the Jubilee of the issue of Stamps in Victoria, and it proved a great success. The attendance at the Exhibition numbered over 1,000 in the one afternoon and evening This is the second Exhibition held in Victoria and by the Society, the first being on the 15th September, 1894, and, as on the former occasion, it was open for the one afternoon and evening only.

Assistance was given to the Exhibition by the Hon. Postmaster-General, who granted his patronage and also allowed five frames from the Department to be exhibited. They contained statistics and photos of the Post Offices of Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, and other cities and towns in the Colonies, and contained present and obsolete stamps unused to the face value of £2,971.

The Government printer exhibited a frame of stamps in a large cedar case, size 7 feet × 5 feet, and contained unused stamps to value of £1,750. He also exhibited plates of 1d. rose, 6d. blue, and 1/6 orange

in copper, brass, and nickel respectively, and also a sheet of each value along with them. These exhibits of the Government printer and four from the Post Office were prepared for the Greater Britain Exhibition and returned to this Colony.

The trustees of the Public Library also sent a frame containing unused Victorian stamps before 1862, some of which are in good condition while others have been spoilt by the sun and water.

During the afternoon and evening a promenade concert was given and it greatly added to the success of the affair.

The members of the Society were pleased with the success and at the last meeting a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. D. S. Abraham, the Hon. Secretary of the Society, for the able manner he had carried out the details of the Exhibition, and also to Messrs. J. Davis, F A. Jackson, and Cr. H. Weedon for the assistance they had given to bring about the result achieved.

**The Market.**

Orange River Colony V.R.I. seems to suffer little diminution in sales, even in the holiday months. First printings, with stops level, are wanted, but are mostly conspicuous by their absence The 6d. rose V.R.I. is going up, up, up Good copies are rarely met with now under 20/-.

Transvaal "V.R.I." are on sale at three times face for all values, and are not likely to be scarce.

Another war stamp that is likely to be much in demand is the set of Indian stamps surcharged "C.E.F." Our old friend, Mr. W. T. Wilson, is offering them in our advertising pages at 9s. the set, being exceptionally well-placed for getting them.

Other stamps are practically cold-shouldered just now.

The auctioneers announce their opening sales for the middle of September. We hear that collectors are not rushing in to sell out so readily as in former years, which is a good sign from a Philatelic point of view, for the promise of the coming season is in the direction of better prices.

**On Buying New Issues.**

The wise editor invariably advises his readers to secure all new issues of their favourite countries at new issue prices. But he rarely follows his own advice. We belong to the crowd, and, as a consequence, pay the penalty. As a case in point we may confess that like too many other specialists we neglect later issues, being quite absorbed in the more interesting early issues. Looking up our blanks of later issues of Transvaals we were recently glad to secure the 1s. perf. 12½, for 40s the pair. When current we could have had it for 1s. 6d. We have been caught napping so many times that we are convinced it is wise and economical to buy new issues as they come out, and preferably in sets.

# Notices.

**Subscriptions**:—In future please order from your Bookseller or News Agent.

All Editorial Communications and all inquiries concerning Advertisements must be addressed to Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon, England.

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THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

OCTOBER, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

ON the 1st September, 1900, Lord Roberts telegraphed to the Secretary of State for War, from Belfast, in the Transvaal, as follows:—"Under the provisions of Her Majesty's Warrant, dated July 4, 1900, I have this day issued at Army Headquarters, Belfast, the proclamation announcing that the Transvaal will henceforth form part of Her Majesty's dominions." Once more, therefore, the Transvaal becomes a British Colony. The event is unique in Philatelic history. It marks the fourth stage in the Philatelic changes which have distinguished the various periods of government of this unfortunate country. In 1870 the semi-civilized Boer Government issued its first series of postage stamps. In 1877 the country passed into British hands, and there was a British issue. In 1881 a craven and criminal policy mercilessly handed the country back to the forces of corruption and misgovernment, to be won back in the present year by a terrible sacrifice of blood and treasure. Every stage of this historical drama has its Philatelic landmark.

**Transvaal once more a British Colony.**

---

ONE of the Canadian Contingent with the British troops which marched into Pretoria on the 5th June, 1900, sends some interesting information to the *Montreal Philatelist*. He says the following Transvaal stamps surcharged V.R.I. were issued on the 12th June, 1900:—½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s.; and that the 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. were issued on the 13th June, 1900. Only 10s. worth was allowed to be sold at a time. At first there was a great rush to secure them, but, as soon as it was known that a large stock was on hand, the rush ceased. A curious, but no doubt a convenient arrangement from the worried postal official's point of view, was that "a cancelling stamp and pad were on the counter, and those who cared to cancel their stamps could do so." The overprint is in an old-fashioned, fat, roman type.

**Transvaal "V.R.I." First Issue.**

**The Scott Co. Advanced Catalogue.**

Eleven years ago the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York commenced the publication of a *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors*, and they have just published the last instalment. At the start subscriptions were invited and taken at twenty shillings for the complete work; but as it developed the publishers found themselves compelled to raise the price considerably, and they now state that what the original subscribers paid twenty shillings for, has cost them (the publishers) an actual outlay of between four and five times that amount. We are, therefore, not surprised that they should now confess, with a sigh of relief, that had they realised, eleven years ago, what they were undertaking they would never have attempted the compilation. However, it speaks volumes for their grit, and their business integrity, that they have seen the work through to the bitter end. Not only so, they are now compiling an Addendum to bring the Catalogue up to date, which will be no light task.

We may not congratulate the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. upon the financial result of their great undertaking, but we may assure them that in the opinion of not a few of the best English Philatelists their *Catalogue for Advanced Collectors* has earned for them, on this side of the water, a solid and enduring reputation.

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**Speculatives Unprofitable.**

We are delighted to learn from the *Australian Philatelist* that the so-called "Patriotic Stamp," issued by the Victorian Postal authorities, is a miserable failure. Only £600 out of an anticipated £3,400 has been realised by the issue, and the probabilities are that even the greater part of the £600 sales have been to speculators, who will deservedly burn their fingers.

We repeat, we are delighted. May all similar pettifogging attempts to milk stamp collectors end in like disappointment! The spirit of the revolt which found voice in the formation of the now defunct S.S.S.S. is still with us. The society is no more, but it has left behind it a silent determination to cold shoulder speculatives of all kinds.

---

**What are Mafekings?**

"Dâk," the caustic contributor to the pages of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, who, if we remember rightly, joined in the sneers at the S.S.S.S., now condemns the Mafeking issues holus bolus. In Cassandra style he warns us that our recognition of their permanent interest will set forces at work which will make for the disintegration of Philately. "Dâk" contends that the Mafekings are local stamps at best, and that in cataloguing them we are opening the door for "a vast succession of Philatelic parasites."

We confess to a suspicion that there was a Philatelic impetus behind the issue; but, for all that, who will join "Dâk" in throwing stones at these interesting little souvenirs of the brilliant defence of the gallant little garrison? When the "vast succession of Philatelic

parasites" make their appearance "Dâk" shall lead the attack, and we will collect all the available Philatelic lyddite. Meanwhile, "sufficient for the day is the evil thereof."

To our knowledge, however, the stamps have freely franked correspondence to this country, and between Mafeking and other parts of South Africa, and we believe that the most fastidious Postal authorities in the world would, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, have unhesitatingly recognised their fullest postal claims to official and public recognition.

---

**Where are the V.R.I. Errors?**

A QUESTION of the hour is, "Where are all the well-known V.R.I. errors of the Orange River Colony series of surcharges, *i.e.*, the figures of value and letters of value omitted?" The ordinary collector is puzzled by their conspicuous absence from the market. The answer is simple. They are all up speculators' sleeves—by the hundred!—and they will come down, two by two, when an artificial famine has forced prices up, up.

We have heard of one speculator who holds 600 of these varieties for the rise. It is a case of collectors' patience versus speculators' ability to hold out. If the collector is wise he will hold out longest. They will crop up in the sweet bye-and-by in the auctions. Then, collectors will have to be careful that they are not "jobbed" into bidding fancy prices, for the market is certain to be "rigged."

---

**New Issues of the Month.**

THE new issues of the month are not of a very startling kind. The Orange River Colony has, it is true, contributed one small surprise in the shape of the Cape of Good Hope 2½d. overprinted "Orange River Colony," and the V.R.I. 6d. carmine has been found in the raised stops printing. The new Indian series is promised for the 1st October; Hong Kong has changed the colours of its 2c. and 10c. stamps; Russia has given us a new series for the Levant; Guatemala and Venezuela have been changing colours; and Germany has issued the 2pf. grey in the head of Germania type.

## Notable Philatelists.



Mrs. Charlotte Tebay.

# Notable Philatelists.

## Mrs. Charlotte Tebay.

WE have this month the pleasure of presenting our readers with an excellent portrait of Mrs. Charlotte Tebay, whose name is so closely associated with the earliest years of the Philatelic Society of London. Some of its first meetings were held at her house. There Mr. Philbrick, Dr. Viner, and many others of the leading spirits of the older generation of earnest and enthusiastic Philatelists foregathered, and helped to build up a reputation for the then newly-formed Philatelic Society of London. Mrs. Tebay was then a collector of the prevalent order who took all countries, and she has remained faithful to her programme. She has been a stamp collector for between thirty and forty years, and even now, in the evening of her days, and in ill health, the old hobby is a solace and an enjoyment to her.

In a recent letter to us she writes—

"As to myself, I can only say that ever since I began to be interested in stamps, now between thirty and forty years ago, I have found them a great help and solace in many months of ill health, and that I have had much help, and courtesy, and kindness from my fellow collectors. Indeed, I do think that there cannot be any 'hobby' where there is more friendly feeling between fellow workers than among the lovers of postage stamps.

"My health has so broken down of late years that I often fear that I must give my stamps quite up, but old affections are not easily broken, and like Dr. Viner, who was 88 on his last birthday, I expect that I shall continue collecting to the end."

She was one of the earliest subscribers to the *Philatelic Record*, and she has continued her allegiance to it without a break.

Some twenty years ago, in response to the ever-recurring question as to why people collected worthless old stamps, she wrote and published a little leaflet in verse, from which we quote the following few lines, excellently descriptive of some of the claims of a collection of postage stamps :—

"Here, as in mimic gallery plac'd,
Portraits of fair and great are trac'd ;
Kings, Emperors, and Chiefs of fame,
Queens—with our own of honour'd name—
And pictur'd stories of each land
From frozen shore to sunny strand :
St. Salvador with flaming crest,
Or Nicaragua's vales of rest ;
From Costa Rica's tropic steeps,
To where the Alpine Gentian peeps ;
Peru can show her Llamas fleet,
Canadians their shrewd Beaver greet.
Australia's Swan floats proudly by,
Newfoundland's Seals on icebergs lie ;
'The Stars and Stripes' their history trace
From Britain's world encircling race."

# Stamps of the Transvaal.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

## Reference List and Guide to Values.

### Second Republic.

(*Continued from p.* 202.)

1885. Sept. 26. "Halve Penny," in black on 3d., Type IX.

A further supply of ½d. stamps being demanded, 30,000 of the 3d. mauve, Type IX., were overprinted in black, "Halve Penny," between two vertical bars, in the centre of the stamp reading downwards. There is an error, "Prnny" for "Penny," and there is a minor error of an inverted "n" in "Penny." As the letters are bearded this makes a distinct variety, and is not generally known.




Type XII.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| Perforated 12½ by 12. | | |
| "Halve Penny," in black, on 3d. mauve of Type IX. .. .. | 0 1 6 | —— |
| Perforated 11½ by 12. | | |
| "Halve Penny," in black, on 3d. mauve of Type IX. .. .. | 0 5 0 | —— |

Error: "Prnny" for "Penny."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Perforated 12½ by 12. | | |
| "Halve Prnny," on 3d. mauve of Type IX. .. .. .. .. | 2 0 0 | —— |

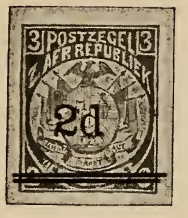
Inverted "n" in "Penny."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Perforated 12½ by 12. | | |
| "Halve Penny," on 3d. mauve of Type IX. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |

1887. January 15. "2d." on 3d. mauve, Type IX.

To meet a further deficiency of 2d. stamps, 90,000 of the 3d. mauve of Type IX., were surcharged, in black, "2d.," two horizontal

bars cancelling the original value at the bottom of the stamp. In the first five horizontal rows the "2" has a curved foot, but in all the stamps of the last row the foot of the "2" is straight.




Type XIII.




Type XIV.

Curved foot to the figure "2." Type XIII.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½ BY 12. | | |
| "2d.," in black, on 3d. mauve, Type XIII. | 0 0 6 | 0 0 9 |
| PERFORATED 11½ BY 12. | | |
| "2d.," in black, on 3d. mauve, Type XIII. | 0 2 6 | 0 5 0 |

Straight foot to the figure "2." Type XIV. The stamps in the last row of the sheet are all of the straight foot variety. The straight foot "2," perf. 11½ × 12, of which there is, of course, only one on each sheet, is a scarce stamp, and is not often met with even at the price quoted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½ BY 12. | | |
| "2d.," in black, on 3d. mauve, Type XIV. | 0 2 0 | 0 3 0 |
| PERFORATED 11½ BY 12. | | |
| "2d.," in black, on 3d. mauve, Type XIV. | 0 10 0 | —— |

1887-1890. Type IX. Varieties of perforation. The 13½ perfs. are all scarce, and some of the stamps perf. 12½ are even scarcer, many being very difficult to get in fine condition, unused. Used, most of the 12½ perf. are common enough.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 13½. | | |
| ½d. grey | 0 7 6 | —— |
| 4d. bronze-green | 0 7 6 | 0 0 9 |
| 6d. blue | 0 10 0 | 0 0 8 |
| 1s. green | 0 15 0 | 0 7 6 |
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| ½d. grey | 0 0 1 | 0 0 1 |
| ½d. pearl-grey | 0 0 2 | 0 0 1 |
| 1d. carmine | 0 1 0 | 0 0 2 |
| 1d. rose-pink | 0 0 5 | 0 0 2 |
| 2d. olive-chrome | 0 0 6 | 0 0 2 |
| 2d. olive-bistre | 0 0 6 | 0 0 2 |
| 2½d. dull violet | —— | —— |
| 2½d. bright violet | 0 0 9 | 0 0 4 |
| 3d. mauve | 0 2 0 | 0 1 0 |
| 4d. bronze-green | 0 1 6 | 0 0 4 |
| 6d. blue | 0 1 6 | 0 0 6 |
| 1s. green | 1 10 0 | 0 0 6 |
| 2s. 6d. buff | 0 10 0 | 0 3 6 |
| 5s. slate-blue | —— | 0 7 6 |
| 10s. fawn | 1 10 0 | 0 10 0 |
| £5 deep green | —— | 1 12 6 |

1893. Provisionals.

In this year there was a very heavy outcrop of provisionals, which may be grouped as follows :—

"2½ Pence," in one line, in black, on 1s. green of Type IX., on 2nd January.

"2½-Pence," same surcharge, but in two lines, in black, on 1s. green of Type IX., on 24th June.

"1 Pence," in one line, in black, on 6d. blue of Type IX., on 26th January.

"Halve-Penny," in two lines, in red, on the 2d. olive-bistre of Type IX., on 27th May; and the same surcharge, in red, on the same stamp, on 2nd July.

All perforated 12½.

1893. January 2. "2½ Pence," in one line, in black, on 1s. green of Type IX. The using up of the 1s. value perf. 12½ for this surcharge accounts for the great scarcity of the 1s. perf. 12½ unsurcharged, unused.




Type XV. (with error).

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---|---|---|
| Perforated 12½. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| "2½ Pence," in black, on 1s. green .. | 0 1 0 | 0 1 0 |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| Perforated 12½. | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2½ Pence, in black, on 1s. green .. | 0 6 6 | —— |

Error: Fractional line misplaced, thus, "2/½." This error is said to have been discovered and corrected after only a few hundred sheets had been printed. I have one sheet with the error, and another sheet with the fractional line corrected. The error occurs in the last stamp in the top row of the sheet.

| Perforated 12½. | | |
|---|---|---|
| "2/½ Pence," in black, on 1s. green .. | —— | 2 10 0 |

Same: Surcharge Inverted. The number inverted is said to have been very small—only a few sheets. It certainly is a very scarce variety, and requires much searching for.

| Perforated 12½. | | |
|---|---|---|
| "2/½ Pence," in black, on 1s. green .. | —— | —— |

1893. June 24. "$2\frac{1}{2}$-Pence," in two lines, in black, on 1s. green of Type IX. The surcharge was probably changed from one line into two for appearances, as the one line was somewhat wide and required careful printing to keep it from overlapping the edges of the stamp.




Type XVI.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "$2\frac{1}{2}$ Pence," in black, on 1s. green .. | 0 1 6 | —— |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "$2\frac{1}{2}$ Pence," in black, on 1s. green .. | 0 8 0 | —— |

1893. January 26. "1 Penny," in one line, in black, on 6d. blue of Type IX. The printing of this surcharge was very carelessly done. Sheets are found with the overprint almost diagonal, and pairs may be made up of surcharged and unsurcharged, whole rows at one side or the other escaping the overprint.




Type XVII.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "1 Penny," in black, on 6d. blue .. | 0 0 6 | 0 0 6 |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "1 Penny," in black, on 6d. blue .. | 0 3 0 | —— |

Same: Double Surcharge. I have not seen any unused copies of this variety, and have reason to believe that most, if not all, were used, or postmarked to order.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "1 Penny," in black, on 6d. blue .. | —— | —— |

1893. May 27. "Halve-Penny," in two lines, in red, on the 2d. olive-bistre of Type IX. Some good people who are inclined to multiply varieties in every possible manner, create them *ad lib.* in this overprint, as in many cases the two lines vary in their position, the capital letters on some stamps being level, in others they vary to the right or left.




Type XVIII.

| | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "Halve Penny," in red, on 2d. olive-bistre .. | 0 0 4 | —— |

Same: Surcharge inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "Halve Penny," in red, on 2d. olive-bistre .. | 0 5 0 | —— |

1893. July 2. "Halve-Penny," in two lines, in black, on the 2d. olive-bistre of Type IX.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "Halve Penny," in black, on 2d. olive-bistre.. | 0 1 6 | —— |

Same: Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PERFORATED 12½. | | |
| "Halve Penny," in black, on 2d. olive-bistre.. | 0 3 0 | —— |

# New Philatelic Books.

## The Stamps of Kashmir.

*The Stamps of Jammu and Kashmir. Part I. By D. P. Masson. Calcutta, Printed for the Philatelic Society of India. Paper covers, 5s., Post 8vo, 47pp., and Appendix 10pp.*

THE Philatelic Society of India is doing excellent work in the publication of Handbooks of the countries within what may be said to be its own particular sphere of influence. The Society is fortunate in having such earnest, thorough, and industrious Philatelists as Mr. Stewart Wilson and Mr. D. P. Masson.

Mr. Masson has for the time concentrated his energies on the stamps of Jammu and Kashmir, and the little book before us forms Part I. of his work on these puzzling issues. He "gratefully acknowledges" that it was Major Evans' articles in the *Philatelic Record* for 1887 and 1888 that directed his enquiries regarding these stamps, ten years later, and so have led to the publication of this Handbook.

He tells us that the task which he has set himself "is to endeavour to arrange in their order all the colours that were used in the printing of genuine stamps, making each tell the story of its birth, life, and retirement from public service," in the hope that he will "so simplify matters as to make the study of the lovely old stamps of Kashmir a comparatively easy matter."

As a preliminary to the study he outlines the following main facts:—

"1. The earliest stamps of Kashmir, issued in 1866, were impressions from only one set of *circular* dies, viz., the half-anna and one anna, known in the catalogues as 'Die II.' and the four annas, which has hitherto been classified with the so-called 'Die I.' types. Those stamps were used in both, in the Jammu and Kashmir Provinces.

"2. On the introduction of *rectangular* stamps, two sets of plates were engraved, of which one was reserved for the Kashmir Province, and the other for the Jammu Province, the issues thus bifurcating.

"3. The Jammu Province, however, continued to use circular stamps, side by side, with its rectangular stamps, *and in the same colours for both circular and rectangular.*

"4. The bifurcation of issues, for the two provinces, re-united in the issue of 1878, known as the 'first new rectangulars,' all circular, and the old rectangulars ceasing with the issues of 1877."

Mr. Masson has classified colours under three heads—experimental, standard, and superfluous. "The experimental or earliest colours, he explains, "were generally used only for a few months; the standard were the colours finally chosen as the permanent ones—the superfluous appeared for the Jammu circulars and rectangulars only, in

1875 or 1876, supplementing (but not superseding) the standard colours sparingly during 1875 (?) and 1876 and more generally in 1877."

There are six full-page plates on plate paper, and numerous illustrations in the text; an interesting chapter is added on native made paper, and sample sheets of four kinds are given at the end of the book.

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### Gibbons' Catalogue, 1900: Foreign Countries.

*Priced Catalogue of Stamps of Foreign Countries*, 1900-1901. *Thirteenth Edition. Part II. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.*, 391, *Strand, London. Cloth 2s. net.*

We have received what we may fairly term an improved edition of Gibbons' Catalogue for 1900. The improvement is most marked in the clearer illustrations which take the place of the atrocities that so disfigured the previous edition. We are told that this little item has involved an extra expenditure of £400.

Another point to which Gibbons's and other standard catalogues are now paying more attention, is the clearer delineation of minor varieties by means of enlarged illustrations.

"Official Seals" are excluded. They should never have been included, for they have no more claim to be classed as postage stamps than the blue pencil mark of the Registration Clerk.

Many countries, we are informed in the preface, have been thoroughly revised and re-written, and we note that Orange River Colony and the Transvaal have been re-written, removed from the Foreign Countries section, and placed at the end as a supplement to Part I., British Empire. The types of the various provisionals of the Orange Free State are given in full, and the interesting issues of the First South African Republic are now set out in detail on the basis of the Reference List now publishing in the *Philatelic Record*.

As to prices there does not seem to be such an outcry against reductions as in the case of Part I. Some prices are up; some down. The good old stamps mostly tend upwards, as ever. The most notable increase, of course, is in Transvaals, which, now that it is a British Colony, comes in for a demand which must soon tell seriously on the available supply. We note a repetition of the old, old twaddle that "collectors are warned against reprints and forgeries." As a matter of fact, no country of specialist rank is so free from dangerous forgeries, and there are only two reprints. It is a trade kite: Codlin's the friend, not Short.

In the matter of clear printing, and general get-up, the Catalogue is a model of excellence.




*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**Hong Kong.**—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have shown us a 2 cents. blue-green, and a 10 cents. ultramarine of the current design. Wmk. Cr. C.A., perf. 14. These are presumably changes to Postal Union colours.

*Adhesives.*

2 cents., blue.
10 cents., ultramarine.

**India.**—The *Philatelic Journal of India* says the Indian stamps in the new colours have all arrived in India, and will be issued on the 1st October. The new arrivals include the ¼a., ½a., 1a., and 2a., surcharged "On H.M.S."

ORCHA.—In July last (p. 169) we chronicled a set of stamps for this State which had been sent us. The *Philatelic Journal of India* now fears that these so-called Orcha stamps are a swindle. It adds, "Our suspicion was roused by the odd way in which they are being sold in India. Certain firms have been offered the 'sole agency'; and this struck us as an odd proceeding on the part of the Orcha State. So we asked the Superintendent of the Postal Division in which Orcha is situated to make inquiries. He had never heard of such stamps. So he addressed the State authorities, who replied that 'postage stamps are not yet circulated in Tikamgarh (*i.e.*, Orcha), therefore, they are not to be sold as yet.' This was on the 19th July."

**Orange River Colony.**—We have this month a new departure in surcharging in the shape of the current 2½d. Cape of Good Hope stamp overprinted "Orange River Colony," in three lines, in black, as illustrated below. There are practically no varieties, for although an omitted stop has been signalled, traces of the battered stop are easily detected. In some cases the letters are a little out of alignment, but not sufficiently to be catalogued as "raised" or "dropped" letters. By the courtesy of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., we have examined several sheets, all of which, we may add, are printed in panes of 60. A large number has, no doubt, been printed, but Messrs. Stanley Gibbons inform us that their latest advices from Bloemfontein are to the effect that these stamps are already obsolete.

The permanent issue, ordered long since from Messrs. De la Rue & Co., may arrive by any mail.

Meanwhile, we proceed to note the varieties which crop up in the surcharged series.

Mr. J. W. Jones has shown us a used strip of three 1d. of the level stops setting, in which one shows a wider spacing between the figure and letter of value.

A surprise is the 6d. carmine in the raised stops setting. Mr. Oliver and other correspondents have received copies, but there is no information to hand to say whether this is, as is probable, a fresh supply of 6d. rose discovered and surcharged on only a few. The wish as to their rarity being father to the thought, big prices are being asked and paid for the variety. We shall be glad of some further information concerning this variety. It is said to have been met with in early supplies that came over with the first printings.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that their latest supplies are all of the raised stops setting, in which all varieties, such as thick V's, &c., have been eliminated.

Another discovery is an omitted stop after V in the raised stops setting. This is the first stamp in the 6th row of each pane, and has been found in the ½d. and 1d. values. At the end of the row in which the omitted stop occurs the "I" is minus

the right hand top serif, and the "V" after which the stop is omitted is a very battered specimen.

*Adhesives.*

Cape of Good Hope overprinted "Orange River Colony."




2½d., blue.

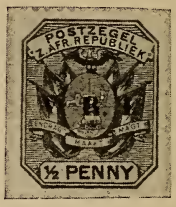
*Raised stops.*

6d., carmine.

*Stop omitted after "V"*

½d., orange.
1d., mauve.

**Transvaal.**—We illustrate the "V.R.I." overprint on the current issues of the late South African Republic chronicled by us last month. Up to date we have heard of no varieties.




**Trinidad.**—The Postmaster-General in his recently-published annual report for 1899 announces that "further modifications as to the colour of postage and revenue stamps are being considered."

## Foreign Countries.

**Corea.**—According to the *Philatelic Journal of India* the 25p. (1¼d.) stamp has been surcharged in black so as to convert it into a 1 poon (1⅕th of a farthing) stamp. This, the *P.J.I.* remarks, the cheapest stamp sold anywhere, is to frank newspapers, etc., in the inland service and to Japan.

**France.** ALEXANDRIA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 2 franc value of the current French series surcharged "Alexandrie" in capitals, and Mr. J. W. Jones informs us that the word "Alexandrie" exists with and without accent and with two dots in lieu of accent.

*Adhesive*

2fr., brown on pale blue, black sur.

DEDEAGH.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also send us the current French 5c. yellow-green overprinted "Dedeagh" in red in Gibbons' type 4, and the 2fr. with the same overprint in black and the value "8 Piastres 8" below.

*Adhesives.*

5c. yellow-green - - - - red sur.
8 piastres, on 2fr., brown on pale blue, black sur.

LEVANT.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current French 2fr., overprinted in black "8 Piastres 8."

*Adhesive.*

8 piastres, on 2 fr., brown on pale blue.

MOROCCO.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current French 2fr. surcharged "2 — Pesetas" in two lines in black.

*Adhesive.*

2 pesetas, on 2 fr., brown on pale blue.

**Germany.**—Mr. J. W. Jones informs us that the 2pf. grey has now been issued in the head of Germania type of the current series.

*Adhesive.*

HEAD OF GERMANIA
2pf., grey.

**Guatemala.**—Last month (p. 210) we chronicled some changes of colour in the current series, and we now have four further values from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. to add to that list, viz., 5c. deep blue, 10c. brown, 20c. violet.

*Adhesives*

5c., deep blue.
10c., brown.
20c., violet.
25c., orange.

**Portugal.** MOZAMBIQUE COMPANY.—The following is a translation of the decree authorising the manufacture and issue of the provisional stamps, published by the *Monthly Journal.*

"1900. Friday, June 8.

Bulletin issued by the Mozambique Company,

Government of the Territory of Manica and Sofala.

Supplement to No. 163.

*Order of the Government of the Territory.*

No. 1,647.

Seeing that the stamps of 25 reis are exhausted, and that the supply of 50 reis stamps is insufficient to last until those arrive which have been ordered from the authorities in Lisbon;

Under the advice of the Postmaster-General and of the Inspector-General of the Treasury;

It has been found necessary to order that the following shall be printed in the offices of the company:—

1. 22,000 stamps of 5 reis to be overprinted with the surcharge 25 reis, in carmine.

2. 15,000 stamps of 20 reis, every stamp being divided perpendicularly through the middle by perforation into two parts, which shall form two stamps, each to be overprinted with the surcharge 50 reis, in violet.

3. The said stamps are put into circulation from this date.

The authorities and persons concerned are to carry these orders into effect in due course.

Secretariat of the Government of the Territory of Manica and Sofala, at Beira, 8th June, 1900.

The Governor,
F. Meyrelles do Canto."

Portuguese India.—A correspondent in this colony has sent the *Monthly Journal* a specimen of a provisional 1½ r. stamp, formed by printing "1½—Réis," in two lines, in *black*, upon the 2 tangas of 1898. He also sends the *Monthly Journal* copies of two decrees, under the first of which, dated May 28th, 1900, owing to the exhaustion of the stock of 1½ r. stamps of the current issue, remainders of that value of the 1895 series were put in circulation; whilst the second, dated 18th June, the 1895 stamps having run out also, ordered that 20,000 of the 2 tangas should be converted into 1½ reis, and issued for that value.

*Adhesive.*
1½ r. on 2 tangas, blue.

**Roumania.**—Mr. J. W. Jones has shown us the 15 bani black of the current type, compound perf. 11½ by 13½.

*Adhesive.*
15b., black, 11½ × 13½.

**Russia.** Levant. — Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current Russian 1 kop surcharged in blue, diagonally, from lower left corner to right upper corner in Roman capitals "4 Para," and the 2 kop similarly surcharged in red "10 Para."

*Adhesives.*
4 para, in blue, on 1 kop orange.
10 para, in red, on 2 kop green.

**United States.**—Stamps of the current issue seem to be yielding interesting varieties in shade. Considerable differences exist in the 4c. and 6c. values, and a correspondent in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* has been shown the 10c. value in a pale chocolate and in a deep red-brown.

**Venezuela.**—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., four values of the current design overprinted "1900." The 5c., 10c. and 25c. are in the old colours and have the "Resellada" overprint, but the 50c. yellow and 1 bolivar grey-black, are new colours. Paper, thickish wove; perf. 12.

*Adhesives.*
5c., blue-green, "Resellada."
10c., vermilion ,,
25c., deep blue ,,
50c., orange.
1 bolivar, grey-black.

## To Our Readers.

*We are continually receiving complimentary letters on the get-up and the contents of the* Philatelic Record, *and on the punctuality which has characterised the publication of the Journal since it has passed into the hands of its present proprietors.*

*But we wish to secure for the* Philatelic Record *a very much larger circulation, and our readers can help us materially by recommending it to Philatelic friends. For this purpose we shall be glad to supply any quantities of specimen pages and order forms.*

# Philately in the Mags.

### Samoan Perforations.

Mr. Walter Morley has been studying the perforations of Samoan stamps watermarked N Z and star. Gibbons gives three perforations throughout—11, 11½ and 12½—but Mr. Morley finds many other varieties, as well as shades of colour unchronicled, and he publishes in *Morley's Philatelic Journal* the following contribution towards a Reference List of Samoan, commencing with the issue of 1887 :—

"Perf. 12½

½d., dull purple.
1d., emerald.
2d., orange.
4d., blue.
1s., rose.
2s. 6d., red violet.

Perf. 12.

½d., dull purple.
½d., deep ,,
4d., blue.
6d., brown lake

Perf. 11½.

½d., dull purple.
½d., deep ,,
1d., blue green.
2d., orange yellow.
4d., blue.
6d., brown.
6d., lake.
1s., rose.

Perf. 11.

½d., dull purple.
½d., deep ,,
1d., pale green.
1d., blue ,,
2d., orange yellow.
2d., ochre.
2d., deep orange.
4d., blue.
6d., lake.
1s., rose.
1s., carmine.
2s. 6d., violet.

Perf. 12 by 11½.

½d., dull purple.
½d., deep ,,
1d., emerald.
1d., blue green.
2d., orange yellow.
4d., blue.
6d., brown.
6d., lake.
1s., rose.
1s., carmine.
2s. 6d., violet.

1892. 2½d., rose, perf. 12½, 11½, 11, 12 by 11½.
1896. 2½d., black, ,, 10 by 11.
*This stamp is given as perf. 11 in Gibbons but I have only met with it as above.*

1893. FIVE PENCE surcharged on 4d., blue.
Perf. 11½. Long line through value.
,, Short ,, ,, ,,
,, Error: PENOE.
Perf. 12 by 11½. Long line through value.
,, Short ,, ,, ,,
,, Errors: PENOE and FIVE.
5d., on 4d., blue: (*a*) "d" raised, perf. 12 by 11½.
,, ,, ,, (*b*) "d' level ,, ,,
,, ,, ,, ,, 2 bars through value.
1894. 5d., red, perf. 11½, 11½ by 12, 12.
5d., carmine, perf. 11. *Very distinct shade.*
*April, 1895.* Half of 1s., rose, used as 6d.
1895. 1½d., in blue, on 2d., orange, perf. 11½., 12 by 11½.
,, ,, ,, ,, yellow, perf. 11.
3d., in black ,, ,, ,, ,,
,, ,, ,, deep orange, ,,
,, ,, ,, yellow, ,,
,, ,, ,, orange, perf. 11½, 12 by 11½
1898-99. Type 1. ½ longer than 2.
All p. 11. ,, 2. ½ same size as 2.
2½d., in black, on 1s., carmine, Type 1.
,, ,, red, ,, ,, rose, Types 1 and 2.
,, ,, ,, 1d., green, ,, ,,
1899. Perf. 11. ½d., green, 1d., red-brown.
1899. The full set of eight values, all perf. 11, was overprinted PROVISIONAL GOVT. either in red or in blue.
1900. The distinctive issues of Samoa were superseded by overprinted German stamps."

### Kashmir: Circulars and Rectangulars.

Mr. D. P. Masson, in the August number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, announces that after a most careful examination of several series of stamps on originals he is now able to say that

"The oil colour stamps superseded the water-colour ones entirely, from July, 1877, and that, with the exception of a few water-colour stamps used out of their time, they were the only stamps used in the Jammu Province until they in their turn were superseded by the new rectangulars, ten months later, on or about 1st May, 1878."

He has also discovered that "the circular oil-colour stamps, after being used rarely side by side with the oil-colour rectangulars—as was the case with the water-colour stamps, from 1869 or 1870 until July, 1877—came into more general use from October, 1877, and later, in January, 1878, *entirely superseded the old rectangulars.* Thus from the end of January, 1878, until the new rectangulars were introduced (1st May, 1878), only circular stamps were used in Jammu."

To this interesting statement Mr. Masson appends detailed information as to the months in which the various stamps were in use.

### Transvaal "V.R.I."

Ewen's *Weekly Stamp News* publishes the following extract from the *Johannesburg Gazette* of June 18th, 1900 :—

"On and after Monday, 18th June, 1900, the Johannesburg Post Office will be open to the public for the transaction of local business. From the above date a Town Postal Service will be established. The local postal rates are as follows; Letters, 1d. per ½ oz.; newspapers, ½d. per paper, not exceeding 4 oz. IMPORTANT. Only over-printed stamps will be recognised in payment of postage.—Signed, D. H Macpherson(Major). Johannesburg, 18th June, 1900."

### Transvaals used in Natal.

A Pretoria correspondent of the *Montreal Philatelist* cautions collectors against paying fancy prices for Transvaal stamps alleged to have been used in Dundee, Elandslaagte and Glencoe, Natal. He says, "The first day I arrived here I went to the P.O. to see what could be had, and the P.M. showed me a nice lot of S.A.R. various issues, all pasted on a sheet of paper and cancelled Dundee. He then produced the cancelling stamps and offered to cancel a set on envelopes for 3s. 6d. the set, the stamps costing extra of course."

**Belgium: 1865. 30c. & 1fr. perfs.**

M. Jules Bouvèz in his "History of the Postage Stamps of Belgium" now running in the *American Journal of Philately*, dealing with the 30c. and 1fr. of 1865, writes:—

"While the first printing of stamps of 1 franc made in London consisted of only 100 sheets of 300 stamps each, there were only 600 sheets of the first printing of 30 centimes made in Belgium, among which there were five or six sheets imperforate, which were delivered for sale at the Central Post Office. Besides there were about fifteen sheets in which the horizontal perforation was entirely lacking, and some others on which the horizontal as well as the vertical perforation left much to be desired. As we have stated, these errors and omissions in perforation, which did not at first attract attention, could have resulted only from the defective productions of the perforating machine of Gouvellos Frères, the only one which was then employed and which did not perforate in both directions at once. Even to-day we may find on letters stamps of 30 centimes and 1 franc with different varieties of perforations, and others entirely imperforate or part perforate, but they are becoming extremely rare, and, at present, they are in great demand by collectors, because they mark the transition period in the manufacture and the perforation of the Belgian postage stamps."

**Trinidad: 3d. or 5d.**

The *American Journal of Philately* publishes the following extracts from the annual report of the Postmaster-General of Trinidad for the year 1899:—

"The recent stamp frauds by which portions of used postage stamps were joined together and in a few cases not detected at the time the stamps were affixed to legal documents in the Registrar-General's Department, drew attention to the danger of having so many stamps of the same color, except for the words denoting the value, and it was decided, as an immediate step to lessen this danger, to abolish the five-penny and ten-shilling stamps and to alter the color of the five-shilling stamps. Stamps of the last-named value printed on a lilac background have been received, but will not be issued until the current issue has been exhausted.

A small quantity of five-penny stamps were surcharged 'three pence' in anticipation of that value stamp being required for the purpose of carrying out the new Stamp Ordinance, but it was found possible to do without these stamps and, as this department has not during the last 17 years found it necessary to surcharge any postage stamps, the three-penny surcharges were not issued to the public, but were destroyed.

Further modifications as to the color of postage and revenue stamps are being considered."

**Roumania: 1862 issue.**

In April last Mr. W. Dorning Beckton read a paper before the Manchester Philatelic Society on the 1862 issue of Roumania. This paper has just been published in the *London Philatelist*. Mr. Beckton, who is a well-known specialist in Roumanians, says there is still much to be learnt about the 1862 issue, and he finds that the more one studies it the more difficult the subject appears. He discusses the issue under the headings of "Method of Production," "Types," "Paper employed," and "Colours." We quote his very interesting remarks under the head of

Method of Production.

"At first the plan of printing the stamps from a single die, which had been done in the two issues of Moldavia, was followed. Consequently, one die for each of the three values was prepared, and from such dies the stamps were printed in sheets of thirty-two, in four rows of eight, the two centre rows being *tête-bêche*. As a result of this process, the stamps were very unevenly placed on the sheet, sometimes being found partly overlapping one another—in fact, I have seen the 6 paras in which one impression actually covered the other, making a double print in the true sense. This unevenness became more marked in the later printings of the hand-strucks, possibly owing to the greater number of stamps required, or maybe through a less experienced printer being employed. The vermilion shade formed the last printing, and is a very bad offender in the matter of overlapping. I believe a large number of sheets were discarded by the authorities for this reason, and put on one side as waste. These were sold some years ago, and are fast becoming absorbed.

"The authorities decided that the stamps in future should be printed from plates. These were accordingly constructed, and the sheets printed from them consist of forty stamps in five rows of eight. A peculiar arrangement of the stamps on the plate was effected, which I need not describe, as it is sufficiently well known. The size of the sheets of the hand-struck and machine-printed is the same, although the number of stamps differs, as already mentioned.

"As to how these plates were made, I have been utterly unable at present to find out from official sources. If one could get this information it would probably throw a gleam of light on some abstruse points.

"Failing this, however, we must be content to grope in the dark, and ascertain what we can from an examination of the stamps themselves."

It has been thought that there are different types in this printing, but Mr. Beckton has satisfied himself that there are not. He attributes the minor differences which exist to imperfectly made *clichés* from the one matrix. The differences, he tells us, "consist mainly of broken letters, malformation of letters, or dots, the rest of the

stamp being an exact replica of the hand-struck stamp."

As to papers employed, he says :—

"Primarily, these may be divided into 'laid' and 'wove' Of the laid there is only one kind, whereas of the wove, which was the paper commonly used, several varieties exist, which I will explain hereafter.

"The laid paper was used for the early printing of the hand-struck series, and must have been quickly superseded by wove paper, inasmuch as the same was also employed for the hand-struck series, and the life of this series was under twelve months —in fact, the wove paper is much the commoner of the two. The laid paper was not used again, all the machine-printed issues being on wove.

"The stamps on the laid paper all show the laid lines running horizontally. Judging from all the specimens I have seen of the 3 par. and 6 par. values, I should say that there was only one printing of each on laid paper. There must have been three printings at least of the 30 par., the last being the only value which is at all common on laid paper, and existing as it does in pale blue, blue, and deep blue, and very dark blue ; the pale blue and *very* dark blue being tones of colour which have a character of their own, and could not have been produced out of the same mixing of colour."

### New Zealand Sheets.

It is always interesting to know how the sheets of various stamps are made up. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* gives the following information concerning the make up of some of the current New Zealand stamps :—

"The 4d. no wmk. are printed in sheets of 80 only, 8 rows of 10.

The 2½d. are in sheets of 120, 12 rows of 10.

The 5d. also in sheets of 120, but 10 rows of 12.

The margin, as well as the stamps, is entirely unwatermarked."

### Hawaii: 1853. 5 cents.

Mr. J. W. Scott, of New York, in his *Metropolitan Philatelist*, gives the result of a close study of the varieties to be found in the Hawaiian 5c. of 1853. He explains that "the 13c. red of the 1853 issue was engraved on steel and transferred to a copper plate repeated twenty times, the sheet containing five rows of four stamps each. There are some varieties of paper and also slight shades of color, but as the same plate was altered to print the 5c. blue of same issue we don't see how there could possibly be more than one printing. The 5c. blue shows three distinct issues, and although they are all placed under the same date in the catalogue, it is not at all likely that all made their appearance in 1853. The first issue was on heavy white paper, same as used for the 13c., and is of considerable rarity. The second issue is on white paper of medium thickness, and the last on thin blue paper, and of this there are certainly at least two qualities. As the *plate* was altered from that used in printing the 13c. slight varieties are to be found. The labels were erased, leaving only the central vignette with the word postage above. The new frames having been put in separately show small differences in each stamp, the most noticeable being the second on the sheet which is so distinct that only carelessness has omitted it from lists giving varieties. There are two points not relevant to the design which we found on nearly all specimens. In right upper corner the serif and foot of the figure 1 of 13 were not entirely removed and show as two dots. Below the bust are two dots, the tops of the lines which partitioned "HONOLULU, HAWAII Is." from the "13" and "cts." on the 13c. stamps, and were not entirely removed. The same peculiarities are found on the 5c. on all varieties of paper, but the first issue on heavy white paper are slightly shorter than the later printings, probably caused by the heavy paper shrinking in printing."

Then follows the

TABLE OF VARIETIES OF 5C. STAMPS.

Stamps are numbered from left to right and commence with the top row.

No. 1. Figure 5 in right upper corner has a line projecting from down stroke of 5, forming a v. Dot above F of five can be traced down some distance, is a fine line.
No. 2. Line extending through the word "Honolulu," which is continued as a line across the bottom label, a similar line shows through part of the word Hawaiian Is., being noticeable as connecting "Ha" together and crossing the I and extending under the s of "Is."
No. 3. Dot on marginal line under left foot of "F."
No. 4. Line crossing H of Honolulu above bar of H. Line to right of serif of last "l" of same word. Line connecting s of "Is" with frame.
No. 5. Right figure 5 same as on No. 1.
No. 6. No foot to bottom of F of "Full."
No. 7. A diagonal dash under dot below s of "Is."
No. 8. Dot at back of left figure 5. Faint line extending entire length of stamp at right side.
No. 9. Normal.
No. 10. Faint line crossing "lulu," most noticeable when crossing last "u," a continuation of it also crosses top of 5.
No. 11. H of Honolulu not crossed.
No. 12. Slanting line extending down from frame 1 mm., above space between "Five" and "Cts."
No. 13. Normal.
No. 14. Dot on lower marginal line 1½mm. from left.
No. 15. Fine dash above and between "aw" of "Hawaiian."
No. 16. Dot on bottom marginal line 2 mm. from left. Faint outer line outside left margin of stamp.
No. 17. Faint double line at bottom.
No. 18. Similar to No. 14, but dot a trifle further from left.
No. 19. Faint traces of line through "Honolulu," the H of which is without cross bar. Dot above bottom marginal line 2½ mm. from left.
No. 20. Faint slanting line after the word "FIVE."

# Notes and News.

### Fiasco de Gama.

It is officially announced that the Vasco de Gama issue of Portuguese stamps has entailed a loss to the postal authorities of something like £500. Another proved result of the S.S.S.S. revolt. A witty writer in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* suggests that the issue shall be known as the "Fiasco de Gama." Agreed!

### Australia and Imperial Penny Postage.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M P., has received cable advices to the effect that the question of including the Australian colonies in the Imperial penny postage scheme will probably be settled very shortly in a satisfactory manner. The sole obstacle which hindered their adhesion in 1898 was the fact that their own postal rate inland was twopence, and therefore it would be impossible to charge one penny to England. It will involve a large sacrifice of revenue to inaugurate a penny postage throughout Australia on January 1 next, but the Press and several of the Governments are prepared to make the sacrifice, and the spirited action of the Hon. J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General of New Zealand, in establishing universal penny postage has forced the hands of his neighbours.

### A Surinam Curiosity.

Mr. J. W. Jones has shown us a new provisional "1 cent" in black on the 2½ cent rose, head of king series. This is in reality the resuscitation of a stamp with a history. So long ago as 1892 a collector then travelling in Surinam visited the Governor at Paramibo, and wickedly suggested that it would be a grand idea if he could have a special new issue to take home to England with him. The Governor took the bait, and after certain formalities certain sheets of the 2½c. king's head stamp were duly surcharged "1 cent" in violet black. Some were passed through the post to afford evidence of their bona fides, and the owner brought the rest of the stock to England and sold them to Mr. J. W. Jones, then acting for Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. They were duly chronicled and sold in the course of business. Copies eventually found their way back to Surinam, and then the fat was in the fire. The Governor and Postmaster repudiated their offspring. A gentleman claimed to frank a letter with the stamps, but the Post Office officials refused to pass them. Now, after the lapse of eight years the same type of surcharge on the same stamp makes its appearance. What does this mean? Is it a compromise or an official checkmate, or is this another gay collector-traveller issue?

### Parcel Post to Australia.

From July 3, 1900, parcels can be sent to Australia (including British New Guinea) *via* Marseilles, Brindisi, or Naples, arriving a week sooner than if sent all the way by sea.

Parcels intended for the overland route must be posted in London not later than Tuesday afternoon and in the country in time to reach London not later than midnight on Tuesday.

The postage to be prepaid on parcels weighing not more than one pound is 2s., and for each additional pound or fraction of a pound 6d.

### Sale of South African War Stamps.

Mr. J. C. Stevens, the well-known Covent Garden auctioneer, recently held a sale of South African War Relics. Several lots of postage stamps included in the sale seem to have fetched extraordinary prices.

We quote the following notes on the sale from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"A complete set of Orange River V.R.I.'s comprising ½d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. (carmine), 6d. blue, 1s., and 2s. with raised dots and the "2½d." on 3d. blue with level dots, realised £4. The 6d. had thick V. A pane of 60 1d. violet, 2nd print, showing thick V's, realised 18s.

Six sets of 6, unused, ½d., 1d., 2d. 3d., 6d. and 1s. were sold separately, bringing 6s. each.

A similar set, with 4d. and 5s. added, brought no less than 30s. It is interesting to note that these two sets are being supplied by our Colonial Market at 4s. 2d. and 16s. 6d. respectively! A block of 12 1s. red brown, V.R.I. was bid up to £2. Nine V.R.I.'s, face value 6s. 5½d., on entire envelopes, brought the fortunate owner 35s.

Only three lots containing Transvaal V.R.I.'s were offered, the most interesting being No. 138, described in the Catalogue as "V.R.I." Transvaal, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d. and 6d. used, on original envelopes with field-post postmark. A fair price would have been 8s. or 10s., but it realised 26s.

COMMANDO BRIEF STAMPS.

Two lots of the orange "Boer Commando-Brief" stamps were offered. Lot 146 containing four specimens sold for £3, and Lot 145 with two Commando Briefs and two "Baden-Powells" brought £4.

BADEN POWELL STAMPS.

The number of "small heads" offered greatly outnumbered the "large heads" of the latter, three specimens, dated May 7th, realised £8 5s.; and an unused specimen, £4 4s.; a single copy, small head, 32s. 6d.; ditto, faded grey, 30s.; ditto, used, fair, 25s.

CYCLIST STAMPS.

These were rather more numerous than the Baden-Powell heads, and averaged about 20s.

MAFEKING BESIEGED STAMPS.

A set of 17, all used on May 14th, realised £21, and a very fine lot of nine unused was keenly bid for till it reached 31 guineas. Another set of 20, used, brought £33 10s.

Lot 121, an envelope franked with four 3d. on 1d. Cape, five 1d. on ½d., and five 6d. on 2d. British Bechuanaland, all single copies, arranged round the envelope, brought £13 13s.

Lots 122 and 123, each containing five 1d. on ½d. Cape, were knocked down for 30s. and 21s., notwithstanding that they were stated in the auction room to be forgeries!"

**V.R.I. Stamps.**

The V.R.I. surcharged stamps are just as popular as ever in the Philatelic market. The great number of varieties in the Orange River Colony series has served to keep up the sales to the English collectors, so much so that there have been few to spare for foreign markets. As a rule prices are ranging at more reasonable rates, but considerable amusement has been created by one dealer's advertised quotations for the first printings, *i.e.*, the level stop series. They are somewhat scarce, but the prices referred to are away up in the clouds. Probably the first printings are worth double and possibly treble those of the latest settings, but 50s. for the 5s., 4s. for the 1d. and so on, can be but a joke.

The Transvaal V.R.I. stamps are selling at about double face. All values have been plentiful from the first. Large numbers of all values were overprinted right away. This has been well known from the start, and the statement that the surcharge will shortly be changed is trade bunkum, intended to hurry up buyers.

The "Orange River Colony" overprint on the Cape 2½d. is a surprise. Although a large quantity was overprinted it is said to be already obsolete, but a good supply has been received by London dealers, and the price is not likely to go beyond 9d. or 1s. for some time — if at all. There are practically no varieties.

Mr. Castle professes to have received information of the "credible" variety, that there must be a "break" and a settling down in V.R. and V.R.I. varieties. If this refers to later issues it is not *very* startling, but if it refers to old issues Mr. Castle must have written it with his tongue in his cheek and a wink out of the tail of his eye.

# Notices.

**Subscriptions:**—In future please order from your Bookseller or News Agent.

All Editorial Communications and all inquiries concerning Advertisements must be addressed to Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, 28, Birdhurst Rise, Croydon, England.

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THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

NOVEMBER, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

THERE is a growing feeling among serious Philatelists that the collection of minor varieties shows a decided tendency of going too far. And we heartily agree. Here is what Mr. J. W. Scott, the veteran dealer of New York, says in his *Metropolitan Philatelist* :—

**The Collection of Minor Varieties.**

"The collection of minor varieties is a waste of time and money. The result is useless and unmeaning as a collection to show to strangers, and is about the only way in which money can be wasted in the purchase of stamps. Take for instance the 1p. Bahamas 1882 issue, 1p. vermilion, of which there are two different perforations, the 14 catalogued at $2.50 and the 12 at 20c., a dealer buying a thousand at first hands will certainly find some of the scarce ones there ; he sells at catalogue or the same proportion of catalogue as the common one. If the purchaser of the perf. 14 should attempt to resell the stamp he would doubtless be offered 10c. for it. Moreover, the dealer would be perfectly justified in making this offer ; it cost him this price originally, the additional sum charged being the expense of examining the thousand stamps for the dozen specimens he found, and as he found sufficient to supply all his wants, there is not the slightest reason for his paying an additional sum for a stamp of which he has ample stock, but if the collector had bought a distinct stamp, say the £1 brown for the same money, he would probably be offered $2 for it, because it is readily saleable."

But Mr. Scott goes on to say, "If you desire to make an interesting collection which will appreciate in value instead of decline, buy only distinct stamps and drop all varieties of watermark and perforations which in the hands of small collectors are a snare and delusion." In this view he will probably find very few competent and sane Philatelists to agree with him. Varieties of watermark, such, for instance as the C.C. and C.A., are amongst the most interesting distinctions in all the range of stamp collecting.

We hold, however, that it is high time serious journals and serious Philatelists combined to taboo such varieties as ordinary broken letters that occur in the wear and tear of printing large numbers of a surcharged issue. The astute dealer will, of course, pick them out to tickle the palate of the omnivorous and gullible collector, but we hope our contemporary Philatelic journals will join us in our determination to exclude them from the recognised chronicle of legitimate varieties.

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**Saba: A Mare's Nest.**

Some wiseacre, or—worse, has been endeavouring to persuade gullible stamp collecting flats that Saba is just as free and independent as San Marino, and that the inhabitants could raise a fine revenue by a separate issue of stamps. Possibly this item of news is a kite to ascertain whether stamp flats are sufficiently gullible to swallow a manufactured issue.

A reference to the usual authorities to be found in any good library will, however, reveal the fact that Saba is part and parcel of the Dutch West Indies, and is, therefore, eminently unsuitable for any projected bogus issue. The island, which lies to the north-west of St. Christopher, is described as consisting of a single volcanic cone rising 1,500 feet above the sea. Steps lead from the shore to a height of 800 feet, where, within the ancient crater, the settlement has long been established. The inhabitants, who number nearly 2,000, grow fruit and vegetables, which they sell to other islands.

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**The Month's New Issues.**

The New Issues which we are enabled to announce this month are of more than passing interest, for they seem to mark important departures. Turks Islands have been supplied with a new series, all of which break away from the monotonous stereotyped De la Rue design and give us instead a sailing ship. The Cayman Islands, under the jurisdiction of Jamaica, are to have a separate postal issue. Two values have already been prepared and sent out for issue. Greece has issued its first surcharged stamp, a 20l. on the 25l. blue, and we hear that it is the forerunner of others. It is to be hoped they will all be free from the taint of official speculation. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* tells us that a new permanent set is in preparation for the Philippines. Some of the low values are to have a view of the Bay of Manila, others a map of the Archipelago, and the high values will have an historical subject.

# Stamps of the Transvaal.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

## Reference List and Guide to Values.

### The Second Republic.

(*Continued from p.* 226.)

1894-5. Wagon with shafts.

New design, engraved and printed at the Dutch Government printing offices at Haarlem. A so-called fault in the design is the two shafts to the wagon instead of the disselboom, characteristic of the Boer wagon. The 1s. value of this series has been accounted a scarce stamp, but its scarcity has been more apparent than real. Before its issue the so-called defect of two shafts in the design had been discovered, and some folks imagined from this that only a small quantity of the 1s. value, then printing, would be struck off. Consequently, the issue was largely bought up and hoarded by speculators on the spot, and a temporary scarcity was thus set up. Fancy prices were asked and paid for copies. But the artificial scarcity has not been maintained, and the stamp is now probably fully priced at 15s. unused, and 9s. used. Perforation 12½.




Type XX.

| Perforated 12½ | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| ½d. grey | 0 0 6 | 0 0 6 |
| 1d. carmine | 0 1 0 | 0 0 4 |
| 2d. bistre | 0 1 0 | 0 0 6 |
| 6d. blue | 0 3 6 | 0 0 9 |
| 1s. green | 0 15 0 | 0 9 0 |

1895. Wagon with pole.

The previous design was slightly altered to remedy the so-called fault of two shafts to the wagon, now giving the wagon a disselboom or pole. Otherwise the design does not seem to have been interfered with, and therefore cannot be described as redrawn. The 5s. and 10s. values promise to be the scarcest stamps of this series. The 5s. especially is very scarce unused, and is probably underpriced at £2. Perforated 12½.




Type XXI.

| Perforated 12½. | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| ½d. pearl grey | 0 0 3 | 0 0 3 |
| ½d grey | 0 0 3 | 0 0 3 |
| 1d. rose red | 0 0 6 | 0 0 2 |
| 2d. bistre | 0 0 8 | 0 0 4 |
| 3d. mauve | 0 1 6 | 0 0 8 |
| 4d. olive black | 0 1 9 | 0 0 9 |
| 6d. blue | 0 2 0 | 0 0 6 |
| 1s. green | 0 10 0 | 0 1 6 |
| 5s. slate | 2 0 0 | 0 7 6 |
| 10s. brown | 1 10 0 | 0 5 0 |

1895. Provisionals.

In the early part of this year further provisionals were issued, as follows:—

"Halve Penny," Type XVIII. in capitals and small letters, in two lines, with bar above and below, surcharged in red on 1s. green, wagon with pole. A curious error is the spelling of the word "Penny" "Pennij." This occurs once on each sheet, but is said to have been discovered and corrected before many sheets had been printed. The normal surcharge is also found inverted, but I have not heard of the error inverted. A double surcharge is chronicled, but I have not heard of a clear double impression. Perforated 12½.




Type XXII.

"*1d.*," Type XXII., in large italics, surcharged in green, on the 2½d. violet of 1885, with bar below obliterating the original value.

There are two minor varieties of this surcharge, one in which the "d" is somewhat wider apart from the " 1," and the other a square instead of a round stop. The surcharge also exists inverted. Perforated 12½.




Type XXIII.

6d. rose, Type XXIII., fiscal, rendered available for postal purposes by overprinting it with the word " Postzegel " in green. The necessity for this peculiar stamp has never been very apparent, and there were strong suspicions at the time that speculation by officials had something to do with its issue. There certainly were somewhat curious dealings in remainders of the issue.

| | Unused. £ s. s. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| Halve Penny in red on 1s. green of 1895 .. | 0 0 4 | 0 0 3 |
| 1d. on 2½d. violet of 1885 .. .. | 0 0 6 | 0 0 4 |
| 6d. rose pink, fiscal .. .. .. | 0 2 6 | 0 2 6 |

Surcharge Inverted.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Halve Penny on 1s. green of 1895 .. .. | 0 10 0 | 0 6 6 |
| 1d. on 2½d. violet of 1885 .. .. | 0 7 6 | —— |

Error: " Pennij " instead of " Penny."

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Halve Pennij on 1s. green of 1895 .. .. | 1 10 0 | —— |

1896. Bi-coloured series.

The postal authorities of the South African Republic are said to have agreed with the Cape Colony and the Orange Free State to issue a series of stamps in which the various values should be of uniform colours for all three countries, the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. to be in the Postal Union colours. In conformity with this agreement the colours were all changed as follows. The design remained unaltered, but a variety was introduced in the printing of the value on every stamp in green. Perforated 12½.

Perforated 12½.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ½d. green .. .. .. .. .. | 0 0 3 | 0 0 2 |
| 1d. carmine and green .. .. .. | 0 0 3 | 0 0 2 |
| 2d. brown do. .. .. .. | 0 0 6 | 0 0 4 |
| 2½d. blue do. .. .. .. | 0 1 0 | 0 0 4 |
| 3d. purple do. .. .. .. | 0 1 6 | 0 1 0 |
| 4d. sage green do. .. .. .. | —— | 0 1 0 |
| 6d. lilac do. .. .. .. | 0 1 9 | 0 1 0 |
| 1s. ochre do. .. .. .. | —— | 0 0 6 |
| 2s. 6d. purple do .. .. .. | —— | 0 4 0 |

## Second British Occupation.

1900. June 18. South African Republic stamps overprinted V.R.I.

After an interregnum of nine years of Boer rule the Transvaal once more becomes a British Colony. Once more its issues are overprinted with initials asserting the dominance of British rule. Once more, and ere long, stamps with the Queen's head will probably be again in circulation.

On the 18th June, 1900, the British Army under Lord Roberts having entered Pretoria and taken over the Government of the Transvaal, the military authorities overprinted the stock of postage stamps of the South African Republic which fell into their hands with the letters V.R.I. All values seem to have been plentiful except the 5s., 10s. and £5, which are of the 1895 issue. Perforated 12½.




Type XXIV.

Overprinted V.R.I.

| Perforated 12½. | Unused. £ s. d. | Used. £ s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| ½d. green .. .. .. .. .. | —— | —— |
| 1d. carmine and green .. .. .. | 0 0 2 | —— |
| 2d. brown do. .. . | 0 0 2 | —— |
| 2½d. blue do. . .. .. | 0 0 4 | —— |
| 3d. purple do .. .. .. | 0 0 5 | —— |
| 4d. sage green do. .. .. . | 0 0 6 | —— |
| 6d. lilac do. . .. .. | 0 0 8 | —— |
| 1s. ochre do. .. . | 0 1 0 | —— |
| 2s. 6d. purple do .. .. .. | 0 4 6 | —— |
| 5s. slate .. .. .. . .. | 1 10 0 | —— |
| 10s. brown .. .. .. .. | 1 10 0 | —— |
| £5 green .. .. .. .. .. | 8 0 0 | —— |

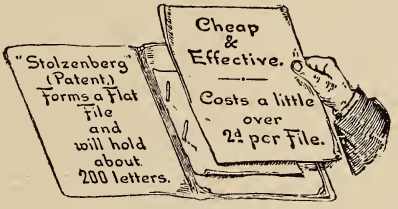
(*Concluded.*)

# A New Idea in Albums.

**By the Editor.**

WE refer to the evergreen question of albums for the purpose of giving publicity to a new and cheap form that should commend itself to those Philatelists who want a movable leaf album of an inexpensive kind.

Some time ago we stumbled across what is known as the Stolzenberg File, and we purchased a few for business purposes. It has been such a success that we have even adapted it for stamp purposes. After trying it for a few countries at first we were so pleased with its great convenience that we forthwith adopted it wholesale, and have now over a hundred of these neat, simple little files in use for general collection purposes, and before long we expect to have over 300 in use.




The File consists simply of stout manilla covers in large quarto and octavo sizes. The octavo is the size of the *Philatelic Record*, and is the size we are using. Each File has very pliable metal spikes or clips affixed to the back cover. Holes are punched in the leaves of paper, which are then threaded on to the metal spikes, and afterwards folded down, holding the leaves securely. Any leaf may be removed, or changed, or new leaves added with the greatest ease.

As leaves, we have had a quantity of paper, ruled in squares, cut to size. Each File costs, if bought singly, twopence, and paper of good quality can be had for about 1s. 6d. per 100 leaves. Supposing one leaf be given to each issue, one book with 25 leaves will serve for a country with 25 issues at a cost of about 6d. per File. But the cost will be still less if the stamps are closed up in the usual style. Even without crowding, a File with 25 leaves would take a group of countries aggregating 50 separate issues, or series of stamps.

A Stolzenberg File Movable Leaf Album at sixpence on these lines cannot fail to give entire satisfaction. It is not to be beaten for portability, neatness, cheapness, adaptablility, convenience, and ease in working.

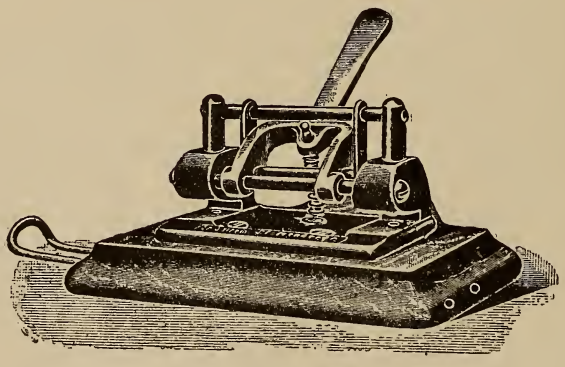
For the specialist, the File will come as a real boon and a blessing. He can rearrange his stamps to his heart's content without wasting expensive album leaves, and he can open out, or condense, his collection with the greatest facility. He can give a separate cover to each country, or, if he be of an economical turn, he can crowd whole groups

of countries into a twopenny File, for each File will accommodate from 50 to 100 leaves, according to the thickness of the paper used. Each leaf will take 40 stamps and then not be so crowded as many collections we have seen. A File with 100 leaves and 40 stamps to the page would accommodate a collection of 4,000 stamps, and the cost would be for the cover 2d., and for the paper 1s. 6d., total 1s. 8d. for a movable leaf album to take a 4,000 collection. That is looking at it solely from the economical point of view. We should recommend 25 to 40 leaves in each cover, and 24 to 35 stamps per page, *i. e.*, six rows of four, or seven rows of five stamps.

Again, the methodical specialist may have his covers, or Files, in different colours, and allocate separate colours to separate groups, or, if he be a general collector, he may have a distinctive colour for each of the four great continental divisions.

The Files or covers are obtainable from the Stolzenberg Patent File Co., Dashwood House, New Broad Street, London, in sample sets consisting of six Files, assorted colours—3 quarto and 3 octavo size—for 1s. 6d. post free, and the paper with quadrille lines may be got through any good stationer. We got ours from Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., 35, Bucklersbury, London, E.C., who cut up to size to our order a paper ruled in squares, or as we Philatelists call it, quadrille, which they keep in stock for the use of surveyors. It is a superior quality paper. Plain paper can of course be had from any stationer, cut to size, for considerably less.

We have no interest whatever in either File or paper, and have set out the full addresses in order that our readers may go direct to the source of supply.

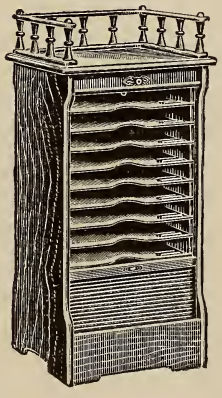


The Perforator.

Perforators are supplied for punching the holes in the leaves and ensuring regularity, at 4s. 6d. each. The Files are sold in quantities, the octavo size at 15s. per 100, and the quarto size at 22s. 6d. per 100. They may be kept in drawers in the ordinary way, or the luxuriously inclined may have cabinets sold by the Company with roller shutters and locks in walnut for four guineas. But the Stolzenberg Co. will send catalogue with full particulars of files and cabinets upon application.

The suggestion of applying the Stolzenberg File to stamp album purposes does not emanate from the makers; indeed, they will probably be somewhat surprised at its novel application. We simply give our readers the benefit of a new idea for albums which we find more serviceable and workable than any other that we have tried. Not the least of the many advantages that recommend the File to us is the entire absence of friction. The leaves are firmly held by the clips and there is, therefore, no play, and consequently, no friction.

Another useful purpose which the File may serve is the facility which offers for keeping memoranda and notes about the stamps in the same covers with the stamps themselves. The true Philatelist studies his stamps, and when he comes across anything new in relation to the stamps of his favourite country he carefully makes a note of it. Such notes are more likely than not to get mislaid or lost if kept loose in the ordinary movable leaf album. In this File they can be threaded on the clip close to the stamps to which they refer and so be always handy for reference. New light is continually cropping up on old issues. The ordinary collector reads and passes on. The specialist reads, marks, learns and inwardly digests the new information. This new idea in movable leaf albums will help him to methodically preserve all such information for future use.



The Cabinet.

# Notable Philatelists.

## Mr. Emil Tamsen.

MR. EMIL TAMSEN is a German who for many years previous to the present war had been settled in business at Nylstroom as a general merchant. He was a naturalised citizen of the South African Republic, and has seen much of its stress and storm. In the struggle of 1881 he was roused up in the middle of the night and had to decide right off which side he would espouse. He chose that of the English, and forthwith shouldered his rifle and found himself one of the garrison that held Pretoria. After the war he settled down at Nylstroom, and gathered together a very successful business. The eve of the present struggle found him in England endeavouring to negotiate the sale of his large collection of Transvaals and other countries. He eventually placed it in the hands of Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper, and hurried back to his family in the Transvaal, full of conflicting fears. He did not wish to be commandeered, for he had no part in the quarrel; but he was a citizen for business purposes, and he knew he had to face the music or have his home ruined. So he left for the Transvaal. Since then we have heard nothing of him, but trust that he has come through safely.

He has established a strong claim on Philatelists for the excellent work he has done in clearing up all kinds of difficulties that stood in the way of classifying the interesting issues of the Transvaal. After much industrious research amongst the official papers in the archives of the Government of the South African Republic, he unearthed all that was material to enable him to satisfactorily classify the hitherto conflicting issues. He has given us the official documents, the numbers printed, and chapter and verse for most of his conclusions. So that to-day, with the aid of larger and more complete collections, we are now enabled to almost reduce even the early issues of the First Republic to something approaching the A.B.C. of Philately.

His collection was a very fine one, for he had had exceptional opportunities. He bought out the contents of the Dead Letter Office, and in ransacking the contents he added treasure after treasure to his collection. His collection was rich in used, but badly off in unused. The greater portion of it has been sold. The plums are all gone, and if Mr. Tamsen is still in the land of collectors of things terrestrial he will benefit very largely by the increased prices which most of his gatherings have realised.

Before Mr. Tamsen came upon the scene the stamps of the Transvaal were almost a sealed book to even the studious specialist, for of many things we could make neither head nor tail. Mr. Tamsen has changed all that. He has helped us with official documents and with conversations with postal officials, which has placed the further study of those most interesting issues upon the solid basis of official facts and figures.

## Notable Philatelists.



Mr. Emil Tamsen.

# Our Discussion Forum.

## THE IDEAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

**III. By Wilmot Corfield,**
*Hon. Sec. Philatelic Society of India.*

THE Ideal Philatelic Society should be named "The Imperial Philatelic Society," and aim to become *the* representative and legislative Philatelic Association of the English speaking peoples (other than the American) of the world.

Its headquarters should be in London, its Rooms open to members and duly accredited visitors at all reasonable hours, and its Reference Library (well catalogued) maintained in a state as nearly bordering on perfection as possible. In Philatelic centres, such as Birmingham, Manchester, Calcutta, Sydney, and Johannesburg, rooms and libraries should also be established.

The entrance fee should be large enough to cause members to set a real value upon membership, and the annual subscription for London residents double that for residents elsewhere. Trumpery entrance-fees and insignificant subscriptions may bring in a few more members, probably of the wrong sort, but must in the end spell disaster to any society relying on them.

The Society should own its own printing presses (this would mean the subscription of capital, so for convenience it should be floated as a "limited company" under the Companies' Acts"); it should produce its own albums, catalogues, and magazine—*The Imperial Philatelist*—but should strictly refrain from dealing in stamps themselves.

More importance should be attached to publications than to meetings, but Exhibitions, or at any rate displays, should be always encouraged, and, wherever possible, should be open free to the public.

The Rules and Bye-laws should be most carefully framed in the first place and rigidly enforced on all. The duties and responsibilities of every office should be clearly defined so as to obviate the clashing of offices. The Rules of "Exchange" Clubs should be uniform for all circles, lucidly expressed, and invariably enforced to the minutest degree. Members would thus learn to attach importance to the rights of fellow collectors holding property in the circle.

An impresh from London should be placed at the disposal of each circle-secretary for current working expenses, but the profits on the working of each circle should be credited periodically to the Society's general funds. All circle-secretaries should be required to submit returns from time to time, prepared in a form decided upon by a central exchange committee, to a secretary-of-secretaries, at head-quarters. These forms should set forth the transactions of the circle

for the period, report all shortcomings whether of members or secretary, and record all cash transactions as are agreed upon principle. The contents of the Report need not necessarily be for publication in the magazine, but might prove on occasion extremely useful as a safeguard for the successful working of the circle and as a record of its progress.

By these means a strong representative working organization might be obtained in lieu of the many more or less feeble bodies of associated Philatelists that now exist, chiefly remarkable individually for much waste of power, and even collectively unable to perform other than limited or ineffective service to collectors.

Philately must mend her ways if she is to hold her own as a practical pursuit much longer. Philatelic dilettantism that merely dawdles or trifles must go by the board. There is work to be done. The National collection must be kept alive, for collectors by collectors, and readily available to all would-be students. An agitation should be started for placing it in a specially designed gallery in a new portion of the South Kensington Museum. Handbook catalogues are required on the issues of *all* stamp issuing countries, published under conditions favourable to the issue of new editions at least every five years, and *of course* making no pretence whatever to being guides to values. The general collector must be recognised as the back-bone of Philately, not patronized as merely an amiable but rather assinine accumulator by the purse wielders of our ranks. The worship of extreme niceties in the surcharge (the curse of Philately) and the perforation must be abandoned absolutely. The cult of the inverted hyphen and the eccentric dot must go. If we don't exterminate them they will exterminate us, and it would be far pleasanter to preserve Philately as a sane pursuit for sane men and women than to see it destroyed by dots, hyphens, and misprinted portions of letters. And above all, the sentiment that a Philatelist collects for the love of the stamps themselves, and not for the money to be made out of them, must be cultivated and perpetually propagated. An Imperial Society could work wonders in these directions—but it must know its own aims and the limits of the arena in which it can successfully operate. With workmanlike Rules, a statesmanlike Executive, honesty of motive, and a high sense of loyalty to itself, such a body would draw most Philatelists worthy of the name within its borders, thus assuring the supply of the sinews of war without which it could not, of course, continue. There is room for an Imperial Society—there are collectors enough to maintain it as a splendid permanent success. Leaders are wanted, and leaders must be looked for in London.

# Army Post Office in South Africa.

THE following is an extract from a report of the Officer Commanding the Army Post Office in South Africa, showing some of the difficulties under which the postal service has been conducted :—

"I should like to take this opportunity of reporting generally on the subject of the many uncalled-for complaints which have been made from time to time in connection with the work of the Army Post Office.

The South African and Natal Field Forces are distributed over practically the whole of the Cape Colony, Natal, the Orange River Colony, and the Transvaal, and the organization of these forces, although nominally in divisions and brigades, is constantly changing. Then there are the unattached units, colonial troops, Militia, Yeomanry, Volunteers, local forces, special service officers, and details too numerous to mention, which are for ever on the move. Apart from this, every unit has detachments left at different points, sick and wounded in hospital, base details, with officers and men attached to units other than their own. Altogether, it is not an exaggeration to say that 20 per cent. of the letters, newspapers, and parcels for the troops require to be redirected at the base and at the various advanced depôts on the lines of communication. To do this satisfactorily and completely is practically a matter of impossibility, especially as the units and individuals are by no means careful to notify their changes of station, and even after letters have been redirected the addressees have, in a large number of cases, again removed before their letters can reach them.

When it is remembered that mails, after being sorted at the base and depôts, have to be sent as much as 1,200 miles by slow train and wagon services, it is not to be wondered at that occasional delays occur, particularly as so much of the correspondence is badly addressed in the first instance. Again, units are being constantly reorganised and renamed—in some cases as many as five or six different times—resulting in a corresponding variety in the modes of address at wrong periods. Another frequent cause of delay arises in the interruption of railway communication consequent upon the cutting of railway lines, necessitating the accumulation of mails at railhead, and the slow distribution by ox or mule wagon for, perhaps, 60 or 80 miles by road. It has, moreover, sometimes been necessary to suspend the mail service for weeks at a time, owing to the superior claims of supplies and ammunition upon the transport. Between the date of leaving Bloemfontein (April 25th) and reaching Pretoria (June 3rd) the Army travelled faster than the mails could follow, and the same thing happened in the advance from Modder River to Bloemfontein in March.

These difficulties, I may say impossibilities, in the conduct of the Army mail service are not taken into consideration by the less intelligent members of the Army and their correspondents at home, who expect that the service shall be conducted precisely on the same lines as at home, where there is an established system serving a fixed population living at definite and permanent addresses.

In the matter of parcels, about which there has been so much criticism of the postal arrangements, I should like to point out that the Post Office Corps has had to bear the blame of shortcomings for which it is in no way responsible. I allude to the War Office agency for the distribution of parcels, with which the Army Post Office Corps has no concern. The fact, however, that the Post Office carries these parcels to Southampton has been sufficient to saddle the Corps with the responsibility for delivery in the eyes of the troops, and I fear no amount of representation will ever disabuse the Army of this idea.

I can only say that every possible care is taken with the parcels which pass through the Army Post Office, and delivery to post orderlies of units duly effected. It is remarkable, however, that very few parcels are returned to the field post offices re-addressed or as undeliverable, and I can only suppose, therefore, that many of them are pilfered after being handed to the orderlies. In many instances parcels for officers and men, who are in hospital or otherwise detached from their units, are retained by their comrades and friends, doubtless in the belief that their relations with the rightful owners justify their action. . . . Were the owners informed accordingly, perhaps much complaint would be avoided, but our experience is that the owners receive no notification of the fate of their parcels, which they presume have been lost in the course of post."

# The "Republic" of Formosa.

*From "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News."*

W. F. GREGORY, New York City, has shown us a leaflet, entitled "Postage Stamps of the Republic of Formosa; the Republic of Formosa and the issue of Postage Stamps by the Black Flag Chief, Liu Yung-Fu, as a Government Revenue."

The history of the issues of the vicarious republic is written by "James W. Davidson, correspondent with the Japanese army," and it bears the imprimatur of the *Daily Press Office*, Hong Kong. These Formosa "stamps" were discussed at the time of their appearance and were rejected by the cataloguers; consequently, the following excerpts from the leaflet, which bears in ruled spaces three stamps of the second issue, are to be invested with historical rather than philatelic value:

"The reign of Liu, the Black Flag Chief, dates back to the early days of June, 1895, when President Tang made his escape from

Taipehfu, the northern capital, to avoid a conflict with the Japanese, who landed on Formosa and were advancing on the capital to take possession of their newly-acquired dominions, which, at the conclusion of the war between Japan and China, had been ceded them as a condition of peace, but which the former Governor Tang and the literati had refused to acknowledge. In consequence, a republic had been established, with Tang Ching Sung as president. The foreign powers were notified, officers were elected, and many natives enlisted as soldiers, which, combined with the mainland forces which still remained, gave an army of considerable numbers.

"As the Japanese troops advanced, the soldiery retreated, and the officials, flying to the mainland, the capital Taipehfu fell without opposition. But as there was no sign of an immediate attack on the south of the island, the Chinese considered it weakness on the part of the Japanese, and the literati and others of the big southern city Tainanfu organized into a so-called parliament, and elected Liu Yang-fu to the presidency of the 'republic,' which they determined should continue."

Naturally, the progressive officials of the "republic" hit upon the issue of stamps as an ideal means to raise revenue. "The stamps bear the characters on the top 'Formosa Republic;' on the left, 'Stamp Paper,' or Sitan, the phonetic rendering for stamp; on the right is the denomination; in the centre is an emblem of the late republic—a tiger. One of the several methods adopted by the president to raise money to support the so-called republic was by forcing all Chinese in his territory to use the republican mail service, when carrying on communication between villages or with the mainland. Proclamations were posted that postal agencies would be established in Amoy, Swatow, and Hong Kong for distribution of letters bearing the republican stamps. Two issues of these took place, the first impressed from a locally cut silver die, was on a thin tissue paper, unperforated. About 5,000 only of these were issued. The colours were green, violet and red. The die was then melted, and attempts made to have a more perfect one stamped. Failing this, a new die was obtained from Canton, and a new issue of stamps impressed from the Canton die made. These were also in three colours, blue, violet and red, but all were perforated. The face value of the different stamps was for both issues, 3, 5 and 10 cents respectively. It should be noted that the legitimate manufacture of stamps ceased with the existence of the republic." This republican institution was completely shattered by the Japanese army, by October 21st, 1895, after an existence of nearly five months; the enterprising Liu, with numbers of his officers, escaped capture; perhaps to again found a republic somewhere, and add to the joy of philatelists by the issue of numerous stamps composed of awe-inspiring hieroglyphics.

# Sedang and its Stamps.

*From "The Far East," by Henry Norman.*

ONE of the most remarkable romances of modern Eastern history is connected with these French colonies. In the spring of 1889 there appeared at Hongkong a tall, well-built Frenchman, with a bushy brown beard and very long legs, who called himself Marie David de Mayréna, and distributed visiting cards with the words "S.M. le Roi des Sédangs" printed upon them. He had had an adventurous career in the Far East, in the course of which he had more than once displayed great personal courage in guerilla warfare. At last his wanderings brought him to the region of the Sedangs, a tribe inhabiting part of the Hinterland of Annam, a region not so well known then as it has since become. By these people he had been elected king, and of the genuineness of his election there can be no doubt whatever. He was at first recognised by the French missionaries and the French authorities, and I have myself seen correspondence and treaties which establish his claim beyond question. Of these treaties there were a score signed between Mayréna and the chiefs of the different tribes (here follow extracts from some of the more important). . . . . I should add that I give these details not only for their romantic interest, but also because when Mayréna was thrown over by the French authorities and the missionaries, he was pooh-poohed as a common liar, and now that he is dead and the whole strange adventure at an end, I take pleasure in showing that he was not wholly an impostor, in spite of his vanity and his follies. . . . .

When Mayréna first turned up at Hongkong, he was vouched for by the French Consul and introduced by him to everybody, including the Governor, in consequence of which his social position was sealed by an invitation to dinner at Government House. At this time he was an astounding figure, when in his Royal attire. He wore a short scarlet jacket with enormous *galons* on the cuffs, a broad blue ribbon, a magenta sash in which was stuck a long curved sword worn across the front of the body, white trousers with a broad gold stripe, and a white helmet with a gold crown and three stars. He distributed broadcast the "Order of Marie I.," beginning with the captain of the little Danish steamer *Freyr*, in return for the hoisting of his royal standard in Haipong harbour, and continuing with the Governor of Hongkong, who was caused no slight embarrassment in getting rid of the impossible ribbon and cross. He used notepaper with a huge gold cross and coat-of-arms upon it, gave large orders for jewellery, and conducted himself generally like a crowned head. . . .

Mayréna succeeded in getting a few Hongkong merchants to enter into an arrangement with him, by which he conceded to them the right of developing the country of the Sédangs, in return for certain

duties upon trade and exports. But the collapse came, of course, when the French authorities changed their policy and took a line of direct opposition to him. Even the missionaries, who had enabled him to secure the treaties of which they themselves were the official witnesses, denounced him as an impostor. He then offered himself and his country to the British, who would naturally have nothing to do with him, so he next tried the Germans, and was actually indiscreet enough to send a telegram to Berlin in open German, offering his allegiance, forgetting that this must pass through a French office in Saigon. Of course it was read, and reported from there, and orders were issued for his arrest. He believed that he was condemned to be shot for high treason, so he went to Europe by the German mail steamer, a few of his acquaintances in Hongkong passing the hat round to pay his passage. After he had left, the police succeeded in recovering most of the jewellery he had purchased and failed to pay for. A man of this stamp, however, is never very long without money, and after spending some time in prison in Ostend for debt, he next turned up in Paris and lived there in luxury for a while, the French press not being quite sure what to make of him. Finally he returned to the Far East, settled down with one male companion and two or three female ones on an uninhabited island off the coast of the Malay Peninsula, where a cobra brought his strange career to an end by biting him on the foot. All that remains of "Marie I., King of the Sedangs," is the set of postage stamps he issued, which are among the most prized curiosities of the Philatelists.

Such is the true story of "a man who would be king," and it is perhaps worth telling as an illustration of the fact that even in these late days there may be as much romance in reality as in fiction, at least in the wonderland of the Far East.

[Philatelists will be greatly amused to learn that the Sedang stamps are "among the most prized curiosities of the Philatelists." As a matter of fact they had but a brief existence before their character was exposed.—Ed. *P.R.*]






*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**British Honduras.** — Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that a 5c. grey-black and blue, on pale blue paper, has been issued in the current design.

*Adhesive.*

5c., grey-black and blue, on pale blue paper.

**Cayman Islands.** — This is a new comer for Philatelic favours. The islands are three in number, and are about 180 miles west of Jamaica. They are under the jurisdiction of Jamaica, but it is apparently now thought they may raise a little of the needful by issuing a separate set of stamps instead of using those of Jamaica. So Messrs. Bright inform us they are about to make a start with ½d. and 1d. values. The design is that used for the Straits Settlements' 1c. and 3c.

*Adhesives.*

½d., green.
1d., red.

**India.** Orcha State.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a letter received from the Postmaster of this State, dated Orcha, Tikamgarh State, Bundelkhund, 2nd September, 1900, informing them that they "can take the postage stamps of this State as much as you require on advanced payment, and no discount is allowed on any cost."

**Malta.**—We learn from Messrs. Bright & Son that the long-talked-of farthing stamp has been prepared and sent out. For design it has a view of the Grand Harbour.

**New Zealand.**—The *Monthly Circular* says it is reported that the 3d. stamp, already chronicled as locally printed on unwatermarked paper, has been re-engraved and printed with the new watermark. We believe it will be found that all but the large size stamps will be re-drawn in the smaller size of the re-drawn ½d., 1d., 2d. and 4d.

**Straits Settlements.** Federated Malay States — We believe we have omitted to chronicle some of the values overprinted "Federated — Malay States." We therefore give the list up to date.

Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that the dollar values have been sent out in same colour and design as before, but with the name incorporated in the design instead of being overprinted.

*Adhesives.*

*Overprinted "Federated—Malay States" in two lines, in black.*

*On Negri Sembilan stamps.*

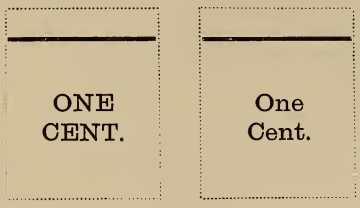
1c., lilac and green.
2c., ,, brown.
3c., ,, black.
5c., ,, olive.
10c., ,, orange.
20c., green and olive.
25c., lilac and carmine.

*On Perak stamps.*

10c., lilac and orange.
1 dol., green and pale green.
2 dol., ,, carmine.
5 dol., ,, ultramarine.
10 dol., ,, ochre.

Messrs. Bright now send us some fresh surcharges in the shape of a provisional 1c. The 2c., 4c. and 5c. values of Perak, head of tiger type, bi-coloured series have been overprinted "One—Cent" in two lines. On the 2c. and 4c. the overprint is in capitals and small letters, but on the 5c. the overprint is all in Roman capitals. A bar obliterates the figures in the upper labels of value. Mr. J. W. Jones has sent us a 3c. on 50c. in the capitals and small letters type.

We cannot say whether this provisional serves for the Federated Malay States or for Perak only, but we presume as the States are now federated that it will be common to all. Perhaps some correspondent on the spot will kindly inform us what is the status of these provisionals. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. state that this is an issue for Perak exclusively.




*Adhesives.*

1c., in black, on 2c. lilac and brown.
1c., ,, ,, 4c. ,, carmine.
1c., ,, ,, 5c. ,, ochre.
3c., ,, ,, 50c. black and green

A contemporary has chronicled these provisionals with the overprint "Federated Malay States." The stamps before us have no such overprint, and we presume our contemporary is in error.

**Niger Coast.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 5d. value watermarked C.A., which completes the C.A. series as follows:—

*Adhesives.*

*Watermarked, crown C.A*

½d., green.
1d., orange vermilion.
2d., lake.
2½d., blue.
5d., purple.
6d., yellow brown.
1s., black.
2s. 6d., olive.
10s., deep violet.

**Orange River Colony.**—Mr. J. W. Jones signals a minor variety on the ½d. V.R.I. in the shape of smaller figure "2" in the fraction. The figure "1" in the fraction has no top serif, and both figures are distinctly of a smaller fount. This variety is the third stamp in the seventh row of each pane, in the raised stops and thick V setting.

The same pane contains another minor variety: the bottom corner stamp has a level stop after "V", all the rest of the stops in the sheet are of the raised setting.

Of the surcharged Cape of Good Hope 2½d. there are said to have been 240,000 printed.

**Queensland.** — Mr. J. W. Jones has received a 2s. value of the current 1s. type. The colour is a peculiar blue green.

*Adhesive.*

2s., blue green.

**Transvaal.** — The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the 1d. overprinted "V.R.I." with the letter "I" dropped considerably below the level of the other letters, so that the stop after it is half-way up the letter.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have shown us the £5 value overprinted V.R.I This completes the series.

Messrs. Bright & Son have received the 2d. value overprinted "V.I.R." Their agent informs them that only 200 were printed before it was found out, and the majority of these were destroyed. This error occurred once in the sheet.

*Adhesives.*

£5, green.

*Dropped "I."*

1d., carmine and green.

**Turks Islands.**—Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that an issue has been prepared and sent out to this colony by Messrs. De la Rue. The design is a sailing ship in an oval frame. The values, from ½d. to 1s. inclusive, are of the ordinary size, and the high values, 2s. and 3s., are of a larger size, similar to the Falklands 2s. 6d. stamp.

*Adhesives.*

½d., green.
1d., rose.
2d., black brown.
2½d., blue.
4d., orange.
6d., violet.
1s., purple brown.
2s., violet.
3s., brown lake.

## Foreign Countries.

**Argentine.**—The *London Philatelist* says it is expected that the 10 cents and 30 cents values will soon change their colours, as at present they are considered to be too closely akin in colour to other values in the set. The 16c. has been withdrawn.

**China.**—The current 10c., deep green is said to have been changed to lilac.

*Adhesive.*

10c., lilac.

**Crete.**—It is stated that a series of unpaid letter stamps has been ordered in England, consisting of eight values:—1, 5, 10, 20, 40, 50 lepta, and 1 and 2 drachmae. The colour is to be bright red for all the values, and the design is to be a hunting horn surmounted by the crown of Prince George, the value being placed in the centre of the horn.

**Germany.** Kiao-Chow.—The *Monthly Journal* has received specimens of the

"5 Pfg." on 10 pfg., issued at Kiao-chow, and finds that there are at least two varieties of type of the overprint, one having a narrow figure "5" and letters of ordinary roman type, while the other has heavier figure and letters. The total width of the former is 11 mm., that of the latter 11½ or 12 mm.

According to the *Monthly Circular* there are three types of the surcharged numeral "5"—(1) broad; (2) medium; and (3) narrow, arranged on the half sheet as follows:—

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

The original value "10" seems to have been crossed out with a blue pencil.

The *M. C.* learns that the provisional was used from May 9th to May 25th, at Tsingtau (Kiao-Chow) only.

**Greece.**—We have received the 25l., blue surcharged "ΔΕΠΤΑ—20," in two lines in Greek characters and tall numerals. This is the first surcharged provisional ever issued by Greece. The surcharge is found on stamps imperf. and also perf. 11½.

Mr. J. W. Jones has sent us several very distinct shades of the perforated stamp. These, he informs us, represent the remnants of various emissions that were returned to the Treasury at the time of the issue of the 25 lepta, violet. He has also found the 20 lepta imperf. vertically in the ultramarine shade, and horizontally in the indigo shade.

*Adhesives.*

*Imperf.*

20l. in black, on 25l., pale blue.

*Perf.* 11½.

20l. in black, on 25, bright blue.
20l. ,, ,, 25, ultramarine.
20l. ,, ,, 25, deep ultramarine.
20l. ,, ,, 25, indigo.

**Italy.**—Mr. C. de Grave Sells sends *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* the following cutting from an Italian newspaper:—"The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs has laid before King Victor Emanuel some proposed types of the new postage stamps, but although he was pleased with the stamps themselves he did not approve his effigy as shown on them, and promised to give the Minister a portrait which he could copy for these stamps, so that it will be some little time before the plates are taken in hand."

**Norway.**—A correspondent has shown the *Monthly Journal* three varieties of the 20 öre, *blue*, of 1883-4. The total heights of the stamps are 20½, 20, and 19½ mm., and the first is variety (i.) of the Catalogue, having a larger figure "2" at foot, while the second and third are sub-varieties of (ii). Possibly, adds the *M. J.*, there are numerous variations in the size of the stamps, and the figure will be found the principal point of distinction.

**Persia.**—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 5 chahi stamp of 1899, on *white* paper, surcharged with an undecipherable rectangular device, partly covering two stamps, and said to be issued provisionally owing to the stock of 5 chahi on *greenish* paper having run out.

*Adhesive.*

5 ch., yellow on *white*; violet *surcharge.*

**Philippine Islands.** The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says, "It is stated that a new permanent set of this colony is in preparation. The 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10c. are to have a view of the Bay of Manila; the 15 and 50c. a map of the Archipelago, and the $1, $2 and $5 an historical subject."

**Portuguese Colonies.**—The *Monthly Journal* states that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, in rearranging their stock of these Colonies, have found a good many varieties which are not included in the new catalogue. The *M. J.* gives them under their various headings with the numbers which they should bear as follows:—

*Angra.*—Add to 1897-8 issue—
(*b*) *Perf.* 12½.
38. 500 r., black on *azure.*

*Azores.*—1883-7 issue.
(*a*) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—158*a*. 50 r., blue.

*Cape Verde Islands.*—1893-5 issue.
(*b*) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—78*a*. 50 r., pale blue on *cream.*

*Funchal.*—1892-3 issue.
(*c*) *Perf.* 13½.
Add—50 r., pale blue on *cream.*

*Lourenzo Marques.*—1895 issue.
Add—20*a*. 80 r., pale green.
1898 issue.
Add—(*b*) *Perf.* 13½.
36*a*. 100 r., blue on *blue.*

*Macao.*—1898 issue.
Add—(*b*) *Perf.* 13½.
138*a*. ½ avo, grey.
138*b*. 1 ,, orange.

*Madeira.*—1876-80 issue.
(*a*) *Perf.* 12½.
Add—84*a*. 50 r., blue.

**Roumania.**—Mr. J. W. Jones has shown us the following uncatalogued perforations:—

*Adhesives.*

Thick wove paper, wmk. P.R.

*Perf.* 11½.

5 bani, emerald.
10 bani, rose red.
15 bani, black.

*Compound Perfs.*

5 bani, emerald, perf. 11½ × 13½.
10 bani, rose red, perf. 11½ × 13½.
15 bani, black, perf. 11½ × 13½.
15 bani, black, perf. 13½ × 11½.
25 bani, light blue, perf. 13½ × 11½.

**Samoa.** — *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies* states that the stamp catalogued by Scott as No. 25, 2½d., black surcharge on 1d. green is not known to exist. This variety is not catalogued by Gibbons.

# Philately in the Mags.

### The Pony Express, U.S.

The following personal reminiscence of the Pony Express is quoted by the *Metropolitan Philatelist* from the *Anaconda Standard*, U.S :—

"It was in the latter fifties that Senator 'Duke' Gwin, of California, represented to my father, Alexander Majors, then an extensive Government freighter on the wild, Western plains, that if father would establish a pony express line from the Missouri River to Sacramento, Cal., and maintain it for a year or two, so as to demonstrate that the heavy snows of the Sierra Nevadas were no bar to continuous travel the year round, he (Senator Gwin) would vouchsafe that the Government would not permit of its being a financial loss to father. After many interviews, various estimates on the outcome and repeated solicitations on the part of Senator Gwin and other Pacific Coast men, my father finally concluded to make the venture.

It required $100,000 in gold coin to establish and start the line. It was equipped with the best quality of Western-bred horses, cow-boy saddles, bridles, and spurs. The stations with supplies for man and beast were built and stocked about every ten miles, to supply the relays of horseflesh, the most daring spirits were engaged to do the riding, and on April 3, 1860, the race against time, floods, Indian arrows, and dangers began.

Ponies started simultaneously from St. Joe, Mo., and Sacramento. On the morning of that day our Butte townsman, John McCormick, was a passenger on the railroad train running from Hannibal, Mo., to St. Joe. That train carried the mailbag, already made up, for California. It will be remembered that there was no telegraph line at that time connecting California with the East. Mr McCormick tells the writer that when his train reached the station, with 'Ad' Clark, a trusted railroad engineer, who still handles the throttle on some Eastern road, pulling the train, an enormous multitude of people was gathered at the station to see the first pony receive his mail and begin the long and perilous journey. The clanging bell and snorting locomotive had subsided into silence as the untamed steed and his bronzed rider, Johnny Frye, dashed alongside the mail car. Uncle Sam deftly tossed the mailbag astride the horn of the saddle, and away went the rider in a whirlwind of dust. Only an instant of time was required to reach the ferry, a short distance from the old Pattee house, so well known to all old Westerners; the muddy, sullen Missouri River was soon crossed, and then the dash for Sacramento began in earnest.

Many blood-curdling events occurred during the brilliant career of the pony express. Riders were shot off their horses, and the animals would run into the stations unattended, but bearing Uncle Sam's precious mail. The ponies were shot or disabled under the riders, and the latter would grab the mail pouch and run for dear life for the next fresh horse. A brief epitome of the many such occurrences would fill volumes.

The attention of the whole country was directed to and excited over the inauguration of the pony express. It is stated that on the date the first pony was to arrive in Sacramento the whole city turned out as if a public holiday were to be celebrated, with blaring bands and rattling drums, ready to receive the first messenger over the line, and that a wager of $100,000 had been made between some moneyed men as to the arrival on time. As the schedule time drew near the vast multitude stood on the outskirts of Sacramento, with watches in hand, all eyes strained looking up the emigrant road. A light cloud of dust was seen in the distance, rising over parts of the road, where curves obstructed the view. The bands started up, the cheering began, and just ten minutes before the appointed time the bronzed rider, begrimed with dust and heat, his pony's nostrils distended like two flared pint cups, and puffing like a belaboured engine, drew sudden rein in the midst of the throng. He was at once surrounded, cheered, and congratulated, and he and his pony were bedecked in wreaths and flowers —veritable heroes of the hour. The relic fiend was present, as well, and it is further related, to the shame of the crowd, that every hair of the pony's tail was pulled out on the spot, as mementos of the occasion.

Within sixty days from the time it was agreed to undertake the enterprise, the first two ponies faced each other in the long race, although they were 2,000 miles apart at the start. The regular running time over this distance was ten days, or 200 miles every twenty-four hours, over the whole time of the existence of the work line without a single failure. To do the work of the pony express required between 400 and 500 horses, about 190 stations, 200 men for station keepers, and 80 riders. The average ride per shift for a rider was 33⅓ miles. In doing this task each man rode three ponies on his part of the route; some of the riders, however, rode much greater distances in times of emergencies."

Amongst the survivors of the old pony riders, the writer includes Buffalo Bill, the noted Capt. Cody of the Wild West Show fame. He is credited with having covered 384 miles on one occasion.

### The Manufacture of French Stamps.

Until 1871 the French stamps were manufactured at the Mint, says *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*. The manufacture was then carried on provisionally at the Bank of France and the Rue d'Hauteville, and in 1895 it was removed to its own large premises on the Boulevard Brune. The staff consists of 190 men and boys and 60 women. There are 28 printing, 3 large gumming, and about 60 other machines. The paper is delivered in white sheets. A book-keeper verifies the quantity, and perforates each sheet six times on the margin facing each of the six panes of 50 stamps to be printed. This special perforating mark is used in place of the old hand-stamp "T.P. Contrôle," which was easily forged. The sheets of paper are then sent to the head of the printing department, where they are again counted. In fact, they are counted 11 times before they are delivered to the administration of the Post Office.

The next room is used for making the plates. The matrix consists of a hollow steel punch, which does not contain the figures of value. From this 15 leaden blocks are made, which are coated with copper by the bath and then sent to the engraver, who draws and engraves on them, in the spaces left for this purpose, the values from 1 centime to 5 francs. From each of these 50 copies are made and arranged in two groups of 25 stamps. This plate of 50 blocks constitutes the original plate, which is used, not for printing, but for reproducing similar plates. The stamps are printed in two half-sheets of 150 stamps for each value; it is, therefore, necessary to make at least six plates of 50 blocks. Good plates of this nature will print up to 250,000 copies.

In the printing room the paper receives a typographical imprint in the colour of the ground special to each value. The machines always print two sheets of 300 stamps at the same time, more often two different values. At the time of printing the following are added to each half-sheet of 150 stamps:—(1) At the top a cross; (2) four broad lines to cancel the horizontal margins, so as to make it impossible to print imitations on these squares of paper, which are gummed and perforated; (3) the figure denoting the date, placed in the vertical margin between each group of 25 stamps; (4) on the lower margin several groups of figures in one line indicating the day of printing, the number of the printing press, and the name of the workman. As soon as the printing is finished the stamps are gummed, which was done formerly by hand. Now this process is done by a machine with indiarubber rollers.

The sheets are then taken into the perforating room. The perforating machines are worked by steam. The first were imported by Hulot, from England; those at present in use are built in France, but very similar to the originals. At the very most six sheets are perforated at the same time. It is a comb machine, and rises and falls 18 times before a sheet is completely perforated.

### Cuba "Y¼."

The controversy of years ago concerning the meaning of the surcharge "Y¼" on the early stamps of Cuba has been revived and columns have been written on the subject in an American contemporary. Major Evans, in the *Monthly Journal*, now explains as follows for the benefit of those who have not read, or have forgotten, what appeared so many years ago:—

"Everyone who knows anything whatever about Spanish is, of course, aware that "y" means "and." Probably everyone who has studied these stamps was aware of that fact, and if there had been any possibility that the value of the stamps in question was 2¼ reales, there would never have been any controversy about them. The whole difficulty lay in the fact that the value was ¼ real only. This was stated from the earliest days to be the case, and it was fully proved by the official history published some years ago. The idea that "Y" stood for "Ynterior" is a very old one, improbable no doubt, but it was possible that the word had been spelt in that way locally. There seems to be no doubt, however, that this was not the case, and the true object of the use of the letter "Y," or word "and," has never been authoritatively explained. The history of the stamps, in brief, is as follows: The letter-carriers in Havana and other large towns in Cuba had been accustomed to receive a gratuity from those to whom they delivered letters, and this was recognised as an addition to their salaries. At a certain date (we have not our books at hand to refer to, so cannot quote exactly) this system was abolished, and an additional charge of ¼ real was made for each letter or packet delivered. For prepayment of this charge ¼ real stamps had to be provided, and they were made by converting the 2 reales stamps, that being the value least in use. It seems possible that the letter "Y" was intended to denote that the charge was an extra one, an additional ¼ real above the ordinary rate of postage."

### Speculation in V.R.I. Issues.

Lieutenant Castle, writing on August 1st from Potchefstroom, where he had been in hospital with a slight attack of rheumatism, alludes, in a letter quoted in the *London Philatelist*, as follows to the mania for buying up the new South African Colonial issues:—

"I haven't seen any Transvaal stamps here at all. There seem to be no stamps at any of the post offices we have passed. You see, other troops have in nearly every case been there before, as the song goes, and they have cleared out all the post offices. Everybody, from general down to drummer-boy, is *stamp mad*. The first question an officer asks, if he meets you, is, 'Have you got any Transvaal stamps surcharged

V.R.I.?' or with great glee he says he managed to get the 6d., red, Orange Free State, with V.R.I. on it.

"Everybody tries to buy stamps, and I am afraid that those who speculate in the 'War' issues will burn their fingers, as all the fellows out here think that they have only got to keep the stamps a few days and then they will get enormous sums for them. When they all come to unload, I expect the market will have some difficulty in assimilating so many stamps."

### Samoa: Provisional 2½d.

After the death of King Malietoa, various provisional 2½d. stamps were issued, the first of which being the 2½d. black on 1s. rose. The surcharges of the succeeding varieties, 2½d. on 1s. rose, 2½d. red on 1d. blue-green, and 2½d. black on 2s. 6d. purple, all came in three different types, each type 40 times on the sheet, and always the three types together on every strip of three.

*Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*, a San Francisco Philatelic *multum in parvo*, now announces that "in looking over the stock of these surcharges, our publishers find that the same variety exists also on the 2½d. black surcharge on 1s. rose, which was not known heretofore," and adds, "Presumably this is a second printing, and done with the same plate that was used for all other surcharges."

### Holland: Early Issue Sheets.

The make-up of sheets, especially of early issues, will always interest the keen Philatelist. Hence we quote the following from Mr. Thiele's "Notes on Sheets of Stamps," contributed to *The Adhesive*, an American contemporary:—

"The first issue, that of 1852, was printed in sheets of 100, consisting of four panes of 25 in five rows of 5, the panes being arranged 2 x 2. The gulden having 100 cents, each sheet represents 5, 10 or 15 gulden respectively. The 1864 issue was printed in sheets of 200, 20 rows of 10 each; this is also the arrangement of the 1867 issue. The so-called newspaper stamps of 1869 show two arrangements: the 1 and 2-cents are printed in sheets of 150, in 15 rows of 10, while the ½, 1½ and 2½ cents come in sheets of 200, 20 rows of 10. It seems odd to use two different arrangements for the same issue; still the sheets figure up easily either way, being of the following values per sheet:

½ cent—1 gulden.
1 cent—1.50 gulden.
1½ cent—3 gulden.
2 cent—2 gulden.
2½ cent—5 gulden.

The 1872 issue is printed in sheets of 200, 20 rows of 10, for all values except the 2½ gulden, which is printed in small sheets of 50, five rows of 10. If I am correctly informed, these two arrangements have been followed since then, the lower values of each issue being printed in sheets of 200, the gulden values in sheets of 50. An exception is made in the case of the 1-gulden Coronation stamps, which was issued in sheets of 25, five rows of 5; it seems to me that I have lately read of this stamp now being printed in sheets of 40, but at this writing I cannot lay my hands on the paragraph in question. All the postage-due stamps of the Netherlands and Colonies are printed in sheets of 200, 20 rows of 10. The sheets of the second type are of interest because of the arrangement of the four type varieties on the same sheet, which was not always the same. The Dutch Society's book on the Stamps of the Netherlands and M. Moens' exhaustive monograph on the same give diagrams of each setting, to which I refer those anxious to reconstruct sheets."

### Canada, 1893-5: 8c. purple.

In the *Canada Stamp Sheet*, a new-comer, a writer, referring to the 8c. purple of the the 1893-5 series, says:—

"There are three varieties of this stamp, the slate, the lilac grey and the purple. The first and second tints are comparatively common, but the purple is not found in every dealer's stock nor has it a place in many stamp collections. In fact it is a variety but little known to the average collector, from the fact that it is seldom offered, either on approval sheets or on the counter of the dealer. There ought to be no difficulty in distinguishing this stamp from its mates of the same denomination, for while the backs of the rest present a white surface, in this case the back or paper is of a decidedly purplish hue. In my opinion this stamp is a good one to pick up now, as its present value is far below its intrinsic worth."

Gibbons's Catalogue takes quite an opposite view, and puts the purple variety lowest of all in price, thus:—

| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8c., blue-grey, .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 8c., slate .. .. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 8c., purple-black .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

### Hawaii: 1853 5c. Correction.

In our list of varieties quoted from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* last month (p. 234), No. 6, described as "No foot to bottom of 'F' in 'Full,'" should read "No foot to bottom of 'E' of 'Five.'"

# Notes and News.

### Mafeking Forgeries and Cape Police.

The following astounding letter is from the *Cape Times*. After reading it one is sorely tempted to ask whether the Cape Police are in collusion with the forgers. Their extraordinary apathy certainly lends colour to the suspicion.

"Sir,—With reference to your cable in this day's issue about the discovery in London of the forged Mafeking besieged stamps and the opinion that these forgeries were made here, I think the following simple statement of fact will rather surprise the public:

That these stamps were forged has been known here for some time. The forgeries are not confined to the Cape stamps: all, excepting the Baden-Powell and bicycle stamps, as far as I know, have been forged. It is now four weeks since I presented myself at the Cape Town Police Station and gave the police the most ample particulars. A detective was sent round with me, and, in fine, the police were furnished with:

1. The names and interviews with several firms and private individuals who had been swindled, and who were willing to identify the original vendors of the forgeries.

2. The names and interviews with several stamp experts (holding responsible positions) who were willing to testify to the forgeries.

3. The address and description of the three people who had palmed off the forgeries, and who were at their place that day. One gentleman offered to accompany the police to the place and identify the people there and then. (The manufacturing plant might have been seized if prompt action had been taken.)

It will thus be seen that here the proper officials were not in the dark. Judge of my surprise when a week elapsed and nothing came of it. I went to the Police Station several times, but could get no information whatever—the parties who had the case in hand were out and would not be in until after six o'clock. I wrote the Chief of the Police, as I considered that after working up the case for the police or public, I was surely entitled to know what was being done. I got no reply. After a week's delay I wrote again, and got a neat snub in answer, viz., that the matter was under investigation. Well, perhaps this meant that the forgers were under watch aud would be pounced on at the most opportune moment, so I decided to remain quiet, feeling nevertheless that I was not well treated. And so the matter has drifted on to this day. If not yet decamped, the forgers are not as astute as I reckon them to be. The gang consisted of three foreigners—a woman and two men; they made over £100 to my knowledge; in addition to this they must have made many hundreds out of unsuspecting visitors and residents of the Colony anxious to secure such unique mementoes of the heroic defence of Mafeking. It may be that the law of this Colony does not look amiss on roguery of this character, and that the swindled parties should seek a civil remedy, in this case of no value. But this is not so; the forgers, to give greater similitude to their handiwork, imitated the Mafeking postmark in addition, and it is clearly laid down in the Post-office Act here that such an offence is punishable with seven years. Was not this sufficient?

In the meantime forging goes on merrily here, the latest being a current stamp of the Orange River Colony, but I am reluctant to put myself where I can again be sat on, and will do nothing. Forging postage stamps has a good chance of becoming one of the few well-established industries of the Cape.
—I am, etc.,—R.T.A.I."

August 17th.

### Stamp Illustrations in Canada.

Our excellent contemporary, the *Montreal Philatelist* is to be congratulated upon its stand in the question of the right of Philatelic journals to publish illustrations of postage stamps. In its September number it states that in defiance of the official intimation that "the *imitation* of any postage stamp issued or used by this or any other country is a criminal offence," the editor refused to relinquish what he believed to be his right, and undertook the risk of a prosecution. The Postmaster-General, being no doubt better advised, did not prosecute. Philatelists, the wide world over, should back each other up to secure and protect this invaluable and harmless privilege.

### Orange Free State, 1877: "4" on 6d. rose.

Can any reader give us any particulars as to the setting of the five types of the surcharge of "4" on the 6d. rose? It was issued in 1877, and collectors in South Africa regarded the smallest "4" as the scarcest, whereas Gibbons quotes the largest type as the rarity. Our experience agrees with Gibbons. The make up of the sheet would be most interesting now that so much attention is being devoted to the old issues of the Orange Free State.

### Universal Penny Postage.

Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., writes to the *Times*:—I have just received from the Hon. J. G. Ward, M.P., Postmaster-General of New Zealand, a letter confirmatory of his telegram announcing the introduction of not only Imperial, but universal, penny postage, so far as that colony is concerned, from January 1st next. When Mr. Ward's telegram arrived there was some doubt as to the extent of the reform. He has, however, sent me the following extract from his annual report, which sets the matter at rest:—

"It has been determined to introduce a universal penny letter-post in this colony from January 1st next. The beginning of the new century will fittingly mark the event, which should give widespread satisfaction, and prove an epoch in the history of the colony. New Zealand will by this reform be placed in the forefront of the civilized countries of the world. Not only in the colony but throughout the Empire the penny post will be hailed as an inestimable boon. Judging from the enormous increase in the volume of correspondence which has followed the cheapening of postage rates in New Zealand in the past, only a few years should elapse before the financial loss incurred at the outset is largely, if not entirely, made up."

The question will arise, what would it cost England to lead the van, as she did in free trade, and establish universal penny postage?

The number of letters written by the people of the United Kingdom last year was as follows:—Delivered in the United Kingdom, 2,246,800,000; posted for foreign countries, 48,000,000; posted for India and the colonies, 12,000,000. Even at the highest estimate we should lose 1½d. each on the postage of 50,000,000 of letters—that is 75,000,000d., or £312,500—half the cost of a warship.

All sensible people and men of the world who desire to establish friendly relations with France, Germany, and Russia will smile when they see us sending letters for 1d. each to New Zealand *via* France and yet charging 2½d. for a letter from Dover to Calais.

### The Future of Fiji.

It is said that Fiji will be incorporated in the colony of New Zealand, and with that view the Premier of New Zealand intends to submit to his Parliament resolutions for extending the boundaries of the colony, "the annexation of islands in the Pacific being contemplated."

### Bright's New Catalogue.

Messrs. Bright & Son inform us that the 1900 edition of their A B C Catalogue will be ready early in November. It will contain about 50 additional pages and some 500 new illustrations. It will be published at the same popular price of 2s. 6d. as before.

### Mafeking Siege Stamps.

The following are particulars and prices of Mafeking Siege Stamps sold by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper, on the 11th October, 1900:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| The set of 19 complete, of which 7 are used on pieces of original, all are in fine condition, excepting the 6d. on 3d. lilac British Bechuanaland which is torn | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Another complete set, 6 are used on pieces of original, and all are fine | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| 1d. on ½d. Cape, 1st type (3), 1d. on ½d. Cape, 2nd type (4), 1d. on ½d. Bechuanaland Protectorate (2), 3d. on 1d. ditto (8), 6d. on 2d. ditto (4 of each type), 6d. on 3d. ditto, 6d. on 3d. lilac British Bechuanaland (3), 1/- on 4d. British Bechuanaland (4), and 2/- on 1/- ditto (2), all fine, and 23 are used on pieces of original | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| 1d. on ½d. Cape, 1st type, 3d. on 1d. Cape, 6d. on 2d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, surcharged in fancy type, and 6d. on 3d. lilac, British Bechuanaland, all unused, with gum, and very rare | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 1d. on ½d. Cape, 1st type (pair), 1d. on ½d. Bechuanaland Protectorate (pair), and 6d. on 3d. lilac British Bechuanaland, all used on pieces | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| 1d. on ½d. Cape, 1st type (pair and single), 3d on 1d. Cape (pair), and 6d. on 3d. lilac, all used on two pieces | 2 | 17 | 6 |
| 1d. on ½d. Cape, 1st type, and 1d. Bicycle stamp, a horizontal pair of each, used on pieces | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| 3d. on 1d., Bechuanaland Protectorate, and 6d. on 2d. ditto, both surcharged in the smaller type, and used together on piece | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| A similar lot, also 6 1d. V.R.I. Orange Free State stamps, one with thick V | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 3d. on 1d. Cape, 3d. on 1d. Bechuanaland Protectorate, 6d. on 2d. ditto, 6d. on 3d. lilac, and 1/- on 4d. Bechuanaland | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| A similar lot, but 1d. on ½d. Cape, 1st type, instead of 3d. on 1d. Cape | 3 | 12 | 6 |
| 6d. on 3d. lilac, British Bechuanaland, a fine horizontal pair used on entire, addressed to Bristol | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| 1/- on 6d. British Bechuanaland, defective, very scarce | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 1d. blue on blue (bicycle), a very fine block of four | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| A single specimen of 3d. blue, small head | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| A similar lot | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| 3d. blue (small Baden-Powell), 2 fine specimens used on piece | 1 | 10 | 0 |

### Puttick and Simpson's Sales.

Messrs. Puttick & Simpson held their first stamp sale of the present season in their splendidly re-built rooms in Leicester Square, W.C., on September 25th, 1900. Appended are a few of the more interesting prices:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ceylon, imperf., 4d. rose, cut into on left side | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Mafeking Besieged Stamps on Cape, 6d. on 3d. magenta | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, on British Bechuanaland, 1/- on 4d. used on original | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto ditto, 6d. on 3d. lilac, unused, with gum, but slightly creased | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| Ditto, Baden-Powell 3d. blue, small head, used, on small piece | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Ditto, the complete set of 19, used, on small pieces of the original | 33 | 0 | 0 |
| New Brunswick, 6d. yellow, exceedingly fine | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia, 1/- violet, very fine | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, ditto, another, in a different shade | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| United States, 1861-66, 3c. scarlet, unused, without gum | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1869, 24c., with centre riveted, partly re-perforated | 9 | 10 | 0 |

### Herts Philatelic Society.

Programme of Meetings for 1900-1901 :—

Oct. 2. Paper and Display, "The History of the German Colonies and German Post Offices in Foreign Countries and their different Issues of Stamps."—Franz Reichenheim.

Oct. 23. Special Meeting. Display, British West Indies.—W. B. Avery.

Nov. 6. Display, Buenos Ayres.—Robt. Ehrenbach.

Dec. 4. Display, Grenada.— L. L. R. Hausburg.

1901. Jan. 1. Paper and Display, "South Australia."—M. Z. Kuttner.

Feb. 5. Display, Mauritius.—Henry J. Duveen.

Mar. 5. Display and Paper, "Peru."—Thos. W. Hall.

April 2. Display, Cape of Good Hope. —Vernon Roberts.

May 7. Annual Dinner. Display, Ceylon. —Baron de Worms.

May 21. Annual Meeting. Election of Officers, Revision of Rules, Reception of Reports, etc.

Each meeting commences at 7 p.m.

### Stamps of Crete.

Crete gives promise of an interesting Philatelic future. Its first issued stamp is a rarity, and much study is being directed to the provisional issues. And now comes the news that Prince George is unwilling to accept the renewal of his functions of High Commissioner of Crete for another triennial period.

### Transvaal 1895, 5s. and 10s.

The 5s. and 10s. of the 1895 issue of the South African Republic have always been more or less scarce, but their scarcity has been most marked during the past few weeks. A prominent dealer informs us that he has been scouring the market for copies with very poor results. He says the 5s. is getting really a rare stamp. In fine condition he finds it sells readily at 50s.

### Transvaal: Queen's Head Issue, unused.

*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* recently published the following interesting table of Catalogue prices from 1891 to 1900 for unused copies of the Queen's Head issue of Transvaal :—

| | 1891. | 1893. | 1895. | 1899. | 1900. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., vermilion | 2 6 .. | 3 6 .. | 3 6 .. | 3 6 .. | 6 0 |
| 1d., red-brown | 0 6 .. | 0 4 .. | 0 4 .. | 0 6 .. | 3 6 |
| 3d., claret .... | 1 0 .. | 0 9 .. | 0 9 .. | 0 9 .. | 4 0 |
| 4d., sage-green | 1 6 .. | 0 9 .. | 0 9 .. | 3 0 .. | 12 6 |
| 6d., gray-black | 1 9 .. | 1 0 .. | 1 0 .. | 1 9 .. | 5 0 |
| 1s., green .... | 4 0 .. | 4 6 .. | 12 0 .. | 12 6 .. | 25 0 |
| 2s., blue..... | 12 0 .. | 10 0 .. | 10 0 .. | — .. | 60 0 |

The table is an interesting one. It will be observed that the drop from the inflated prices prevalent previous to 1893 has been maintained till this year. But it will be noted that undervalued stamps will assert themselves, even in a drooping market. For instance, in this table the 1s. has maintained a steady rise from 4s. to its present price of 25s.

Mr. Ewen states that "most Transvaals are to be found with 'accommodation' postmarks." The statement is utter nonsense. Instead of "most Transvaals" he probably means "some recent Transvaals."

### Decrease in Stamp Issuing Countries.

New Zealand in its turn is credited with the intention of joining the Australian Commonwealth, so that next year we shall probably be able to write "Finis" after each of the following Colonies :—

1. New South Wales.
2. Victoria
3. South Australia.
4. Western Australia.
5. Queensland.
6. New Zealand.
7. Fiji.
8. Cook Islands.

### Sale of the Dionian Collection.

The J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., send us a formidable catalogue of the sale of the collection of stamps formed by Mr. J. S. Dionian. It covers 84 pages and comprises no less than 2,089 lots. Four days will be occupied in disposing of the collection. Each day's sale commences at 8 p.m. and will presumably be carried on through all-night sittings.

# Correspondence.

### Roumanian Perforations.

DEAR SIR,—As you know, I have given up stamp collecting. In destroying my papers I have found some figures relating to some of the values of the issues of Roumania from 1890 to 1896 which may be of interest to readers of the *Record* as tending to show the relative scarcity of some of the varieties of perforation. At different times I examined many batches of those stamps, and took note of the perforation of over 20,000 specimens. I give below the numbers *per thousand* which I found of the perforations of the values named :—

*Issue* 1891 (*no watermark*)—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 bani. | Perf. 11½ .. .. | 298 |
| | 11½ × 13½ .. | 113 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 589 |
| | | 1,000 |
| 15 bani. | Perf. 11½ .. .. | 93 |
| | 11½ × 13½ .. | 150 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 757 |
| | | 1,000 |
| 25 bani. | Perf. 11½ .. .. | 76 |
| | 11½ × 13½ .. | 83 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 841 |
| | | 1,000 |

1894. *Same type, watermark P R*—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25 bani. | Perf. 11½ × 13½ .. | 29 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 971 |
| | | 1,000 |

1893-96.—*Larger stamps, same watermark*—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 bani. | Perf. 11½ .. .. | 118 |
| | 13½ × 11½ .. | 9 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 873 |
| | | 1,000 |
| 5 bani. | Perf. 11½ .. .. | 339 |
| | 13½ × 11½ .. | 14 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 647 |
| | | 1,000 |
| 15 bani. | Perf. 11½ .. .. | 446 |
| | 11½ × 13½ .. | 23 |
| | 13½ × 11½ .. | 35 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 496 |
| | | 1,000 |
| 25 bani. | Perf. 11½ .. .. | 67 |
| | 13½ × 11½ .. | 5 |
| | 13½ .. .. | 928 |
| | | 1,000 |

In the compound varieties, the horizontal perforation is, of course, given first. It will be seen that I only found one value of the 1893-96 issue perforated 11½ × 13½, and that all the other compounds were 13½ × 11½. So far as my experience may be taken as a guide, all the stamps with compound perforations of the 1893-96 issue should become scarce. I measured 2,016 stamps of 25 bani and only found 10 with the compound perforation.—Yours faithfully,

R. PEARCE.

# Notices.

**Subscriptions**:—The *Philatelic Record* will be sent, post free, to any address, at home or abroad, for 7s. per year by the Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1, Amen Corner, London, England; or, it may be ordered through any Bookseller, News Agent, or Stamp Dealers.

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THE

# Philatelic Record

*EDITED BY*

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

*Member of the Institute of Journalists.*

DECEMBER, 1900.

## Editorial Notes.

THE various Philatelic Societies have now got to work on their business for the winter session. But, with the exception of Manchester, the programmes sent us so far bear little evidence of superfluous Philatelic energy. The secretaries have to fall back on "Displays" to eke out their meetings. It does not cost much labour of brain or hand to pass round the movable leaves of a stamp album. Hence the preponderance of "Displays." The few who study their stamps are much in evidence, as ever. To them is left the work and the kudos of writing papers. Such Philatelists are, unfortunately, few and far between. Most collectors probably imagine that the ground has already been covered in all directions. They are greatly mistaken. Any specialist can formulate a long list of unsolved problems awaiting the light of further research. The energetic secretary who can get his members to study those unsolved problems and to write papers on them will do much to ensure successful meetings. Again, there are many questions upon which Philatelists are much divided. Why should not these questions form subjects for debate, with opening papers pro and con, followed by general discussion?

**Society Meetings.**

THE Manchester Programme for the Season 1900-1 is a full one, and gives evidence of plenty of energy. A new departure is the introduction of "short papers on interesting stamps." It has been too much the fashion to read long-winded and monotonous rigmaroles, commencing religiously with the first Issue and ending as religiously with the last Issue. When the attention is concentrated upon a single issue, or a single stamp, the ordinary mortal can generally carry away something of value to remember. But the man who can listen patiently and profitably to a Philatelic sermon of three quarters of an hour, that

**Short Papers on Single Stamps and Issues.**

meanders monotonously, in peculiar English, through petty microscopical varieties, must be a most stolid individual. We have witnessed the affliction, the yawns, the puzzled look, and the patient suffering, and we have wondered at "the continued attendance."

Many a member who does not feel competent to instruct his fellows in the whole gamut of the issues of a big country might often raise most interesting points concerning a separate issue or series, or a single stamp. We venture to believe that such short papers would be infinitely more profitable than the more comprehensive paper. And if members could have reasonable notice they could, and they no doubt would, get their specimen of the stamp in question ready for comparison, and would also look up its history, so as to be able to join in the discussion. The task of looking up the history of a single stamp, or issue, is a simple one compared with that of getting up the history of all the issues of a country. The one many would accomplish, the other few, if any, would attempt. In the one case, genuine research would be stimulated; in the other, mostly hopeless yawns, with an after pretence of thrilling interest and a hypocritical vote of thanks.

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**Proposed Exhibitions in London.**

In our News Notes will be found particulars of a Stamp Exhibition to be held by the International Philatelic Union on Saturday, the 26th January, 1901, in London. It will be open in the afternoon and evening of the day, and will be confined to members, who will be restricted to 50 stamps in number in each exhibit. The Exhibition will be a competitive one, with small money prizes.

There is also some talk of a special exhibition of South African Stamps being held by the Philatelic Society of London in its own rooms at Effingham House. Such an Exhibition would be immensely popular. But we trust the London Society will rigidly taboo competitions for prizes or medals of any sort. Former Exhibitions held at Effingham House did well without such unhealthy excitement.

To our thinking prize exhibitions of the fat cattle kind are derogatory to the pursuit. They give rise to undesirable competition and jealousy, and they do much to becloud and dwarf the real aims and true pleasures of collecting. Not only so, we know from experience that they are a baneful check on exhibitions. Smith refrains from exhibiting because Moneybags will put him in the shade in the matter of rarities, and the consequence is that the Exhibition is thus limited to the certain prize-winner, whereas the collection which is poorest in the great rarities may be the only truly Philatelic display.

No amount of money can make a stamp collector a Philatelist. Earnest, industrious, and close study alone can do that. There are wealthy collectors who possess magnificent collections who are in no sense of the word Philatelists. They can make up great public shows of priceless rarities, but the real Philatelic Exhibition for the enjoyment of the real Philatelist must be got up and arranged by and for Philatelists.

We should like to hear of more exhibitions by individual societies confined to groups of countries, and would suggest that each society should take up some particular group as the main study for each session, and end up with an Exhibition.

**Entires and Locals.**

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., announce that after the end of this year they propose to cease importing Postcards, Envelopes, Wrappers and Local Stamps. They will also cease to chronicle these things in the *Monthly Journal*.

For a long time the task of collecting even the adhesive stamps of the world has been considered beyond the time and means of all but the most leisured and abnormally wealthy. Hence most collectors are compelled to confine their attention to groups. How then, we have asked ourselves, if collectors are obliged to take only a portion of the adhesive stamps of the world can they be expected to give any attention to Postcards, Envelopes, Wrappers or Local Stamps? Consequently, from the first, we have recognised the inevitable, and economised our space in the *Philatelic Record* by excluding what interested so very few.

Some, however, would have us add Fiscals to the task. But, for the future, Postcards, Envelopes, Wrappers, Locals and Fiscals will have to find their own special devotees, and there is no reason why they should not form a separate branch of collecting, with journals of their own.

---

**New Issues of the Month.**

The New Issues of the month are not numerous. The ¼ anna India has been added to the set surcharged "C.E.F" for the China Expeditionary Force; Orange River Colony, having exhausted the Orange Free State stock of half-penny stamps, has once more drawn upon Cape Colony, and overprinted the Cape ½d. with the words "Orange River Colony"; Corea has produced a new series of varied designs as illustrated in our Chronicle of New Issues; the Dominican Republic has brought out a new set of uniform design in the map direction; Germany has added a surcharged set for Morocco; the Transvaal has given us the first inverted V.R.I.; and the flood of Provisionals from Greece increases in volume, and seems likely to continue in full force for some time, for we are informed that when the old stock is exhausted the current Olympians will be similarly surcharged, with the view, it is said, of distinguishing between postage which may be paid in the depreciated currency of the country and that which must be paid for in gold value, the stamps overprinted "A.M." being used for postage in gold value.

# Orange River Colony.

## Classified Reference List of "V.R.I." Issues.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

THE present seems to me to be a very opportune moment to attempt a settled classification of the V.R.I. issues of the Orange River Colony. It is better to make the attempt now while the issues are quite recent than to leave the task till the work of correction may be rendered difficult by the lapse of time, or the removal of officials and others who can at present, if they will, supply reliable evidence and correct whatever may be wrong.

I do not profess to publish an authoritative, nor even a final list. I give only the best available list from a specialist's point of view, *pro tem.*, in the hope that it will lead to discussion, and correction where necessary, and thus pave the way for a final, comprehensive and, I trust, authoritative, Reference List of V.R.I. issues of the Orange River Colony.

When the British under Lord Roberts entered Bloemfontein and took over the Government of the country they found a supply of postage stamps which they forthwith overprinted with the initials V.R.I., and put on sale.

We have at present no sufficient evidence as to the manner in which the overprinting was done. All we can say is that the first batch which reached this country was of the Level Stops setting, with certain varieties peculiar to that setting, and that what appeared to be another setting with Raised Stops followed, with varieties peculiar to that setting.

Some make up settings without end, but I prefer to simplify the Reference List by adopting what I believe will be a sufficient classification of "Level Stops" and "Raised Stops," with their several and peculiar varieties, for in all probability the Level Stops were the first setting, followed by a re-setting of the stops into what we very correctly term Raised Stops. This latter setting I believe to have been retained from its first use till now, all subsequent variations being simply corrections or minor alterations in the Raised Stop setting.

Thus in the first setting of the Raised Stops received there were in the lower half of each pane several stamps with Misplaced Stops, *i.e.*, stops in various positions, some raised and others level. These were all afterwards corrected, making each pane a correct and uniform setting of Raised Stops throughout.

The thick V is also apparently a minor rectification of the Raised Stop setting, for there were some half-dozen V's of a different fount of type which we Philatelists have designated a "thick V," because the

up stroke is thick as well as the down stroke. These thick V's were probably dropped in to replace letters which had been damaged in the wear and tear of printing.

Since the Raised Stop setting first made its appearance it has remained as the distinguishing and characteristic arrangement of the overprint. It has never once been disturbed except by way of minor corrections. There is, therefore, no reason whatever why we should further confuse an already complicated issue by designating mere corrections in the setting as separate settings.

Hence, I classify the V.R.I. issues under the two main divisions of "Level Stops" and "Raised Stops," assigning to each its several and peculiar varieties.

The Orange Free State adhesives which have been overprinted "V.R.I." are as follows :—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| "½d" on Half penny | .. yellow, | of 1897 .. | number surcharged | 1,384,800. |
| "1d" on Een penny | .. purple, | of 1894 .. | ,, ,, | 3,144,000. |
| "2d" on Twee pence | .. bright lilac, | of 1883 .. | ,, ,, | 1,231,200. |
| "2½" on Drie pence | .. blue, | of 1896 .. | ,, ,, | 19,200. |
| "3d" on Drie pence | .. blue, | of 1883 .. | ,, ,, | 1,024,800. |
| "4d" on Vier pence | .. blue, | of 1898 .. | ,, ,, | 74,000. |
| "6d" on Zes pence | .. carmine, | of 1897 .. | ,, ,, | 7,200. |
| "6d" on Zes pence | .. blue, | of 1900 .. | ,, ,, | 672,000. |
| "1s" on Een shilling | .. brown, | of 1900 .. | ,, ,, | 439,000. |
| "5s" on Vyf shillgs | .. green, | of 1879 .. | ,, ,, | 232,000. |

I give the numbers printed from the *Monthly Journal*, but they will probably need correction. The number surcharged of the 5s. value seems most excessive.

---

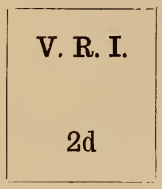
## Level Stops after "V.R.I."

The Level Stops setting comprises the following varieties :—

1. Level stops, normal.
2. No stop after "V" of "V R.I."
3. No stop after "R" of "V.R I."
4. No stop after "I" of "V.R.I"
5. Figures of value omitted.
6. Letter "d" omitted from the value.
7. Figure and letter of value omitted.
8. Letter "V" of "V.R.I." omitted.
9. Letter "I" of "V.R.I." omitted.
10. Double surcharge.
11. Large square stop.
12. Raised stop after "s."
13. Slanting or shifted "d" in value.
14. Wider spacing between "1" and "d."
15. Wider spacing between "1" and "s."
16. Wider "3" in "3d."

1. Level stops, normal. "V.R.I."

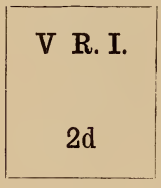
In the first lot of stamps received all the stops were in their usual place, i.e., level with the bottoms of the letters, and they were of uniform size.




½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.
2d. ,, 2d., bright lilac.
2½d. ,, 3d., blue.
3d. ,, 3d., blue.
4d. ,, 4d., blue.
6d. ,, 6d., carmine.
6d. ,, 6d , blue.
1s. ,, 1s., brown.
5s. ,, 5s., green.

2. No stop after "V" of "V R.I."

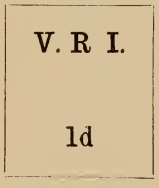
The stop was omitted after the "V" of "V R.I." in the third stamp of the bottom row of each pane. This was afterwards corrected, and during the progress of the level stops printing, for I have a bottom row of the 1d. in which the stop which was missing has been inserted, but the peculiar "V" with the serif broken on the left of the downstroke, which is characteristic of the stamp with the missing stop, is in evidence on the corrected stamp.




½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.
2d. ,, 2d., bright lilac.
2½d. ,, 3d., blue.
3d. ,, 3d., blue
4d. ,, 4d., blue.
6d. ,, 6d., carmine
6d. ,, 6d., blue.
1s. ,, 1s., brown
5s. ,, 5s., green.

3. No stop after "R" of V.R I."

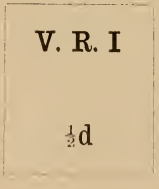
This variety has been shewn me by Mr. Menpes. It is included in his collection. So far as he knows, it only occurs on the 1d. value. Information wanting as to its position.




1d. on 1d., purple

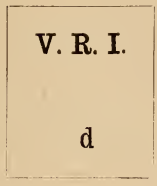
4. No stop after "I" of "V.R.I"

Information wanting as to the position of this variety.



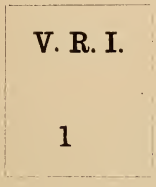

½d on ½d., orange.

5. Figures of value omitted.
Information wanting as to the positions of these varieties.



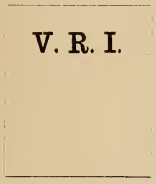

½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.
6d. ,, 6d., carmine.
6d. ,, 6d., blue.
1s. ,, 1s., brown.
5s. ,, 5s., green.

6. Letter "d" omitted from the value.
Information wanting as to the position of this variety.



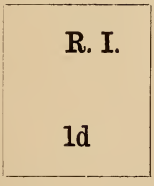

1d. on 1d., purple.

7. Figure and letter of value omitted.
This variety has been shown me by Mr. Menpes, and is included in his collection. Information wanting as to its position on the sheet.



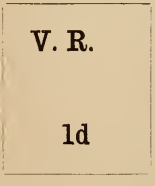

1d. on 1d., purple.

8. Letter "V" of "V.R.I." omitted.
Information wanting as to the position of this variety.




1d. on 1d., purple.
6d. ,, 6d., blue.

9. Letter "I" of "V.R.I." omitted.
Information wanting as to the position of this variety.




½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.

10. Double surcharge.

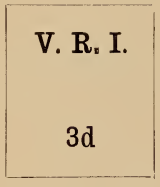
I have not seen a satisfactory copy of this variety, but it is catalogued by Gibbons. Collectors should be careful to accept nothing as a double surcharge that is not clearly two *separate* printings of the surcharge on the stamp. In rapid or careless printing the paper sometimes shifts as the press closes, and a smudgy sort of double impression results. This is in no sense a double surcharge, but it is frequently foisted off on simple-minded collectors as such.




½d. on ½d., orange.

11. Large square stop instead of ordinary round stop.

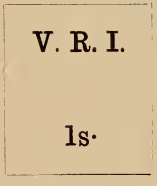
This variety occurs after the "R" of "V.R.I." on the fifth stamp of the seventh row of each pane of 60. I have seen it only in the 2½d., 3d. and 4d. values, but it probably may be found in other values.




1d. on 1d., purple.
2½d. ,, 3d., blue.
3d. ,, 3d., blue.
4d. ,, 4d., blue.

12. Raised Stop after "s·".

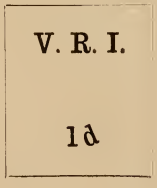
This is found only after the "s" in the 1s. value. It occurs in both the Level Stops setting, and in the Raised Stop setting, but in the Level Stop setting it is found only in the fifth stamp of the first row and the second stamp in the seventh row of each pane of 60.




1s. on 1s., brown.

13. Slanting or shifted "d" in value.

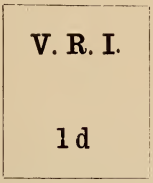
This is included in Mr. Menpes' collection. It is a battered letter, which had evidently worked loose in the press. It occurs only on the 1d. value. Information wanting as to its position on the sheet.




1d. on 1d., purple.

14. Wider spacing between "1" and "d."

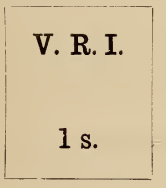
Mr. J. W. Jones has shown me a used copy of this variety, postmarked "Field Post Office," 23 March, 1900, which was posted at Bloemfontein. Its absence from sheets received in this country shows that it must have been detected and corrected very early. Information wanting as to its position.




1d. on 1d., purple.

15. Wider spacing between "1" and "s."

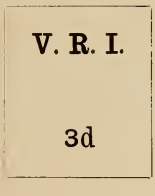
This variety has been shown me in the pane by the Earl of Crawford. It is the last stamp in the fourth row, but, curiously enough, an attempt was evidently made to correct it, for in another pane in his lordship's collection, the spacing has been reduced, but not to the normal distance of the other stamps. The wider spaced figure and letter measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm over all, and the normal only 3 mm.




1s. on 1s., brown.

16. Wider "3" in "3d."

At the moment of going to press I find I have omitted to include a wider "3" in the 3d. value, shown me by the Earl of Crawford.




3d. on 3d., blue.

## Raised Stops after "V.R.I."

In the Raised Stops setting varieties are not so plentiful. In the first setting there were many faults, such as omitted letters, figures and stops. These were corrected before the Level Stops were changed into Raised Stops. I apprehend that the Raised Stop setting was not a fresh setting, *de novo*, but simply a rectification of the Stops without otherwise interfering with the setting. In a subsequent printing a variety of the Misplaced Stops order is found in the last stamp in the bottom row of the pane of 60, in which the stop is level and large after the V, but raised and small after the R and I of V.R.I. All the rest of the pane is uniformly of the Raised Stop setting. This stamp is distinguished from the ordinary Misplaced Stops varieties by a large stop after V and small stops after R and I.

The Raised Stops setting comprises the following varieties :—

1. Misplaced stops : some level, some raised.
2. All stops raised.
3. Thick "**V**" in "**V**.R.I."
4. No stop after "V" of "V R.I."
5. No stop after "R" of "V.R I."
6. No stop after "I" of "V.R.I"
7. Shorter figure and dropped "**d**" : "**1d**".
8. Dropped "d" in value.
9. Wider spacing between "V" and "R."
10. Smaller fractional figures.

1. Misplaced Stops.

The first change from the Level Stops setting was to one which we term Misplaced Stops, in which some of the stops were raised and some level on the same stamp. Each pane of 60 in the sheet of 240 was made up as follows :—

In the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth rows all the stops were uniformly of the raised setting.

In the seventh row the stops in the fourth stamp were all level and large as in the first setting. All the rest of the row had Raised Stops.

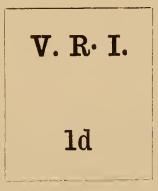
In the eighth row the stops were all raised.

In the ninth row the first, second, third, and sixth stamps had all Raised Stops. In the fourth stamp the stop was raised after "R" and level after "V" and "I." In the fifth stamp the stops were raised after "R" and "I" and level after "V."

In the tenth row the first, second, third, fifth, and sixth stamps had all Raised Stops. In the fourth stamp the stop was raised after "V" and level after "R" and "I."

Thus each pane of 60 stamps was made up as follows :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | V.R.I., all level stops ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| 2. | V·R·I·, all raised stops ... ... ... ... | 56 |
| 3. | V.R·I·, level after V and raised after R and I ... | 1 |
| 4. | V·R.I., raised after V and level after R and I ... | 1 |
| 5. | V.R·I., level after V and I and raised after R ... | 1 |
| | Making up the pane of ... | 60 |

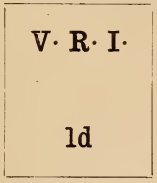



½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.
2d. ,, 2d., bright lilac.
3d. ,, 3d., blue.
4d. ,, 4d., blue.
6d. ,, 6d., carmine.
6d. ,, 6d., blue.
1s. ,, 1s., brown.

2. All stops raised.

The Raised Stops setting differs from the Level Stops setting not merely in the altered positions of the stops, but also in the size of the stops themselves. The Level Stops are large and belong to the same fount of type as the initials, but the Raised Stops, excepting the misplaced, are all small stops and belong to a smaller fount of initials. Some doubt has been not unnaturally cast upon the 6d. carmine in the Raised Stop setting, as it was given out that the stock of that stamp

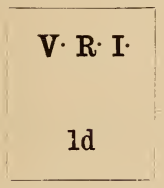
was quickly exhausted in the first printing. But Mr. Menpes, who was on the spot at the time, informs me that a small supply of the 6d. carmine came in from an outlying post office during the printing of the Raised Stops, and was forthwith similarly overprinted.




½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d , purple.
2d. ,, 2d., bright lilac.
2½d. ,, 3d., blue.
3d. ,, 3d., blue.
6d. ,, 6d., carmine.
6d. ,, 6d., blue.
1s. ,, 1s , brown.
5s. ,, 5s., green.

3. Thick **V** in "**V**.R.I."

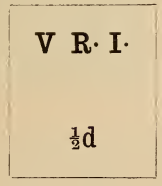
The thick **V** has been so named because the down stroke and the up stroke are both thick, whereas in the ordinary letter the down stroke is heavy and the up stroke is light. These thick **V**'s were presumably introduced to take the place of battered letters. Their positions vary in different panes. In one setting the thick **V** is the fifth stamp in the first, third, fourth, and seventh rows, and the third and sixth in the eighth row. In another setting it is the second stamp in the first, third, fourth, and seventh rows, and the first and third stamps in the eighth row.




½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,. 1d., purple
2d. ,, 2d., bright lilac.
3d. ,, 3d., blue.
6d. ,, 6d., blue.
1s. ,, 1s., brown
5s. ,, 5s., green.

4. Stop omitted after V of V R.I.

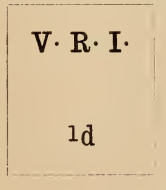
The omitted stop in the Raised Stop setting occurs in the first stamp in the sixth row, and is, I believe, confined to the ½d. and 1d. values.




½d. on ½d., orange.
1d. ,, 1d., purple.

5. Short figure "1" and dropped letter "d"

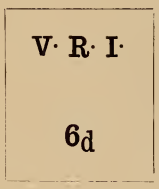
This variety is the fifth stamp in the top row of the pane of 60. The short figure belongs to a smaller size fount, and the letter "d" being of a larger fount of type has the appearance of being dropped. This defect was apparently discovered early and corrected.




1d. on 1d., purple.

6. Dropped "d" in value.

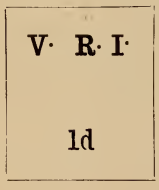
In the last stamp of the seventh row of the thick V setting the figure and letter of value are out of alignment, presenting the appearance of a dropped "d." The Earl of Crawford has shown me this in the pane.




6d. on 6d., blue.

7. Wider spacing between "V" and "R."

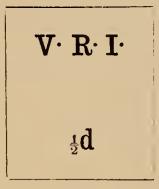
In this variety the "V" and "R" are wider spaced. I have not seen the stamp, but Mr. Frank H. Oliver, who has seen it, tells me that it is in Mr. Harold J. White's collection.




1d. on 1d., purple.

8. Smaller fractional figures.

This variety has been shifted from one position to another. In one lot it is the third stamp in the seventh row; and in another lot it is the last stamp in the last row of the pane. The difference, of course, is small, but it is nevertheless distinct.




½d. on ½d., orange.

For the completeness of this Reference List, and the verification of many of the rare varieties, I am largely indebted to the very fine specialised collections made by the Earl of Crawford and Mr. Mortimer Menpes. I have been very careful to include nothing that has not been verified, and I have excluded such unnecessary distinctions as small and large stops, ordinary battered letters, and misplaced surcharges. These may be classed as curiosities and collected accordingly, but Philatelists should be very chary in giving them catalogue rank.

# Stamps of the Transvaal.

By Edward J. Nankivell.

## Reprints.

A GREAT deal of nonsense has been written and published about the Reprints and Forgeries of the Transvaal, and a general impression created that there are floods of them. As a matter of fact only two values, the 3d. and 6d., have been reprinted, and even those reprints are confined to one issue of each. In fact, as I have often contended, there is no country so worthy of the attention of the Specialist, that is near so free from troublesome reprints and dangerous forgeries. I will deal with the bogie of Forgeries in my next contribution.

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., recently published an important work on Reprints, by Mr. E. D. Bacon. With reference to reprints of Stamps of the Transvaal, Mr. Bacon writes :—

"*Issue June*, 1871. Mr. Adolph Otto, of Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the maker of the plates of the early stamps of this country, retained a duplicate die of the three pence value, from which he made a duplicate plate and printed stamps which he sold to dealers and collectors. It is impossible to distinguish the early printings of these stamps from those Mr. Otto printed and forwarded to the South African Republic, but they differ from the locally printed stamps of this value in the paper and gum, and in being of a brighter colour. They are found with, as well as without, obliterations, and also in several fancy colours—ultramarine, dull rose, ochre, etc. The reprints are also known *tête-bêche*, but the plate used for the issued stamps of this value contained no *tête-bêche* pair. The so-called reprints of the first one penny, sixpence, and one shilling values are forgeries, as they differ in design from the issued stamps. The eye of the eagle on the originals is in a white circle, whereas on the forgeries it is an irregularly-shaped white space, and the lower part of the flagstaff to right is formed of two distinct lines, in place of only one line, as on the originals.




*Imperforate.*

3d., mauve, bright mauve.

*Tête-bêche.*

3d., mauve, bright mauve.

*Rouletted* 15, 15½.

3d., mauve, bright mauve.




"*Issue* 1875. The original engraved die and plate of the sixpence, Type II. (our Type III.), was not sent out to the Transvaal by Mr. Otto, and reprints of the stamp have been made and sold by this gentleman. As in the case of the three pence of 1871, it is equally impossible to tell the early printings of this stamp from the stamps Mr. Otto printed and forwarded to the Republic. Like the three pence, they are found with obliterations as well as without, and also in fancy colours.

*Rouletted* 15, 15½
6d., ultramarine.

"*Issue February and May*, 1883. The three pence, black on rose, and the same stamp in red on white paper, have been reprinted by Mr. Otto. The reprint of the former has the paper too bright. The colour of that of the original stamp is lilac-rose, while that of the reprint is bright rose, and the impression of the reprints is brownish black instead of grey-black to deep black. The colour of the reprint of the three pence, red, is dull deep orange-red. The issued stamp is printed on a very white thick paper with white gum, whereas the paper of the reprint is thinner and the gum is yellowish. Although the perforation of both these stamps gauges 12, like that of the originals, if specimens of the reprint and originals are compared and measured side by side, the perforation holes will be found not to fit exactly.

3d., brownish black on bright rose.
3d., dull deep orange-red."

It will be interesting to collate with this the information that Mr. Tamsen gives us concerning the first 3d. He writes:—

"It has always appeared to me strange that these German-printed stamps were circulating in Europe as early as January, 1870, and that they only arrived here (Transvaal) some sixteen months later, and I still cannot account for this long delay. Mr. Jeppe tells me that he had samples (proofs) of these stamps early in 1870, and that he wrote to the dealers and collectors who applied for supplies to apply for these stamps direct to the printer in Germany, who would send them the stamps at face value (he generally enclosed a sample). He also wrote to Mr. Otto in 1870, authorising him to sell to several parties, giving names and stating quantities ordered, at face value, and to credit the moneys so received against his account for plates and stamps. This authority, however, *was only given for the 3d. stamps*, and was only meant to supply those dealers who had previously applied here for them. Mr. Jeppe never authorised Mr. Otto to sell *any* of the other values (he would not have thought of doing so, as the plates were sent out from Germany in 1869, so that the printer should not properly have been able to print any, even if ordered), nor did he ever authorise the printing of stamps in *fancy* colours, which was against the law of the country. Mr. Jeppe simply trusted the printer (Otto), and he abused his trust, of which Mr. Jeppe only heard in 1871, and then he at once warned the Philatelic public. He also instructed an attorney

in Gustrow to warn Otto to stop this unauthorised traffic, or he would take legal action against him. I believe this had some effect, and that Otto afterwards only sold the stamps cancelled, till the British Government took the country over, when, I think, he considered himself free to sell the stamps unused as well as used.

"It is most difficult to distinguish German impressions of the 3d. from the first locally printed ones, most of the latter being nearly as well printed as those done in Germany. Colours and paper agree to a certain extent, both having been sent out with the plates. After the supply of paper and ink sent out was exhausted, the local printer made use of any paper and ink he could get, and the stamps printed with these can, of course, be more readily distinguished from the German impressions."

From this it will be seen that what are classed by Mr. Bacon as reprints may more properly be designated preprints, for we know that the copies on thick, hard-surfaced paper were obtainable in Europe from dealers some sixteen to eighteen months before a supply reached the Transvaal. Hence the probability is that Otto started supplying dealers with the first printing.

Mr. Bacon is not quite correct in saying that Otto's first printings differ from the first local printings in paper and gum, for the first local printings were done on paper sent out to the Transvaal by Otto with the first supply of stamps, and this supply of paper was presumably from the same stock as he had used for printing the first supply.

Mr. Bacon states that Otto retained a duplicate die of the three pence. Hilckes, in his book on "Reprints," says, "The Mecklenburg engraver kept some reserve dies, also a large quantity of the stamps, proofs, etc., which were printed at the time of the original consignments; these must be considered originals. At the time when the Republic was annexed by Great Britain these quasi-remainders were sold to a Berlin dealer. Later on, when the English Government had an issue of their own, the same engraver made fresh impressions from the retained plates, which he even sold with 'original' postmarks (easy enough, as he possessed the original dies for the postmarks). In the year 1883, when the Transvaal again became an independent Republic, they reverted once more to the old type, and as the illegal manufacture of reprints did not cease, the plates, still in possession of the engraver, were confiscated."

This is all the evidence we have up to date concerning the three pence. Hilckes's information, we understand, was obtained from a reliable continental source.

Concerning the 6d. of Type III. we have little to add at present. But Mr. Bacon has omitted to note the well-known reprint in pale, greyish blue. This is an undoubted reprint, quite distinct from the ultramarine of the issued stamp. We found a quantity in Pemberton Wilson & Co.'s stock, when their business was transferred to Buhl & Co., and about that time it was a fairly common stamp, being then accepted as a variety in colour.

# Portuguese India Provisional.

## 1½ REIS ON TWO TANGAS BLUE.

**By J. Godinho,**

*In the "Philatelic Journal of India."*

ABOUT the first week of June the 1½ reis orange current since 1898 was declared to be exhausted, and by a decree of the Goa Government the 1½ reis black of 1895 was re-introduced for the payment of postage. This value is mainly designed to pay the postage on newspapers, &c., circulated within the territory of Goa.

That the Goa Government has a considerable stock of old issues, rendered obsolete by the forcible introduction of new issues prepared by the Lisbon Mint, is well known to all who have been at the *Correio Geral* in Panjim. The present postal official in charge of stamps does not appear to have taken the ordinary precaution of replenishing his stock in order to meet the public demand for the 1½ reis value. These labels can be obtained by telegraph from Lisbon within 20 days. There appears to have been culpable dilatoriness in some quarter which created the necessity for a provisional. Unlike other colonies the labels of this Portuguese Dependency have not been surcharged since 1885. The re-issue of the 1½ reis black of 1895 had tided over this difficulty, but *O Portuguez* which, I understand, is conducted by an ex-clerk of the *Correio Geral*, censured the substitution of this old value to meet the exhaustion of the current 1½ reis orange. The article suggested a surcharge, and the Portuguese Colonial Government adopted this view. Accordingly, about the beginning of July, a provisional surcharge of 1½ reis in black was impressed on the 2 Tangas blue of the 1898 set. It is reported that 20,000 copies were thus issued. They were in circulation for about 10 days only, in the first fortnight of July. No specimens are available now; in fact, not a dozen could be obtained at Panjim or Margao towards the third week of July. The officials at Panjim would not sell a specimen unless one posts a letter. This conduct savours of an attempt to give the remainders a fictitious value, as it is reported that the bulk of the issue was bought up.

There seems to be a touch of speculation about this surcharge. Used or unused copies are offered at Panjim at one anna apiece. Letters and newspapers received in Bombay posted a few days after the issue of this surcharge bear the 1½ reis black. A letter received on the 1st day of August bore 1½ reis black, while another bore one of 1½ orange, and another 4½ reis green of 1898. This would indicate that the stock of 1½ reis black was not exhausted when the surcharged label was issued, and that a fresh stock of 1½ reis orange had since been received.

Where have the 20,000 copies of 1½ reis on 2 Tangas blue gone to? Let us look into facts. From occasional statements published in the *Anglo-Lusitano*, the weekly earnings of the Goa Post Office by the sale of stamps (*all values*) amounts to about average Rs. 350. It is frequently less and seldom more. Twenty thousand stamps of 1½ reis each represent a face value of Rs. 156 4 as. As already stated they are chiefly designed for internal circulation. Of course in combination with other values they can be utilised for foreign postage.

If they were confined to the use for which they are intended—namely for internal circulation—20,000 copies must suffice for at least six months, if used promiscuously—for internal and external postage—they must last for at least one month. The surcharge was not on sale for more than ten days. If it was absorbed by legitimate demands (which does not appear to be the case), the number surcharged was far below public requirements.

* * * * *

Since the above was in print, Mr. Godinho has sent us the following correspondence, which we print to complete his little article :—

ADMINISTRADOR-GERAL DOS CORREIOS

DEAR SIR,—I learn that a Provisional stamp, bearing the surcharge of 1½ Reis on 2 Tangas, was issued to meet the necessities of the Post Offices under your control. I request the favour of your kindly informing me—

I. What was the number of stamps thus surcharged ?
II. How long they were on sale at Panjim ?

I am a Philatelist, and request this information on behalf of collectors.
Thanking you in anticipation for the reply.

I remain, yours,
J. GODINHO.

DABUL, 4*th August*, 1900.

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DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter dated 4th instant, I beg to inform you that the number of stamps of 1½ Reis on 2 Tangas was 20,000, and its sale has been effected during a week, *i.e.*, since 19th to 26th June last.

I remain, yours, &c.,
A. J. D'OLIVEIRA PEGADO,
or *Postmaster-General.*

PANJIM, 17*th August*, 1900.






*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, England.*

## The British Empire.

**Ceylon.**—The *Monthly Journal* says the new 15c. stamp has appeared with the "On Service" overprint in black. The 3c. has also been similarly overprinted.

*Adhesives.*

For official use.
3c., dark green, black black sur.
15c., blue, black sur.

**India.** — We announced in July last (p. 169) that India was about to fall into line in the matter of the adoption of the Postal Union colours. Messrs. Bright & Son now send us the changes of colour. The 3 pies carmine has been changed to *grey;* the ½a. from dark green to *yellow green;* the 1a. from purple brown to *carmine;* the 2a. from blue to *violet;* and the 2½a. from green to *blue.* Wmk., large star; perf. 14.

*Adhesives.*

3 pies, grey.
½ anna, yellow-green.
1 ,, carmine.
2 annas, violet.
2½ ,, blue.

These stamps are reported surcharged "On H.M.S.," and we therefore chronicle them.

*Service Stamps.*

3 pies grey
½ anna, yellow-green
1 ,, carmine
2 annas, violet
2½ ,, blue
} Overprinted On H. S. M.

India.—The *Philatelic Journal of India* has recently been shown the "Postal Service One Anna" stamp, surcharged on 9 pies carmine, with the "One Anna" surcharge inverted.

Deccan.—The *Monthly Journal* mentions the issue of a surcharged stamp of the value of ¼ anna on ½a. red, for use on printed matter. The surcharge is in words, "pao anna," in black.

*Adhesive.*

¼a. on ½a. red, surcharge black.

Bhor.—*The Philatelic Journal of India* says this State is about to issue a series of postage stamps with a portrait of the Rajah. "They are to be rough imitations of the Indore stamps. Only ½a. and 1a. values are intended. Hajee Adam & Sons, of Poona, are engineering the issue." And then the *P.J.I.*, by way of warning, reminds its readers that "the Bhor post offices have been worked by the Imperial Post for years past. Consequently the 'new issue' is (Philatelically) pure waste paper, as it can never be used for postal purposes." We trust this timely exposure will exclude the labels from our catalogues.

China Expeditionary Force. — The *Philatelic Journal of India* says the ¼ anna, carmine, of India, has been overprinted "C.E.F," and added to the series chronicled by us in September last (p. 209), for the use of the troops in China.

Faridkot.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 3 pies, carmine, Indian surcharged for use in this State.

*Adhesive.*

3 pies, carmine, black sur.

Hyderabad.—The *Monthly Journal* says:—"Mr. Byramji Shavakshah kindly sends us specimens of a provisional stamp, the first (and let us hope the last) to be issued by this State. It appears that, in emulation of the Imperial Indian Government, the authorities of Hyderabad decided on introducing a ¼ anna rate for printed matter under 3 tolas weight, and, being anxious to copy the example of the Indian Post Office in every respect, they have surcharged the current ½ anna stamp with the words *pao anna,* in Persi-Arabic, in *black.* From an examination of the block of stamps shown

us we gather that the surcharges were printed singly, and our correspondent states that only a comparatively small number have been issued, as a permanent ¼ a. stamp may be expected shortly—but we should fancy that the supply will not be allowed to fall very short of the demand."

*Adhesive.*

¼ a., in *black*, on ½ a., red.

NEPAUL. — The *Monthly Journal* has received the ½ a. stamp pin-perforated, like the other values.

*Adhesive.*

½ a., black-brown; pin-perf.

**New Zealand.** — The *Melbourne Argus* announces that the New Zealand Government has commissioned the President of the Royal Academy, Sir Edward Poynter, to design the new penny stamp which is to inaugurate the adoption of universal penny postage by that colony. The new stamp is to be emblematical of New Zealand diffusing the benefits of cheap postage throughout the world.

It requires a careful Philatelist to keep touch with the varieties which are being received just now from this colony. As a contribution to the task we quote the following from the *Monthly Journal* :—

"Mr. Gordon Smith sends us the following list of the varieties of the stamps locally printed during the last two years, which he has been able to find in our publishers' stock. This list supersedes and supplements that formed by Nos. 209 to 222 in the Catalogue :—

1899-1900. *Types 27 to 36. No wmk. Perf.* 11.

2½d., blue.
3d., yellow-brown.
4d., carmine.
5d., chocolate-brown.
6d., dark green.
6d., bright green.
8d., indigo.
9d., purple.
1s., red.
2s., blue-green.
5s., vermilion.

*Types 24 and 31. No wmk. Perf.* 11.

4d., brown and blue.
6d., carmine.

Mr. Ewen has also shown us the 6d., recently received, in a *pale carmine*, or *carmine rose*, shade, and still without watermark.

1900. *Types 13 and 15. Wmk.* "N Z" *and Star. Perf.* 11.

½d., black.
2d., violet.

*Types 23, 29, and 25. Same wmk. and perf.*

½d., pale green.
½d., dark „
1d., lake.
1d., crimson.
1d., rosine.
2d., violet
2d., purple.

There are various shades of the 1d. and 2d., but the above are the most prominent. The 2d., *purple*, was not found without watermark."

**Nigeria.**—A correspondent in this Colony sends the *Monthly Journal* the following information as to the present arrangement of the British possessions in West Africa:—

"The late Niger Coast Protectorate has been extended considerably north, thus taking in a large portion of the Niger, and is now known as the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. I believe new stamps have been issued, superseding the old Niger Coast Protectorate ones. The boundaries of Lagos have been extended eastward.

The remainder of the late Niger Company's territories now composes the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria, which is by far the largest in extent of any of the British West African possessions, having, roughly, an area of 300,000 square miles."

**Orange River Colony.**—We have received from Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., the current ½d. Cape overprinted, in black, "Orange River Colony," in three lines, as in the 2½d. Cape stamp chronicled by us in October.




*Adhesive.*

½d., green, black sur.

**Straits Settlements.** FEDERATED MALAY STATES.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the bi-coloured 5c. of Perak surcharged with the new combined name.

*Adhesive.*

5c., lilac and ochre; *Perak.*

The *Monthly Journal* understands that the stamps of the various Malay States are being used indiscriminately, an envelope addressed to the Publishers bearing a mixed assortment of Straits Settlements, Perak, and Selangor.

**Transvaal.** — Last month (p. 255) we chronicled a variety in the V.R.I. overprint in the shape of a dropped "I" in the 1d. value. Mr. Mortimer Menpes has since shown us this variety in the ½d., 2d., and 3d. values. It is the fourth stamp in the fourth row of the pane. Mr. Menpes has also shown us the 2½d. stamp with the "V.R.I." overprint inverted.

*Adhesives.*

Overprinted "V.R.I." in black. Variety: dropped I.

½d., green.
1d., carmine and green.
2d., dark brown.
3d., reddish purple.

"V.R.I." *inverted.*

2½d., blue and green.

# Foreign Countries.

**Corea.**—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the four stamps of 1895, which were printed at Washington, were *in* 1897 surcharged with native characters in red, signifying "Tai Han" a symbol adopted by the Emperor to designate the Empire of Corea, in lieu of the old style "Tjyo Sen." They send us a set of these, which, although issued three years ago, have only just been discovered by Philatelists. Some of these were on their letter, so they cannot be questioned.

*Adhesives.*

Overprinted, in native character, "Tai Han."

5 poon, yellow-green
10 ,, blue.
25 ,, lake.
50 ,, purple.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also send us a new set of new designs, all of which we illustrate. They state that the new stamps are now used for international postage, as our package was franked with them, and add, "The 2 re stamp is the lowest value. There are ten 're' to a cheun, 100 of the latter being the equivalent of a Japanese yen, or 2s. One poon is equal to 2 re. According to the *Monthly Circular*, the unit of the monetary system of Korea is the silver dollar, which is divided into 100 cents, or *cheun*, and each cheun is again divided into 5 cash, or *poon*. These new stamps are engraved and printed at Seoul."

Paper white wove, perf. 10





















*Adhesives.*

2 re, grey.
1 cheun, green
2 ,, pale blue.
3 ,, dull red.
4 cheun, carmine.
5 ,, pink.
6 ,, deep blue.

**Germany.** Morocco. — We have received from Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., the current German 3 pf. to 80 pf. in the bust of Germania, and 1 mark oblong rectangular, Berlin Post Office type, all surcharged for use in Morocco. The 3 pf. to 50 pf. values are surcharged "Marocco—3 Centimos" in two lines, in black, close together at the foot of each stamp. The 1 mark value is surcharged differently. On the left edge is the word "Marocco" reading upwards, and on the right edge the same word reading downwards, and at the foot of the stamp between these words "1 Pes. 25 cts."

*Adhesives.*

3 centimos on 3 pf., brown.
5 ,, ,, 5 pf., green.
10 ,, ,, 10 pf., carmine.
25 ,, ,, 20 pf., blue.
30 ,, ,, 25 pf., black and orange on yellow.
36 ,, ,, 30 pf., black and orange on buff.
50 ,, ,, 40 pf., black and carmine.
60 ,, ,, 50 pf., black and carmine on buff.
1 peseta ,, 80 pf., black and carmine on rose.
1 pes. 25 cts. on 1 mark, carmine.

**Greece.**—The multiplication of Provisionals, once begun, goes on merrily. We have this month a batch of additions. Some of the values are over-printed with the letters "A.M.," in addition to the ordinary surcharge. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that these A.M. (meaning old value) are for use on *parcels* (not letters) for abroad, the postage on which must be paid in cash, not paper. They may be used on letters, but are not likely to be, as they have to be paid for at a higher rate than those not over-printed "A.M." The old stock is being used up as required, the most used values being surcharged on such stamps as are most plentiful in the old stock. We learn that as soon as the old stock is exhausted the current olympians will be similarly over-printed.

The list to date is as follows: Type I., large head of Mercury; Type II., small head:—

*Adhesives.*

20l. in black, on 25l., bright blue; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
20l. in black, on 25l., ultramarine; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
20l. in black, on 25l., deep ultramarine; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
20l. in black, on 25l., indigo; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
30l. in black, on 40l., pale brown; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
30l. in black, on 40l., dark brown; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
40l. in black, on 2l., bistre; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
50l. in black, on 40l., buff; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
1dr. in black, on 40l., red violet; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type II.
2dr. in black, on 40l., pale red violet; perf. 13½ and imperf. Type II.
3dr. in black, in 10l., orange; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
5dr. in black, on 40l., violet on blue; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.

"A.M."

25l. in black, on 40l., violet; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type II. Athens print.
50l. in black, on 25l., blue; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type II. Athens print.
1dr. in black, on 40l., violet on blue; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.
2dr. in black, on 5l., green on buff; perf. 11½ and imperf. Type I.

**Holland.** Dutch Indies. — Mr. R. Macalpine, writing to us from Java, says: "In the July, 1900, issue of 10 cents Dutch Indies postage stamps, which are the present issue Holland stamps surcharged with value above and 'NED.—INDIË' at bottom of stamp, there occurs an error. On an average one stamp in every 400, or thereabouts, has the surcharge at bottom, as follows, 'NED.—INDIE,' that is, without the two dots above the 'E' of 'INDIE.'"

Our correspondent kindly encloses a specimen which is very clearly minus the usual diæresis, or dots, over the final vowel of the word "INDIË." Mr. Macalpine adds that he has also seen a few specimens with only one dot over the "E."

**Peru.**—We illustrate a new value, 22c. in a new design, with a portrait of His Excellency Senor D. Eduardo L. de Romana in black in the centre. The frame and inscription are in light green. Perf. 12.




*Adhesive*
22c., black and light green.

**Roumania.**—We have received from Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., the 3 bani of the current design on the new thin unwatermarked, thin paper. Perf. 11½. The series on the new paper up-to-date is as follows:—

*Adhesives.*

1 bani, pale brown.
3 ,, chocolate.
5 ,, emerald.
15 ,, black.

**United States.**—The *Monthly Journal* understands that the ordinary postage stamps can now be employed in all the colonial possessions of the United States, Cuba alone having special stamps of its own as being only under protection at present. The *M.J.* states that "the various surcharged stamps can likewise be used in all parts of the Republic, as Mr. Stanton has kindly shown us by franking a letter to us from Detroit by means of stamps overprinted 'PORTO RICO' and 'PUERTO RICO.'"

# Philately in the Mags.

### Early Issues of Belgium.

As everyone knows, Mr. Castle is at home whenever he writes on the early issues of any of the European States. In the October number of the *London Philatelist* he writes most interestingly on the early issues of Belgium. Dividing the five groups, he says:—

"The first postal issues of Belgium took place on October 17th, 1849, and the two values, 10c. and 20c. were superseded by the new design in August, 1850; hence they had a short life of only ten months. It is to be wondered at, in view of this, that the stamps are not scarcer.

1. May, 1849. Thick paper, deep brown and deep blue. 1,500,000.

2. September, 1849. Thick paper, pale brown and pale blue. 2,800,000.

3. May, 1850. Thinner paper, impression showing through, and colours still paler. 500,000.

Issue II.—On April 27th, 1849, a Postal Convention had been concluded between France and Belgium, to come into force on October 1st of that year, by which the international rate of postage was to be reduced to 40c., thereby necessitating the issue of that value. This was officially announced in a circular dated October 9th, 1849 (*vide* Moens' *Les Timbres de Belgique*, pp. 42-3), and eight days later the first stamps of the new design appeared. On August 10th, 1850, another circular announced the issue of the 10c. and 20c. of the same design. To quote the official circular: 'This modification establishing a perfect identity between the stamps, as they are all prepared from one original die, and there can only exist the difference of indication of value, which can thus be added to the reproduced dies for each kind of stamp.' These three stamps, as is well known, bear the same watermark as their predecessors, viz., a monogram of the letters 'LL' interlaced in script characters placed sideways, surrounded by a double-line frame, and generally known as 'LL *encadrées*.' They had, however, been in use but a short period before these outer lines were removed, and hence they are all rare stamps in unused condition.

Issue III.—The 10, 20, and 40c., without frame, as we have seen, were issued early in 1851, although the late Mr. Westoby gives October of that year as the date, and they remained in use for several years. M. Moens, both in his book on the Belgian stamps and in his Catalogue, gives April 1st, 1861, as the date of the issue of the stamps without watermark; but I cannot agree that this is correct. These stamps in this case should be commoner than the succeeding ones without watermark, which were in turn superseded in April, 1863, by the perforated series, thus assigning nearly ten years of existence to the former and but two years to the latter. I am inclined to believe that this issue, with unframed watermark, was superseded four or five years earlier—in 1856 or 1857.

Issue IV.—The date of this issue, according to preceding remarks, should be assigned to a period preceding August, 1858, and not 1861, as generally given. The important features here are the disappearance of the watermark and the appearance of machine-made paper. The differences between machine and hand made paper are well known, the former being softer, whiter, and generally showing the grain, while the latter is tough, hard, and frequently slightly toned. I have divided my stamps of this issue into these two classes, but although they will be found to differ widely, and are, I believe, of a different manufacture, I am not prepared to say that all those as labelled are hand-made. In any case they vary so in texture as to merit differentiation.

Issue V.—This series is a repetition of the last, but perforated, and was issued on April 11th, 1863. The first perforation had a gauge of 12½, though a second one soon appeared measuring 13½; but while the former is found alone, the second exists only in conjunction with the first. The 12½ gauge is almost invariably found above and below, and the 13½ at the sides. Slight variants from these have been found, but, like the assumed varying dimensions of the stamps, are in my opinion due only to shrinkage of the paper, and I cannot endorse the gauge quoted either by M. Moens or the late Mr. Westoby. In September, 1865, a new machine was employed, gauging 14½ (with an occasional variation from foregoing cause), and this, as is well known, was further employed in the manufacture of the De la Rue series that was its successor in November, 1865. This perforation was employed therefore but a short time, although the stamps were available for use until the 1st July, 1866, when 'the reserve with those of the 1849 stamps was burnt.' (*Moens*)."

SYNOPSIS.

Issue I. July 1st, 1849.

10c., yellowish brown, deep brown, pale brown shades (?)
20c., blue, Prussian blue, milky blue, shades.

Issue II. October 1st, 1849, and August 10th, 1852. *Watermark* "LL" *in frame.*

40c. (1849), carmine red, dull carmine, rose, shades.
10c., deep brown, slight, shades.
20c., dark blue, shades.

Issue III. 1851.

*Watermark* "LL" *without frame.*

10c., brown, dark brown, grey-brown.
20c., slate-blue, blue, deep blue.
40c., vermilion, carmine-vermilion, deep carmine, dull carmine.

Issue IV. 1858.

*No watermark.*

10c., grey-brown, brown, deep brown, shades.
20c , blue, bright blue, shades.
40c., vermilion, carmine, carmine-vermilion, shades.
1c. (1861), deep green, bluish-green, shades.

Note.—Two varieties of paper, machine and hand-made.

Issue V. 1863.

(*a*) *Perf.* 12½.

1c., deep green, yellow-green, shades.
10c., brown, deep brown, shades.
20c., blue, shades.
40c., carmine-vermilion, vermilion, shades.

Note.—Two varieties of paper (? 20 and 40c.)

(*b*) *Perf.* 12½ × 13½.

1c., deep yellow-green, green, bluish green, shades.
10c., greyish brown, brown, shades.
20c., dull blue, blue, bright blue, shades.
40c., carmine, shades.

(*c*) *Perf.* 14½.

1c., deep green, dark green, blue-green, shades.
10c., grey-brown, brown, shades.
20c., bright blue, deep blue, shades.
40c., carmine, deep carmine, shades.

**Cuba: 1855. "Y¼"**

Last month (p. 259) we quoted Major Evans's remarks on the re-opened controversy as to the real meaning of the "Y¼" surcharge on the Cuban 2 reals stamp. Major Evans dismissed as improbable the explanation that "Y" stood for the Interior, and held that the true object of the use of the letter "Y" or word "and" has never been authoritatively explained.

All available evidence, such as official documents and postal officials, seem to establish (1) the fact that the stamp was intended to be of the value of ¼ real and was issued to serve for the establishment of that rate, and (2) that the rate was a purely Local or Interior rate.

Mr. Andreini, one of the leading American collectors, has been investigating the pros and cons, and has come to the conclusion "that 'Y' represents in archaic Spanish the word Ynterior, and that ¼ real was the regular local postage."

In support of these conclusions, he gives the following translation of the original decree issued by the Postmaster-General of Cuba, dated November 15th, 1855, which authorised the issue of the "Y¼" stamps:—

"His Excellency, the Captain General, having ordered the establishment of an interior post for the city and suburbs, beginning on the 19th instant to celebrate the birthday of our beloved Queen, Isabella II., the Postmaster-General has the pleasure to announce to the public that on said day that improvement will be inaugurated, affording the greatest convenience in local communications at a moderate cost. Such correspondence must not circulate without being prepaid by stamps of one quarter of one real, silver, specially prepared for the purpose, and to be found on sale at all postal stations. Letters or parcels for the interior post will not be regulated by weight, but the affixing of a single stamp of one quarter of one real, regardless of weight, will be sufficient for their free delivery."

This settles the value of the surcharge to be ¼ real. Now remains the question of the meaning of the letter "Y." This, says Major Evans, means in Spanish "and." The use of such a signification could only be that the surcharge meant "and ¼ real," *i.e.*, an additional ¼ real to the original value of 2 reales, making the stamp a 2¼ reales value. This explanation is ridiculous in face of the original degree. Therefore, the signification "and" is inexplicable. On the other hand, it is contended that the "Y" meant the initial letter I denoting that it was an "Interior" or Local rate of ¼ real. And this seems to us to be a sensible explanation. But, say the opponents of this theory, there is no proof that Interior was spelt "Ynterior" locally. To this Mr. Andreini now replies:—

"It is true that the Academy deprecates the use of Y for the initials of Isabel, Ignacia, etc., but nevertheless ninety out of one hundred writers persist in the archaic use of Y for words which begin etymologically with I, and which are generally printed correctly with I. Not all printers or proof-readers, however, are acquainted with academic rules, or knowing them, follow such rules, and it is sometimes observed that the wrong letter creeps in even in print. In Cuba specially, the archaic Y is frequently used in print and invariably used in manuscript. In my thirty years' commercial experience with Cuba I have very seldom seen Ingenio, a plantation, a word in constant use, written other than Yngenio, and it is so printed with great frequency. All my friends called Ignacio write their names Ygnacio, without exception, and I have failed to see an Isabel who did not sign her name Ysabel. The archaic use of Y for Ynterior is therefore, to me, and to every Spanish-speaking man, the most natural. The objections of modern students to the spelling of Ynterior fall flat when the habits and customs of centuries are considered

While occupied in this investigation it occurred to me to look over a MS. cable code used in our office with our Cuba bankers, and I find therein all the words which should rightly be spelled with I written with Y, and so alphabetically classified; in fact, there is no column of words or names beginning with I, and such common names as Iglesias, Ibañez, Inclán, Isasi, Iturbide, are all classified under and written with Y. A score of words found under I in the dictionary are equally written with and classified under Y. Here is a manuscript work for the preparation of which more than a modicum of intelligence

is necessary, and yet is full of archaisms and contravensions to academic rules."

Here then is unquestionable evidence of the local, or Cuban, practice of spelling Interior with a Y—"Ynterior."

Hence, we have ample evidence that the stamp was a ¼ real value, that it was for local, or Interior use, and that the "Y" on the stamp was by local usage the initials of the word Interior. *Ergo*, "Y" (Interior rate) "¼" (real). After this, it does not seem to us that the ordinary Spanish meaning of the letter "Y" has a leg to stand upon as an explanation of the use of the letter "Y" in the surcharge referred to. If it meant "and," what possible meaning could it have that would accord with the facts of the issue? If the surcharging had been done in Spain, then one might be puzzled; but it was done locally, and done where the letter "Y" was, by now established custom, used as the initial letter of the word Interior.

### Status of Mafeking Stamps.

A great deal has already been written for and against the contention that the Mafeking Siege Stamps should be recognised by Philatelists as postage stamps. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* has been foremost in the endeavour to decry their recognition. For our part we admit that we would strain a point in their favor, but our first duty is to collect all the evidence on both sides, regardless of our own predilections, in order that readers of the *Philatelic Record* may be able to form their own conclusions. Hence, we quote the following letter published in a recent issue of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, which is given as "From our Special Correspondent in South Africa":—

"Kimberley, Sept, 29th.

I have lately had a talk with Mr. Ferdinand Jacobs, a merchant of Mafeking, who was through the siege, regarding the special issue of stamps. This gentleman, although not a stamp collector, took great interest in the siege stamps, in fact dealt in them largely and is reported to have cleared £1000 profit in them. The following report shows Mr. Jacobs' opinions of these stamps, and I give the information for what it is worth.

There was no real need for the stamps, except, perhaps the 1d. and 3d. values. They were issued to give a few people something to do, and to give others a chance of making money, presumably as compensation for the privations undergone during the siege. The stamps were primarily intended for local postage, and those used for foreign postage were doubtless only passed by the courtesy of the Post Office. It has been questioned whether stamps were even needed for local postage, but it seems that they were. For instance, from Makeking to the Brickfields, where the Cape Police, etc., were stationed, was a distance of about 1,000 yards and no one was allowed to go there without a special permit. Letters were carried between these places by cyclists and the postage was, I believe, 1d., though most of the letters had 3d., 6d., 1/-, etc., put on.

The stamps were overprinted one at a time in the Stamp Office, generally by Postmaster Howat, under the supervision of the military authorities. Something like 40 sets of 19 were signed by the postmaster."

### Mafeking Mail Notices.

Mr. J. R. F. Turner sends *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* the following extracts from the *Mafeking Mail* referring to siege postage stamps:—

"Extract from the Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip of Thursday, March 22nd, 1900.

LOCAL MEMS.

Private letters will in future be sent by the Intelligence Department by runners in batches of 30 (letters not runners) at a time. First come, first served, the communications will be despatched in the order they are received. Don't all speak at once.

* * *

Extract from the Mafeking Mail Special Siege Slip of Saturday, March 24th, 1900.

NOTICE!

*New arrangements for the transmission of Telegrams and dealing with Letters.*

---

The Bombproof at the end of Minchin's Yard, at Headquarters, will be open daily to receive letters and telegrams for North and South, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 a.m (Sundays excepted). The following are the rates for telegrams:—Via the North, 9d. per word plus a fee of 1/- for a receipt, duly stamped; telegrams for Cape Colony and Natal will be accepted by this route.

Telegrams via the South for Cape Colony and Natal will also be accepted, the rate being 1/- for 12 words, plus a fee of 1/- for a duly stamped receipt,

| | |
|---|---|
| Cablegrams, 4/9 per word, via the North .. .. .. | plus 1/- receipt fee. |
| Cablegrams, 4/- per word, via the South .. .. .. | |

*The sale of stamps for letters for local delivery will be restricted.*

Letters for Northern and Southern routes must be handed to the Postal Official on duty, *and stamps cannot on any account be sold.*

Rates of Postage-Letters.

Local Delivery (within town limits) 1d. per half oz. Delivery at Outposts and Forts, 3d. per half oz. Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony and Natal *via the SOUTH, 6d. per half oz.* Letters for United Kingdom, Cape Colony, Natal and Rhodesia, *via the NORTH*, 1/- per half oz.

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Pillar and Wall Letter Boxes.

Pillar or Wall Letter Receivers are erected at the following places in Mafeking and are cleared at the times mentioned:—

| Pillar and Wall Boxes. | Latest time for Posting Letters, &c., for each Collection. Morning. | Afternoon. |
|---|---|---|
| Dixon's Hotel .. .. | 9.55 a.m. | 3.55 p.m. |
| De Kock's Corner .. | 9.40 a.m. | 3.40 p.m. |
| Victoria Hospital .. .. | 9.30 a.m. | 3.30 p.m. |
| Post Office .. .. .. | 9.35 a.m. | 3.35 p.m. |
| Railway Division .. .. | 9.30 a.m. | 3.30 p.m. |
| Whiteley, Walker & Co. | 9.45 a.m. | 3.45 p.m. |

The following table shows the hours at which the letter Box is closed for the different Suburban offices,

and the hours at which mails are due to arrive at this office :—

| Letter Boxes close at Mafeking at | For | Letters due at Mafeking at |
|---|---|---|
| 5 p.m. | Brickfields. | 9 a.m. |
| ,, | Baralong Stadt. | ,, |
| ,, | B.S.A.P. Fort. | ,, |
| ,, | Cannon Kopje. | ,, |
| ,, | Native Location. | ,, |
| ,, | West'n Outposts | ,, |

J. V. Howat, Postmaster.

Mafeking, 22nd March, 1900."

**Mafekings: Numbers Printed.**

Mr. Stanford supplies the *London Philatelist* with the following particulars as to the numbers printed of the Mafeking Siege Stamps. This information was supplied to Mr. Stanford by the Postmaster of Mafeking.

It will be seen that the grand total printed sums up to 61,434 stamps. The rarities seem to be—

British Bechuanaland (Fancy type)
1s. on 6d. .. 240 printed.

Cape stamps, 6d. on 3d., 840 ,,

Regarded in the light of these figures catalogue and even auction prices are simply ludicrous. Collectors will do well to keep their heads and judiciously wait till the speculators have finished rigging the market and screaming about their rarity.

Numbers of each Denomination of Stamps Issued during the Siege of Mafeking March 23rd to May 17th, 1900.

*Surcharged on Cape Stamps.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1d. on ½d. green (old type) | 32 | sheets or | 7680 stamps. |
| ,, ,, (1898 type) | 22 | ,, | 5280 ,, |
| 3d. on 1d. carmine .. | 25 | ,, | 6000 ,, |
| 6d. on 3d. claret .. | 3½ | ,, | 840 ,, |
| 1s. on 4d. pale green .. | 6 | ,, | 1440 ,, |

*Bechuanaland Protectorate (Fancy Type).*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1d. on ½d. English .. | 25 | sheets or | 6000 stamps. |
| 3d. on 1d. ,, .. | 7½ | ,, | 1800 ,, |
| 6d. on 2d. ,, .. | 5 | ,, | 1200 ,, |
| 6d. on 3d. ,, .. | 6 | ,, | 1440 ,, |
| 1s. on 6d. ,, .. | 6 | ,, | 1440 ,, |

*Bechuanaland Protectorate (Sans-serif Type).*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3d. on 1d. English .. | 7½ | sheets or | 1800 stamps. |
| 6d. on 2d. ,, .. | 5 | ,, | 1200 ,, |
| 1s. on 6d. ,, .. | none printed. | | |

*British Bechuanaland (Fancy Type).*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6d. on 3d., "unappropriated" | 15 | sheets or | 3600 stamps |
| 1s. on 4d. English | 29 | sheets of 80 or | 2320 ,, |
| 1s. on 6d. ,, .. | 1 | sheet of | 240 ,, |

*British Bechuanaland (Sans-serif Type).*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1s. on 6d. English | none printed. |
| 2s. on 1s. green | 4¾ panes of 120 or 570 stamps. |

*Local Stamps.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Baden-Powell, Small Head .. | 6072 stamps. |
| ,, Large Head .. | 3036 ,, |
| Bicycle, 1d., Local .. .. .. | 9476 ,, |

**Mafekings: Pious Opinions.**

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* has been gathering the personal opinions of leading collectors and dealers as to the status and value of Mafekings, with results which may be summarised as follows :—

*W. B. Avery :* Prices absurdly high.

*M. P. Castle :* Not necessary, but regularly issued. Prices will drop, then rise again.

*E. D. Bacon :* Dubious. Varieties probably speculative. Prices inflated.

*J. A. Tilleard :* Can't say. Want more facts.

*Herbert F. Lowe :* Unnecessary and speculative ; but worth the prices paid. Humph !

*Gordon Smith :* Surcharging unnecessary.

*Edward J. Nankivell :* Be tender. Postally used. Prices being run up.

*H. A. Slade :* Justified. Prices correct.

*Bright & Son :* Unnecessary, but interesting. Want any ? Prices will rise.

*W. H. Peckett :* Not wholly unjustified. Prices high.

*Whitfield King & Co. :* Official and legitimate.

**Transvaal V.R.I.: Numbers Printed.**

The *Monthly Journal* is informed that the following quantities of the various values had been overprinted up to August 1st :—

| | |
|---|---|
| ½d. .. | 540,000 |
| 1d. . | 900,000 |
| 2d. .. | 360,000 |
| 2½d. .. | 560,000 |
| 3d. .. | 270,000 |
| 4d. .. | 180,000 |
| 6d. .. | 250,000 |
| 1s. .. | 320,000 |
| 2s. 6d. .. | 210,000 |
| 5s. .. | 10,680 (all sold) |
| 10s. .. | 6,000 ( ,, ) |
| £5 .. | 3,000 |

**The Cape "Rebel" 1d.**

According to the *Monthly Journal*, the Postmaster-General of Cape Colony explains that the design of the 1d. stamp brought into use on January 1st, 1900, and since nicknamed the "Rebel 1d."—a representation of Table Bay with Table Mountain in the background, and the Arms of the Colony above—was intended to more clearly identify the stamp with the Colony, and to form the commencement, contemporaneous with the introduction of Imperial Penny Postage, of a series of pictorial stamps similar to those adopted by New Zealand, Tasmania, and many British colonies and foreign countries. "Unfortunately," adds Mr. French, "owing to the first issue of the new stamp having been made during a period of great political excitement, consequent on the war, an endeavour has been made by a section of the Press to place a political construction on what was entirely a non-political and purely postal change, the basis of the adverse criticism being apparently an erroneous impression that the figure of 'Hope,' which has been portrayed on the Cape Colony series of postage stamps since stamps were first introduced, represented 'Britannia,' and, therefore, that the adoption of any other design at the present time must proceed from a disloyal feeling towards the Crown. As a matter of fact, however, the design now adopted was first prepared in the year 1892, and the dies and plates for the present issue were in the hands of the engravers many months before the outbreak of war."

**Trinidad, 5s. and 10s.**

The *Monthly Journal* supplies some interesting figures concerning the 1896 issue of the 5s. green and brown and 10s. green and ultramarine, the wretchedly designed long

rectangulars which have been withdrawn from circulation. The numbers printed are given by the *M.J.* as

5s. .. 34,728.
10s. .. 1,189.

And we are told that the remainders have been destroyed. Will some one kindly inform us the number of the remainders so destroyed?

**Queensland: 2s. brown and 2s. blue.**

We quote the *Australian Philatelist* concerning the recently issued 2s. values:—

"Mr. Van Weenen has shown us the new 2s. stamp. The design is exactly the same as the last 1s., the only difference being the substitution of the figure 2 in each of the corners in place of 1. The colour is what is called 'Palermo' blue, which is virtually a pale greenish blue. Pending the issue of this stamp, the Post Office Department, finding the stock of the 2s. brown exhausted, had another hundred sheets printed. These, however, are on a different paper to that last used: the quality of the latest issue being much inferior. The perforation is also slightly different, owing to the maker of the latest perforating machine having slightly stretched the gauge. By careful measuring we make it 12¾. The new issue will not come into operation until the old stock is exhausted. During Mr. Van Weenen's visit to the stamp printing office in Brisbane, he learned that all the dies of all the obsolete issues have now been destroyed."

**Samoan Bogies.**

Collectors will have to be on their guard against curiosities from Samoa. As everyone knows, the island has been taken over by the German authorities, but, according to the *Monthly Journal*, "the late Postmaster appears to be still in the stamp business. Among other things received from this island by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., are what purport to be copies of Nos. 41 and 42 in the catalogue, 1½d. and 3d. on 2d., which are not quite what they should be; the stamps themselves are perf. 11 (the later gauge), instead of 11½, and the 1½d. appears to be on No. 28 and the 3d. on No. 27, instead of both being on No. 19. Moreover, the 3d. is surcharged in *green*, instead of *black*."

**Ceylon: Service Stamps.**

The *Philatelic Journal of India* publishes the following useful list of Service Stamps at present current in Ceylon:—

2 cents., brown.
3 ,, green.
5 ,, lilac.
15 ,, sage green.
25 ,, bistre brown.
30 ,, purple and red.
75 ,, grey and brown.
1r., 12c., rose.

**Father Simons's Kashmirs.**

The Editor of the *Philatelic Journal of India* recently paid a visit to Father Simons at Baramula, Kashmir, and says he found the reverend gentleman full of enthusiasm over his stock of stamps. He endeavoured in vain to persuade him to "sell the stamps from the old rectangular and circular dies as stamps to which there is a doubt among experts as to their postal status." "So," adds the Editor regrettfully, "those stamps, which we very respectfully must class as of doubtful genuineness (except as reprints), are to continue to be sold as genuine postage stamps, notwithstanding their condemnation by the Expert Committee of the London Society, by Major Evans, and by Mr. Masson." But he acquits Father Simons of acting otherwise than in absolutely good faith and under the conviction that he is selling exactly what he professes to sell. He further adds, "Father Simons has a very fine stock of *used* Kashmir stamps on originals. Very many of those are very rare, and the proceeds of the sale go to his mission funds. He has also a marvellous stock of the late rectangulars in numerous shades and papers, some being very rare indeed."

**European Favourites.**

Mr. Castle, in the *London Philatelist*, after commenting on the "remarkable variety of the several methods of stamp production" of European stamps, "many of which are frequently quaint in design, and not a few both artistic in conception and excellent in execution," says:—"If I were asked in what instances these qualities are most clearly manifest, I should place four series in the front rank, all of them old issues of the early part of the half-century. The 1d., black, and 2d., blue, without white lines, of our own country; the first head issue of Saxony; the stamps of Sicily with the head of the notorious King Bomba; and the first issue of Belgian are, in my judgment, the most striking postal vignettes of the European series. In accuracy of drawing and in the grace of the effigy depicted the British stamps come first, while the head of the Saxon king is but slightly inferior in these respects. In boldness of design, depth of colouring, and in picturesque ruggedness the Sicilian stamps are the equal of the first Belgians, but the latter have an additional delicacy of engraving and an originality that may be said to be lacking in the case of all the others. The presentment of His Majesty Leopold I., with its earnest and manly expression, in the full military uniform that has given these stamps the *sobriquet* of '*les epaulettes*,' depicted on a richly-engraved background, and devoid of all other form of ornamentation, presents, to my mind a stamp that for incisive design and picturesque appearance has no rival in the ranks of Philatelic portraiture. The second issue, with the military appanages of the king somewhat shorn by their inclusion within an oval, is also a handsome and a characteristic stamp."

# Notes and News.

### New Zealand and Universal Penny Postage.

The *Melbourne Argus* of September 25th says:—On January 1st next New Zealand will take the bold departure of establishing universal penny postage. A penny stamp will carry a New Zealand letter anywhere in the world. There is to be no restriction to reciprocating colonies and countries. The cost of this great concession to the people is estimated at £80,000 for the first year, but the Government is confident that the loss will soon disappear. A cheap rate and an ample provision of facilities are the surest way of getting the largest possible postal revenue, and the growth is obtained by benefiting, not burdening, the people. When the statement was cabled to Australia that the New Zealand Government expected a deficiency of £80,000 on the first year's operation of the penny rate, the figure was held by some critics to justify the [Victorian Government's] estimate of the loss in Victoria. But in New Zealand the penny rate is to be colonial, intercolonial, and international—universal—and that accounts for the high figure of initial loss. The merely colonial loss will be small, and so the £80,000 figure cannot be used to strengthen the case for Mr. Shiels, the Victorian Treasurer, as was supposed. With the example of New Zealand before it, the Commonwealth will be compelled to take the question of a penny rate within its borders, if not as a universal rate, into early consideration. So proud is New Zealand of this leadership that the Government has commissioned the President of the Royal Academy, Sir Edward Poynter, to design the new stamp, and he has been asked to make it emblematical of New Zealand diffusing the benefits of cheap postage throughout the world. In reality the stamp will be the first universal penny stamp, and the colony means to claim the honour which fairly belongs to it.

### "Transvaal Colony."

Lord George Hamilton, in his speech at the Lord Mayor's recent banquet at the Guildhall, spoke of the "Orange Colony" and the "Transvaal Colony." Does this portend a change of name from "The Transvaal," as it was called when under British dominion from 1877 to 1881, to "Transvaal Colony" under the resumption of British Government?

### Transvaal Oddities.

Collectors should be wary about paying fancy prices for fancy surcharges of "V.R." or "V.R.I." on current Transvaals done by individual postmasters with a keen eye in the Philatelic direction. Personally, we do not believe in a single one of these so-called emergency issues, and advise collectors to leave them severely alone. In our opinion the only genuine surcharges are those done by Lord Roberts' authority at Pretoria in the well-known fat Roman initials.

### Victoria: Official Stamp Dealing.

As everyone knows, the Postal Authorities at Victoria do not stop at such trifles as self-respecting colonial authorities would consider *infra dig*. Nothing in the postal line is *infra dig* to the Colony of Victoria. Here is the latest:—

"Specimen Stamps.

A set of Victorian Postage and Postage-due Stamps of all denominations, from ½d. to 20s., including Post Cards, Stamped Envelopes, and Newspaper Wrappers, may be purchased for £1. The full set, from ½d. to £100, may be obtained for £5.

Application to be made to the Comptroller of Stamps.

The stamps will be cancelled either by light postmark, or by being marked 'Specimen,' as the purchaser may desire."

### Gambia and Stamp Collectors.

The Administrator of Gambia, in his recently issued annual report to the Colonial Office, in recording that last year there was an increase under every head of revenue except the Post Office, in which there was a decline from £2,140 to £589, attributes this in part to the adoption of the penny postal rate, but mainly to the falling off in the demand for postage stamps by collectors, who, in the previous year, purchased a large quantity of the old issue and new issue on the change that was made of the dies in May, 1898.

The old issue here referred to are the remainders of the embossed series, which some good people thought were destroyed. They were to be destroyed unless bought up before a certain date. Needless to say they were bought up. Hence their continued low price in the catalogue.

### Malta 1s. 4d. Printer's Error.

It is curious how far reaching a printer's error may be. Sometime since we announced the forthcoming issue of a farthing stamp for Malta. The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, receiving the same information from the same source, announced it as a 1s. 4d. value, other papers copied what, of course, was a printer's error, and the announcement is still going the rounds. At

last it has reached Malta, from whence a correspondent informs *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, which copied the curiosity, that there is no such stamp in use there.

**Penny Postage to Orange River Colony.**

It is notified that from 1st December, 1900, the Orange River Colony will be included among the British Colonies enjoying the Imperial Penny Postage with the United Kingdom.

**Decrease of Stamp Issuing Countries.**

Last month (p. 263) we gave a list of Australian Colonies which will disappear as separate stamp issuing countries with the inauguration of the Commonwealth. As Tasmania was accidentally omitted, we repeat the list alphabetically in its complete form. Of course the list assumes that the Imperial Government will assent to the proposed annexation by New Zealand of Cook Islands and Fiji.

1. Cook Islands.
2. Fiji.
3. New South Wales
4. New Zealand.
5. Queensland.
6. South Australia.
7. Tasmania.
8. Victoria.
9. Western Australia.

**Mr. Phillips' Visit to America.**

Mr. Charles J. Phillips, the energetic Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., started on the 16th November, 1900, on a business tour of some months' duration through the United States and Canada. He has taken a very fine stock with him to astonish the natives of those regions, and, of course, during his journeyings he will spoil as many of the Egyptians as have varieties to sell with which they have not scraped sufficient acquaintance to know their real value, for C. J. P. knows a good thing when he sees it, even without the aid of spectacles.

**Birmingham Philatelic Society.**

The Birmingham Programme of meetings for the New Year is not a very lengthy one: just one meeting per month. As a matter of fact the Birmingham strength lies in its marvellous Exchange Packets organisation, which octopus-like embraces the whole country. Still it must be matter for regret that the meetings do not make a better show. Here is the complete list:—

1901.
Jan. 3.—Display with Notes, "West Indies." W. Pimm.
Mar. 7.—Display, Modern Issues. C. A. Stephenson.
April 4.—Display with Notes, "South Australia." R. Hollick.
May 2.—Paper, "New Zealand, Type I." T. W. Peck.

Auctions at Great Western Hotel, Birmingham. All other meetings at 208, Birchfield Road.

**Portuguese Indies: 4½r. on 40r.**

As will be seen from our Advertisement pages, Messrs. Bright & Son are offering for sale a copy of this rarity. They claim that it is the only known copy. It was discovered in Messrs. Bright & Son's stock by Lieut. Napier. It is curious that the 40r., blue, which is thus found surcharged, has never been found in an unsurcharged state, although it must have been issued, as the surcharging of which the 4½r. on 40r. is a portion, was all done on old stock.

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**NOTICE.**

**Title Page, Contents, and Index.**

The Title Page, Contents, and Index to the present volume will be given in our next month's number. The Index will be an elaborate one, and will probably run into eight closely-printed pages. Our aim is to make the *Philatelic Record* a valuable and permanent Philatelic reference book.

**END OF VOLUME XXII.**